FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Virginia Nurses Foundation Now Accepting Nominations for First-ever 40 Under 40 Awards
Awards To Honor the Next Generation of Nursing Excellence

RICHMOND, VA (April 26, 2011) – The Virginia Nurses Foundation (VNF) is now accepting nominations for its first-ever “40 Under 40 Awards.” The awards will recognize 40 Virginia Registered Nurses (RNs) under the age of 40.

VNF is calling for statewide nominations of RNs in a wide range of healthcare settings from hospitals to home health agencies and others. It is striving to highlight RN’s who positively represent their profession by actively participating in the community as well as professional organizations.

“I think the time has come, because there are so many young nurses out there who have a vision and a passion for their profession and for the health of their community,” said Chelsea Savage, an under 40 member of the Virginia Nurses Association who is helping promote nominations for the awards. “This is their stage and platform to be recognized for all they do.”

Nursing leaders from all over Virginia will be selecting award winners based upon the following criteria:
- Vision and Leadership
- Innovation and Achievement
- Impact
- Growth and Development Strategy
- Community Involvement and Contribution

Awards will be presented to the winners at the fourth annual VNF Gala on Sept. 24, 2011 at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, VA.

To nominate a Virginia RN for the “40 Under 40 Awards” go to www.virginianurses.com and complete the nomination form by June 1, 2011. Nominees also have the opportunity to submit up to one letter of recommendation in an electronic format to admin@virginianurses.com.
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The future of nursing and the way health care is delivered is currently a focus in Virginia and these awards will help us recognize who will be leading the effort in the years to come,” said Shirley Gibson, MSHA, R.N., FACHE, Associate Vice President of Nursing, VCU Health System, and co-leader of the Virginia Regional Action Coalition, a collaboration created by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the AARP Foundation, to implement solutions to the challenges facing the nursing profession and build upon nurse-based approaches to improving quality and transforming the way Americans receive health care.

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About Virginia Nurses Foundation and Virginia Nurses Association

The Virginia Nurses Foundation honors nurses and their passion for quality health care. It provides them with new opportunities in terms of professional development, scholarship and research. For more than a century the Virginia Nurses Association has been dedicated to nurses and nursing. Building on the legacy of giving of our early pioneers, the VNA established the Virginia Nurses Foundation to continue programs of support and innovation for nurses and nursing in the Commonwealth. The VNF is dedicated to finding and/or creating programs that support the goals of nurses and nursing in contemporary settings in today’s complex healthcare environments.