



# NEWS RELEASE

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## VCIC Announces Recipients of 57th Annual Tidewater Humanitarian Awards

*2021 Tidewater Humanitarian Awards will be presented virtually by  
the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities on March 18, 2021*

(Virginia Beach, VA) - The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 57<sup>th</sup> annual Tidewater Humanitarian Awards. These 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 South Hampton Roads. The 2021 awards will be presented virtually by VCIC's Tidewater Chapter on March 18, 2021.

### The 2021 Tidewater Humanitarian Awards Recipients

**Yvonne T. Allmond** – Yvonne T. Allmond is EVP, Community Financial Engagement in TowneBank's Norfolk corporate offices. She is a recipient of the 2014 YWCA Women of Distinction award and is involved in many civic activities, community initiatives, and organizations to serve the community, including: Board of Visitors member, Old Dominion University; board member, Norfolk State University Foundation Board; board member, Y on Granby St.; board of trustees member, Chrysler Museum of Art; board of trustees member, the Norfolk Employees Retirement System; board member, The Norfolk NATO Festival; board member and President of The Town Scholarship Foundation; board member, the Norfolk Police Foundation; and board member, the Slover Library Foundation.

**Susan R. Colpitts** – Susan R. Colpitts recently retired from Signature Family Wealth Advisors where she led the Client Services Team as the Chief of Client Experience. She is recognized nationally for her thought leadership and accomplishments in the areas of client experience, financial strategic planning, and philanthropic planning. Susan is actively involved in her community, engaging in volunteer activities which currently include being a Director of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation and Chair of the Board for Virginia Humanities. Previously, she served as Trustee of the Eastern Virginia Medical School Foundation, Director of Building Goodness Foundation, past Chair of the United Way of South Hampton Roads, and past Chair at the Virginia Symphony.

**Frank J. Hruska** – Frank J. Hruska currently serves as Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of South Hampton Roads. He first became involved with the organization in 2013, starting as a volunteer and soon becoming a member of the Board. In March 2018, he resigned from the Board to become the organization's Executive Director at a time of transition and need. In addition to Habitat, Hruska is an enthusiastic American Red Cross platelet donor and was recognized in 2016 - 2020 for donating over 20 times during those calendar years. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus where he was Knight of the Year (2017) and Family for the Year (2018). Hruska is an active member of St Mark Catholic Church, where he is the Vice Chairperson on the Finance Council.

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**Ruth T. Jones Nichols** – Ruth T. Jones Nichols is president and chief executive officer of the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. She previously held the position of the Executive Director at YWCA South Hamptons Road. Ruth is an active member of several nonprofit boards including the Hampton Roads Chamber; Hampton Roads Workforce Council; City of Norfolk Mayor’s Advisory Committee for the St. Paul’s Neighborhood Revitalization Project; YMCA of South Hampton Roads; and the Elder’s House. She is also a volunteer and leadership donor for Hampton Roads Community Foundation’s Visionaries for Change; United Way of South Hampton Roads’ Women United; College of William & Mary’s Carroll F.S. Hardy Scholarship Endowment; and Envision Lead Grow.

**Lawrence L. Steingold** – Lawrence L. Steingold is the Chief Executive Officer of Woodway Management, LLC. He is also a licensed CPA. Lawrence has been active in community for many years. His significant board service includes Jewish Family Service of Tidewater (where he is Treasurer); Young Audiences of Virginia (formerly serving as Treasurer); Ohel Sholom Temple (where he is Budget Committee Chair); Tidewater Jewish Foundation (recently completing two years as Chair); Governor’s School for the Arts Foundation; Freda Gordon Hospice and Palliative Care, and ViBe Creative District, Virginia Beach (where he is Treasurer). Lawrence previously served with CHKD Child Abuse Prevention Program and the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater.

#### **DISTINGUISHED MERIT AWARD**

**Hampton Roads Community Foundation** – The Hampton Roads Community Foundation is celebrating 70 years since their founding as The Norfolk Foundation. HRCF partners with donors from all walks of life to improve life in southeastern Virginia through grants, scholarships, and leadership initiatives. They have put more than \$301 million into action through grants and scholarships. In 2018, HRCF launched an initiative focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion which includes aligning programs with goals for racially equitable outcomes across the region, facilitating courageous community-wide conversations about both the history of racism and opportunities for racial equity and healing in Hampton Roads, and providing leadership through collaborative action to address systemic racism in the region.

Fifty-seven years ago, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities - then called the National Conference of Christians and Jews - began a tradition in South Hampton Roads, “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 86-year-old organization delivers programs to high school students in the region through the Connections Institute and Diversity Dialogue Day. VCIC also provides professional development for many local educators, businesses, and nonprofit organizations, leveraging diversity and inclusion to achieve success. In 2018, VCIC opened a Hampton Roads office on the campus of Virginia Wesleyan University.

William L. Nusbaum (Williams Mullen) is chairing the 2021 VCIC Tidewater Humanitarian Awards dinner. The Humanitarian Sponsor is Virginia Oncology, and the Benefactor sponsors are GEICO and TowneBank.

For more information about the organization or about reservations for the Awards on March 18<sup>th</sup>, go to [www.inclusiveVA.org](http://www.inclusiveVA.org).

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