



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Miracle Hill's Valerie Robertson Wins South Carolina Governor's Direct Service Volunteer of the Year Award**

GREENVILLE, SC – (September 21, 2016) Valerie Robertson is no stranger to adversity. As a former drug addict and dealer who nearly died from an overdose, she understands the pain, heartache and lasting consequences that come with addiction. Robertson has taken her pain and turned it into a passion to help other women overcome addiction, and she recently was named South Carolina Direct Service Volunteer of the Year at the Governor's Volunteer Awards ceremony held in Columbia on September 16, 2016.

"So much has been given to me. If I lived another lifetime, I couldn't give back what's been given to me," said Robertson at the awards ceremony. For the past six years, Robertson has served as a mentor to women at Miracle Hill's Renewal addiction recovery center, helping them move through the recovery process and back into the community. The Direct Service Volunteer of the Year award honors an individual who has excelled in providing direct one-on-one service to an individual, organization or the community, demonstrating and performing with commitment and initiative.

Volunteers from the entire state were represented at the ceremony and luncheon sponsored by the South Carolina Association for Volunteer Administration (SCAVA). In addition to the Direct Service Volunteer of the Year award, eight other awards were presented including Community Leader, Volunteer Group, Youth Individual Volunteer, Volunteer Family, Workplace/Agency Association, Legacy Volunteer, SCAVA Volunteer Administrator of the Year and the Lanneau Siegling AmeriCorps Member of the Year Award.

"Some of the most successful things I've seen in South Carolina lately as well as in the rest of the country are the ideas that have sprung up among people who are volunteering and giving their time and thinking through problems and trying to come up with solutions," said Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster, who presided over the ceremony.

As with most non-profit organizations, Miracle Hill relies on volunteers to help carry out the mission of meeting the needs of the homeless in Upstate South Carolina and helping adults overcome life-dominating addictions. Last year, 6,000 volunteers gave 86,000 hours of service at Miracle Hill.

"For me to quantify the impact Valerie has on our organization and our guests would be impossible," said Jaclyn Pinkham, Volunteer Coordinator at Miracle Hill. "Valerie willingly gives of herself, her time, her resources and skills with no expectation in return. It takes one encounter with Valerie to

see her passion for women and the love of Christ in her eyes. Our guests can trust her, staff can rely on her, and our ministry is better because of her.”

### **About Miracle Hill Ministries**

Miracle Hill helps hurting people become whole. Services across the Upstate include rescue shelters for the homeless, addiction recovery programs, shelters for children, family support services, and foster care. Miracle Hill’s nine thrift stores provide employment opportunities for guests in their programs and the community at large while offering savvy shoppers a way to spend and give at the same time. For more information about Miracle Hill, visit [www.MiracleHill.org](http://www.MiracleHill.org) or call 864.268.4357.

### **About SCAVA**

SCAVA is a non-profit organization that provides opportunities and professional development to individuals with an interest in the field of volunteerism. Membership is extended to individuals in the public and private sectors who wish to learn more about volunteerism, develop new skills, or shape the future of volunteerism in South Carolina. SCAVA offers conferences and workshops focusing on information and issues pertinent to volunteers and volunteer administration. For more information about SCAVA, visit [www.SCAVA.org](http://www.SCAVA.org) or call 864.707.2748.

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**Photo Caption Information:**

(left to right) Mary King of WIS-TV, SC Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster, Valerie Robertson, Sandy Furnell

**Video** - Valerie Robertson acceptance speech at ceremony:

<https://www.facebook.com/MiracleHill/videos/10157267660825478/>

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