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For Immediate Release

Volunteers of America Chesapeake Honored by Prince George's County for Exceptional Mental Health Services

Lanham, MD - (June 15, 2011) - Volunteers of America Chesapeake, the local affiliate of one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive human services organizations, was honored by the Prince George's County Department of Family Services for its outstanding work with mental health services in the community.

Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Prince George's County Mental Health Services, Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program and Shelter Plus Care program received the "Creative and Collaborative Mental Health Provider" award for its work alongside Prince George's County to start an AfterCare program for inmates while continuing to effectively manage the vital services it provides to patients.

"Volunteers of America Chesapeake is incredibly excited to receive this award and be recognized for our organization's creative and collaborative approach," said **Franklyn Baker**, chief operating officer of Volunteers of America Chesapeake. "Our AfterCare for Inmates program is just one example of our organization's commitment to using innovation to enhance and expand our high-quality health and human services."

The organization's unique AfterCare for Inmates program was started in 2010. Its primary goal is to reduce recidivism by providing comprehensive transitional planning and case management support. Volunteers of America Chesapeake criminal justice case managers work in collaboration with Prince George's County Department of Corrections to facilitate safe and successful transition to the community, while providing continuum of care services including the Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program, Shelter Care Plus and Prince George's County Mental Health Services of Volunteers of America Chesapeake.

Prince George's County Mental Health Services works with 67 patients in 16 group homes across the county with help from more than 100 employees. The program focuses on each patient individually, allowing them to reach goals created based on the specific patient's needs. Many of the program's residents have been able to enter into the community's work force on a part-time basis as well as take classes at a local community college. Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program allows patients to live in a healthy and nonrestrictive environment where they are assigned daily tasks and household responsibilities, attend education classes, and participate in group activities. The purpose of its Shelter Plus Care program is to provide permanent housing in connection with supportive services to homeless people with disabilities and their families. Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Shelter Plus Care program is unique in that no time limit is placed on the residents participating in the program or living in one of the 35 scattered site units.

This is the second year in a row that Volunteers of America Chesapeake was honored by Prince George's County. Last year, the non-profit received two "Special Recognition Award for Dedicated Service and a 'Can Do' Attitude" awards.

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA CHESAPEAKE

Volunteers of America Chesapeake, Inc. is a faith-based, non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire self-reliance, dignity and hope through health and human services in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Founded in 1896 in Baltimore, MD, Volunteers of America Chesapeake is one of the first branches of Volunteers of America - one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive human services organizations. Through a dedicated and committed team of management, staff and volunteers and guided by our Core Values: Caring, Respect, Faith, Quality and Trust Volunteers of America Chesapeake helps more than 9,000 people each year at our 26 programs serving: the homeless, mentally ill, individuals with intellectual disabilities, the aging, those in need of affordable housing, those recovering from substance abuse and community corrections. For more information about Volunteers of America Chesapeake, visit: www.VOAchesapeake.org

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