



## EXTREME VOLUNTEER SUPPORT for Extreme Makeover Home



Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squads were able to help treat construction workers at the Extreme Makeover site.

Fred Burdette, Beverly Hill and their six adopted daughters (all former foster youngsters), ages 9-18, are the Virginia Beach family that recently became the proud owner of a new home courtesy of *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. The volunteer work that the family does to feed the homeless is just one of the many reasons they were chosen as the first Hampton Roads family to receive an Extreme Home. Thanks to literally thousands of volunteers from all over the region, including many from the City of Virginia

Beach, the Volunteer Rescue Squads of Virginia Beach, Rubin Communications Group and so many others, it all came together on February 5, 2011...but not without a couple bumps and bruises along the way.

"No doubt," says Joel Rubin, whose PR firm donated its services to the Build, "when you put together hundreds of construction workers, heavy equipment, hammers, nails, ladders – and less than a one-week build timeframe from beginning to end – you are going to have a few scratches here and there. Thanks to our fine volunteers from all of the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squads, the builders were in good hands every moment."

"For the most part," says Tony Pirrone, EMT-B, Rescue 14, "we just gave out lots of band aids. We also treated one minor eye injury." Things got a little more interesting, though, when Tony and his partners, Judy Jackson, EMT-P, and Brett Johnson, EMT-B, were volunteering a morning shift at the site. All of a sudden they heard people calling out for help.

"A construction volunteer who was working from the bucket of a truck lift was injured," says Brett Johnson, "after some building materials rolled off of the roof, hitting the builder on the head and knocking him unconscious. Judy and I backboarded him while Tony got the ambulance ready for his transport to the nearest trauma center." (NOTE: The volunteer was later reported to be fine.)

In all more than 6,000 people from across the region volunteered to be part of the build in Virginia Beach. "Volunteering is such a part of the fabric of our city," says Joel Rubin. "Hundreds of our citizens donate their time through emergency medical service, so it's not surprising that they would step up for an event like this. It's what we do in Virginia Beach."

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Bobby Hill Leads Statewide Recruitment/Retention Network

Welcome Members of EMT Class #4



Z104's morning drive DJ, Shaggy, poses with squad members.



Mayor Will Sessoms confers with squad members at the build site.

**Mission:** To provide services to the community which preserve life, improve health and promote the safety of citizens and visitors who live, learn, work and play in our community. This mission is accomplished through a systems approach focused on providing timely responses; high quality patient care services; public awareness and education; proactive safety interventions; and all hazards readiness.

**Vision:** We are a leader in the emergency medical services field and the community is confident in our services.

**The Virginia Beach Department of EMS Call Stats**

YEAR 2010	CALLS FOR SERVICE
1st Quarter 2010	9,329
2nd Quarter 2010	10,278
3rd Quarter 2010	10,444
4th Quarter 2010	9,397
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,448</b>

**THE COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA BEACH VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS, INC. INCLUDES:**

- Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Davis Corner Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Chesapeake Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Creeds Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Kempsville Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Blackwater Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Plaza Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Sandbridge Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Virginia Beach Volunteer Water Rescue Team

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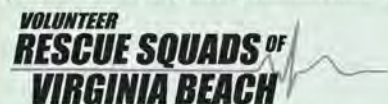
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## Cardiac survival rates in Virginia Beach are above national average

There is good news to report about cardiac survival rates in Virginia Beach.

At 37% in 2009 and 35% in 2010, they are well above that of other EMS organizations. "It's a statistic we take seriously," says EMS Chief Bruce Edwards. "Today, VB EMS has placed AEDs in a large number of City public buildings and teamed with the school system to place them in all schools - all prominently displayed in easily recognizable AED cabinets. EMS medics inspect each City site on a regular basis to ensure supplies are stocked and personnel are familiar with equipment operations."

All this occurred starting in 2004 after months of strategic planning and interdepartmental collaboration between Virginia Beach's police, fire and rescue. The City's Emergency Response System (ERS) Executive Committee implemented a comprehensive plan to enhance its emergency response network. The goal was to improve EMS service delivery to its citizens. Today, the program stands a remarkable success, and Chief Edwards

speaks at conferences across the country on how a city came together to improve its cardiac survival rates.

"As part of this ERS enhancement program," says Chief Edwards, "the City increased ambulance staffing, increased availability of ALS care, unified incident command and initiated a wider deployment of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) within numerous building locations and every police car. We recognized that having AED trained police officers would be an important addition toward improving cardiac survival rates because police are often first responders on the scene of medical emergencies."

The ERS Enhancement Program is a shining example of interdepartmental cooperation and stakeholder involvement to identify and address issues to improve service delivery to the citizens of Virginia Beach. "Of course," says Edwards, "the most important benefit is that we are saving more lives and reducing morbidity." Literally, words to live by.



**Bobby Hill will lead Virginia's Recruitment and Retention Network.**

## Bobby Hill to Lead Statewide Recruitment and Retention Network

Bobby Hill, recruitment coordinator for the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad Foundation and a life member of the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad, is the new head of Virginia's Recruitment and Retention Network.

Virginia's Recruitment and Retention Network is a statewide association of EMS and Fire personnel (career and volunteer) with a clear focus on manpower, staffing, retention and recruitment issues. The group meets every other month and exercises information exchange to create ideas and approaches to building numbers within emergency services agencies.

"These get togethers are rejuvenating," says Hill, who has been a member of the Network since 2005. "Everyone shares fantastic ideas, and I'm excited to lead such a group."

Hill has been an EMS volunteer himself since 1968. After retiring as the Chief Magistrate for the City of Virginia Beach in 2009, he assumed the role of recruitment coordinator for the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad Foundation, an organization that supports the efforts of all ten volunteer rescue squads within the City.

The Network regularly draws 20 - 25 associates to its meetings, which introduce various topics of discussion regarding ways to recruit and retain Fire/EMS providers. The next meeting will be held on April 15, at 11:30 AM, at the Fredericksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad headquarters in Fredericksburg, VA.

# Moving on up!

Congratulations! The following individuals have advanced to the following EMT certification levels:  
(NOVEMBER 15, 2010 - FEBRUARY 20, 2011)

## EMT-P

Andrew Shunk

## EMT-E

Evan Callaway  
Barry Kirschner  
James McMullen  
Amanda Sherwood

## EMT-B

Eric Alibangbang  
Jordan Andrews  
Dillon Boone  
Steve Bosley  
Katherine Burchett  
Michael Chapel  
Matthew Chiaradia  
William Cox  
Jessica Davis  
Patricia Deluca  
Eduardo Estrada  
Christopher Florio  
Jason Frye  
Pamela Good  
Daniel Green  
Jennifer Griffith  
Lesya Gvozdevskaya  
Whitney Harris  
Kyle Hanrahan  
Ramon Harmon

Taylor Hughes  
Melissa Ivester  
David Jimmerson  
Calvin Gerald Jones, Jr.  
Frank Kara  
Jason Kneisler  
Donald Knox  
Kristine Krukar  
Joshua Lesko  
Samantha May  
Jessica Milligan  
Christopher Parks  
Richard Peters  
Gandolfo Prisinzano  
Adrian Proumen  
Brandon Ratliff  
Holly Rhodes  
Fabio Sandonnini  
Stephanie Sarfan  
Shannon Sensenig  
Kyle Seymour  
Byron Shelton  
Tommy Shields  
Akuada Simpson  
Keith Stolte, Jr.  
Sebastian Sullivan  
Zachary Teall  
Lynn Vanauken  
Carole Vanella

## EMT-Trainee

Natalie Bradshaw  
Erin Burke  
Jennifer Caruthers  
Robert Cascante  
Kristine Coman  
Allison Crook  
Debbie Cruz  
Christine Ernst  
Lori Edwards  
Brian Ethridge  
Joseph Fetherol  
Frederick Fletcher  
John George  
Mandy George  
Daniel Green  
Kevin Gurecki  
Anthony Hamilton  
Ramon Harmon  
Amanda Helms  
Johannes Hirt  
Michael Jeannotte  
Daniel Kupke  
John Lemke  
Kelly Matteson  
Elizabeth Moseley  
Carolina Munoz  
Tarah Musbach  
Richard Myers  
Virginia Parham

Sheel Patel  
Noelle Piccolo  
Jarvis Primm  
Ashlen Przybylski  
Regina Reith  
Holly Smith  
Zachary Smith  
Stephen Stamos  
Virginia Stanley  
Stephen Su  
Kameron Tucker  
Andrew Vaden  
Santiago Vallee, III  
Ta'Kindra Westbrook  
Kaleigh Wiley  
Samantha Yates  
Stepheno Zollos

## EMT-Intern

Abdelaziz Agoujdad  
Joshua Allard  
Jennifer Basham  
Robert Beasley  
Gina Blystone  
Barry Bright  
Blake Caduff  
Keneth Chichester  
Brian Corcoran  
Carlos Diaz  
Ashley Ettleman

Alex Fogle  
Derek Fuller  
Jason Fuller  
Bradley Graham  
Erica Harland  
Cheryl Harris  
Elizabeth Hobbs  
Krystal Holland  
Kenneth Hudgins  
John Jennings  
Yekaterina Jones  
Jennifer Le  
Glen Martin  
George Meadors  
Brian Miller  
Courtney Noffsinger  
Stephanie Patsel  
Eric Richwine  
Marissa Silva  
Rachel Simmons  
Karrie Studley  
Lisa Warfield  
Todd Weyh  
Kulakarn  
Wiriyaamnuaiphorn  
Laura Yoder

## VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONAL PROFILE Cathy Snow, Treasurer, Plaza Volunteer Rescue Squad

**Name:** Cathy Snow

**Birthday:** June 13

**Hometown:** Virginia Beach

**College:** ODU 1979

**Station:** Plaza Volunteer Rescue Squad Station 16

**When did you join Virginia Beach EMS?**

Aug 2000; I was EMT my first five years, then I moved to Admin. The next 5 years I served as Supply Officer and was recently elected Treasurer for 2011.

**What inspired you to become a Rescue Squad Volunteer Professional?**

I had been volunteering as a Girl Scout leader for several years. At the time my daughter outgrew being a Scout, I read an article in the Beacon and learned that our local EMS was a volunteer system. I decided it was a terrific way to give back to the community in which I have lived most of my life.



**Cathy Snow, a lifetime member, was recognized on February 2, by her employer, Geico, as an award recipient for their annual Spirit of Volunteerism award. She was given a plaque for her time, commitment and years of service at Plaza Volunteer Rescue Squad. There to help present the award was Plaza's Admin Lt., Rebecca Wood. Congratulations Cathy! We are proud to have you as a member of Plaza Rescue and a volunteer with Virginia Beach EMS.**

**How has working rescue changed you as a person?** I have more empathy for people.

**Most memorable call:** Back when I was a first responder, I was on a call where an employee of a tree service became caught in a power line and was electrocuted. That was the first time I did chest compressions and bagged a person. Six months later I learned he survived when I ran into a paramedic while taking my EMT test. That was an awesome feeling knowing I was part of his survival.

**Reflections:** I really enjoy what I do. It amazes me how many people in our city dedicate themselves to such a worthy cause. VBEMS is the best!

# Congratulations to Our Newest EMT Graduation Class!

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of our EMS family – EMT Graduation Class #4 – who graduated on Monday, March 1, 2011, at the EMS Training Center. Before a packed room of 160 guests and volunteers, 31 new EMT's were given the EMT oath of office by Virginia Beach Chief Magistrate Tom Cahill and presented their Virginia Beach EMS badge by Virginia Beach Department of EMS Chief, Bruce Edwards.

**Kneeling:** Kris Coman; Aziz Agoujdad; Blake Caduff; Tara McKelvey; Chelsea Crisp; Jen Fryday; Krystal Holland

**Row 2:** Steve Spain; Stephanie Walker; Courtney Noffsinger; Ollie Rayford; Kayla Clifford;

Erin McCarty; Jennifer Lee

**Row 3:** Chief Bruce Edwards; John Jennings; Donald Robertson; Eric Richwine; Bryce Sparks; Travis Wright; Patrick Todd; Cheryl Harris; David McCollum; Lisa Warfield; David Tirado; Glen Martin; Instructor Eric de Forest

**Back Row:** Gary Newsom; Matt Kundert; Nate Hilton; Justin Echternacht; Garry Lauderman

**Absent:** Katherine Hastings



## IMPORTANT DATE

**3rd Annual VBARSV Live by Example 5K and 1Mi Fun Run**

**Saturday April 9, 2011  
24th Street Park at the Boardwalk**

**7:30 AM - Check in  
8AM - 5K starts  
9AM - 1Mi Fun Run**

On Saturday, April 9, the Virginia Beach Association of Rescue Squad Volunteers will host its third annual "Live By Example" 5K Rescue Run and 1-Mile Fun Run at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. Entry fees are \$25 for the 5K and \$15 for children 12 and under participating in the 1-Mile Fun Run. Proceeds will fund retention efforts for Virginia Beach's EMS system, which is the largest volunteer-based system in the country.

An after-party with live entertainment, prizes, awards and refreshments will be held following the race. On Friday, April 8, a pre-registration party will be held at Croc's 19th Street Bistro from 6 – 9 p.m., where participants will have an opportunity to pre-register, meet fellow runners and receive all race materials.

For more information, call (757) 427-2255, or register online at [www.vbvolunteers.com](http://www.vbvolunteers.com).

**VOLUNTEER  
RESCUE SQUADS OF  
VIRGINIA BEACH**

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