

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ConnectSouthside to host Southside Discussion Presentation on New Nonprofit Economic Impact Study**

HOPEWELL, VA—ConnectSouthside, the local nonprofit online communications and information resource, will present a special Discussion Presentation on the newly released report, *Virginia's Nonprofit Sector: An Economic Force*.

The first of its kind in Virginia, this ground breaking report by Johns Hopkins University, carries powerful implications for nonprofit organizations, businesses, government agencies and civic-minded individuals. The major findings in the report; that the nonprofit sector is the **second largest employer** in the state, with **\$8 billion in wages** and **211,000 paid jobs** in 2005, generating **\$461 million in annual tax revenue**; can have significant consequence to the Southside region.

**Nancy Stutts**, PhD., Founder and Director of ConnectNetwork, will provide an analysis of the newly released study; discuss regional data and trends in nonprofit development and the implications of the study to the Southside region. **Deborah Barfield Williamson**, JD, MPA, Executive Director of the Virginia Network of Nonprofit Associations (VANNO) will discuss how attendees can effectively use the data to further the work of the nonprofit sector in the Southside region.

*Virginia's Nonprofit Sector: An Economic Force* – Learn What it Means for Your Organization will take place on Thursday, November 20, 2008 at the L. Douglas Wilder Building on the campus of Virginia State University, Carter G. Woodson Avenue, Petersburg, VA 23806. The event will begin at 9 a.m. The event is free but seating is limited. Please make your reservation at [www.ConnectSouthside.org/RSVP](http://www.ConnectSouthside.org/RSVP) or call 804-458-6329, ext. 2013 if you would like to attend. For more information, contact Wendy Austin, ConnectSouthside Director at the above number.

*Event sponsors and partners include The Cameron Foundation, the John Randolph Foundation, ConnectNetwork, Virginia Network of Nonprofit Associations, the Appomattox Regional Library System and the Southside Virginia Nonprofit Resource Center.*

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[www.connectsouthside.org](http://www.connectsouthside.org)