

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of Human Affairs Celebrates 50 Years of Service

Announces New Name-

Hampton Roads Community Action Program

The Office of Human Affairs (OHA) will celebrate 50 years of serving the Hampton Roads community from Tuesday, February 16 through Thursday, February 19, 2016. The four day celebration will include a press conference on February 16th at 10 am at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, 2410 Wickham Avenue in Newport News, VA. The agency will announce its new name, Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP). The name change was inspired by the need for the name of the agency to be more recognizable to the people it serves. At 12 noon, Virginia Cares, The Commonwealth's Statewide Reentry Solution, will have its Grand Opening of its new office space at 115-28th Street also in Newport News. The program is operated under the auspices of OHA and helps ex-felons integrate in the community after incarceration. The reception will end at 2 pm. Other events for the month are as listed:

February 17		Throwback to 60's	Agency Wide
February 17	12 noon	Reception for Southside	Grandy Village Head Start Norfolk
February 18	8 am-1pm	Poverty & Economics In Hampton Roads Symposium	Downing Gross Banquet Room
February 19	12-3 pm	50th Reception & Fundraiser	Downing Gross Lobby
February 26	7 pm	RIP the RUNWAY Fashion Show	Downing Gross Banquet Room
Jan & Feb.		Admin staff Walking 50 miles for 50 years of Community Action	

There is a cost of \$25 to register for the symposium, which includes lunch. Register on Eventbrite.com by searching for Poverty & Economics in Hampton Roads. Tickets are on sale now for the RIP the RUNWAY Fashion Show. Student tickets are only \$10, Adults are \$20 and VIP tickets are \$30. Register through the OHA Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/HamptonRoadsCAP). All other events are free and open to the public.

HRCAP, opened its doors in 1966 as the Office of Economic Opportunity, to help low-income individuals and families become self-sufficient. Early programs included Medicare Alert, an outreach to elderly residents that apprised them of their Medicare benefits; Neighborhood Youth Corps, which provided opportunities to disadvantaged youth and high school dropouts; and Head Start, then a summer program for children 5-years of age. As the number and scope of agency programs grew, political events led to the abolition of the federal Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Newport News OEO officially changed its name to Office of Human Affairs in 1973. Over the following years, the agency expanded, growing to serve Hampton with programs such as Project Discovery and the Four-Year-Old Initiative. In the late 1990s the agency created the Peninsula Community Development Corporation, featuring an affordable housing program that built and refurbished homes for low and middle income families. More recently the agency has received funding to address the issue of homeless veterans through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program.

The staff, board of directors and supporters of HRCAP are committed to continuing the vital work that OEO and OHA have done in the community for the last 50 years, to continue to fulfill our mission “to plan, develop, implement and evaluate programs that foster self-sufficiency through educational, social and economic development.” For more information on these events please call 757-247-0379.