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For Immediate Release

**Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter Chosen by Dept of Housing and Urban Development to Run Homeless Assistance Program**  
*Program to Provide Permanent Supportive Housing in Fairfax County to Support Chronically Homeless Individuals with Mental Illness*

**Lanham, MD (June 1, 2011)** - Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter announced today that it has been chosen by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Homelessness Resource Exchange to operate a continuum of care homeless assistance program in Fairfax County, Va., for chronically homeless men and women suffering from mental illness.

Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter was one of only 11 applications selected in the 2010 Continuum of Care (CoC) competition to operate such a program in Virginia. The application and proposal were submitted in partnership with Fairfax County's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, the primary funder of the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter homeless services program. The non-profit will receive a two-year grant of \$306,441 from HUD's CoC funds – the maximum amount applicants could request – to provide 14 beds of permanent supportive housing in seven apartments throughout Fairfax County. These apartments will provide continuous housing for chronically homeless individuals with mental illness. In addition to the housing provided, the program will allow Volunteers of America Chesapeake to provide essential services for these men and women such as medical and mental healthcare, education and other supportive services while they work towards self-sufficiency.

“It is a great honor for Volunteers of America Chesapeake along with the direct care staff at Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter to be recognized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development with the Continuum of Care Grant,” said **Tom Nichols**, program director for Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter. “This program provides a significant opportunity for Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter, in conjunction with our partners at Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, to not only provide important services to a population that is severely underserved but also to enrich the lives of the men and women who will participate and provide a real opportunity for success in changing their lives.”

“We are thrilled that Volunteers of America Chesapeake has received this award and we are looking forward to seeing this grant move forward with success and strong outcomes,” said **Dean Klein**, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness in Fairfax County.

Located in Falls Church, Fairfax County, Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter is an emergency homeless shelter for adult men and women providing several different services including: medical care, mental health services, substance abuse counseling, education and training for homeless individuals.

**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)*

**FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFICE TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS**

*In 2008, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors established the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) to manage, coordinate and monitor day-to-day implementation of the community's plan to end homelessness within the next 10 years. OPEH supports the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness which engages nonprofits, businesses, faith-based communities and county agencies in its efforts to implement the 10-year plan, which focuses on rapid re-housing and prevention by increasing the availability of permanent affordable housing. OPEH also works closely with the independent Governing Board of the community partnership to build awareness and provide strong leadership for the plan. In addition, OPEH supports a new prevention model (Housing Opportunities Support Teams or HOSTs) that provide services and resources to at-risk families and individuals, thus preventing them from becoming homelessness; an Interagency Work Group which ensures coordination across all service providers; and a Consumer Advisory Council which provides high-level input from persons who are or have been homeless. Ultimately a new nonprofit foundation will be created to expand fundraising.*

*OPEH works closely in partnership with other county agencies, such as the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Family Services, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, the Department of Systems Management for Human Services, the Redevelopment and Housing Authority, the Office of Emergency Management and the Office of Public Affairs. OPEH also has close ties with the Fairfax County Public Schools. For more information, visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless>*

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