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For Immediate Release

**Volunteers of America Chesapeake Named Beneficiary for 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon**  
*Participant in Walk for Over Decade, Non-Profit Raises Funds to Directly Support its 14 Homeless Services Programs*

**Lanham, MD** – (June 28, 2011) – The Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Program announced that Volunteers of America Chesapeake would once again be a beneficiary of the Help the Homeless Walkathon. Volunteers of America Chesapeake has been chosen to participate in the program for more than 10 years and was selected as one of 97 other beneficiary organizations through a competitive application process.

In 2010, Volunteers of America Chesapeake raised approximately \$22,000 through this event to benefit its 14 area homeless facilities throughout Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland.

This year's Walkathon will take place Saturday, Nov. 19, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., as thousands gather to support the more than 12,000 homeless individuals in the area – 40 percent of which are families with one in four being a child.

In 2010, more than 130,000 people participated in the large fundraising effort and raised nearly \$6.5 million for regional non-profit organizations. In addition to those walking in the event, community organizations put together more than 770 community mini-walks and fundraised through corporate sponsorships and related activities. Since 1988, the Help the Homeless Program has raised more than \$85 million, impacting thousands of families and children in our communities.

“The longstanding partnership we have formed with the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Program has been incredibly beneficial to our organization,” said **Russell K. Snyder**, president and CEO of Volunteers of America Chesapeake. “Not only has it provided much-needed funds to our 14 homeless services programs throughout the area, but it has brought to light many of the current troubles facing the area's homeless and helped bring together schools, religious groups, businesses, community associations, summer camps and others for one common goal – to help those less fortunate during this tough economic time.”

One-hundred percent of the proceeds from participants who designate Volunteers of America Chesapeake as a beneficiary directly support the non-profit's homeless and supportive housing service programs. Visit

[www.VOAchesapeake.org/HTHW](http://www.VOAchesapeake.org/HTHW) to sign up and support those in need. In addition to participating in the national Walkathon on Nov. 19, there are a variety of other ways individuals and groups can join the effort to help the growing issue of homelessness in our communities. Examples include hosting a Mini-Walk between July 1 – Nov. 6, sponsoring walkers for Volunteers of America Chesapeake or becoming a sponsoring partner. To learn more, visit [www.VOAchesapeake.org](http://www.VOAchesapeake.org).

**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](http://www.VOAchesapeake.org)*

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