



Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center to host Grand Opening Ceremony

CHARLESTON, S.C. – The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center will host a Grand Opening ceremony Friday, June 5, at 10:00 a.m. for the new Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC).

CEO of Palmetto Goodwill Robert Smith, Mayor Keith Summey, VA Southeast Network Interim Director Thomas Smith, **Senator Tim Scott** and Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center Director Scott Isaacks will all be featured speakers. The keynote address will be given by **Sloan D. Gibson, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs**.

The ceremony will take place at 2424 City Hall Lane in North Charleston. Everyone is invited to attend.

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ABOUT THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND REFERRAL CENTER:

In partnership with Goodwill Industries, The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center celebrates the grand opening of its new Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC). The new resource center will help the Medical Center and the community better meet the needs of our homeless Veteran population in the Charleston area. The mission of the center is to provide one stop service centers in collaboration with local community and government partners to serve both homeless Veterans and Veterans at risk for homelessness and their families. VA on-site services will include: Healthcare for Homeless Veterans: walk-in clinic, eligibility and enrollment, outreach and intake service, short and long-term case management, assessment for VA grant per diem: transitional housing, assessment for HUD VA Supported Housing: permanent supported housing, telehealth services to VA Outpatient Clinics and educational groups. Community partners include but are not limited to: Goodwill Industries, One 80 Place Supportive Services for Veterans Families, Family Services, Inc., South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation, Charleston County School District Office of Adult Education, Social Security Administration, Lowcountry Homeless Coalition and Veterans Benefits Administration.

ABOUT THE RALPH H. JOHNSON VA MEDICAL CENTER:

Located in historic downtown Charleston, SC, the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center is a tertiary care teaching hospital providing the highest level quality care from cardiology to neurology to primary and mental health care for more than 63,000 Veterans along the South Carolina and Georgia coast. The Ralph H. Johnson VA is rated a 5-Star medical center, the highest possible rating according to VA's Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning Value (SAIL) model, and is the sixth fastest growing VA in the U.S. for percentage

patient growth. This rating, which ranks the Charleston VA in the top 10 percent of VA medical centers nationwide for quality of care and efficiency, was first achieved by the Charleston VA in October 2014. The Charleston VA is also ranked in the top 10th percentile according to the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) and ORYX. HEDIS and ORYX are independent reviews that measure performance of 90 percent of America's health plans and facilities in both the public and private sector on dimensions of care and service. The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center is a center of excellence for robotic surgery and orthopedics, and is a recognized leader in Tele-Mental Health providing care for Veterans throughout the Southeast. The 149 bed hospital includes six community based outpatient clinics, a 20 bed nursing home, women's health, and the full range of inpatient and outpatient care including Medical and Surgical Intensive Care. The VAMC provides more than 700,000 outpatient visits and approximately 4,300 inpatient stays annually. The VAMC has an annual budget of \$359 million, research funding of more than \$20 million, and more than 100 principle investigators participating in approximately 300 research studies. For more information visit www.charleston.va.gov.