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## **VHDA Charity Golf Tournament Celebrates 20 Years of Helping the Homeless**

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### ***Proceeds Help Provide Housing and Services***

RICHMOND, VA – Although many Virginians enjoy the benefits of having a place to call home, a significant number of citizens continue to be homeless. In fact, a recent report estimated that between 36,000 and 45,000 Virginians were served by emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or were unsheltered in 2011. Notably, 18 percent of these figures represent households with dependent children.

To help offset these numbers, and address the Governor's Housing Policy goal of reducing homelessness in Virginia by 15 percent by 2013, the Virginia Housing Development Authority recently hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual VHDA Charity Golf Tournament at Ford's Colony in Williamsburg, VA. Since it began in 1993, the tournament has raised more than \$1.5 million for non-profit agencies across Virginia to provide critically needed services to thousands of homeless individuals. This year, VHDA's tournament raised a total of \$150,000, donating \$25,000 to each of six charities.

"VHDA's mission is to help low and moderate income Virginians attain quality, affordable housing, and this golf tournament continues expanding that goal by reaching out to those in crisis situations," said VHDA Executive Director Susan F. Dewey. "Everyone should have a place to call home – and we are pleased that the funds raised over the past 20 years by this event have helped provide both temporary shelter and permanent housing for those most in need."

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This year's recipients of the VHDA Charity Golf Tournament proceeds are:

- **Carpenter's Shelter**, an organization that serves homeless and formerly homeless families in Northern Virginia. It has grown to be one of the largest homeless programs in the area, annually serving more than 1,000 individuals. The shelter's mission is to provide shelter, guidance, education and advocacy. VHDA Golf Tournament proceeds will help fund their *Out of Poverty Program*, dedicated to assisting individuals build the life skills and self-determination needed to move out of homelessness.
- **Good Samaritan Ministries**, a Richmond organization dedicated to annually helping homeless men and women overcome addiction and transition back into the community as healthy and self-sufficient individuals. The group's one-year residential recovery program provides rehabilitation and work training at no cost to participants. VHDA Golf Tournament funds will support 100 2-bedroom resident apartments that serve Richmond's inner-city population.
- **Help and Emergency Response, Inc.**, the primary domestic violence resource for Portsmouth and Chesapeake, which sheltered more than 600 individuals in 2011. In addition to a 24-hour hotline and emergency shelter, the organization also provides food, clothing, employment programs, child advocacy and aftercare services as individuals build a new life for themselves and their family. VHDA Golf Tournament funds will expand *The Victim Stability Project*, a new service model focused on affordable permanent housing.
- **Mercy House, Inc.**, an organization founded by Harrisonburg and Rockingham County citizens who realized that families are too often separated due to homelessness. Today, Mercy House serves an average of 60 families a year in seeking refuge from domestic violence, condemned housing, or discharge from an institution. Participants stay until they become stabilized, an average of four months. VHDA Golf Tournament proceeds will refurbish – inside and out – 12 efficiency apartments for residents.
- **New Life for Youth**, a Richmond organization providing long-term assistance and transitional housing to individuals who are either re-entering society from incarceration or facing self-destructive issues. The general success rate for those who complete the 12-month residential program is 70-80 percent. VHDA Golf Tournament funds will help renovate a newly purchased 10-bedroom residential facility (which sleeps four men per room) on Walmsley Boulevard.
- **Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity**, a nonprofit interfaith housing ministry founded on Christian principles that seeks to eliminate poverty housing from communities, and to make decent, safe shelter a matter of conscience and action. This year, VHDA will partner with Richmond Metropolitan Habitat to build a house, and the group will use their VHDA Golf Tournament proceeds to cover part of the construction costs.

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## **About VHDA**

VHDA is a self-supporting, not-for-profit organization created by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1972, to help Virginians attain quality, affordable housing. VHDA provides mortgages, primarily for first-time homebuyers and developers of quality rental housing. We use no state taxpayer dollars, but raise money in the capital markets to fund our loans. We also teach free homeownership classes, and help people with disabilities and the elderly make their homes more livable. VHDA works with lenders, developers, local governments, community service organizations and others to help put quality housing within the reach of every Virginian.

In 2012, VHDA celebrates our 40th anniversary. We're grateful to our business partners, customers and others who have shared in our mission over the last 40 years — and we look forward to serving our fellow Virginians for many more years to come.

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