

MAYORS TO CELEBRATE OPENING OF 3RD REGIONAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR HOMELESS ADULTS

Portsmouth, VA - Virginia Supportive Housing and the City of Portsmouth are hosting the grand opening of the South Bay Apartments in Portsmouth, 1600 South Street, on Wednesday, February 2nd at 10:30 a.m. Chesapeake, Norfolk and Portsmouth mayors will participate in this grand opening event for this new housing for formerly homeless adults.

The \$6.9 million project consists of 60 newly constructed studio apartments and is the third supportive housing project in the nation to be developed in collaboration with regional government funding. Representatives of the U.S. Dept. of HUD, Virginia Development & Housing Authority and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development will also attend. Additionally, Governor Bob McDonnell has been invited.

The non-profit developer, Virginia Supportive Housing (VSH) incorporated green building design and construction in the EarthCraft certified property. South Bay is VSH's third supportive housing project in South Hampton Roads since 2006 following Gosnold Apts. in Norfolk and Cloverleaf Apts. in Virginia Beach.

The localities of Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Norfolk and Virginia Beach provided funding and rental subsidies for the project and the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority donated the land. Additional funding sources include \$4.5 million from Virginia Community Development Corporation for Low Income Housing Tax Credits, loans from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and grants from The Hampton Roads Community Foundation, Beasley Foundation & Southeast Virginia Community Foundation.

Like Gosnold and Cloverleaf, South Bay is helping the four participating localities find a permanent solution to homelessness in South Hampton Roads. Residents sign leases and pay 30% of their income in rent. The minimum monthly payment from a resident is \$50. On-site supportive services are available to help residents stabilize and improve their health, incomes, and housing stability and increase their self-sufficiency. Forty-two South Bay units will be reserved for Portsmouth residents and six units each for residents of the remaining three localities.

Each of the 60 studio apartments, approximately 380 square feet in size, includes a bed, dresser, table, chair, kitchenette, and full bathroom. Eight of the units are completely accessible. The 35,000 square foot building has an extensive security system and off-street parking.

In addition to apartments, the newly constructed property contains a community room, laundry facilities, a front desk, staff offices, a computer room, and a fitness room for the residents. The front desk will be staffed 16 hours per day with a resident manager on duty at night.

Efficiency Housing of South Hampton Roads (EHSR), a regional homeless planning committee coordinated by The Planning Council, invited VSH to develop permanent supportive housing in the region. VSH opened Gosnold Apartments in December 2006, Cloverleaf Apartments in October 2008. Plans for development of the next project, to be located in Chesapeake, are underway.

For more information about South Bay Apartments, contact Barbara Barnes at 757.373.8288 or barnesbarbaraf@gmail.com. **South Bay brochures and media kits will be available at the event.**

#