

For Immediate Release

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Virginia Bankers Raise More Than \$4,600 for Project Life Saver and Supply Donations to Virginia Institute of Autism

Glen Allen, VA, August 30, 2018 – The Virginia Bankers School of Bank Management graduating class of 2018 presented more than \$4,600 to Project Lifesaver and additional monies and supplies to Virginia Institute of Autism (VIA). The funds and donations were raised this summer through a collaborative effort organized by the graduating class and in cooperation with the other 189 bankers in the Virginia Bankers School of Bank Management.

Project Lifesaver is the premier search and rescue program operated internationally by public safety agencies. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition. The Virginia Institute of Autism is dedicated to helping people overcome the challenges of autism through innovative, evidence-based programs in education, outreach and adult services.

The majority of the funds were raised for Project Lifesaver through students' participation in a bowling fundraiser event at AMF Kegler's Lanes in Charlottesville. This year, the graduating class also coordinated a supply drive based on the VIA's wish list, and students donated items including stuffed animals, and art and cooking supplies.

"We at VIA are so grateful for the generous contributions that this year's class made to support our students," said Larry Garretson, director of communications at VIA. "Supplies like these are critically important to our work – providing rewards for student learning and materials for developing creative skills and life skills. Our students are loving the new supplies already."

Jennifer M. Dixon, Peoples Community Bank and third year class charity chair, said of the fundraising efforts, "I am so proud of our Class of 2018 for recognizing the need and choosing to support two amazing organizations to promote Autism Awareness. As a grandparent of two autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosed children, I now understand the importance of educating our communities so that our autism families feel included, supported, and have access to the best treatment options for their loved ones. The work the VIA is doing gives children their best chance of living an independent life one day, and the Project Lifesaver Program gives parents their best chance of recovering their children who wander away from home. God bless the people who give of themselves to help our autism families."

Each graduating class of the Virginia Bankers School of Bank Management selects a charity to support during their final year of the program. Past charity recipients include UVA Children's Hospital, Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Special Olympics Virginia, the RocSolid Foundation, the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Photo Caption: Members of the graduating class of the Virginia Bankers School of Bank Management present donations to VIA. *From left: Josh Toth, Burke & Hebert Bank; Megan Greenwood, Virginia*

Institute of Autism; Keith Smith, Village Bank; Scott Griffin, Skyline National Bank; and Bethany Bajsert, C&F Bank.



Photo Caption: Members of the graduating class of the Virginia Bankers School of Bank Management present a check to Albemarle County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Program. *From left: Lt. Tom Payne, Albemarle County Sheriff's Office (Retired); Bethany Bajsert, C&F Bank; Sherriff J.E. "Chip" Harding, Albemarle County Sheriff's Office; Josh Toth, Burke & Hebert Bank; Chief Deputy Chan Bryant, Albemarle County Sheriff's Office; Keith Smith, Village Bank; Jennifer Willner, C&F Bank; and Jen Dixon, Peoples Community Bank.*



About the Virginia Bankers Association

Established in 1893, the Virginia Bankers Association is the unified voice for commercial and savings banks in Virginia. The VBA maintains an active legislative advocacy program, provides training to bankers statewide, and provides a variety of products and service to help its member banks best serve their communities.

About the Virginia Bankers School of Bank Management

Through the use of highly qualified instructors and a challenging curriculum, the Virginia Bankers School of Bank Management is designed to provide a multidimensional banking educational experience. By the time the three one-week summer sessions are completed, students will have developed a range of skills that should both enhance current performance and qualify them as candidates for advancement.