

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Alert

Volunteers of America of Illinois to have its 3rd Annual Hope Walk: solidarity walk in Humboldt Park honoring Veterans

WHAT: Hope Walk
A 1.5 mile solidarity walk in West Humboldt park honoring our nation's Veterans
WHERE: Hope Manor I Apartments, 3053 W. Franklin Blvd., Chicago, IL 60612 (Housing 80 male Veterans)
WHEN: May 21, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Volunteers of America of Illinois (VOA of IL) will be hosting its 3rd Annual Hope Walk, an opportunity to honor the extraordinary sacrifice and bravery of our nation's veterans. The goal of Hope Walk is to raise awareness of what VOA of IL is doing to combat the issues facing our Nation's Veterans who were homeless, at the risk of homelessness or in a crisis situation. Hope Manor I is home to 80 male Veterans who were in some crisis situation or in instability in their lives. VOA of IL developed and operates Hope Manor I as well as Hope Manor II in Englewood that is home to 73- Veteran headed households. VOA of IL is in its beginning phases of developing Hope Manor Joliet in Joliet, Illinois.

Individuals will start walking at 10:30 a.m., beginning at Hope Manor I and heading west towards Central Park Avenue. Guests will range from supporters, contributors to VOA of IL, Veterans who reside at Hope Manor I and Hope Manor II, families and friends.

Alderman Walter Burnett (27th Ward) will be speaking at the event, as Hope Manor I is located in his aldermanic ward.

Special guest, **Anton Steinhart** founder of **Wines for Humanity**, an in-home wine tasting company will be donating \$10,000 to Volunteers of America to help combat Veteran homelessness. Anton has always taken an interest in helping the homeless and said the best way to do so is to prevent people from becoming homeless by supporting organizations like Volunteers of America. Since 2007, Wines for Humanity has made a difference of approximately \$3.5 million dollars that have directly supported charities that support homelessness prevention, children and families as well as other causes.

Our nation's veterans are struggling:

- 1 in 3 homeless men is a veteran
- More than 1 in 5 soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are suffering from major depression and/or PTSD
- Female veterans are almost 4 times more likely to be homeless than non-veteran females
- Unemployment for soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan is 3 times the national average
- 30% of the troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are showing at least some degree of Traumatic Brain Injury – the signature wound of the current conflicts in these areas

**Media wishing to cover & attend the event should contact Liliana Scales at 312-564-2332 or lscales@voail.org.

About Volunteers of America of Illinois: Volunteers of America of Illinois is dedicated to helping people of all ages create positive and lasting change in their lives through programs that support, empower and transform. This tradition calls us to seek out and restore hope to those who have been forgotten or left behind. We re-build shattered families and broken communities by bringing real solutions to the most vulnerable populations in Illinois – including veterans in crises, the elderly and children in foster care. Bringing real solutions means creating positive and lasting change to more than 1,000 people each year.

About Wines for Humanity: Wines for Humanity conducts in-home wine tastings to raise funds for the prevention of homelessness for families in America with children.

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