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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS COMBATS HOMELESSNESS WITH NEW SUPPORTIVE HOUSING COMMUNITY**

### ***Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Slated for March 8 for Crescent Square***

March 3, 2016 (Virginia Beach, Va.)—The South Hampton Roads region expanded its capacity to house and serve vulnerable individuals with the opening of Crescent Square in Virginia Beach on March 8, 2016.

The 80-unit property will house 42 individuals who experienced homelessness and 38 whose incomes are 50% or less than the Area Median Income, or \$25,000 per year.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony with special guests Virginia Beach Mayor William Sessoms and Norfolk Vice Mayor Angelia Williams is scheduled for March 8 at 11 a.m.

Developed and managed by non-profit organization Virginia Supportive Housing (VSH), the \$12,000,000 project at 1333 Diamond Springs Road is VSH's 5<sup>th</sup> development in South Hampton Roads and its second in Virginia Beach. Crescent Square is also VSH's first mixed-income community in Hampton Roads.

"Crescent Square represents a tremendous collaboration with public and private partners who are vested in meeting the region's demand for supportive and affordable housing," said Allison Bogdanovic, executive director of VSH. "Local officials recognize that supportive housing is a proven and cost-effective model that works, as evidenced by the fact that 95% of our clients do not return to homelessness."

VSH takes the "Housing First" approach to addressing homelessness by housing individuals first, then helping to address their needs with on-site case management services. Case managers assist in securing income, health insurance, healthcare services and other supports to help clients stabilize and re-establish their independence.

VSH has 50 prospective residents approved and ready to move in and expects all units to be leased by March 31.

Each studio apartment includes basic furnishings, a full kitchen and a full bathroom. The building boasts a community room, computer lab and fitness room.

The 55,000 square-foot building was designed by VIA Design Architects, P.C., and the general contractor was Breeden Construction, LLC. The building is EarthCraft Virginia-certified for energy efficiency.

Key funders and partners include the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Virginia Community Development Corporation, Virginia Housing Development Authority, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the City of Virginia Beach, the City of Norfolk, the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Home Depot Foundation, Wells Fargo Housing Foundation and Portfolio Recovery Associates.

### **Community Members Can Help**

“Many of our residents arrive with little except the clothes they are wearing, so we rely on compassionate supporters to help provide basic necessities and services to make this important transition,” said Bogdanovic. To address these ongoing needs, individuals, businesses, faith-based organizations and community groups can participate in VSH’s Adopt-a-Home program.

For information on the Adopt-a-Home program or the March 8 ribbon-cutting event, call Tom Higgins at 757-644-3036. He can also provide information on opportunities available for volunteers and in-kind donors.

For inquiries regarding leasing, call 757-578-1776.

### **About Virginia Supportive Housing**

VSH is Virginia’s first and leading supportive housing agency, serving more than 1,500 clients annually in Richmond, Hampton Roads and Charlottesville. Founded in 1988 and headquartered in Richmond, the agency developed and manages 543 units of supportive housing in 17 multi-family properties. VSH also partners with other landlords and provides mobile case management to residents living in those apartments. The non-profit organization administers the largest Supportive Services for Veteran Families program in Virginia, playing a key role in preventing and ending veteran homelessness.

With its strong record of success – 95% of clients not returning to homelessness – VSH has helped communities save millions of dollars in medical services, shelters and feeding programs, judicial services and other public resources.