



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Virginia Supportive Housing and VHDA Win National Housing Award

Richmond, Va. -- Nov. 14, 2013 – Virginia Supportive Housing (VSH), the statewide non-profit organization that serves homeless adults by providing permanent, supportive housing, recently received a national housing award recognizing outstanding achievement from the National Council of State Housing Agencies in partnership with the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), the state's housing finance agency.

The two organizations won in the Combating Homelessness category for their South Hampton Roads Regional Supportive Studio Apartment Partnership. This initiative began when four cities in South Hampton Roads – Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Portsmouth and Chesapeake – decided to work together in addressing the issue of chronic homelessness in their region. Virginia Supportive Housing, the state's foremost developer of permanent supportive housing projects, served as the developer of these unique developments, and VHDA helped provide the resources necessary to build these projects.

"We are very pleased that VSH and VHDA were recognized nationally for our efforts to decrease the number of homeless in the state," said VSH Executive Director Alice Tousignant. "Because homelessness continues to be a largely urban issue, supportive studio apartments are part of a growing strategy in Hampton Roads to reduce homelessness by building permanent housing for single adults, which make up the bulk of the region's homeless population. These developments have been very effective in helping a large number of the formerly homeless lead more fulfilling lives, and we look forward to building more of these supportive units in areas of need across Virginia."

Each of the four cities agreed to build a 60-unit supportive studio apartment development within their boundaries, and local housing authorities and a department of housing provided Project Based Housing Choice Vouchers along with HUD Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation vouchers to the developments. In addition to those four cities, the communities of Suffolk and Western Tidewater participated in the project in Chesapeake and the Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority is providing vouchers as well. VHDA assisted by providing substantial financial resources for these developments – of the total cost of the four projects, funding raised from VHDA-administered low-income housing tax credits and special VHDA-funded direct loans covered 59 percent of the total cost.

(MORE)

[About Virginia Supportive Housing](#)

Virginia Supportive Housing, a statewide non-profit, ends the cycle of homelessness by providing permanent housing and essential support services to individuals. Residents receive personalized support from case workers who help manage mental and physical health issues, provide employment counseling and other specific needs to keep each individual resident independently stable and off the street for good. Residents lease their apartments and pay at a minimum 30% of their income for rent. Permanent supportive housing provides a proven, cost-effective way to help homeless people transform their lives.

The organization owns and operates more than 460 apartment units in Richmond, Charlottesville and South Hampton Roads; the organization also arranges for more than 250 scattered site rental properties to serve immediate needs. In addition, 98 percent of VSH residents do not return to homelessness.

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. For more information, visit vhda.com.

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