

NEWS RELEASE

717 General Booth Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA 23451



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Joan Barns | 757-385-0252 | jmbarns@VirginiaAquarium.com

Images available upon request

April 26, 2011

Shawn F. Reid Newest Virginia Aquarium Staffer

(Virginia Beach, VA) – What position at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center could possibly manage over 900 individuals with varying levels of education, experience, age and availability? It is the Aquarium's volunteer coordinator, and newly hired to fit the bill is Shawn F. Reid.

Reid's 13 years of experience managing volunteers in non-profit organizations landed her the job. She served as community resource manager for Edmarc Hospice, volunteer services manager for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, and, most recently, communications director for the Friends of the Portsmouth Juvenile Court, a position that included overseeing the agency's volunteer program. In addition, Reid has worked for Sinclair Communications and Landmark Communications as an account executive in advertising sales and has experience in marketing and event planning.

Virginia Aquarium volunteers support the Aquarium's programs behind the scenes, in its exhibit areas, along its Nature Trail and in the Stranding Response Program. The volunteer program provides extensive training (more than 50 classes are offered each year), recognition events, and, most of all, an opportunity to be part of a community of people that is interested in serving the public.

"Reid has been a lifelong volunteer herself and comes from a family that believes volunteering is important to being part of the community," said Aquarium Director of Education Chris Witherspoon. Reid is a volunteer for the Anthony Shelter for Children, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and the Crisis Pregnancy Center. She has also served as a board member for the Virginia Housing and Community Development Corporation.

"When I saw the posting for the position, it appeared to be a great fit professionally, not to mention I have been a fan of the Aquarium for years," said Reid. "I used to bring some of my nieces and nephews here to visit. Fast forward several years, some of them now have their own kids and this is still a favorite on the list!"

The Virginia Aquarium is located at 717 General Booth Boulevard, just south of Rudee Inlet in Virginia Beach. For more information on the Aquarium's volunteer program call (757) 385-0274 or visit <http://www.virginiaaquarium.com/get-involved/pages/volunteering.aspx>.

###