



www.WeAreVirginiaVeterans.org

News Release

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AmeriCorps Virginia Veterans Joins Statewide Community Food Drive September 9-15

Hampton - AARP Virginia will be hosting the 4th annual statewide food drive from Sunday, September 9, 2012 to Saturday, September 15, 2012. The initiative has established partnerships with organizations across the Commonwealth, and desperately needs communities to help supply Virginia's food banks, in an effort to collect over 100,000 pounds of food.

AmeriCorps Virginia Veterans Corps, a program within The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP), is one of AARP's partners in the weeklong statewide community food drive. "This is an exciting time for AmeriCorps; we will begin our second year of local service and have the opportunity to simultaneously extend our outreach and introduce two new service locations as collection sites for the food drive. We encourage our Hampton Roads community to come out and help make a difference in our area toward an effort to help those in need," said Christina Lipin, AmeriCorps Virginia Veterans Corps Program Manager.

Virginia food banks and their partnering agencies are experiencing daily increases in the demand for assistance due to rising unemployment and higher food prices. Nearly 6% of seniors in Virginia are at risk of hunger; more than 17% of Virginians have reported that there were times in the past 12 months when they did not have enough money to purchase food.

Our community is our strength; come out and make a difference in Hampton Roads September 9th through September 15th by donating non-perishable food items to the local food banks. The most needed items include: peanut butter, crackers, canned fruit, chunky soups, hot/cold cereal, canned tuna, canned meats, canned vegetables, and pasta/rice. Please do not donate items in glass containers.

The AmeriCorps Virginia Veterans Corps new service sites that will be collection sites for the food drive are:

- *Portsmouth Area Resources Coalition, Inc (PARC)/PARC Family Shelter* at 1900 Columbus Avenue, Portsmouth, Virginia from Monday, September 10, 2012 to Saturday, September 15, 2012 during the hours of 9:00am-3:00pm.
- *United Way of Greater Williamsburg Community Resource Center* at 312 Waller Mill Road, Williamsburg, Virginia from Monday, September 10, 2012 to Friday, September 14, 2012 during the hours of 8:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-5:00pm.

If there is not a food collection site near you, please make the donation to a local food pantry or community food bank. The list of food collection sites is available at www.CreateTheGood.org/va or by calling 2-1-1. The list will be updated on a regular basis.

To learn more about VWWP, visit www.WeAreVirginiaVeterans.org.

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