

## *Celebrity Dinner to star Notre Dame's Charlie Weis*

Notre Dame Head Football Coach, **Charlie Weis** is coming to Northeastern Pennsylvania Thursday, May 10 for the 4th annual Volunteers of America Celebrity Dinner.

The popular coach is expected to attract a large crowd to the Genetti's Best Western banquet room with ardent Notre Dame fans and Volunteers of America supporters. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception and auction, followed by dinner beginning at 7 p.m.

Lead sponsors for the dinner are **The William F. Carey Educational Trust, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs and Valley Open MRI & Diagnostic Center.**

Ticket prices are \$100 and \$50 per student when accompanied by an adult. You can make your reservations by calling Volunteers of America at 570.825.5261.

Coach Weis began his impressive coaching career at Boonton High School in New Jersey. He then spent the next five seasons at Morristown High School as a football assistant.

In 1985, he was hired at the University of South Carolina, serving four seasons on the Gamecock staff before returning to New Jersey as the head coach at Franklin Township High in 1989.

In 1990, Weis launched his professional coaching career with the New York Giants where he was named defensive assistant and assistant special teams coach under head coach, Bill Parcells. He stayed on as the running back coach for the next two seasons before beginning a four-year stint with the New England Patriots, where he again served under Parcells.



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## *I Remember Mama® to be held in Harrisburg and Pittsburgh*

Elderly women in Central and Southwestern Pennsylvania will have something to celebrate in May, even if there is no one to share Mother's Day with.



*Elvis (Brad Crum) will be in the building!*

Volunteers of America will hold **I Remember Mama®** luncheons in both Harrisburg and Pittsburgh to celebrate elderly women who would otherwise be alone on Mothers Day.

For the third year I Remember Mama® will return to the **Hilton Harrisburg** where nearly 300 mothers and grandmothers will arrive dressed in their Sunday best.

They will see tables bedecked in flowers, the room decorated beautifully, music happily playing, and a lovely spring lunch prepared for their enjoyment.

The scene will be replete with entertainment, gifts for each lady,

door prizes, and Mother's Day cards made by school children. The Harrisburg event will be held May 6, beginning at noon.

The scene will be replicated at the **Churchill Valley Country Club** in Pittsburgh the same day. That luncheon will begin at 1 p.m.

I Remember Mama® provides a wonderful day for elderly mothers and grandmothers and is also a fundraiser in support of the wide variety of Volunteers of America services in Pennsylvania.

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# From the President



Alan R. Garner

Charles was married and had a daughter. He owned a retail business with four locations in one of the nation's largest cities. He took two or three vacations each year to such places as Europe, Cancun, or Hawaii.

Many would say his life had been successful. Maybe even more successful than most.

But, when I met Charles he had lost his businesses, was estranged from his wife, hadn't seen his daughter in several years, and was dealing with addiction and mental health issues. He

was homeless and had come to Volunteers of America for help.

Chances are, you, the reader, have had a good life. Yes, you have had challenges, but you struggled against the odds.

Many of the individuals and families we serve were much like you and me. They were doing okay, but at some point, things changed and they could not recover on their own.

You, or someone you know, could find themselves like Charles – in need of more help than they would have ever imagined. Homeless. Alcoholism. Developmental disabilities. Mental health. Traumatic brain injury. Or any number of other perils.

Volunteers of America can help. We don't spend much money on advertising. We depend on word of mouth – people, like you, telling others of the work we do.

Your support of Volunteers of America, this great ministry of service for the past 111 years, could be helping someone you know tomorrow.

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# Volunteers of America celebrates return to Southwestern Pennsylvania



Principals at *The Next Chapter* reception were (from left) **Ruby Wilkosz**, director of *Working Order*; **Susan Chase**, founder and former executive director of *Working Order*; **Frances Hesselbein**, keynote speaker and **Alan R. Garner**, president and CEO of *Volunteers of America*.

With encouraging words from **Frances Hesselbein**, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the **Leader to Leader Institute** and past chairman of **Volunteers of America's** National Board of Directors, Volunteers of America celebrated its return to Pittsburgh with a February 8 community reception at the **Duquesne Club**.

Volunteers of America served the Pittsburgh area from 1897 and through the 1970s.

In 2006 Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania re-established services through a merger with *Working Order*, a 10-year old business program developing and supporting entrepreneurs for individuals with disabilities as an alternative to unemployment.

Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania also began providing case management for Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Western Pennsylvania.

Ms. Hesselbein served as the keynote speaker for the evening. **Alan R. Garner**, president and CEO, also addressed the crowd of about 100.

Ms. Hesselbein is well known in both the non-profit and corporate world. Her service on nonprofit and private sector corporate



**Chauncey Smith**, of *Heinz, Inc.* (left), chats with *Volunteers of America* board member **D. Ty Gourley**, of the *University of Pittsburgh*.

boards includes a four-year chairmanship of *Volunteers of America*, the **Veteran's Corporation Advisory Board**, the board of the **Mutual of America Life Insurance Company**, New York, and the boards of the **Center for Social Initiative at the Harvard Business School** and the **Hauser Center for Nonprofit Management at the Kennedy School**.



Mrs. Hesselbein was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States of America's highest civilian honor in January 1998. Today she travels the world as an inspirational speaker on leadership.

**Kate Kolbrener**, of *Kolbreber, Inc.*, and *Volunteers of America* board member speaks to the audience.



**Peggy Uten**, of *Bayer Foundation*, and **Frances Hesselbein**, share a moment at *The Next Chapter* reception.

This May, *Volunteers of America* will bring "I Remember Mama<sup>®</sup>" to Pittsburgh. This luncheon honors senior women who otherwise would be alone on Mother's Day.

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## A note of appreciation to our steadfast supporters

Your support is helping Volunteers of America change lives of thousands throughout Pennsylvania. From the frail elderly who need a ride to the doctor's office to the infant in need of a loving foster parent to the adult with chronic mental illness who needs the help of a supportive living case worker, Volunteers of America is there to help.

We appreciate gifts of all sizes because it is your compassion and generosity that ultimately allows us to reach and uplift people.

Listed on the following pages are the individuals, businesses and foundations who made gifts during the past calendar year ending December 31, 2006. If an error has been made, please contact us at 717-236-1440 or at [info@voapa.org](mailto:info@voapa.org).

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## *Working Order entrepreneur builds two Pittsburgh businesses*

Stephen Chapas combined experience and determination to build two thriving businesses in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Steve is one of the many successful entrepreneurs who came to Working Order for assistance in starting his own business.

Working Order is a Volunteers of America program that develops and supports entrepreneurship for individuals with disabilities and others seeking to be self-employed.

With work experience in a monument business, a cleaning company, and a landscape business, Steve knew what he wanted to do, but to get started he needed advice and assistance.

With help from Working Order and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Steve revved up his lawn service in about four months. Along the way he hired Dan Szwedko, a Working Order entrepreneur specializing in graphics. Dan designed a logo to give Stephen's Lawn Service trucks a distinctive look.

With his lawn care service humming and his daughter off to college, this single father decided to start a second venture, a cleaning service, again with the help of Working Order.

This time he not only wanted to expand his enterprises, he wanted to help others. Stephen's Cleaning Service hired and trained four individuals with disabilities to handle the cleaning assignments Steve manages within a 100 mile radius around Pittsburgh.

"The Working Order staff was instrumental in helping me become an independent businessman," Steve said. "They're great and I could not have done it without them."



**Working Order**  
*The Power of Cooperation for Small Businesses*



## Donations from IRAs

There is still time to take advantage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and help Volunteers of America at the same time.

The Pension Act permits donors over the age of 70 to make tax-free charitable gifts through their IRAs, both in 2006 and 2007. By instructing your IRA trustee to make a transfer directly to **Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania** you will assure that these funds will never be subject to income to estate tax.

For more information about planning gifts of any kind, including IRA contributions, contact our Development Office at 717-236-1440.

# *Volunteers of America's Services Now Reach Over Two Million*

For the first time, the number of individuals reached with Volunteers of America services grew to over 2 million in fiscal year 2006.

Of the 2,223,983 we assisted nationally, the largest numbers were served through our children and youth, community enhancement and emergency services (most notably disaster assistance).

The number served by Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania is over 80,000.

In line with national trends showing greater needs for skilled workers and the rising cost of housing, we also saw significant growth in our employment and training, housing and homeless programs.

Additional emerging national trends indicate that: child poverty

continues to grow despite improved child well-being in most areas; the largest portion of our national resources (currently 60 percent) will be needed to support a growing elderly population (currently representing 12 percent of our population); and the gap between earnings at the highest and lowest income levels continues to widen.

## *Children's Center annual Family Fest May 5*

Great fun for the whole family is coming in May at the Volunteers of America Children's Center in Allentown. The center is located at 730 Union Street.

The center's annual Family Fest will be held on Saturday May 5, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Open to the public, the rain or shine event will have a cornucopia of activities.

Children will be able to try their hand at arts and crafts and receive free coloring book and crayons. The Bard Art School will hold a coloring contest with the winning artist to receive a free week at the art school.

To spark family conversation, a food pyramid will be on display and children and their parents will be able to make their own healthy snack.

To make sure kids are safety conscious, a member of the Allentown Police Department will bring a K9-Unit, the Allentown Fire Department will display one of its trucks and St. Luke's hospital will provide "Play it Safe" demonstrations.

For residents in the Allentown area, it's a good way to see why the Volunteers of America Children's Center is such a special place, and enjoy a memorable day with the family.

The center has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children <<http://www.naeyc.org/>>, the nation's leading organization for early childhood professionals.



## *Your Legacy Touches Lives*



When you make a gift in your will to Volunteers of America you create a legacy that touches many lives. You help ensure that people in need will receive the compassionate services we've been providing for more than 100 years. Please remember us in your will and call for more information.



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# Celebrity Dinner to star Notre Dame's Charlie Weis

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When Parcels left in 1996, Weis followed his mentor to the New York Jets where he remained for the next three years. In 1999, Weis returned to New England as offensive coordinator, earning three Super Bowl titles.

In December 2004, Weis officially accepted the head coach position at the University of Notre Dame. He is then first Notre Dame Graduate to hold the football head coaching position at his alma mater since 1963.

During the 2006-2007 season, Coach Weis lead the Fighting Irish to a 10-2 regular season record and a second straight Bowl Championship berth, unfortunately losing in the Allstate Sugar Bowl.

Not only is Charlie Weis an outstanding coach but he is also an incredibly generous and compassionate human. In 2003, he and his wife Maura established the Hannah & Friends Foundation, named for his daughter. The foundation is dedicated to helping children affected by autism and other developmental disorders.

Make your reservations now by calling Volunteers of America at 570.825.5261.

## I Remember Mama® to be held in Harrisburg and Pittsburgh

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The two events are made possible through corporate sponsorships and donations by individuals. Many supporters make their sponsorship in memory of or tribute to their own mom, or mothers of employees and clients.

In Harrisburg **Brad Crum**, the No. 1 Elvis impersonator in Pennsylvania will return to thrill the crowd. "He was such a hit last year, we just had to have him back", said **Alan R. Garner, CEO**.

In addition to a delicious meal, the guests will be treated to an afternoon of entertainment and special activities, with **abc27's** revered weatherman **Chuck Rhodes** as the master of ceremonies.

**Karns Quality Foods**, headquartered in Mechanicsburg, is the lead corporate sponsor for I Remember Mama® in Central Pennsylvania.

"Companies and individuals making donations are providing seats for elderly women who will be

invited to the luncheon from area retirement homes and senior citizen centers, or who are referred to us," explained Garner.

Why not make a donation in honor of or in tribute to your mother or grandmother? To do so, just contact the Volunteers of America office in Harrisburg at 717.236.1440, or in Pittsburgh at 412.782.5373. Sponsorships, available at many levels, range from \$25 to \$10,000.

### Your Web Searches Can Help

You can now earn money for Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania every time you search the web! It's easy! Just use <http://www.goodsearch.com/> as your search engine.

This Website is powered by Yahoo, and can be used in place of your regular search engine. To credit us, all you need to do is type in Volunteers of America – Pennsylvania (Harrisburg, PA) in the box that asks "Who Do You Goodsearch for?"

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