



For Immediate Release

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Virginia REALTORS® Make Statewide Effort to Assist Housing Vulnerable Virginians *Virginia Leadership Academy supply drive benefits CARITAS*

GLEN ALLEN, Va. (April 19, 2017) – The Virginia REALTORS® Leadership Academy (VLA) class of 2017 has wrapped up a statewide supply drive to benefit the furniture bank at CARITAS, a central Virginia non-profit organization that provides solutions for homeless and housing vulnerable individuals and families. The Virginia Leadership Academy selectively enrolls REALTORS® every other year to enhance their personal and professional development, with a special group project at the core of the class experience. The twelve members of the 2017 class have worked with volunteers and fellow REALTORS® in their communities to gather furniture, housewares, linens, and cleaning supplies that benefit CARITAS' clients.

“The volume of collections that our REALTOR® leaders have trucked in from their home communities across Virginia is an amazing testament to the passion of our members for protecting their neighbors,” shared 2017 Virginia REALTORS® President Claire Forcier-Rowe. “Ending housing vulnerability and creating the opportunity for stability and comfort for Virginia families is the foundation of our work.”

During the year-long leadership curriculum, each VLA class identifies a cause to support, inviting the participation of statewide REALTORS® in a philanthropic effort that benefits Virginians through better housing. One past project has become a lasting legacy for Virginia REALTORS®. The 2015 VLA class launched a fundraising effort for Homes for Our Troops, a national organization that builds specially-adapted homes for severely injured post-9/11 veterans. That fundraiser blossomed into a partnership that has now raised over \$115,000 and is renewed annually to gather contributions and help build awareness of the organization's statewide and national efforts. The Virginia REALTORS® have offered support to CARITAS previously, inviting members to contribute to the Furniture Bank in honor of Fair Housing Month in April 2015.

On selecting CARITAS as the featured partner for this year's academy, VLA Chair Beth Dalton explained, “Servant leadership is core to our values as REALTORS® and core to the experience of the Virginia Leadership Academy. It's also a defining principle of CARITAS. We are honored to work with such an impactful organization and to contribute to their mission and success in addressing the needs of our neighbors. Together, we seek to change and uplift the lives of vulnerable Virginians.”

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About the Virginia REALTORS®

The Virginia REALTORS® association (previously known as the Virginia Association of REALTORS®) is the largest professional trade association in the Virginia, representing approximately 32,000 REALTORS® engaged in the residential and commercial real estate business. The Virginia REALTORS® association serves as an advocate for homeownership and homeowners, and represents the interests of property owners in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For more information, visit www.varealtor.com or follow Virginia REALTORS® on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

NOTE: The term REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark that identifies a real estate professional who is a member of the National Association of REALTORS® and subscribes to its strict Code of Ethics.