



****MEDIA ALERT AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY****

For Immediate Release:

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Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Residential Program Center Hosts Community Event Raising Funds and Awareness to Support Those in Need in Arlington

Harvest for Hope event to Sustain Essential Services for Arlington County Residents who are Homeless or Need Substance Abuse Treatment Services

What: Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Residential Program Center will host its second annual "Harvest for Hope" silent auction and charity event, Saturday, November 19 in Arlington, Va.

With this event, Center staff and advisory board members hope to raise awareness about the facility's programs and also raise much-needed funds in order to continue providing the essential homeless and substance abuse treatment services to the community. This event is especially important in light of the current economic condition.

This year's mistress of ceremony is **J.C. Hayward**, one of Washington's most distinguished veteran journalists. Hayward has worked as an anchor at WUSA-TV for more than 30 years and has seen the issue of homelessness in Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia grow tremendously over the past few years.

"There are not enough shelters like the Residential Program Center to help people who suffer from addiction and homelessness – and the ones that are around are just booked. We need more shelters and more help to battle the problem," said Hayward.

"We are all looking forward to this amazing night, which will make a lasting impact on the more than 500 men and women who come through the center each year," said **Eileen Corbet**, senior program director for Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Residential Program Center.

The event will feature a silent auction with one-of-a-kind items, food and entertainment. Award-winning bluegrass band, the **Moonshine Revelers** will perform as will **JazzMatazz2**, a contemporary jazz and blues band from Richmond, Va.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the poverty level in the United States has the highest number of individuals living below the poverty line in 52 years. Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Residential Program Center has taken unique steps to offer services aimed at ending the cycle of homelessness in the region.

Since its inception in 1994, the Residential Program Center is the only 24-hour program of this caliber in Arlington County. In partnership with Arlington County's Department of Human Services, Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Residential Program Center provides three crucial services – non-medical detoxification, residential substance abuse recovery and homeless services for single adults – all under one roof. Within this unique program, a 13-bed Detoxification Unit provides social model detoxification services for up to 14 days; a 10-bed Early Recovery Unit provides intensive post-detoxification treatment services for up to three months; and a 44-bed homeless shelter provides hi-intensity case management, education, training and referral services for single adults. The Residential Program Center recently announced it is the first facility in Arlington County to offer a specialized, proven Acudetox protocol to help clients recover from addiction, mental health issues and emotional trauma.

When: 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 19, 2011

Where: NRECA Conference Center Ballroom
4301 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, Va. 22203
For more information and for tickets visit
<http://www.voachesapeake.org/HarvestforHope>

ABOUT 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 or to donate to Volunteers of America Chesapeake, visit: www.VOACHesapeake.org or call 800.646.2828.

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