



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# News Release

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## Volunteers of America begins construction on a Veterans housing complex at the former Silver Cross Hospital campus in Joliet, Illinois

**Chicago** (March 23, 2016)- Volunteers of America will be breaking ground on a parcel of land located on the former Silver Cross Hospital campus to begin construction on **Hope Manor Joliet**, a 67-unit apartment complex serving Veterans residing in the Will County area who are struggling with housing stability and may be at risk of homelessness. This development is specifically targeting an increasingly vulnerable segment of the Veteran population – younger Veterans, female Veterans and Veterans with young children.

Hope Manor Joliet will be the first large-scale, supportive housing development in Will County and will be similar in design to the Veterans housing developments created by Volunteers of America in Chicago. The main entrance to the Hope Manor Joliet campus will be located at the intersection of Eagle and Hebbard Streets in Joliet on a parcel of land previously occupied by Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet. This development will provide housing and supportive services to 67 Veteran-headed households.

The need for services to all Veterans struggling with unemployment, mental health challenges and housing continues to grow – but it is growing at an accelerated rate for female Veterans and younger Veterans with children. Nancy Hughes Moyer, President and CEO of Volunteers of America of Illinois says, “Veterans have done so much to improve the quality of life for the rest of us, it is unacceptable that they experience so many challenges in achieving stability for themselves and their family after they leave military service. We are so grateful for the opportunity to create this much needed resource for Veterans in Will County who are working so hard to rebuild their lives and create a brighter future for themselves and their families. Having a place to call “home” is a critical first step to achieving long-term stability for these Veterans.”

As the name implies, Hope Manor Joliet is about much more than simply providing housing for Veterans who are struggling – the goal is to help Veterans change and improve their lives over the long-term by promoting self-sufficiency, building new skills, creating strong support networks and integrating Veterans more positively into community life. To achieve this objective of empowering Veterans to transform their lives in the most positive way possible, Hope Manor Joliet will be a service-rich community with immediate access to a broad range of supportive services on-site in the main building of the development. Volunteers of America expects units to begin leasing up in early 2017.

Hope Manor Joliet was designed by architect Michael Jerabek of Worn Jerabek Wiltse Architects, P.C., to create a contemporary, vibrant and healthy living environment for families that also serves to enhance the surrounding community by revitalizing a vacant portion of the old Silver Cross Hospital Campus. Hope Manor Joliet is an estimated \$19 affordable housing development project. The general contractor is Joseph J. Duffy Co. The development is being principally funded through Low Income Housing Tax Credits issued by The Illinois Housing Development Authority and invested in by the National Equity Fund and JPMorgan Chase.

**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. Learn more at [www.voaininois.org](http://www.voaininois.org).*

**About Volunteers of America:** *Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping those in need live healthy, safe and productive lives. Since 1896, our ministry of service has supported and empowered America's most vulnerable groups, including veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, at-risk youth, men and women returning from prison, homeless individuals and families, those recovering from addictions and many others. Through hundreds of human service programs, including housing and health care, Volunteers of America helps almost 2.5 million people in over 400 communities. Our work touches the mind, body, heart and ultimately the spirit of those we serve. Learn more at [www.voa.org](http://www.voa.org).*

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