Donor Spotlight: John Potvin

Pratt House Birthdays

A Message from our Chaplain

Farewell Station Middle School is Called to Care™
THIS IS WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.
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Editor: Danielle K. Milner, Volunteers of America Chesapeake Communications Specialist
1. Birthday’s are back at Pratt House! We’re celebrating children in our supportive housing programs! See page 6.

2. Joanna Hoffschneider of MOI, Inc. visits our admin office with backpacks decorated and donated by MOI staff for Operation Backpack.

3. Mr. Benson Parker of our Northern Virginia Community Living Centers program receives the Direct Care Professional Award from Arlington County during March’s Intellectual Disabilities Proclamation Awards.

4. Our President & CEO Russ Snyder talks with representatives from Loudoun County during our Project: Home kick-off in Leesburg, VA.

5. Our Volunteer Coordinator Ms. Rhonda Nelson and volunteers pack Easter Baskets for children at our Eastern Avenue Supportive Housing Program in Seat Pleasant, MD.

6. Students from Students Today, Leaders Forever visited our Pratt Street Transitional Housing Program to help paint and prep the courtyard for our upcoming playground construction.

Mark Your Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Chesapeake events!

To learn more visit www.voachesapeake.org.

If you’re interested in volunteering email our volunteer coordinator at volunteer@voaches.org.

Mental Health Walk
Montgomery County, MD
June 2013

Operation Backpack 2013
Mid-Atlantic Region - June 2013
Dear Donors, Volunteers and Friends,

Summer is around the corner and our organization is getting ready to celebrate the warm weather from Baltimore to the District of Columbia and Virginia Beach.

In July we’ll kick-off Operation Backpack 2013, our initiative to provide backpacks and school supplies to homeless and low-income children throughout our area. Last year we were able to exceed our collection goals by 50% and help other area organizations answer the Call to Care for the children they serve.

Our ability to share donations with partner organizations is a testament to our donor’s capacity to care. We have been truly blessed with donors like John Potvin, President of Equity Management who challenged his business partners to raise $10,000 in support of our Pratt House Playground. We were able to accomplish that goal within 48 hours and now we’ll not only build the dream playground our children designed, we’ll also paint murals of their designs throughout the play space.

This summer we’re committed to maximizing the success of the individuals and communities we serve. Our Residential Re-entry Center will be moving into a new, more improved space to enhance our community based services and maximize the success of our clients transitioning back into the community. With increased group and individual meeting space our facility will be the largest re-entry center in the United States serving the Federal ex-offender population. Part of the 5,000 square foot space will be devoted to a Re-entry Resource Center where residents can have on-site access to community support resources including employment services, housing placement assistance and preventative health care resources.

In addition to expanding our facilities, we’ve partnered with the Loudoun County Department of Human Services, HomeAid Northern Virginia, Miller & Smith and Winchester Homes to renovate the eight (8) on-site units in our Loudoun County Transitional Housing Program. These apartment units provide a bridge to permanent housing for formerly homeless families. The renovations will make each unit look and feel more like home for these families as they work hard to address and correct the factors that led to their homelessness.

Finally, we continue to find and place veterans and their families into transitional and permanent supportive housing throughout our region, together we can continue making a difference in the lives of those who served our country.

Your donations, prayers and support have helped our organization grow and provide critical care to those most in need. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to celebrating our success together.

Blessings,

Russell K. Snyder
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Volunteers from Freddie Mac answer the Call to Care at our Bailey’s Crossroads Community Shelter on April 25, 2013. More than 30 Freddie Mac volunteers worked in 2 shifts to landscape around our facility providing homeless and housing services throughout the Fairfax/Falls Church, VA area.

Check out our Facebook page for more photos of the event!
Thanks in part to Baltimore area donors including Mt. Mariah Baptist Church and the hard work of our Volunteer Coordinator Ms. Rhonda Nelson, Birthday Celebrations are returning to our supportive and transitional housing programs!

Each year our organization serves more than 500 homeless and low income children. “When families are concerned with finding employment and housing things like birthday parties fall by the wayside,” says Carolyn Eaddy Resident Advocate at Pratt House “when we celebrate the children’s birthday they feel important and cared for despite the family’s situation.”

With a kick-off at Pratt House we’re looking to recruit more birthday sponsors to bring monthly celebrations to all our programs serving children.

If you would like to help bring Birthday’s to a program in your area, please contact: Volunteer Coordinator Rhonda Nelson: RNelson@voaches.org
Students from Farmwell Station Middle School in Ashburn, VA presented our Loudoun County Homeless Services Center with a check for $1,100 on April 11, 2013.

The students raised the money selling concessions at a recent performance of The Little Mermaid. The performers and members of the Young Entrepreneurs Club unanimously decided to donate their profit to our Loudoun County Homeless Services Center. “The students decided on their own. They raised the money and they wanted to see it do some good in their community.” said David Stephenson, a Teacher and Student Advisor at Farmwell Station Middle School.

The students, who also have been busy developing new business ideas, were challenged to raise money for a deserving organization of their choice.

“A lot of people think since Loudoun County is a rich county we don’t have homelessness, but we do,” said Loudoun County Public School Superintendent Dr. Edgar Hatrick who attended the check presentation to representatives from the shelter. “The work of the shelters is extremely important and the fact that you chose them says a lot about you. Keep up the good work.”

Our Loudoun County Homeless Services Center is home to 3 distinct programs – a homeless services day center providing case management, laundry and shower facilities as well as a 90 day emergency homeless shelter for families and singles and a Transitional Housing Program providing a bridge to permanent housing for homeless families.

Visit www.voachesapeake.org to learn more about how we’re answering the Call to Care in Loudoun County.
Over the past year we’ve been working on renovating the playground at our Pratt Street Transitional Housing facility, home to 35 families and nearly 100 school aged children with no place to play.

Our donor response was overwhelming in just a few short months leaving us only $10,000 short of our goal; that is until John Potvin, President of Equity Management issued a challenge to his business partners.

“When I toured the courtyard and realized there was a shortage of funding for this much needed project, I was called to care for the dozens of children who call Pratt Street home.” Said Mr. Potvin.

Mr. Potvin worked with our Vice President of Development James Wynn to create an appeal for the Baltimore area business community. Two weeks after its release we’d raised just over $5,000.00 and with Mr. Potvin’s personal $5,000 match we’d surpassed our goal with the donations still being counted.

“I was thrilled when I heard we’d reached our goal, especially so quickly!” said Mr. Potvin, “I targeted the successful businesses I work with to ensure we could make this playground a reality.”

With the playground funding gap closed the additional donations will be used for academic enrichment services at Pratt House including funding for a Summer Camp and a muralist to translate the children’s visions into art around the play space.

“Along with our vendors and associates, we are proud to assist in raising funds to build the Pratt Street Apartments new Playground for children. Together we can make this dream playground a reality.” Said Potvin of the project.

If you or your organization would like to participate in our Playground Build Day later this summer, please email our Volunteer Coordinator Ms. Rhonda Nelson at RNelson@voaches.org
Equity Management offers professional management services for residential and commercial properties. We deliver outstanding conventional, tax credit and HUD-insured expertise and experience. We’re proud to partner with Volunteers of America Chesapeake to provide affordable housing and inspire hope in our communities.
It’s almost time for Operation Backpack!

We’re getting ready for our summer initiative to support homeless and low income children!

Last year, with the help of our corporate sponsors, partner organizations and individual donors we were able to provide more than 700 homeless and low income children with backpacks, school supplies and the confidence that comes from being prepared. Our programs also provide these children with afterschool academic support and counseling to ensure their success throughout the school year.

This year the need for supportive services for children has increased and so has our goal. With your help we can increase our capacity to care for these children in 2013.

Partners are already starting to register for supply drives and collection events. We’re engaging sponsors including The Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation, Clear Channel and Modell’s Sporting Goods. You can be an Operation Backpack Partner too!

Once registered, you will receive updates on how to engage your organization to increase donations as well as invitations to our Operation Backpack 2013 events. Supply bins will be shipped out to each location beginning in early June.

If you have any questions please email Development & Communications Assistant Keyonia Holland at Communications@voaches.org
God the Son is alive within us. And because He is, we know that:

- “…If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17
- “…God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” II Cor. 9:8

My life is renewed. I am:

- Reborn in the light of Christ (God the Son)—Therefore I am experiencing a rebirth in the light. I am being reborn into a higher level of consciousness in God.

“I am a child of God with Qualities of my Father!” My life is renewed!

My life is renewed. I am:

- Enabled to walk without fear; pray and the circumstances change almost immediately; and leave my ego at the door in order to heal a relationship or bring about harmony around a difficult challenge.

“I am a child of God with Qualities of my Father!” My life is renewed!

My life is renewed. I am:

- Sustained by the grace of God. (“He directs me – protects me, and keeps a shield all around me.”)

“I am a child of God with Qualities of my Father!” My life is renewed!

My life is renewed. I am:

- Used as an instrument of God. I follow the guidance of that still small voice. I’m an ambassador available as needed.

“I am a child of God with Qualities of my Father!” My life is renewed!

My Life is renewed. I am:

- Renewed by God’s Spirit. God gives me new hope.

“I am a child of God with Qualities of my Father!” My life is renewed!
My life is renewed. I am:

• Revitalized by an inner sanctuary, when I take time to go inside and commune with God.

_"I am a child of God with Qualities of my Father!" My life is renewed!

My life is renewed. I am:

• Established in my faith. Things that are happening in the world do not cause anxiety or fear. I walk by faith and not by sight.

_"I am a child of God with Qualities of my Father!" My life is renewed!

My life is renewed. I am:

• Cleansed by the blood and healing is continuously taking place. His blood was shed for me – each time I reflect on that thought during Communion, I am healed.

_"I am a child of God with Qualities of my Father!" My life is renewed!

My life is renewed. I am:

• Trusted to convey truth. I know those who abide in truth hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and share truth without destroying others.

_"I am a child of God with Qualities of my Father!" My life is renewed!

My life is renewed. I am:

• Inspired by a victorious spirit. Because Jesus died for my salvation and overcame death, I have a victorious spirit. I am to persevere regardless to how things look.

_"I am a child of God with Qualities of my Father!" My life is renewed!

My life is renewed. I am:

• Ordained as God intended. I am doing what God meant for me to do.

_"I am a child of God with Qualities of my Father!" My life is renewed!

My life is renewed. I am:

• Nurtured by the presence and power of God. I am cared for, protected, helped to grow, and do as Jesus does.

_"I am a child of God with Qualities of my Father!" My life is renewed!

My Life is renewed. “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ…” Romans 8:16-17a

_"I am God’s heir, renewed!"
We would like to thank the following trade partners for answering the Call to Care for formerly homeless families in Loudoun County, VA.

These partners donated their time, equipment and expertise to renovate the 8 transitional housing units in our Loudoun County Transitional Housing Program. These units represent a bridge to permanent housing for formerly homeless families in our area.

Advanced Flooring Design
Annandale Millwork Allied Systems
Bee & H
Builders First Source
Bryant Plumbing
Buhl Electric Company
Builders Floors
Carlyn and Company Interiors + Design
Color World Paint & Drywall
Creative Touch Interiors
Dominion Electric Supply Company
Metcalfe Heating and Air Conditioning
GE
Granite Source
Heritage Contracting
Industrial Disposal Services

JEM Cleaning & Janitorial
Johnson Drywall and Painting
Majestic Hardware
McCormick Paints
Model Home Interiors
Next Day Blinds
Peed Plumbing
Roberto Cleaning
Signature Cabinets
Stanley Steamer
T.W. Perry
TAC Ceramic Tile
Tikal Labor Services
Titan
The Upholstery Shop
Whirlpool
We’ve seen the power our partners, followers and fans can have so this summer we invite you to get connected!

Each week we’ll be picking members from our Mobile Community, our Facebook Fans and our Twitter Followers to show our appreciation for your help in spreading the word about Volunteers of America Chesapeake.

Our Called to Care™ prize packs are overflowing with give-aways for our fans who help us answer the Call to Care throughout our region so be sure to stay connected for your chance to win!

**Become a Fan on Facebook:**
Volunteers Of America Chesapeake

**Follow us on Twitter:**
@VOAChesapeake

**Join our Mobile Community:**
Text VOAC to 80077

**Stay up-to-date with our Blog:**
When I Needed You, a Blog about Self-Reliance on Wordpress.com
The Ballington and Maud Booth Legacy Society, named for the visionary founders of Volunteers of America is a national stewardship program for donors. You can help us continue this rich heritage of caring in several ways. Name Volunteers of America Chesapeake in your will to provide hope for generations to come.

For more information, and to make a gift we invite you to call James Wynn at 240.764.2660.
Our programs stretch from Baltimore, MD to Virginia Beach, VA.

**Maryland:**
- Baltimore
- Bowie
- Glenn Dale
- Greenbelt
- Landover Hills
- Lanham
- Mitchellville
- New Carrollton
- Riverdale
- Seat Pleasant
- Silver Spring
- Upper Marlboro

**Virginia:**
- Alexandria
- Arlington
- Fairfax
- Falls Church
- Leesburg
- Lorton
- Manassas
- VA Beach
- Woodbridge

**Washington, DC**

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