



## **\*\*MEDIA ALERT AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY\*\***

**For Immediate Release:** July 13, 2011

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### **Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Shelter Plus Care and Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program to Host a Summer Picnic for Mentally Ill Homeless Adults and their Families**

**What:** Volunteers of America Chesapeake, which operates 26 human service programs throughout Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., is hosting a summer picnic at Buddy Attick Lake Park in Greenbelt for the men, women and children receiving services from the nonprofit's Shelter Plus Care Program and its Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program on Friday, July 15.

Located in Lanham, Md., the Shelter Plus Care and Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program provide permanent housing, rental assistance and psychiatric rehabilitative services to mentally ill homeless adults and their families. Approximately 60 clients are currently benefitting from these housing and rehabilitation services.

"By hosting these types of fun, recreational events throughout the summer, we can provide these families with much-needed socialization opportunities that help them feel a part of loving and caring community and enjoy quality time together with family and friends," said **Victoria Karakcheyeva**, program director for Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Shelter Care Plus and Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program. "As an organization, Volunteers of America Chesapeake is in the business of transforming lives, so it is important to give all of our clients a chance to feel free from worries about challenges that life brings and let that "inner child" that each of us has inside just have fun and play. We provide good food, fellowship, games and prizes for kids and adults to make this event special for everyone."

As a result of the down economy, many receiving assistance from Volunteers of America Chesapeake's facilities are experiencing the lifestyle for the first time. This year, Volunteers of America Chesapeake has seen 9,000 clients come through the doors of its human service organizations, 1,000 more than last year. More than half of the people the non-profit serves are currently living in one of the homeless shelters or one of the supportive housing facilities.

**When:** **Friday, July 15, 2011**  
**3:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Where:** **Buddy Attick Lake Park**  
**555 Crescent Rd.**  
**Greenbelt, Maryland**

#### **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 about Volunteers of America Chesapeake, visit: [www.VO.Achesapeake.org](http://www.VO.Achesapeake.org).*