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Chesapeake Bay Trust Earns Coveted 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator for 14 Years

(Annapolis, MD) – The Chesapeake Bay Trust, a nonprofit grant-making institution dedicated to improving the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, earned a 4-star rating once again from Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator. This is the fourteenth year that Chesapeake Bay Trust has earned this top distinction for its commitment to sound fiscal management, accountability, and transparency while in pursuit of its mission to support environmental education, on-the-ground restoration, conservation, and community engagement in the Chesapeake region and Maryland portions of the Youghiogheny and Coastal Bays.

Since 2002, using objective analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added 17 metrics, focused on governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, to its ratings methodology. These accountability and transparency metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity’s overall rating, reveal which charities operate in accordance with industry best practices and whether they are open with their donors and stakeholders. On June 1, 2016, Charity Navigator upgraded their methodology for rating each charity’s financial health. These enhancements further substantiate the financial health of Charity Navigator’s four star charities.

“Chesapeake Bay Trust’s exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public,” said Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. “Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds the Chesapeake Bay Trust to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world’s most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support the Chesapeake Bay Trust.”

The Chesapeake Bay Trust provides approximately 400 grants annually to schools, civic associations, faith-based organizations, youth organizations, watershed associations, and other types of entities for activities that increase resident awareness of and engagement in the restoration and protection of natural resources. Last year, the Trust awarded \$9.5 million in projects that engaged more than 80,000 students, 4,000 teachers, and 27,000 volunteers to plant

over 200,000 native trees and plants, create 3,800 linear feet of living shorelines, install 388 rain barrels, create 7 acres of rain gardens, restore 155 acres of stream buffers and wetland habitat, and remove 211 tons of trash from communities. The Trust may best be known for the “Treasure the Chesapeake” license plate, of which there are close to 300,000 on Maryland’s roads.

“The Trust takes stewardship very seriously, both environmental and financial,” said Dr. Jana Davis, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. “Every dollar that comes to us from a Bay Plate owner, a donor, a partner, or a Chesapeake and Endangered Species Tax Checkoff contributor means a great deal to us. We work hard to make sure as much of that dollar as possible – 92 cents – goes to a student’s outdoor field experience, a tree planted by a community volunteer, or other similar work.”

The Chesapeake Bay Trust’s rating and other information about charitable giving are available on www.charitynavigator.org.

About Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) is a nonprofit grant-making organization established by the Maryland General Assembly dedicated to improving the natural resources of Maryland and the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. The Trust’s grantees engage hundreds of thousands of individuals annually in projects that have a measurable impact on the waterways and other natural resources of the region. The Trust is supported by the sale of the Treasure the Chesapeake license plate, donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax form, donations from individuals and corporations, and partnerships with private foundations and federal, state, and local governments. The Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for 14 years: 92 percent of the Trust’s expenditures are directed to its restoration and education programs.

About Charity Navigator

Charity Navigator, www.charitynavigator.org, is the largest charity evaluator in America and its website attracts more visitors than all other charity rating groups combined. The organization helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency of more than 8,000 charities. Charity Navigator accepts no advertising or donations from the organizations it evaluates, ensuring unbiased evaluations, nor does it charge the public for this trusted data. As a result, Charity Navigator, a 501 (c) (3) public charity itself, depends on support from individuals, corporations and foundations that believe it provides a much-needed service to America’s charitable givers. Charity Navigator, can be reached directly by telephone at (201) 818-1288, or by mail at 139 Harristown Road, Suite 101, Glen Rock, N.J., 07452.

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