

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Virginia Supportive Housing Celebrates 25 Years of Proven Solutions to Homelessness

VSH now the state's largest provider of supportive housing

Richmond, VA – November 11, 2013 – Virginia Supportive Housing (VSH) is proud to celebrate 25 years of ending homelessness. What began as SRO Housing Richmond has evolved to become the largest provider of supportive housing across the state.

To recognize its accomplishments and thank its community supporters, VSH will host a 25th Anniversary Celebration on November 13th in downtown Richmond. The event will reflect on the agency's mission and success over the past 25 years. It also will honor the bold and unflagging leadership of Alice Tousignant, who has served as VSH's Executive Director for 16 years and will retire in December. The event also signals the transition to the agency's new Executive Director, Allison Bogdanović.

"This is a significant milestone for Virginia Supportive Housing and the Commonwealth," said Russell T. Aaronson, III, Chairman of the VSH Board of Directors. "For 25 years, our supportive housing approach has helped to transform communities around Virginia. We are grateful for the incredible support of our community partners, without whom our work would not be possible."

VSH has helped to transform communities around Virginia and provide a proven, permanent solution to homelessness. VSH now owns and operates 16 buildings that comprise 463 units of permanent supportive housing in Richmond, Hampton Roads, and Charlottesville. The organization also provides support services to an additional 225 formerly homeless individuals living in rental units not owned by VSH, and to veterans and their families in Petersburg and Charlottesville.

"I'm honored to have led Virginia Supportive Housing for the past 16 years," said Tousignant. "The agency is poised for growth and we're currently speaking with a number of jurisdictions around the state about new opportunities to implement our housing-first model. VSH will continue to excel and fulfill its mission of ending homelessness under Allison's vision and with the dedication of our amazing staff and Board."

The 25th Anniversary Celebration event is a result of the generosity of VSH's supporters, including Capital One, Bon Secours Virginia Health System, Virginia Housing Development Authority, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, BB&T, the Richmond Times Dispatch, Richmond Association of REALTORS, SunTrust, Dominion, Virginia Community Development Corporation, Troutman Sanders, Kessler Group, Performance Food Service, Wells Fargo, Lingerfelt Companies, A Sharper Palate, Stephenson & Beth Gillispie, Bank of America, Spotts Fain, Brandywine Realty Trust, Nixon Peabody LLP, Caldwell & Gregory, Dooley & Vicars Certified Public Accountants, Virginia Community Capital, Cobb Technologies, Homeward, and The Breeden Company.

For additional information on VSH, please visit: <http://www.virginiassupportivehousing.org/>.

About VSH

Virginia Supportive Housing (VSH) is a not-for-profit that transforms lives, transforms communities and provides permanent solutions to homelessness by providing a “housing first” model program of permanent housing and supportive services.

Founded in 1988 (then known as SRO Housing of Richmond and renamed in 1999), VSH was the first not-for-profit in the Commonwealth with the mission of providing permanent supportive housing to homeless single adults.

VSH provides residents with support services to help them handle their mental and physical health issues, and offers employment counseling and other specific needs to keep each individual resident independently stable and off the street for good. As a result of their efforts, 98% of VSH’s residents do not return to homelessness.

###