



Volunteers of America®  
Delaware Valley

Daniel L. Lombardo  
President/CEO

Chris Perks  
Board Chair

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**500 NEW JOBS: EVEN AS THE ECONOMY SLOWS, VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA PUTS PEOPLE BACK TO WORK**

Collingswood, NJ – In an effort to help ex-offenders become valuable members of their communities, Volunteers of America Delaware Valley actively pursues partnerships with local employers to link them with jobs. With the support of government, private business, community groups, and individuals Volunteers of America Delaware Valley has the pleasure of announcing they have passed the 500 mark with 502 people placed in employment so far this fiscal year.

“This is certainly an exciting day for us and our clients,” said Pat McKernan, Chief Operating Officer – Volunteers of America. “The individuals we serve recognize that their lives need to change course and having a job is the first step to successful living.”

“It is certainly rewarding to know that during a time when our country and our state are facing some of the worst economic times in history, the staff of Volunteers of America can find well-paying jobs for over 500 people,” said Daniel Lombardo, President and CEO of Volunteers of America. “The most valuable tool for keeping people off the street is getting them a job. I am proud of our staff and our clients who can now comfortably say that they are making an impact.”

On average, Volunteers of America Delaware Valley has been able to place 50 individuals in employment every month since July 2007. In March and April of 2008 they exceeded this number by placing 79 and 67 people in employment respectively. The hourly wages of the employees follow a wide range but all are well above minimum wage. The employers who hire these individuals cover an array of industries including supermarkets, department stores, casinos, auto mechanics, etc.

“These jobs are proof that community programs work,” said McKernan. “They get people back on their feet, reconnect them with their families, save taxpayer dollars, stimulate the economy, and improve public safety. Eighty percent of our clients stay out of prison as opposed to about thirty percent for the New Jersey Department of Corrections. Put simply – community programs coupled with employment works.”

Founded in 1896, Volunteers of America Delaware Valley operates 43 separate programs serving persons who are experiencing homelessness, seeking permanent housing, struggling with addictive behavior, coping with chronic mental illness and developmental disabilities, returning to society from the criminal justice system, and dealing with domestic violence.

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*Please remember Volunteers of America in your will.*

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