



CHESAPEAKE & CAROLINAS

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## **Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas Announce Workplace & Social Etiquette Program for Adult and Children Residents**

*Participants will gain skills specifically needed for success in work and school*

**Baltimore, Maryland (November 19, 2019)** - Volunteers of America Chesapeake and Carolinas (VOACC) received a grant from the John Leidy Foundation to develop and implement a Workplace & Social Etiquette Program for children and adult residents in their supportive housing program.

Thirty adults and 15 children from Residential Service Program at Pratt House, located at 1701 West Pratt Street, will be able to participate in the trainings. The new six-week program will be administered by Natasha Paris St. Amand, M.Ed., LPC founder of Freedom Revealed Image Consultants. The adult classes are held from noon - 1:30 pm and the children's classes are held from 3 - 5 pm on Wednesdays through December 18.

The program for adults, known as *Ready. Set. Live!* is designed to help adults be better prepared to approach prospective employers, obtain employment and achieve success in the workplace. The program for children, known as *Be the Change*, will help youth participants who have experienced homelessness develop increased self-confidence, decreased behavioral incidents in school, increased academic performance and positive social interactions among peers and authority figures.

"I'm really excited that Ms. Natasha is here to help us. Some of us know how to talk, but we don't know how to present ourselves in the workplace and on the street," said program participant Faith Kennedy.

These two etiquette programs will bolster the strength of the VOACC Resident Services Program by helping to strengthen the social and emotional well being of adults and children who have experienced homelessness. The curriculum is designed to help develop the soft skills needed to effectively communicate, work and problem solve in job and school environments. The program adds to the VOACC's growing array of workforce development programming which helps vulnerable citizens attain greater self-sufficiency.

### **About Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas**

*Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas, Inc. is a faith-based, non-profit organization whose mission is to empower self-reliance and inspire hope. As a church without walls, the organization does this through personalized housing, ministry, health and human services that benefit vulnerable individuals, their families and the community.*

*The organization has more than 30 programs throughout Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia serving the homeless, individuals with mental illness, individuals with intellectual disabilities, those in need of affordable housing, those*



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*in need of supportive services, those recovering from substance abuse addictions and those involved in community corrections.*

*VOACC has over 600 staff members and more than 2,000 volunteers. The organization helps thousands of individuals every year from Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and the Carolinas. For more information on VOACC, please go to <https://www.voachesapeake.org/>*

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