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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Day of Remembrance Recognizes Homeless Area Residents Who Died This Year**

*Homeward to Host Vignettes on Website for National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day*

**Richmond, VA** – Stephanie Williams was no stranger to struggle, disappointment and grief. As one of over 1,000 residents experiencing homelessness on any given day in the Richmond region, she was ultimately able to find support and access services at Flagler Home last summer. Unfortunately, Stephanie lost her life at age 35 before navigating out of the homeless service system.

Homeward, the Greater Richmond region's planning and coordinating agency for homeless services, and area service agencies will remember Stephanie and the other local neighbors who have passed this year while experiencing homelessness.

“This day of tribute should serve to remind us all how precious each life is and that we can work collectively to end homelessness,” said Kelly King Horne, Executive Director of Homeward. “In 2010, we will focus specifically on reducing the number of people living on the streets in our region.”

During 2009 those who have lost their lives include:

**Christopher Campbell**  
**Mark Cromartie**  
**Earl John Glauner**  
**Joseph McCray**  
**Perney Robinson**  
**Timothy Spain**  
**Patricia Summers**  
**George Wall**  
**Stephanie Williams**

Since 1990, there has been a national day of remembrance on the first day of winter, the longest night of the year, for homeless individuals who have lost their lives while still negotiating the turbulent waters of homelessness. Beginning tonight and through the month of January, Homeward will post stories of remembrance at [www.homewardva.org](http://www.homewardva.org) of many of these individuals.

Homeward will conduct its winter point-in-time count of area residents currently experiencing homelessness on January 21, 2010. The data gathered during this single-day count will allow for analysis of the barriers surrounding housing stability in the region and what it would take to end homelessness.

| January 2007    January 2008    January 2009 |              |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| OVERALL POPULATION                           |              |              |              |
| <b>Total point-in-time</b>                   | <b>1,150</b> | <b>1,073</b> | <b>1,150</b> |
| <i>Total children in Point-in-time count</i> | <i>139</i>   | <i>153</i>   | <i>136</i>   |
| UNSHelterED POPULATION                       |              |              |              |
| <b>Unsheltered</b>                           | <b>149</b>   | <b>166</b>   | <b>184</b>   |

The median length of homelessness is ~150 days, which is consistent with findings from the point-in-time count conducted twice yearly.

**About Homeward**

*With more than 1,000 homeless children, single adults and families at a given point in time in Greater Richmond, Homeward is the regional catalyst to research, report and coordinate resources for people experiencing homelessness. In collaboration with regional partners in the City of Richmond and the counties of Chesterfield, Henrico, Hanover, New Kent, Powhatan, Charles City and Goochland, Homeward facilitates service provider trainings, client resource fairs, and conducts twice yearly ‘point-in-time’ counts of those at-risk and who are currently in the sheltered and unsheltered population. In 2008 Homeward launched the Ten Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Richmond Region. For more information on Homeward, visit [www.homewardva.org](http://www.homewardva.org).*

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