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VHDA Charity Golf Tournament Celebrates 26 Years of Helping the Homeless

Proceeds Help Provide Housing and Services

RICHMOND, VA – The Virginia Housing Development Authority recently held its 26th annual charity golf tournament, known as the Don Ritenour Charity Golf Classic, providing \$75,000 for nonprofit housing organizations that offer critically needed housing and services to homeless individuals and families across Virginia.

Since it began, VHDA's tournament has helped fund nonprofit efforts to end chronic homelessness by contributing more than \$2.2 million to emergency shelters and Habitat for Humanity chapters across Virginia. Through an annual competitive process, nonprofit housing organizations are selected to receive the tournament proceeds.

"What began in 1993 as a fundraising effort for the New Clay House homeless shelter in Richmond – resulting in a \$25,000 contribution – has been an annual event ever since," said VHDA Executive Director Susan Dewey. "This year, we were proud to present five different charities with \$15,000 each, for a total of \$75,000. We're glad to help these charities so that families and individuals experiencing a housing crisis can have a safe place to stay."

This year's golf tournament charities include:

- **Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission**

The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission works with the Eastern Shore of Virginia Housing Alliance to bring better housing conditions to Eastern Shore residents. They do this by developing affordable housing, rehabilitating homes without indoor plumbing, providing homeless assistance, and preparing families for homeownership.

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- **Carpenter's Shelter**

For more than 30 years, Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria, VA has helped the homeless achieve sustainable independence through shelter, guidance, education and advocacy. By providing case management, employment programs, and housing services, Carpenter's Shelter works with each client to overcome barriers to housing. Services provided by the organization include an emergency shelter, a day shelter, an on-site medical clinic, and ongoing support for shelter graduates.

- **Pathway Homes, Inc.**

Pathway Homes is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization providing housing and supportive services to adults with serious mental illness and disabilities in Northern Virginia. Founded in 1980, Pathway currently serves more than 400 adults in community-based homes. Their housing efforts range from highly supported programs, requiring round-the-clock staffing; to highly independent programs, requiring just weekly or monthly staff visits.

- **People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry – PACEM**

Founded in 2004, PACEM provides shelter to homeless persons in Charlottesville. The organization provides safety, housing, and food for these individuals, while assisting them in applying for more stable and permanent housing. By connecting their guests with necessary mainstream resources, PACEM removes barriers to both housing and job stability.

- **Greater Fredericksburg Habitat for Humanity**

The Greater Fredericksburg Habitat for Humanity was established in 1994 to bring people together to build homes, community, and hope. Since then, the organization has completed more than 20 homes and over 100 home repairs. The Habitat chapter currently focuses on providing homeownership opportunities for residents in need of safe, stable, affordable housing.

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About VHDA

When homes are affordable and accessible to jobs, good schools and transportation, everyone benefits. Individual lives are improved and communities as a whole grow stronger. VHDA was created in 1972 by the General Assembly to help Virginians attain quality, affordable housing. We carry out this mission by working in public-private partnerships with local governments, community service organizations, lenders, Realtors, developers and many others. We provide mortgages for first-time homebuyers, as well as financing for apartment communities and neighborhood revitalization efforts. We offer free homebuyer classes, support housing counseling, and help people with disabilities and the elderly make their homes more livable. We also administer the federal Housing Choice Voucher and Housing Credit programs in Virginia. VHDA is self-supporting and receives no state taxpayer dollars to fund our programs. Instead, we raise money in the capital markets, and we contribute a significant portion of our net revenues each year to help meet Virginia's most difficult housing needs. For more information, please visit vhda.com.

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