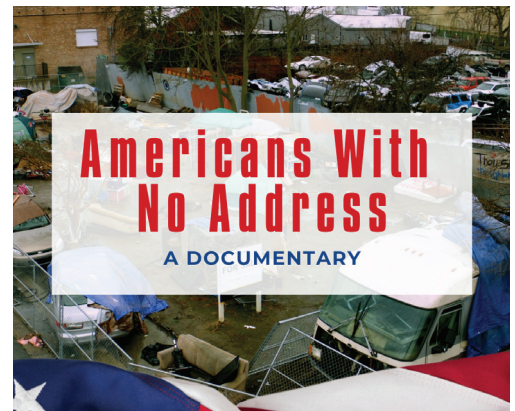


Upcoming event: documentary screening and panel discussion about homelessness across America

VOA in partnership with WXXI, invites you to a special screening of “Americans with No Address,” a compelling documentary that sheds light on the growing crisis of homelessness in the United States. Through powerful storytelling and firsthand accounts, the film explores the complex realities faced by individuals and families without stable housing, challenging misconceptions and inspiring action.



Following the screening, WXXI’s Evan Dawson will moderate a panel discussion including Dr. Junior Dillion, CEO and President of Volunteers of America Upstate New York; Melanie Murphy, Psychiatric NP from Delphi Rise; Dr. Mike Hudson of Regional Health Reach; and Tree Clemonds, Executive Director of the Continuum of Care. The discussion will provide valuable insight into the local impact of homelessness, the systemic challenges contributing to the crisis, and innovative solutions that are making a difference in our community.

Join us on April 30, 2025, at The Little Theater. Tickets are now available at voaupny.org/events.

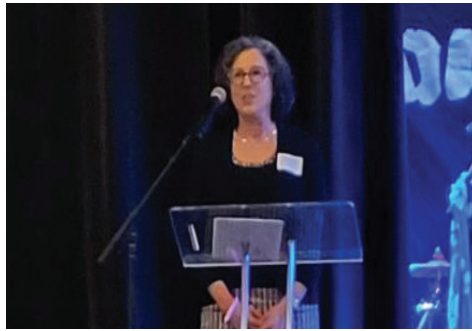
5th Annual Benefit shines a light on VOA’s impact



Volunteers of America hosted its 5th Annual Benefit on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at the Harro East Ballroom to raise critical funds to support VOA’s life-changing programs for people facing challenges. Nearly 150 guests came together to celebrate an evening filled with fun, great food, glowing specialty drinks, and live music.

The event successfully raised more than \$82,000, which will go directly toward the essential services VOA provides in housing, education, and health.

This year’s theme, “Be the Light,” illuminated VOA’s vital work in creating brighter futures for individuals and families across our community. *(Continues on page 2).*



Annual Benefit *(Continued from page 1)*

Guests had the opportunity to interact with staff at Impact Tables to learn more about the organization’s programs and services, gaining insight into the impactful work VOA does each day.

A short program featured a moving testimonial video and guest speakers including Colleen Matteson, from presenting sponsor Bank of America Rochester, and Monroe County Executive Adam Bello, ending with remarks from Dr. Junior Dillion, President and CEO of Volunteers of America Upstate New York.

In his remarks, Monroe County Executive Adam Bello highlighted the strong partnerships between Monroe County and VOA, including The Farm and the Moving Forward Family Shelter. In recognition of VOA’s dedication to improving lives, he declared March 3-9 as VOA Week, a special proclamation that further emphasized the impact of VOA’s work in the region.

Dr. Dillion took the opportunity to reiterate VOA’s renewed vision, reinforcing the organization’s commitment to the community, our program participants, and VOA staff. “Our greatest asset is the incredible individuals who show up every

day with compassion and resilience, even when the challenges feel overwhelming,” he stated. “We believe caring for our community starts with caring for our staff. We can only light the way for our community when we nurture the people carrying the torch.”

The night concluded with an energetic performance by The Dawgs, Rochester’s premiere fundraising rock band, leaving everyone on a high note.

The night was a true testament to the strength of our community and the impact we can make together. Thank you to everyone who joined us. We are excited to continue working toward brighter futures for all.

“As we embrace the theme Be the Light, we reflect on the extraordinary power light holds – to guide, to inspire, and to reveal hope in even the darkest times.”

- Dr. Junior Dillion

Thank you to our sponsors

Presenting Sponsor

BANK OF AMERICA



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Presenting Sponsor Bank of America

Subaru donates coats to kids for Operation Warm

Van Bortel Subaru, in partnership with Operation Warm, donated more than 200 new coats to the children at our Children's Center this past January. Generous team members volunteered their time, witnessing the smiles on the students' faces as they selected the perfect coat for them.

A warm coat means more than protection from the cold. For parents, it's one less financial worry and peace of mind knowing their child is ready for the winter season. For children, meeting basic needs with something as simple as a coat can build confidence, encourage resilience, and foster a sense of security for children facing challenges.



Breonna's Story



Breonna's life came crashing down when she went from working two jobs to finding herself without a car and without a home. Facing the reality of unemployment and staying at family members' homes, she felt like a burden to those around her. Breonna knew she had to make a drastic change and contacted Monroe County Department of Human Services, which placed her at the VOA Guest House Family Shelter.

VOA provided Breonna and her children with clothing, having arrived with only the clothes on their backs. They were given their own private bedroom, support services with on-site case management, children activities, healthy meals, transportation to school, and assistance finding a job and permanent housing.

"I was nervous, because at the end of the day, I've never been in this type of situation," explained Breonna. "People were extremely welcoming. They gave us blankets, made sure we had our hygiene items, they showed us around and everything seemed so together at that moment."

Breonna completed training to be a school bus driver while staying at VOA, and is also going back to nursing school. Today, Breonna and her children are living in their own place. She not only left VOA with stability and the tools needed to thrive, but also lasting emotional support and personal connections.

"This isn't just an organization, this is more of a family," she shares reflecting on her experience with VOA. "I'm extremely humble and grateful... I can't speak for a lot of other people, but I can definitely speak for me and my family, that I'm glad I made the move that I did."

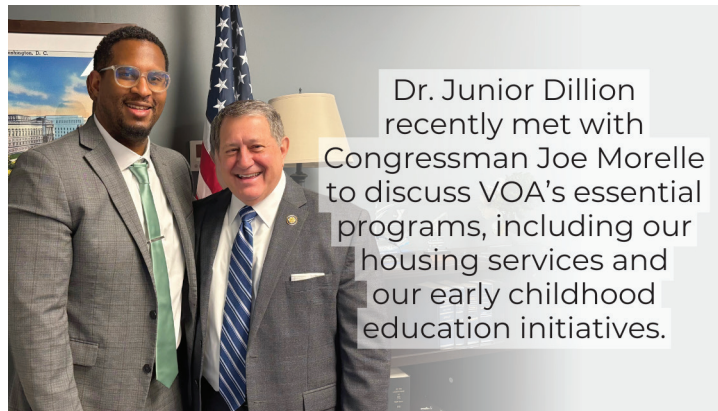
Hear more about
Breonna's VOA journey
voaupny.org/breonnas-story



Save the date: 23rd Annual Golf Tournament

Join us on
September 8, 2025
at Locust Hill Country Club

Sponsorships now available.
Learn more at voaupny.org/golf.



Dr. Junior Dillion recently met with Congressman Joe Morelle to discuss VOA's essential programs, including our housing services and our early childhood education initiatives.

Enrolling now for programs at VOA Children's Center.

The VOA Children's Center is now enrolling for our enriched full-day summer program and our enhanced after-school program for children ages 5-12.

Full-time day care spots for infants and toddlers are available, as well as a free Universal Pre-K program for 3 and 4-years-olds with a focus on early childhood development and school readiness.

To register, please contact the Children's Center at (585) 402-7220.



214 Lake Avenue
Rochester, NY 14608

Remember Mama this Mother's Day

For more than 35 years, Volunteers of America has honored mothers in our community who might otherwise be forgotten on Mother's Day. With your support, we will continue this tradition by delivering 200 gift bags filled with cards, flowers, and treats to women in senior housing this Mother's Day weekend.

For \$45, you can provide a Mother's Day gift bag to remember mama. Sponsor two women for \$90 or ten for \$450 to make an even greater impact. You can also donate in honor of a special woman in your life, and VOA will send her a Mother's Day card acknowledging your gift.



Please make your donation prior to Saturday, May 3, to ensure your card arrives by Mother's Day.

To Donate by Check:

Please mail your complete form with your check payable to:
Volunteers of America, "I Remember Mama"
214 Lake Ave. Rochester, NY 14608

To Donate by Credit Card: Please visit

voaupny.org/iremembermama

or scan the QR code

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____



Gift Amount \$45 \$90 \$450

To Donate by Phone:

Please call **Domenic Argentieri** at (585) 736-2487