



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JODY M. WAGNER NAMED CHAIR OF THE 52nd ANNUAL
HUMANITARIAN AWARDS DINNER**

VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA – Jody M. Wagner has been named chair of the 2016 Humanitarian Awards Dinner by the Tidewater Chapter of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. The awards celebration honors individuals and organizations who have made significant humanitarian contributions to the South Hampton Roads community. This 52nd presentation of the awards will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2016, at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott.

Jody M. Wagner is Founder and President of Jody's Popcorn, a fresh gourmet popcorn and confectionary store in Virginia Beach. Jody's Popcorn distributes its products through its own retail store, festivals and craft shows, the web, other grocery, gourmet and gift stores, and corporate sales.

Ms. Wagner previously served as the Secretary of Finance under Governor Kaine from 2006 to 2008 and served in the Department of the Treasury for the Commonwealth of Virginia as Treasurer from January 2002-January 2006. She received a B.A. in economics from Northwestern University in 1977, and a J.D. from Vanderbilt University in 1980. Ms. Wagner was admitted to the bar in Tennessee in 1980 and in Virginia in 1984. Prior to joining state government, she worked for about 18 years at the Norfolk law firm Kaufman & Canoles, specializing in securities and banking law.

She is currently the Treasurer of the Board of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, Secretary of the Board of the Tidewater Jewish Foundation, and Vice President of the Board of the Norfolk Forum. She also serves on the Boards of Bon Secours Healthsource, Congregation Beth El and Christopher Newport University, The Joseph W. Luter, III School of Business Board.

The Humanitarian Awards are presented annually in communities across the state by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. Begun in Tidewater in 1965, when the organization was part of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Humanitarian Awards honor individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds.

For 81 years, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities has been addressing prejudices, in all forms in order to improve academic achievement, increase workplace productivity, and enhance local trust. Today through workshops, retreats, and customized programs, VCIC works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success through inclusion.

For more information about the organization or the event go to www.inclusiveva.org.

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