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## **VCIC Announces Recipients of 50th Annual Peninsula Humanitarian Awards**

*2018 Peninsula Humanitarian Awards Dinner Presented by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities  
February 22, 2018 – Newport News Marriott at City Center.*

(Newport News, VA) - The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 50<sup>th</sup> annual Peninsula Humanitarian Awards. The awards honor individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds in the Peninsula community. The 2018 awards will be presented by the Peninsula Chapter of VCIC at their annual dinner on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at the Newport News Marriott at City Center.

### The 2018 Peninsula Humanitarian Awards Recipients

**William B. Downey** – Bill Downey is President and Chief Executive Officer for Riverside Health System. He originally joined the Riverside team in May of 1981 as an Administrative Extern. Bill returned to Riverside in June 2001 after having served as President and CEO of Lewis-Gale Medical Center in Salem Virginia and CEO of Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, Hudson, Florida. He became CEO of Riverside in 2012. Bill has been involved in many community organizations. He serves as the Chairman of the Board of Greater Peninsula NOW, and as a Board member of The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., the Hampton Roads Economic Development Authority, United Way, Towne Bank-Peninsula and Premier, Inc. Bill is a past chair of An Achievable Dream, the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, the United Way and Virginia Living Museum.

**Wendy C. Drucker** – Wendy Drucker currently serves as Managing Director of Drucker + Falk. Active on multiple community boards, she is immediate past President of the Newport News Economic Development Council, President of Hampton Roads Academy Board of Directors, and is a licensed Real Estate Broker. Wendy is passionate about providing job and housing opportunities for the homeless, and through a collaboration with Shelters to Shutters is helping transition individuals and families from homelessness to economic self-sufficiency by educating and engaging the real estate industry to provide employment and housing opportunities. When apprised of the dire situation facing refugees living on the Peninsula, Wendy began collaborating with Drs. Jafri, Christopher Newport University, the UJC, the Refugee Center and others to raise awareness of the needs of local refugees and help them through their transition to living on the Peninsula.

**Philip L. Hatchett** – Philip Hatchett currently serves as managing director of Kaufman & Canoles' Newport News office. Kaufman & Canoles has provided a platform for Philip to be heavily involved in community activities including Smart Beginnings of the Virginia Peninsula and the Hampton Roads Community Action Program. Philip and his wife also host an annual gathering with college wrestling teams after they make weight for Virginia Duels. He remembers his first involvement with the Hampton Roads Chapter of the American Red Cross, realizing that the plasma collected went to the Red Cross Blood Center named for Dr. Jerome Holland, who Philip had known growing up while he was president of Hampton University. Feeling that connection led him to get more involved and to realize the impact people like Dr. Holland have had on this country, this community, and him.

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**Everette A. "Teddy" Hicks, Sr.** – Teddy Hicks is a retired educator and board member from Newport News Public Schools. He served as a classroom teacher at Carver High School, a high school for Black students, from 1961-1971. Following integration, Teddy transferred to Ferguson High School and later Point Option. In 1976, he was promoted to Assistant Principal at Menchville High School, retiring in 1991. Teddy continued his service through volunteerism. He was elected to the Newport News School Board in 2000, "retiring" in 2016. Teddy has served as Chairman of the deacon board at Ivy Baptist Church for more than 18 years. He was a founding member of the C. Waldo Scott Center for H.O.P.E. and served on the board of the Virginia Educators Credit Union. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP and a supporter of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula, People to People, Inc., the Alzheimer's Association, and the American Cancer Society.

**Mark L. Tysinger** – Mark Tysinger has served as the president of Tysinger Motor Company since 1986. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce and of William and Mary's Marshall Wythe Law School. He was a practicing attorney with Kaufman and Canoles in Norfolk prior to taking the "helm" of Tysinger Motor Company. Under Mark's leadership and as part of his commitment to creating an inclusive work environment for all his employees, Tysinger was instrumental in securing insurance benefits for domestic partners through the Virginia Automobile Dealers Association, and was one of HRBOR's first partners. Additionally, Mark has served on the Industrial Development Authority for the cities of Hampton and Poquoson, the boards of Mary Immaculate Hospital, Goodwill and Junior Achievement. He currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Virginia Automobile Dealers Association, and in 2018, joined the board of Greater Peninsula Now.

**Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute** – The Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute (HUPTI), was founded in 2005 by Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey. Opening in 2010, HUPTI became just the 8th proton therapy cancer treatment facility in the United States and the only one in Hampton Roads. In addition to partnering with local organizations and hosting the Annual Gala of Hope, HUPTI has held several local golf tournaments with the proceeds benefitting a patient fund for non-related medical expenses. Earlier this year, the Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute partnered with Patient Airlift Services (PALS) to provide free transportation via volunteer pilots for qualifying HUPTI patients who need to travel 2 or more hours for consultations or cancer treatment. HUPTI is committed to continuing the fight against cancer, not only directly through proton beam radiation treatment, but also through philanthropic pursuits, community outreach, and charitable giving.

Additionally, the Daily Press will recognize the 2017 Citizen of the Year at the Humanitarian Awards Dinner.

Fifty years ago, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities - then called the National Conference of Christians and Jews - began a tradition on the Virginia Peninsula, "to honor the work of our friends, neighbors, and family members who gave to others the same rights, respect and dignity that they sought for themselves." Today, VCIC works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success through inclusion. The 83-year-old organization delivers programs to educators and students in the region through the Connections Institute, Diversity Dialogue Day, Project Inclusion retreats, and the Building Inclusive Schools professional development program. VCIC also provides professional development for many local businesses and nonprofit organizations, leveraging diversity and inclusion to achieve success.

The 2018 VCIC Humanitarian Awards Dinner is co-chaired by Gordon L. Gentry, Jr. (TowneBank Peninsula) and McKinley L. Price (City of Newport News). Daily Press and Metro Productions are the Humanitarian sponsors, and Benefactor sponsors include Riverside Health System and TowneBank.

For more information about the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities or about reservations for the Awards Dinner on February 22, go to [www.inclusiveVA.org](http://www.inclusiveVA.org).

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