

Inspire

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA MID-STATES, INC.

Fall 2017/Winter 2018



GIVE HOPE

REAL PEOPLE. REAL CHALLENGES. REAL SOLUTIONS.

VOAMID.ORG

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A LETTER FROM JENNIFER

Dear Friend,

In this issue of *Inspire*, you'll learn more about how Volunteers of America gives hope to families in need.

This season, that hope begins with our "Hope for the Holidays" campaign. With your help, we provide winter coats, give joyous presents and raise essential funds for families who count on us, especially during the long days of winter.

Of course, families count on Volunteers of America all year. We are working every day to instill hope for the future in the people we serve. In fact, this fall, we chose the theme "Carry Each Other" for our annual Power of 1 Breakfast.

To me, those words - carry each other - are simple, but mean so much. We all need to count on each other, to rely on each other. And yet, sometimes, all of us need some extra help. We need someone who will lighten our burden and give us hope during the toughest times.

That's what we do every day at Volunteers of America. From keeping families facing homelessness together to educating our friends and neighbors about HIV, we are here to provide hope for the future. In this issue, you'll read about our new VOA Recovery facility in West Louisville that is providing a safe, affordable and welcoming home to moms who are overcoming addiction. You'll learn about the hope we give to veterans throughout our five-state region who need help with finding employment, housing or medical care.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." Those words inform our mission and inspire us to be a source of hope for every person who walks through our doors. Thank you for making those words true and our work possible.

Jennifer Hancock
President and CEO



Go to voamid.org/powerof1

to hear Jennifer talk
about how you can help
Volunteers of America
change lives and
give hope.

WE
NEVER
LOSE
HOPE.

Give families hope for the holidays.
pages 4-5



GIVE HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

This holiday season, you can make all the difference for families and children who need our help.

April is the beautiful and inquisitive 6-month-old daughter of Deidre, who is a resident at Volunteers of America's Freedom House in Louisville. April is healthy and thriving this holiday season because her mom had the courage to seek help to beat addiction and build a better future for herself and her baby.

Every holiday season, Volunteers of America partners with Papa John's, Heine Brothers' and WLKY to make sure babies like April can have a warm and wonderful holiday season, and that Volunteers of America receives the help we need to serve moms, children and families all year long. We need your help, too.

To see more photos of April and Deidre from our Hope for the Holidays photo shoot, visit voamid.org/holidays.

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

When you support Hope for the Holidays, you are building better lives and brighter futures for all of the children and their families receiving help at Louisville Family Housing Services. We keep families together and out of homelessness.

You are also helping:

Men and women receiving addiction recovery services and the families who count on them.

Veterans and their families receiving comprehensive support in our veterans' programs.

Adults with developmental disabilities who receive housing and care.

People living with HIV and people who have questions about HIV who receive our care and service.

GIVING HOPE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON IS EASY.

Make a contribution online at voamid.org/donate.

Donate gift cards at Heine Brothers' Coffee in Louisville, Kentucky.

Donate new winter coats at any Papa John's or Heine Brothers' Coffee in Louisville, Kentucky.

Find out how to help at [@voamid](https://www.facebook.com/voamid) on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, or at voamid.org

LEARNING MORE ABOUT HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS IS EASY.

For a list of items we need most, drop-off locations in your areas and other ways you can help families in need, visit voamid.org/holidays. You can also contact Gema Moreno at GemaM@voamid.org or (502) 636-4664 or Randy Brothers at RandyB@voamid.org or (615) 885-2552.

GIVING HOPE YEAR-ROUND IS EASY.

Support our families and services throughout the year by going to voamid.org/donate. Prefer email or phone? Contact Farrah Ferriell at FarrahF@voamid.org or (502) 636-4639.

VOA Recovery outpatient services will fit your needs.

We offer comprehensive and effective outpatient services to individuals and families working to overcome addiction.

Are you seeking care after the completion of a residential program?

Do you wish to continue working or living at home while you receive care?

Do you or a loved one have additional mental health needs?

Do you need help now? Go to voamid.org/addiction or call (502) 635-4530 to learn more about Volunteers of America's Intensive Outpatient Program.

We offer freedom from addiction.



FREEDOM FROM ADDICTION

VIRTUALLY NO FAMILY IS UNTOUCHED BY THE OPIOID AND ADDICTION CRISIS.

Last year in America, more people died of overdoses than died in the entire Vietnam War.

At Volunteers of America, we are working to save the lives of our friends, family and loved ones who are struggling with addiction.

If you or someone you love needs help, reach out to us today.

- ASSESSMENT
- INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT SERVICES
- FAMILY THERAPY
- MEDICATION-ASSISTED THERAPY
- TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
- RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT
- COMPREHENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT
- CUSTOMIZED SERVICES FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN (FREEDOM HOUSE)
- PEER SUPPORT

LOCATIONS

2500 WEST BROADWAY

4303 WEST BROADWAY

1436 SOUTH SHELBY STREET

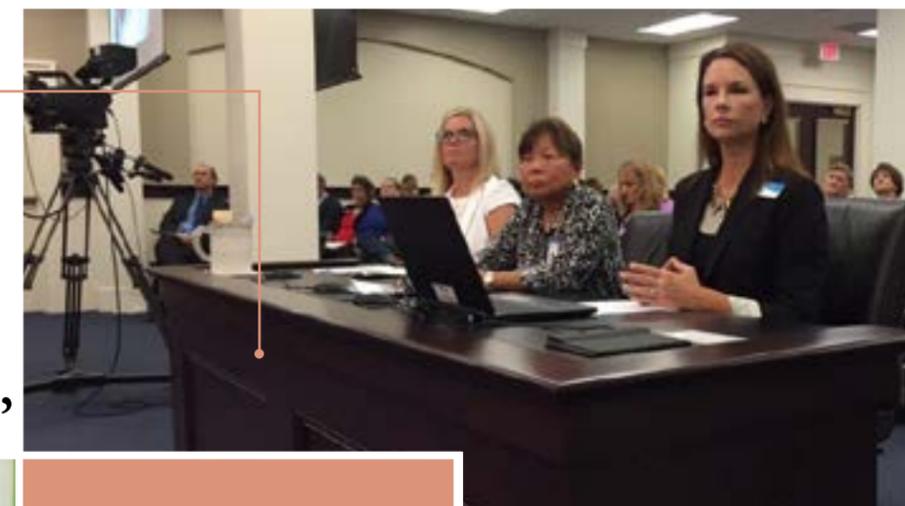
1025 SOUTH SECOND STREET

Call a recovery specialist at (502) 635-4530 for help or to learn more.

Go to voamid.org/addiction to find out more about how we are serving your neighborhood.

Jennifer Hancock testified at a special joint committee hearing at the State Capitol in Frankfort, Kentucky to discuss Volunteers of America's response to the opioid and addiction crisis.

“WHAT WE ARE CONFRONTING IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CATASTROPHE.”



Learn more about how Volunteers of America helped Megan at her most difficult time, while she rebuilt her self-esteem and started her path toward a healthy and happy future. See Megan's story at voamid.org/powerof1

“VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA TOLD ME I WAS GOOD

ENOUGH.”

Megan Coldiron understands addiction recovery. Megan is a graduate of Volunteers of America's Freedom House. Today she is a married mother of three and an addiction recovery professional who has returned to eastern Kentucky to help families confronting the same challenges she has overcome.

NEW MOMS, NEW LIVES.

OUR NEW VOA RECOVERY FACILITY IN WEST LOUISVILLE IS HOME TO
MOMS AND CHILDREN STARTING FRESH AFTER OVERCOMING ADDICTION.

WHEN EMILEE'S NINE-MONTH OLD SON IS RESTLESS OR CRYING, HE HEARS A FAMILIAR SONG.

"Who built the ark? Noah did."

Noah likes to hear his name, so he usually smiles and calms down.

An adorable baby boy who enjoys hearing a song with his name in it might not be so unusual. But what makes this familiar song about Noah building the ark special is that it is often sung not only by his mother, but by a whole chorus of moms who love and support him.

Noah is regularly serenaded by the moms living at VOA Recovery at 4303 West Broadway in Louisville. This transitional

The transitional living apartments address a key need for women in recovery – an affordable home that continues to provide care and support while they adjust to parenting and work, attend school and identify child-care options.

"We're accountable because we know each other and care about each other. We're like sisters. We all have different struggles, but we help each other," Nicole said. Her son Kaden is six months old.

Most of the moms are graduates of Volunteers of America's Freedom House program, where we help women overcome addiction, deliver healthy babies and learn parenting and life skills.

We're like sisters.

**We all have different struggles,
but we help each other.**

living and outpatient facility is a key part of Volunteers of America's expansion to confront the opioid and addiction epidemic.

The seven transitional living apartments are home to new moms who are overcoming addiction. For the women at VOA Recovery, it is more than a place to live. It is a place where they can count on each other.

"Noah is my first child. If I don't know what to do about something, I can always ask. I ask about when to take Noah to the doctor and when to understand that everything's ok. I can ask about clothes or food. I always have someone I can count on," Emilee said.

"There are rules, but you have your independence. It's a stepping-stone that gets you prepared. You learn to be responsible. It's up to us. We make the decisions," Kacie said. Kacie is raising her son Joseph Zane – JZ to everyone.

"It's really great to have the support and the help from everyone. I can take a bath. I can get some time to myself – and everyone needs some time by themselves," Nicole said.

Jennifer Hancock, President and CEO of Volunteers of America, said finding affordable housing is one of the most

difficult challenges for women in recovery.

"To overcome addiction, you need a safe and supportive environment. Volunteers of America is dedicated to providing that to as many women as we possibly can. All of the moms at VOA Recovery are strong, courageous women and I'm inspired by the progress they've made and the great futures they have ahead of them," Jennifer said.

For now, those futures include cooking together in the kitchen, though they all agree that Kacie is the best cook, with peach

It's up to us.

We make the decisions.

cobbler being one of her most-requested specialties.

"Sometimes I buy food and just ask Kacie to make it," Emilee said.

They also have regular movie nights and the occasional shopping trips out together.

One shopping trip ended with a special group purchase – a small tattoo for the moms. It's a green and blue feather.

"Birds of a feather flock together, right?" Kacie said.

"We won't always be together, but we want to remember. I want to look at this tattoo and know I need to call someone and stay in touch," Emilee said.



Nicole, Kacie and Emilee hold their boys Kaden, JZ and Noah on the steps of VOA Recovery.

CALL (502) 635-4530 FOR RESIDENTIAL OR OUTPATIENT SERVICES.

Check out [Facebook.com/voamid](https://www.facebook.com/voamid) to see more of our VOA Recovery facilities.

WHAT IS THE POWER OF 1?

THE POWER OF 1 BREAKFAST IS VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA'S LARGEST ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT, AND THIS YEAR 1,055 PEOPLE GATHERED EARLY IN THE MORNING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR MISSION.

But the real Power of 1 is the power to reach out and help each other. The power to change lives and give hope. The power to help veterans like Jason Brown find affordable housing that keeps his family together.

Jason spoke about his struggles with addiction, and his resilience and hard work – with the help of Volunteers of America – that put his life back on track.

The success of this event is only possible because of our speakers, Positive Change Society members, table hosts, guests, donors and friends.

And there is still more work to do. Explore Jason's speech, our new Power of 1 video and photos from the event.

We have so many ways for you to help. Please visit voamid.org/powerof1 to donate, take a Journey and learn more, or host a Community Conversation about the challenges we are meeting together.

voamid.org/powerof1



Hear Jason's story at voamid.org/powerof1



Jennifer Hancock joins the leadership of Kosair Charities at the Power of 1 Breakfast. Kosair Charities is a key community partner of Volunteers of America. Their generosity was crucial to the capital campaign supporting our new VOA Recovery location in Old Louisville, and they are always integral Power of 1 partners.

JEWISH HERITAGE FUND FOR EXCELLENCE STANDS WITH US TO HELP FAMILIES BATTLE ADDICTION.



Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence

“THE JEWISH HERITAGE FUND IS AN ESSENTIAL PARTNER IN OUR EXPANSION OF FREEDOM HOUSE AND OUR VOA RECOVERY EFFORTS. I’M JUST THRILLED TO PARTNER WITH SUCH A COMPASSIONATE ORGANIZATION THAT DOES SO MUCH GOOD WORK FOR SO MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY.” –Board Chair David Fennell

Volunteers of America is expanding to meet the addiction recovery needs of our community, and the help of the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is invaluable to our efforts. This compassionate non-profit, which has focused on creating healthier communities for more than 100 years, strongly supports our new VOA Recovery facility in Louisville. Their generosity will help us to provide more addiction recovery services to people in need. We are very grateful to David Kaplan, Linda Schuster and all of the leadership of JHFE.

AN INVESTMENT IN VOA

DAVID FENNELLS LIKES ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN PROVE IT.

“I like to ask: can an organization demonstrate that they get results and help the community?” David says.

As a long-time supporter of Volunteers of America and new Chair of the Board of Directors, David has seen Volunteers of America prove our worth to the people we serve.

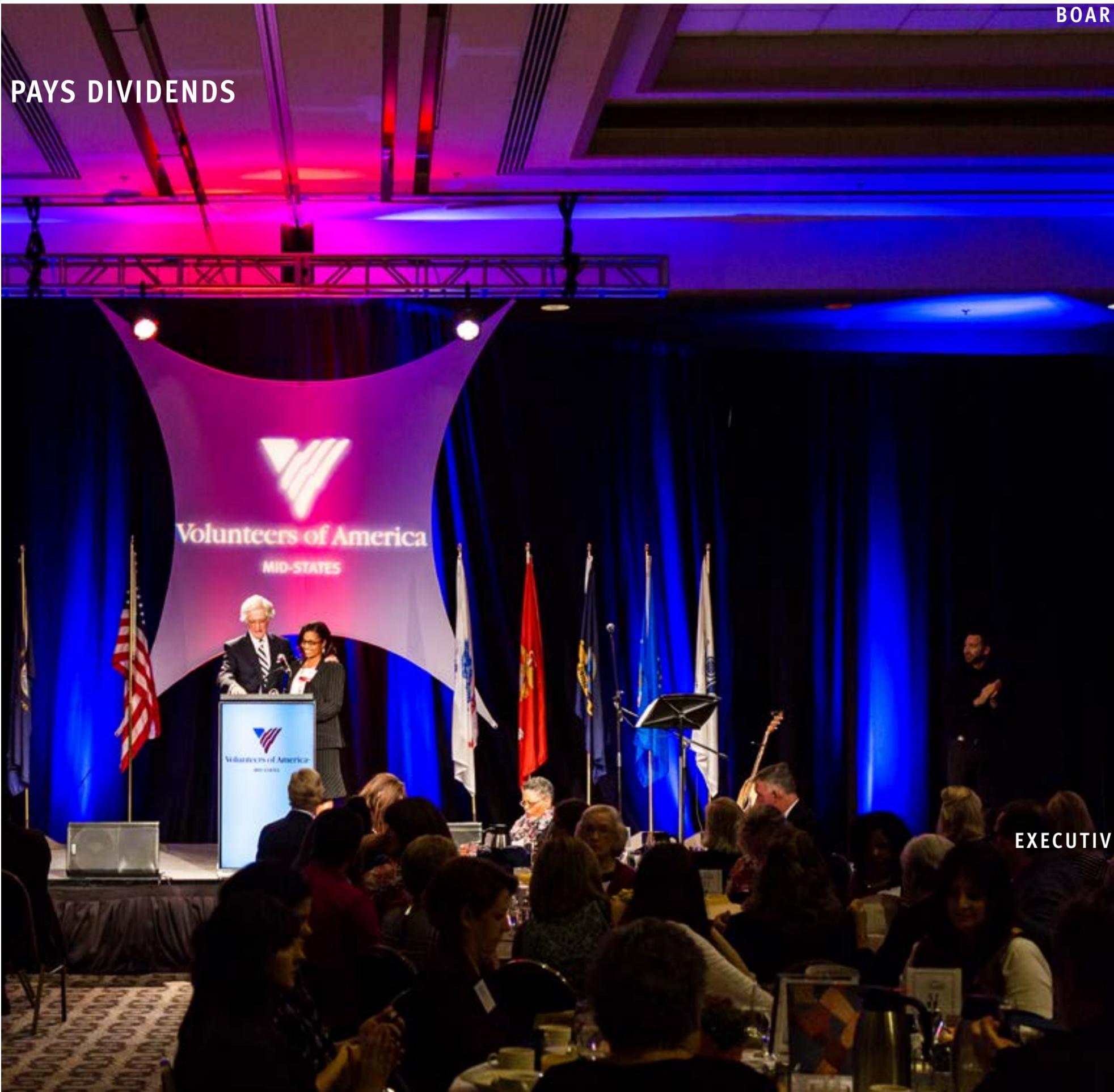
David is retired from a 40-year career in banking and business. David also serves on Volunteers of America's National Board of Directors. He provides outstanding leadership to Volunteers of America because he believes in the mission and knows that our organization is professionally managed, accredited and, he has seen, life changing.

“As a businessman and a banker, I can tell you that you can trust Volunteers of America. I've seen that an investment in VOA pays great dividends,” David says.

David is also a U.S. Army veteran, and strongly supports Volunteers of America's range of programs that provide comprehensive services to veterans. He recently worked with Volunteers of America case managers at the Louisville Stand Down for veterans, providing service and support to veterans who have defended our nation.

“Our commitment is clear: Get up in the morning, look in the mirror, be the best you can be for yourself, so that you can be the best for somebody else today. That's our culture at Volunteers of America, and I'm proud to be a part of it.”

Board Chair David Fennell is joined at the Power of 1 Breakfast by Gloria Mucker. To find out how you can join David and Gloria in supporting our mission, go to voamid.org.



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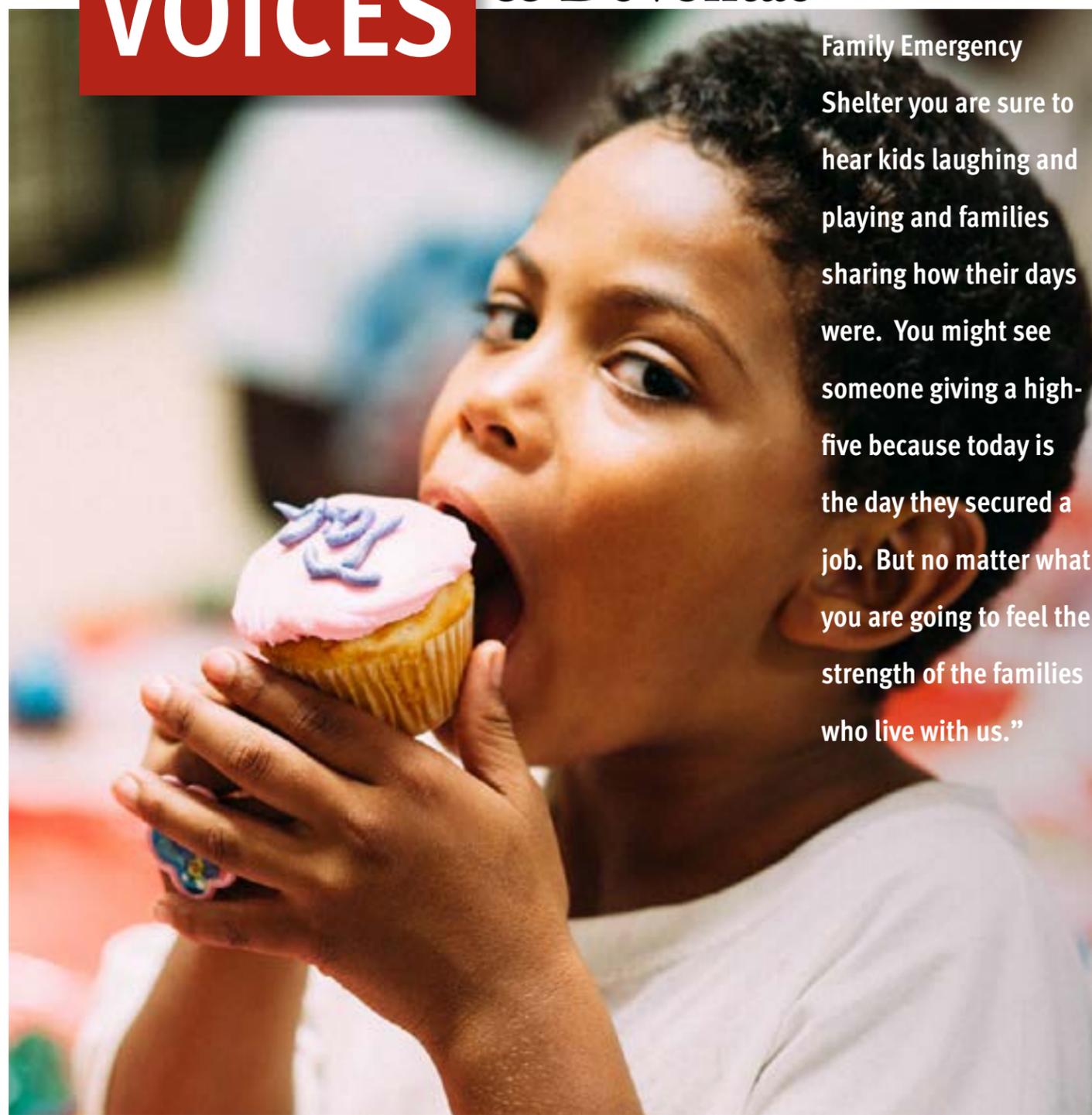
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 Rita Finnie, Associate Vice President of Program Services - South
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 Jonathan Kuehl, Vice President of Operations Support
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VOA VOICES

Who are the voices of VOA? They are veterans and adults with developmental disabilities. They are families facing homelessness, moms and dads struggling with addiction, friends who need answers about HIV. They are donors and volunteers who lend a helping hand. They are the voices of our community, coming together.

Tamara Reif & DeVontae



“Any time you step into Family Emergency Shelter you are sure to hear kids laughing and playing and families sharing how their days were. You might see someone giving a high-five because today is the day they secured a job. But no matter what, you are going to feel the strength of the families who live with us.”

Tamara Reif, our Senior Director of Housing, Homelessness and HIV, has devoted her professional career to helping families and children. “For me, VOA is about hope and resilience and being able to witness that is an honor,” Tamara said. Every day, Tamara and our team help families and great kids just like seven-year-old DeVontae, who is

enjoying a delicious vanilla cupcake on one of our Family Fun Nights. DeVontae is living at our Family Emergency Shelter with his mother and and siblings while his mother works to overcome homelessness and achieve stability for their family.

Visit www.voamid.org/voavoices to hear more voices like Tamara’s.

Gloria Mucker



“I know VOA in so many ways. I’m a former staff member and an enthusiastic volunteer. I’m a veteran and a social worker. But most of all, I’m a believer.”

Gloria Mucker served our nation for 22 years in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army reserves. She served veterans as a case manager for Volunteers of America, helping men and women who defended our country find housing and employment. Today, she serves homeless families by hosting “Family Fun Nights” at VOA’s Louisville Family Housing Services - one of very few places homeless families can stay together.

“When I see children forget their troubles for a minute, believe me, I’m getting just as much out of the experience as the family I’m helping,” Gloria said.

To see stories from other supporters, volunteers and clients, search #voavoices on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

hey
there



You can find us anywhere. Check out our photo galleries. Watch video of life-changing programs. Read stories about courageous people beating tough problems. Connect with Volunteers of America and be Inspired.

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#VOAvoices Meet our clients, volunteers and donors. See the people who are helping our community overcome our biggest challenges.

@voamid Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. You'll find new hope every day.

voamid.org Read more about the people in this issue of Inspire. Find out how to help a veteran or an adult with a developmental disability. Click our donate button to become a supporter. It's one-stop shopping for learning how to make a difference in your community.

(502) 636-0771 Yes - We have telephones and would love to hear from you. Call and ask us anything. We want to share our mission with you.

Give Hope for the Holidays. Help a family in need this holiday season by going to our website to find out how to donate a coat, a gift card or make a donation at voamid.org/holidays.

**AN OLD VEHICLE CAN OPEN
UP A WHOLE NEW WORLD FOR
SOMEONE IN NEED.**



Your donation of a used vehicle allows you to participate in serving some of your community's most vulnerable people.

**DONATING WITH VOLUNTEERS
OF AMERICA IS:**

- 100% tax-deductible
- Fast, easy and convenient
- Free – we'll tow the vehicle at no charge

Donate your vehicle now:

1-800-407-2600

or visit www.voamid.org to start the process.