

VIRGINIA STATEWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE, INC.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attn: Kim Kirk, VSNC Awards Coordinator

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Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference Announces 2012 Neighborhood Award Recipients

The Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference, Inc. Board of Directors is pleased to announce the 2012 Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Award recipients recognized at the 13th Annual Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference held at the Holiday Inn University & Conference Center in Charlottesville, Virginia on September 20-21, 2012.

First Place Recipients' for the (3) award categories were:

Project of the Year: Manassas The City of Manassas's, "Big Day of Serving" program was the first place recipient of the Project of the Year award. A project comprised of community partnerships engaging government, private sponsorships, non-profits and a 1000 volunteers coming together in One Day to makeover One Community, with One Lasting Impact. The members of the neighborhood got together through meetings and dinner and planned out what needed to happen in the community and then achieved it with help of the community and other communities on the west coast.

Advocate of the Year: Danville Ms. Constance Covington was the first place recipient of the Advocate of the Year award. Over the past few years, Constance, the Director of the Cardinal Village Youth Center in Danville, has lead in the creation of a community garden to provide food for area residents. This Center is the home of a community garden, beautification projects, homework help, and many more outreach opportunities while working directly with volunteers and Court Appointed Community Service at-risk youth providing personalized learning as well as community service opportunities.

Youth Project of the Year: Manassas The City of Manassas "Big Day of Serving" was awarded first place for Youth Group Effort of the Year. This project is a one day youth mission, making over one community, with over one thousand volunteer youth! Starting at the Boys and Girls Club in Manassas, the youth spend the day interacting with the community residents and executing projects including; landscaping, painting, and graffiti abatement yielded an overwhelming result of neighborhood beautification.

Second and Third Place Awards recipients were:

Project of the Year

2nd Place – Town of Ashland Police Department: Through increased patrols in the department and implementation of community policing, Ashland Police Department has addressed long-term social disorder that had deteriorated quality of life in the neighborhoods. The Department proactively implemented neighborhood watch; youth sports events, Adopt-A-Senior program, and various education and outreach efforts to address community needs. Their actions contributed to measurable decreases in drug interdiction, criminal

violations, blight abatement, abandoned vehicles, and related public nuisances ‘ultimately reducing the number of service calls and a diversity of quality of life concerns.

3rd Place – Annual Arts in the Park Festival ~ The Arts in the Park festival is in its third year of bring vendors, artists, live entertainment, and children’s activities to Buckroe Beach. This project highlights woman’s issues; clean the Bay activities, and other charitable and non-profit groups to the fore front. The outreach and growth accomplished promotes a viable sustainable community-wide program.

Advocate of the Year

2nd Place – Chief Doug Goodman, Town of Ashland ~ The chief created a superior neighborhood watch program in the Town of Ashland. He cleaned up a very troubled community in the span of under four years. Neighbors reported a sense of feeling safer and more than 40 residents are involved in community meetings. Challenges addressing public nuisances, gangs, vandalism, and the like are being enforced achieving as high as a 48% reduction ultimately endorsing a community wide improved quality of life.

3rd Place – Frankie Jackson~ Cardinal Village Youth Center. Working a full time job, going to school, and supporting his family, Frankie spends his free time mentoring youth, chaperoning trips, and has been a dedicated servant to his community. Most of the youth at the Cardinal Village are from single parent homes; Frankie plays the role of a father figure for many of the youth who need someone to look up to.

Youth Individual or Group Effort of the Year

2nd Place – Facets ~ The Regan Oaks public housing community planned a special open house to demonstrate the importance of after school programs including; a variety show, youth artwork, and a video. The variety show was hosted and acted out by the youth of the community center. It featured skits, talent segment, a comedy routine, and a dance competition between audience members. The Regan Oaks Neighborhood showed how after school programs can strengthen leadership skills within the community and adds a lasting impact on relationships with the community.

3rd Place – The Garden City Project ~ The Garden City Project plants more than seeds, it’s about planting ideas, growing skills, and nurturing self-esteem and leadership in youth. Three groups collaborated to provide a garden to benefit youth health and loving the obesity rate, well-being, attitude towards learning, and their connections to their community.

The Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference, Inc (VSNC, Inc.) is a non-profit grassroots organization created to serve as a forum for the sharing of experiences and knowledge that strengthens a cooperative working relationship among citizens, municipality staff members, representatives of the private sector, and elected officials for the strengthening of our towns, cities, and counties through their neighborhoods. VSNC, Inc. achieves this broad objective by partnering with municipalities across the Commonwealth to produce the annual Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference.

Each year nominations are solicited to recognize the commitment of our Commonwealth’s neighborhoods and/or individuals who have tirelessly volunteered their time and energy into making their neighborhoods places they are proud to call home. The annual Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference Awards Program provides a collective “thank you” to these nominated neighborhoods and individuals and are the only statewide awards given on an ongoing basis to neighborhood organizations and individuals for their neighborhood self-help initiatives.

The 2012 nominees' finalists were:

Advocate of the Year

- Chief D. Goodman - Ashland
- Constance Covington - Danville
- Frankie Jackson - Danville
- Alicia Ann Lanier - Hampton
- Pinoy Heral – Falls Church
- Jacqueline Phan - Sterling
- Daniel's Hill Reunion Home of the Brave – Forest
- Brian Henderson - Danville

Project of the Year

- Amherst County Revitalization Project - Amherst
- Town of Ashland Police Department - Ashland
- Fry's Spring Bike, Walk, Play – Charlottesville
- Friends of Rachel Club - Hampton
- The Garden City Project - Danville
- The Buckroe Improvement League' Arts in the Park - Hampton
- Big Day of Serving - Manassas
- Point of Woods East Communication Outreach -Manassas

Youth Individual or Group of the Year

- The Garden City Project - Danville
- Fry's Spring Bike, Walk, Play - Charlottesville
- FACETS - Fairfax
- Friends of Rachel Club - Hampton
- Big Day of Serving - Manassas

To learn more about the annual Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference, please write Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference, Inc., P.O. Box 6303, Roanoke, Virginia 24017, call (540) 342-2763, or visit our website at www.vsnconf.org.

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