



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Maria Sabale | 757-965-8695 | Maria.Sabale@theupcenter.org

Up Center Executive Among Hampton Roads’ Top 25 Women in Business

Dia DuVernet recognized for transforming 128-year-old organization into region’s leading, non-profit social services agency

Norfolk, Va., December 14, 2011 – [The Up Center’s](#) Executive Vice President, Dia DuVernet, is a recipient of the 2011 Women in Business Achievement Award, presented annually by *Inside Business*. She was selected for her contributions to the local economy and for serving as a mentor to others.



DuVernet played a key role in the merger of two non-profit community groups in 2004, which helped grow the agency’s annual operating budget and provide more client resources. In addition, she has secured more than \$10 million in grant funding for the organization, creating new jobs, training opportunities and programs for their vast array of clients. Today, the agency helps more than 10,000 people in need in Hampton Roads each year and focuses on four core areas—protecting children, strengthening families, empowering people in crisis and maximizing independence for those with disabilities. These accomplishments have earned The Up Center a regional distinction as the largest and most comprehensive nonprofit social services agency in Hampton Roads.

Each year, the Women in Business Achievement Awards program honors 25 influential Hampton Roads businesswomen. “I feel honored to be in the company of these outstanding women,” said DuVernet. “This recognition, more than anything, is a reflection of the great team here at The Up Center that is committed to improving the lives of others every day.” She will be honored on December 15, 2011, at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott.

About The Up Center

The Up Center, headquartered in Norfolk, Va., is a regional non-profit social services agency dedicated to helping people live better lives. Since its founding in 1883, the agency has responded to the needs of our community’s most vulnerable citizens by providing comprehensive, effective and innovative services in four core areas: Protecting our children, Strengthening families, Empowering people in crisis and Maximizing independence for those with disabilities. The Up Center has seven locations throughout Hampton Roads and serves over 10,000 people each year. For more information, visit www.theupcenter.org or call 757-622-7017.

#