



Volunteers  
of America®

SOUTHEAST

# CARING

www.voase.org

Summer 2012

## CAROLYN MCCOY NAMED 2012 DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR BRINGING COMPASSION AND PASSION, MINISTRY AND SERVICE TOGETHER

**What is a Direct Support Professional anyway?** A Direct Support Professional (DSP) provides guidance and support to people who need help to be self-sufficient. The role of a DSP goes way beyond just helping individuals with their daily living skills (bathing, dressing, cooking, etc.). Direct Support Professionals are committed to improving people's quality of life by encouraging community participation and empowering them to make their own choices. Strong relationships are built on the trust and reliance between the person receiving supports and the Direct Support Professional.

**Volunteers of America Southeast is very proud of the hundreds of Direct Support Professionals it employs to serve the individuals with disabilities in their residential and day programs. These DSPs work faithfully to ensure that the physical and spiritual needs of the people they serve are met. These programs operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. DSPs work nights, weekends, and holidays to ensure that individuals have the highest quality of life. On a daily basis our Direct Support Professionals exemplify our mission to "reach and uplift all people and bring them to the knowledge and active service of God."** Carolyn McCoy is a Direct Support Professional with Volunteers of America Southeast in Montgomery, AL. For the last seven years, she has provided care and compassion to the people that we serve. She is the best of the best!

Carolyn was presented the 2012 award for Direct Support Professional of the Year on May 8th at the ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources) Conference in Washington D.C. Was she randomly chosen? Not quite. Carolyn was chosen from among 212 nominations submitted for the competition.

ANCOR judged the nominees on how well they excelled in three areas: 1) Their effectiveness in building social networks; 2) Meaningful and productive participation in the community for the people they serve; and 3) How well they advocate or effect change on behalf of people with disabilities.

Wallace Davis, President and CEO of Volunteers of America Southeast, had this to say about Ms. McCoy, "I am extremely proud of Carolyn McCoy and the positive impact she has on the people she serves. Our Direct Support Professionals are the heartbeat of this organization. Carolyn is a shining example of what our mission is all about."

*The mother of one of the men Ms. McCoy cares for writes:*

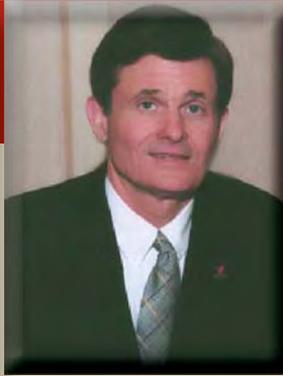
**"[Ms. McCoy] is warm, caring, compassionate, professional, knowledgeable, and trusting. She is the face of Volunteers of America."**



*Pictured above is Carolyn McCoy in Washington, D.C. where she received her award as DSP of the Year for 2012.*

*There are no limits to caring.®*

# President's Message



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A farmer owned land on the Atlantic coast. He constantly advertised for help. But people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic because of the constant storms.

Finally, a man approached the farmer about the job. "Are you a good worker?" the farmer asked. "Well, I can sleep when the wind blows," answered the man. His answer puzzled the farmer but he was desperate for help so he hired him and found he was a hard worker.

Then one night a storm came ashore. The farmer rushed to the hired hand's room and woke him. The worker said, "I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows." Enraged by his response, the farmer hurried outside to prepare for the storm. To his amazement, he discovered that the cows were in the barn, the doors were locked up, and everything was tied down.

When the storms blow, I can sleep well because of Carolyn McCoy and hundreds of staff like her who make a profound difference in the services we provide. I am so grateful to all of the staff who see their work as a mission, as a calling from God to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. From the Direct Support Staff, to the person who ensures that our buildings and vehicles are safe, to the person who maintains our financial records, all are making a profound impact by the way they do their jobs.

Ms. McCoy became Direct Support Professional of the Year for the State of Alabama by being the best steward she possibly could be. When Volunteers of America is at our best, all of us as staff are doing our very best to serve God by serving people God has placed in our paths. From my heart to your heart, please accept my sincere gratitude.

What an awesome place to be right now, serving and doing with a great host of staff, volunteers, board and supporters. We are all workers in His vineyard.

*For we are God's fellow workers. I Corinthians 3:9.*

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## VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA SOUTHEAST REACHING AND UPLIFTING

☺☺☺ Families Affected by Disasters

☺☺☺ Elderly

☺☺☺ Veterans Services

☺☺☺ People with Intellectual Disabilities

☺☺☺ People with Chronic Mental Illness

☺☺☺ People who are Physically Challenged

☺☺☺ People who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

☺☺☺ At-Risk Youth and Children

☺☺☺ People in our Supported Employment Program

☺☺☺ Substance Abusers

☺☺☺ Home Ownership

☺☺☺ Faith-Based and Community Groups

☺☺☺ Housing Needs in our Communities

*2,140 People Served Every Day in Residential Settings*

# LIGHT OF THE VILLAGE SEES SUCCESS

With cutbacks and businesses closing their doors, The Light of the Village Christian Academy has grown explosively this year! There were 115 students enrolled, and they saw improvements in their math, reading, and language standardized scores. Five students will be attending college this fall, thirteen have found jobs, eight have moved into their own home/apartment, and twenty-three have been placed in a residential drug treatment ministry in San Antonio, Texas.

Volunteers from local churches serve two meals, five days per week at the school. Tutors donate their time to assist the students. With people like these donating their time, their love, and their passion, these students are destined for a better life!



*Pictured at left is a student from the Light of the Village school who has been accepted at Faulkner State. Below is a picture of Delores Eads, the teacher who has dedicated her life to helping these young people succeed!*



## SUMMER CAMPS

Summer vacation takes on a whole new meaning at The Light of the Village. The school becomes the site for an eight-week summer camp. With 150 children and approximately 300 volunteers, the school is transformed into an environment for Bible study, sports, arts & crafts, and field trips!

In addition, three other camp sites are coordinated in the Mobile area. With 300 children and 500 volunteers divided between these three sites, there is definitely an atmosphere of fun and excitement!



# VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA SOUTHEAST

## THIS WAY HOME



The goal of the Housing Resource Center is to assist homeowners in modifying their mortgages if they have experienced substantial hardship causing them to become delinquent in their mortgage payments. Recently one such case was a lady who for over 14 years had opened her home to serve as a foster parent to abused and abandoned children. Because of a change in her income, she came to the Housing Resource Center to ask for help. In less than 30 days, she was approved for a modification to her loan. The drastic reduction in interest rate resulted in a reduced, more manageable mortgage payment, thus preventing her from losing her home.

This year, the Housing Resource Center has assisted 62 families with foreclosure intervention! If you or someone you know could utilize the assistance of the Housing Resource Center, contact Henry (Digger) Creel at (251)338-1280.

## “FOUR THE LOVE”

Through all the Easter bonnets, baskets, and our Sunday best, the true meaning of Easter--Resurrection--was celebrated at Mount Hermon AME Zion Church in Tarrant, AL this past April. That was the Sunday the congregation worshiped in their “resurrected” church. The church had been in disrepair and in need of a complete renovation. With the help of four local churches--Solid Rock Church, GracePoint, New Covenant Fellowship, and Living Word Church--their sister church now has a new worship center complete with a new stage, lighting, and a renovated kitchen. With over \$15,000 of labor and supplies that were either donated or paid for by the churches involved, this project was truly a labor of love. Mount Hermon AME Zion Church held a very special ceremony on Sunday, May 20. That is the day they dedicated their fully renovated worship center and kitchen.



## MCDONALD'S CHAPEL--CONTINUING TO REBUILD AFTER TORNADOES

Everyone knows life can change in an instant. That's exactly what happened to the Myrick family on April 27, 2011, the day tornadoes in north Alabama claimed hundreds of lives and destroyed homes and businesses in their path. In minutes, the Myrick family lost their home and most of their belongings.

April 27, 2012 was a new day, a new year, and a new beginning for the Myrick family. On the one-year anniversary of the day their home was destroyed, they were standing in front of a new home with family and friends. A dedication ceremony was held to open the door on a new beginning and new memories for their family. The Myrick family wants to give back to help others. Just as they have experienced the support and love of strangers, they will donate monthly to help people in need.



# RESURRECTING HOPE



*Rhonda was in a FEMA trailer for years following Katrina*

Called the storm of the century, Hurricane Katrina left thousands of people homeless. Although the residents of the Gulf Coast have experienced disasters since the 2005 hurricane, some are still working to recover from that devastating storm. One of those, Rhonda McAdams, waited seven years for a resolution. The waters from Dog River rose to over waist deep in her home during the hurricane! If that wasn't enough, a houseboat broke free from its anchor and rammed into the porch of Rhonda's home. As the winds continued to howl, the houseboat rammed the walls of the home until the structure was left condemned.

Like so many others, Rhonda moved into a FEMA trailer. As she waited, she was told she would receive assistance and things would change; however, she was continually moved down the list to receive help. The problem was that Rhonda was employed, she didn't have children still living at home, and she wasn't over 60. Even though Rhonda was constantly running into obstacles, she persevered. Then a sequence of events began that would eventually lead to the completion of a new home for Rhonda. Someone told Rhonda about a man on the Mississippi coast named Derrick Tapper who worked for Volunteers of America and was helping people rebuild homes. Little did Rhonda know, this would be the beginning of more than a new home; this would be the beginning of the answer to a prayer.

At the time, Derrick had several projects going, and he thought Rhonda was getting her new home with other help. Such was not the case. Months later, Derrick ran into Rhonda at her work and innocently asked, "How's the new house?" Rhonda's response startled Derrick, "What house?" With a shocked expression, Derrick assured Rhonda "I will

## 7 YEARS AFTER KATRINA A NEW HOME...AN ANSWER WHEN NO ANSWER SEEMED POSSIBLE

build you a house."

Now, seven years after Hurricane Katrina destroyed so much, Rhonda has her family home back. This home was built by volunteers from states all over the United States and Canada. Some groups made several trips to see the home through to completion. **Teams from Alaska and Canada left a plaque at the front to bless the house.** The Mennonite team brought a prayer quilt with a special prayer said over each of the knots.



Rhonda walks through her new home with such gratitude. She talks about all the individuals and groups who donated their time to build her home as though they are old friends, as many are now.



*Rhonda's completed home, truly an answer to prayer*

# YARD DAWGZ--A SMALL BUSINESS EMERGES



With the support of Volunteers of America Southeast, the Yard Dawgz became an official small business in January, 2012. The Yard Dawgz are a group of 8 young adults from Alabama Village who formed a true entrepreneurial business. Each worker must demonstrate basic job skills and pass a drug test. In April, the City of Prichard Housing Board contracted with the Yard Dawgz to clear and maintain 110 lots in the Alabama Village community!

## HOPE FOR OUR TROUBLED YOUTH

On April 24, Volunteers of America hosted a community meeting focused on reducing youth violence and combating gang activity. Over 25 church and community leaders attended, including representatives from Mobile County District Attorney Ashley Rich's office. The meeting was led by John Eads, director of Volunteers of America's Youth Enrichment Services program and founder of Light of the Village ministry. The featured speaker was Agustin Lizama, ministry consultant with Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, California, the leading gang intervention organization in the country. The meeting focused on ways churches and communities can help youth escape a culture of violence through faith, hope, and love.



## YOUTH ENRICHMENT AWARD--YES



*Pictured above with this year's winner, Genesis Goldsby, are from left to right: John Eads, Ms. Goldsby, Rev. Parker, and Wallace Davis.*

The Volunteers of America Southeast YES Award was established in March, 2010 to recognize the outstanding achievements of a high school student in the community. The criteria for the nominated individuals are: they must be enrolled in school, provide civic contributions such as volunteering, and be recommended by their church leaders. The individual chosen to receive the 2012 YES Award receives a \$500 scholarship designated for higher education or career training opportunities.

On March 8th, the Volunteers of America Southeast 2012 Youth Enrichment Services Award was presented to Genesis Goldsby, a senior at Blount High School. Nominated by Rev. Parker, Senior Pastor at Samuel Chapel, Miss Genesis Goldsby was selected to receive the 2012 Youth Enrichment Service Award from a group of outstanding applicants. Genesis serves as president of the youth usher board at Samuel Chapel, volunteers to work with the elderly in the community, children with special needs, and several service agencies during the holiday season. Miss Goldsby plans to attend the University of South Alabama in the fall to pursue a future in the medical field.

# OPERATION BACKPACK GIVE BACK - FILL A PACK!



For the third year, Volunteers of America Southeast is coordinating Operation Backpack! The goal is to provide grade-appropriate school supplies to children in need. Walgreens will partner with Volunteers of America Southeast once again this year to serve as a drop-off site for supplies.

There are several ways to participate:

1. Donate school supplies directly to Volunteers of America. Our volunteers will package and deliver them to our partner agencies, which will deliver them to the appropriate children. A list of items can be found on our web site, [www.voase.org](http://www.voase.org).
2. Coordinate a supply drive through your friends, work, or civic/church organization to Fill The Pack!
3. Make a monetary contribution and 100% will go to Operation Backpack!



For more information, contact Janet Hyde at (251) 338-1294 or [jhyde@voase.org](mailto:jhyde@voase.org).

## “MAMA” HONORED IN HUNTSVILLE, BIRMINGHAM, AND MOBILE

Mother’s Day, 2012 held a special meaning for over 400 ladies across the state of Alabama. *I Remember Mama* is a luncheon honoring mothers, grandmothers, and those we think of as “mom.” It honors those who would otherwise be alone on Mother’s Day, even though they give selflessly of their time, energy, and most importantly, their love.

In Huntsville, the 8th annual *I Remember Mama* luncheon, held at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens, honored 102 ladies. They enjoyed a delicious lunch, were entertained by a local Elvis impersonator, and received door prizes and goodie bags!

The Bruno’s Center at St. Vincent’s Hospital was the setting for the 2nd *I Remember Mama* luncheon in Birmingham, honoring 138 ladies. In addition to a wonderful luncheon, representatives from Christian Service Mission partnered with Volunteers of America Southeast to deliver goodie bags to ladies in 17 nursing homes in the community.

In Mobile, the 22nd annual *I Remember Mama* luncheon honored 184 ladies. Hosted by Mel Showers, popular TV anchor, the ladies were entertained by Jim Murrell and enjoyed singing along to music and popular hymns of their era.

The *I Remember Mama* celebrations would not have been possible without the dedication of many VOA staff members and the tremendous support of community sponsors and volunteers. Their support made Mother’s Day a wonderful afternoon for a deserving group of “moms.”



## INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTRY

Volunteers of America Southeast’s Faith Based Resource Center has expanded its services. In addition to providing training, consulting, and ministry partnerships, the Resource Center is now providing Intentional Interim services to congregations. Intentional Interim Ministry assists churches during the period of time between the leaving of one pastor and the coming of the next. The Resource Center has ministers trained to help congregations work through grief, anger, and/or sadness over a pastor’s leaving, deal with conflict and/or special problems, rediscover its mission and renew its resources, set new directions and goals for ministry, and prepare for the coming of the next pastor. Presently, Volunteers of America is working with the second congregation in the program. For more information about this service, contact Paul McLendon at 251-422-7729, or [paulm@voase.org](mailto:paulm@voase.org).





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SOUTHEAST

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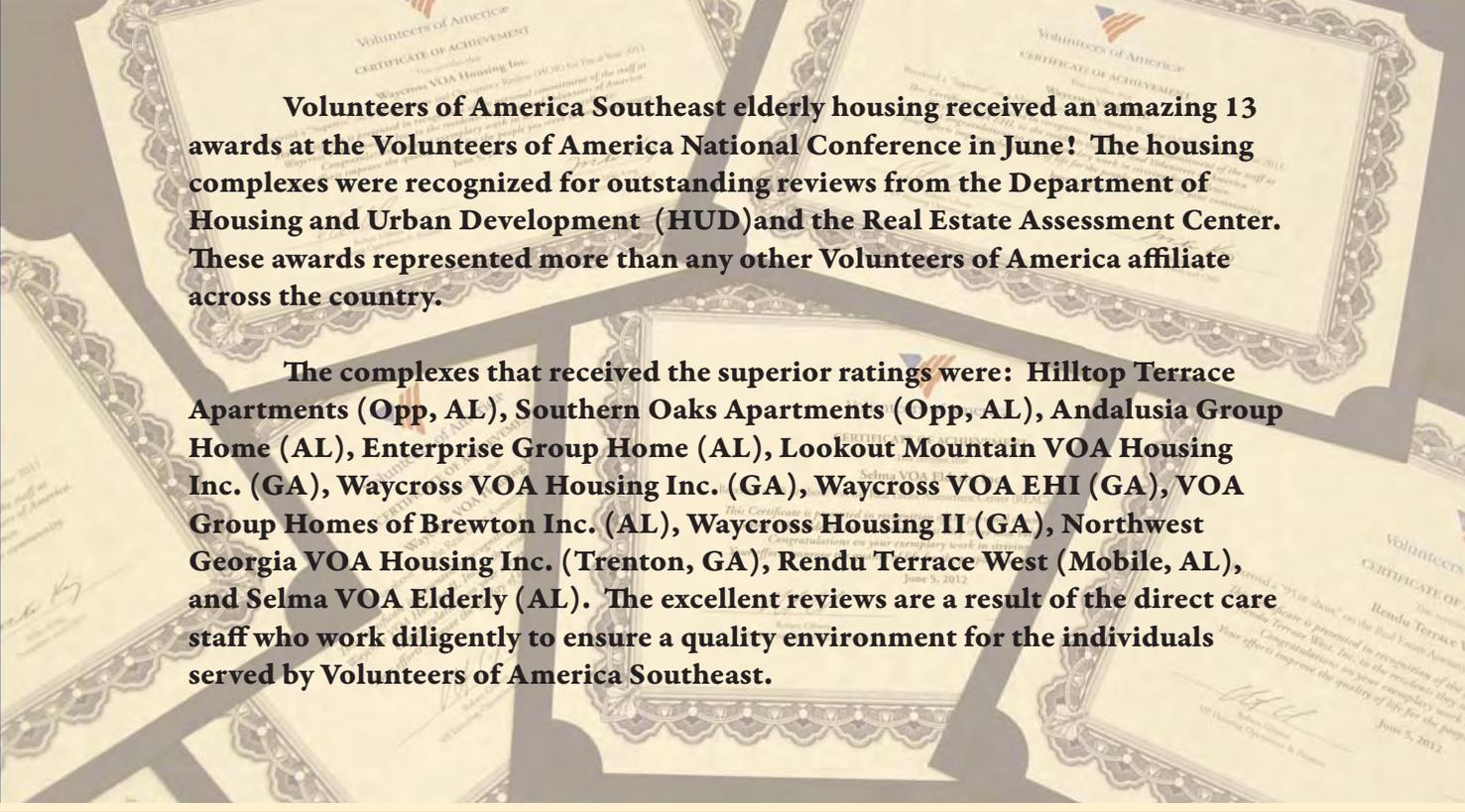
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## VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA POSITIONING STATEMENT

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

# VOASE ELDERLY HOUSING RECEIVES SUPERIOR RATINGS!



**Volunteers of America Southeast elderly housing received an amazing 13 awards at the Volunteers of America National Conference in June! The housing complexes were recognized for outstanding reviews from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Real Estate Assessment Center. These awards represented more than any other Volunteers of America affiliate across the country.**

**The complexes that received the superior ratings were: Hilltop Terrace Apartments (Opp, AL), Southern Oaks Apartments (Opp, AL), Andalusia Group Home (AL), Enterprise Group Home (AL), Lookout Mountain VOA Housing Inc. (GA), Waycross VOA Housing Inc. (GA), Waycross VOA EHI (GA), VOA Group Homes of Brewton Inc. (AL), Waycross Housing II (GA), Northwest Georgia VOA Housing Inc. (Trenton, GA), Rendu Terrace West (Mobile, AL), and Selma VOA Elderly (AL). The excellent reviews are a result of the direct care staff who work diligently to ensure a quality environment for the individuals served by Volunteers of America Southeast.**

*There are no limits to caring.®*