

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**VOAWW Unveils Plans for Construction on Their  
Neighborhood Service Center**

Lynnwood, WA., October 21, 2015 -- Volunteers of America Western Washington celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with a bang on Wednesday, announcing its partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church, Boys and Girls Clubs of Snohomish County, and Rick Steves on a brand new Neighborhood Service Center plan located on the Trinity Lutheran Church grounds at their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Inspire Hope Luncheon.

The VOAWW Neighborhood Service Center will be built with a specific focus in mind: provide care and services to those in need. While recognizing there are many needs in each neighborhood, VOAWW knows and recognize there are many barriers families face when trying to meet those needs. One of the barriers that exist is the absence of preventative services versus those that focus on intervention which can make it overwhelming for a family in need to get the help they so desperately deserve. Volunteers of America Western Washington (VOAWW) also recognizes that each neighborhood has its own unique set of needs and each neighborhood wants to thrive, be successful, and be a safe place for their residents to work, play, and live. VOAWW wants to be ingrained in the neighborhoods that they serve and be flexible and responsive to the ever-changing needs, desires, and goals of each neighborhood.

Making this announcement even more rewarding to the 300 plus guests in attendance was the reveal that Edmond's own Rick Steves was financially supporting VOAWW's Neighborhood Service Center vision, with a donation of two million dollars. "I support VOAWW's vision financially because their experience and savvy leverages my donation" Steves states. "I see VOAWW (along with our other community partners) not as a charity but as a service to help me get the most community bang for my passionate buck."

A key focus of each Neighborhood Center is to utilize what already exists, use the synergy of all working together, not duplicating services, and to not displace existing services. Each Center will be a centralized communication hub and referral base for all activities and services in the area. Relying on existing service providers and members of the community, VOAWW will partner with these groups to coordinate services, engage community members, and identify new areas of need as they emerge. Two prime examples of these partners are the Boys and Girls Clubs of Snohomish County (BGCS) and Trinity Lutheran Church.

The collaboration between VOAWW, BGCSC, and Trinity Lutheran Church will significantly enhance the programs and services that will be able to be provided to the under-served residents of several communities but make no mistake, these partnerships are just the start. “We know how essential service partners are to our neighbors in need” said VOAWW Vice President of Development & Communications, Mark Johnson. “We need partners who are invested in the overall care and safety of their neighborhood. By working together, we’ll achieve more impact within our communities.”

VOAWW and BGCSC will now look to provide enhanced community services to neighborhoods along Casino Road in Everett and in the community surrounding Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood, where countless low income families struggle to provide even some of life’s most basic needs. This expanded partnership between Volunteers of America Western Washington, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Snohomish County and now the Trinity Lutheran Church, will enable hundreds of youth, families, and seniors to access vital services and life-changing programs.

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### **About Volunteers of America Western Washington**

For families, children, seniors, and adults with developmental disabilities, Volunteers of America Western Washington is the place to turn for those in need. In fact, 350,000 times a year, people in need turn to us for assistance. Volunteers of America Western Washington is the largest human service agency in Snohomish County and we serve six counties in Western Washington. We are an affiliate of a national organization, governed by a local board of directors. Specifically, we help families in crisis, cultivate promise in children, and empower independence for seniors and adults with disabilities. Whether we are delivering food to a homebound senior, providing rent and mortgage assistance, or providing a child with the tools needed to succeed in school, we are there, answering the calls for help from our community’s most vulnerable neighbors.

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Additional photos are available upon request.