



Volunteers of America®
Delaware Valley

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Volunteers of America and Local Unions Partner to Fight Hunger in the Delaware Valley

THOROFARE, NJ — April 29, 2008 — Volunteers of America Delaware Valley and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) District Council 71 today begins a partnership to focus on fighting hunger throughout New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. This partnership provides Volunteers of America Delaware Valley with new opportunities to collect much needed foodstuffs, as well as build awareness about hunger and homelessness throughout the Delaware Valley.

Details of the partnership are as follows:

- (1) AFSCME offices will become drop-off locations where donations of food, clothing, and money will be collected to provide immediate assistance to those in need through the Volunteers of America Delaware Valley's Homeless Prevention Program.
- (2) AFSCME will provide financial support that allows Volunteers of America Delaware Valley to offer emergency rental assistance.
- (3) During the year, AFSCME will afford Volunteers of America Delaware Valley opportunities to take part in numerous community outreach events. These events will allow the organization to share information on its many social service programs that aim to prevent homelessness, hunger, and recidivism.

“Volunteers of America Delaware Valley is thrilled to know that AFSCME recognizes the importance of our work and has decided to support us in our mission,” said Daniel L. Lombardo, president and chief executive officer of Volunteers of America Delaware Valley. “Our Homeless Prevention Program in Thorofare, New Jersey, operates to serve families and individuals who are in crisis situations, so self-sufficiency and hopefulness may be restored in their lives.”

Established in 1985 and located in space generously donated by St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Volunteers of America Delaware Valley's Homeless Prevention Program receives and distributes food, usable items of clothing, shoes, and household goods. The Homeless Prevention Program also provides rent, mortgage and utility assistance in an effort to prevent

homelessness throughout Gloucester County. Each year, the program provides assistance to nearly one thousand families in need due to a variety of factors that include: low wages, job loss, illness, injury, age, domestic violence, or divorce.

About Volunteers of America Delaware Valley

Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization providing local human service programs, and opportunities for individual and community involvement. Currently 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.

About AFSCME

AFSCME District Council 71 is comprised of 68 Locals representing the eight southernmost counties in New Jersey, including: Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Atlantic, Cumberland, Burlington, Cape May, and Ocean. AFSCME is the second largest labor union in the United States with over 1.4 million members. Its members include nurses, corrections officers, child care providers, EMTs and sanitation workers.

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