



NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF NEW JERSEY State Parole Board

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For Immediate Release

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New Jersey State Parole Chairman Helps Volunteers of America Delaware Valley Celebrate 20th Anniversary of Opening Hope Hall in Camden

8,000 Men Served Since 1999, Helping to Rebuild Lives and Assist in Reentry to Society

CAMDEN, NJ, August 6, 2019 — Recently, Volunteers of America Delaware Valley (VOADV) celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the opening of its Hope Hall facility in Camden. A variety of representatives, including New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri joined leadership, staff and former clients from VOADV to mark the milestone anniversary of this facility's service to Camden and the greater regional community.

Hope Hall provides a therapeutic environment for clients who need intensive treatment service, in order to best facilitate their transition back into society. The facility offers 24-hour staff support along with a broad spectrum of services, that includes: individualized case management and discharge planning; job coaching, job readiness and employment support; cognitive skills training; substance abuse treatment and relapse prevention; and emotional management and support.

“On behalf of the entire parole board, I want to congratulate the Delaware Valley Chapter of Volunteers of America on the anniversary of Hope Hall,” said New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri. “Through Hope Hall, Volunteers of America has successfully demonstrated its commitment, passion, and compassion towards providing meaningful reentry programs for offenders seeking to effectively reintegrate into society and their communities in a positive manner.”

“Hope Hall opened in Camden the same year New Jersey’s prison population reached its peak, a direct result of mass incarceration,” explained Daniel L. Lombardo, President/CEO, VOADV. “Since then, the number of those incarcerated in our state’s prisons has decreased by nearly 39 percent, which can be attributed to the rise of community corrections programs like the one at Hope Hall. This facility continues to be a tribute to and continuation of our founders’ commitment to providing reentry services to individuals impacted by incarceration.”



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Committed to the reformation and improvement of conditions of the nation's prison system, Maud Ballington Booth, co-founder of Volunteers of America, opened the nation's first "Hope Halls" in the late-nineteenth century. Designed to be recuperative settings for individuals recently released from prison, Hope Halls served as residential programs that assisted thousands of incarcerated individuals in their transition back to community life.

Over the past 20 years, the staff at Hope Hall have helped more than 8,000 men return to society from the criminal justice system. Staff utilize evidence-based programming and practices to ensure each individual can live independent, self-fulfilled lives once they have served their time. Additionally, each staff member is committed to providing community-based support as these individuals rebuild their lives, introducing vital life skills and delivering social services needed to help acclimate to life beyond incarceration.

For more information about Hope Hall, visit www.voadv.org/hopehall. For more information about Volunteer of America Delaware Valley's reentry services and community release programs, visit www.voadv.org.

About Volunteers of America Delaware Valley:

The Greater Philadelphia regional affiliate of the national Volunteers of America- a nonprofit, faith-based organization founded in 1896-Volunteers of America Delaware Valley serves more than 13,000 men, women and children annually in Southern and Central New Jersey and the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware. Headquartered in Camden, N.J., Volunteers of America Delaware Valley provides a range of programs for senior citizens; homeless families; offenders returning to the community; and men and women dealing with addiction and mental health issues.

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) is committed to promoting public safety, utilizing effective methods to aid supervised offenders in reentering society, and to reduce the recidivism of offenders while addressing the needs of crime victims. As required by law, appointed parole board members and staff conduct approximately 13,500 hearings per year, solicit input from victims, and decide upon parole matters. Nearly 400 sworn SPB parole officers supervise more than 15,500 offenders and act as New Jersey's primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. Additionally, SPB officers are also active partners with a variety of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, the SPB's Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit, and private agencies to connect former inmates with vocational, mental health, and related services.

Photo caption: *New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. (far right) at the Hope Hall anniversary celebration. Volunteers of America Delaware Valley President/CEO Daniel L. Lombardo standing next to the chairman (left).*

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