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**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**JAUNT RECEIVES OUTSTANDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AWARD FROM VIRGINIA
TRANSIT ASSOCIATION**

(**Richmond, Va.**) -- JAUNT, Inc., the regional public transit agency providing Charlottesville and surrounding counties with paratransit and rural public transportation services, has received the 1998 Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award for a Non-urbanized Area from the Virginia Transit Association. The association, which represents transit properties throughout the state, annually recognizes a non-urbanized public transportation system that has demonstrated outstanding achievement during the year.

JAUNT initiated several changes over the last 18 months to improve access to jobs and services in response to local needs. One major initiative was the introduction of commuter service on Route 29 North, known as BiG BLUE. The project is the area's first attempt to coordinate and create links between four different public transportation systems and commuters who carpool to park and ride lots.

A second initiative responded to transportation needs developing from Welfare Reform. With a grant from the Virginia Department of Social Services, JAUNT expanded employment-related transportation options for participants in the Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW). The options include expanded service for rural participants, weekend and evening services for urban residents, bus passes and driver education for rural participants for whom public transportation would be least efficient.

A third initiative offered night and weekend transportation service for passengers with disabilities in the Charlottesville and Albemarle County. This project was implemented in coordination with the VIEW service.

JAUNT was founded in 1975. It is owned by the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle, Nelson, Louisa and Fluvanna counties, and is governed by a board made up of members appointed by each locality.

JAUNT will be honored at the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) Award's Luncheon on November 13 in Lynchburg. The association also will honor Fairfax County Supervisor Dana Kaufman with the Outstanding Public Official Award and Williamsburg Visitors Shuttle with the Innovative Program Award. The Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award for an Urbanized Area recipient is the Greater Richmond Transit Company.

The VTA has 26 transit property members and 28 associate members. Founded in 1977, VTA provides public education and legislative advocacy to support public transportation systems throughout the state.

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VTA is a trade association based in Richmond, VA representing transit agencies of all sizes throughout Virginia and businesses that support public transportation. VTA's members provide a wide range of services to the communities in which they operate. www.vatransit.com