

For immediate release

For additional information
Contact: Larry Lichtenauer
(410) 363-6205

**GREATER CHESAPEAKE HAND SPECIALISTS AND RIDGELY
MIDDLE SCHOOL DELIVER HUNDREDS OF GLOVES AND
SCARVES TO VILLA MARIA CENTER AT ST. VINCENT'S**

*Donation is part of Warm Hearts = Warm Hands campaign to benefit
organizations throughout central Maryland and Baltimore County region*

Baltimore, MD (December 19, 2010) -- Greater Chesapeake Hand Specialists and the students of Ridgely Middle School provided an outstretched hand of support to the Villa Maria Center at St. Vincent's this week, a Baltimore County-based school that provides intensive educational and clinical services for children and youth with emotional, learning and multiple disabilities. The gesture was in the form of hundreds of pairs of gloves and scarves which will be distributed to students attending the school at 2300 Dulaney Valley Road in Timonium.

The donation represents the second -- of two -- that Chesapeake Hand and Ridgely Middle School completed as part of their collaborative "Warm Hearts = Warm Hands" campaign that collected thousands of pairs of gloves, mittens and scarves to benefit needy families and individuals throughout the central Maryland region. The Assistance Center of Towson Churches received a large donation just before Thanksgiving Day.

"We are very fortunate to have people in the community that want to help us, and these gloves and scarves will be put to good use by the students in our day school population. They are arriving at just the right time," stated Carol Shear, Director of Volunteer Services for Villa Maria Center. "This thoughtful donation is what the holidays are all about."

"Employees, patients and vendors associated with Chesapeake Hand overwhelmingly supported our Warm Hearts = Warm Hands campaign, with several individuals making cash donations to our drive," said Dr. Raymond Wittstadt of Greater Chesapeake Hand. "The cold weather is already upon us, and our goal was to generate attention for the continued need for hand coverings to prevent frostbite and hypothermia," he added.

“The students, families and faculty of Ridgely Middle School took this responsibility seriously and invested many hours creatively finding ways to collect gloves and mittens,” stated Lou Schoff, a physical education teacher at Ridgely Middle who coordinated efforts at the school.

Founded in 1987 and based in Lutherville, MD, Greater Chesapeake Hand Specialists, P.A. focuses on providing successful outcomes for the entire spectrum of problems associated with the hand, wrist, elbow and shoulder. The practice group, which consists of nine full-time physicians, maintains seven satellite locations throughout Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard and Talbot counties, as well as Baltimore City. For more information visit www.ChesapeakeHand.com