

# Voice of the JCOC



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Summer 2010

## Knowledge is Power: JCOC Scholarship Breaks Cycle of Poverty

Graduation is almost here, and many Hampton Roads seniors are already looking ahead to August and college life. Many, but not all...

Unfortunately, the rising cost of higher education keeps some students from reaching their scholastic potential. Nationwide, nearly 14 mill. children live below the poverty line and students deprived of proper education are 60% more likely to lose the battle with poverty as adults.

Fortunately for Hampton Roads youth, this is a fight that the JCOC is helping high school students win. For the past ten years, the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center, with the help of loyal supporters, has awarded scholarships to local college bound seniors who have exhibited uncommon resilience in the face of adversity." Each year, a \$3,000 scholarship is presented to two high school seniors selected by a committee of local business people, the JCOC Board of Directors and staff during the annual Anniversary Dinner.



Kirk Welch, Executive Director, congratulates 2010 recipients at the 24th Annual Anniversary Dinner.

This year, over 450 supporters gathered to celebrate the 24th Anniversary of our organization and to congratulate Tev'n Powers and Mark Richards. We thought it appropriate to update you on the accomplishments of their predecessors as they embark on the next chapter in their lives, made possible largely through your support.

Scholarships are awarded based on strength of character, academic achievement and active community involvement. Among previous winners, Franka William-West (2005) defines her character with the mantra, "survival, success,

significance." She remembers difficult times, finding herself "mentally stagnant," and alone. William-West picked herself up, though, and with the help of the JCOC scholarship, marked success with a degree in International Business from ODU and strong spiritual principles. Today, she is actively seeking a job that will allow her to apply her solid skills.

The JCOC supports a diverse group of young adults like Franka with the hope that each student will make the most of every opportunity and even change the world around them in the process. Frannie Monasterio (2009) is doing just that. During her freshman year as an Environmental Studies major at Syracuse University, Frannie held office in several ecological groups- she led forums detailing the State of Our Planet and developed a campus compost program. Currently on Dean's List, Frannie has hopes of increasing awareness of environmental programs on campus and in the surrounding community.

The JCOC scholarship program sets in motion a rewarding connection between paying forward and giving back. Victoria Gray (2008), a Music Business major at ODU, puts the gravity of these scholarships into perspective. Rising up from a family riddled with substance abuse and disability, Victoria found her calling while also working two jobs to support herself and her relatives. Making a donation at the JCOC Thrift Store brought her full circle. "I donated clothes to the JCOC recently," says Victoria, "and [I] was humbled by the fact that I was given such a great opportunity."

Katherine Becker (2007) will head to Greece this summer to dig with other Archaeology students from UVA, but she is equally as excited about returning home to mentor children at Camp Gonnawannagoagain, a summer program she has been involved with for years. "This is my favorite part of summer," Becker says, acknowledging her love for serving others. Becker looks forward to graduate school and a career in conservation of classical artifacts after her senior year.

*Community Solving Community Problems*

June, 2010 **Voice of the JCOC**

# From the Desk of the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It seems just like yesterday when I took over as Executive Director of this fine organization. Here I am, 15 months later, and I can see a change has taken shape.

As most of you know, we have been on a quest to make our dining hall more attractive and user friendly; because of your charitable donations and hard work we are almost there. We have installed new flooring, windows, doors and lighting. The generosity of an anonymous donor blessed us with beautiful new kitchen cabinets and walls. Thanks to a sizeable grant from Dominion Virginia Power, renovations are also being accomplished in the dorms and the office. We could not have done this without you and we encourage you to stop by and see the improvements for yourself.

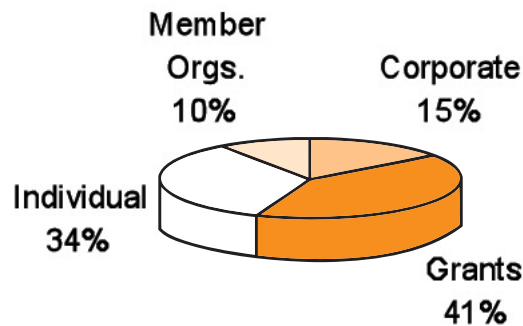
Still, as we all know, the economy has not been auspicious for charitable organizations. All of us have been hit with decreasing donations and increasing costs. In response to the current climate, we initiated a monthly contribution campaign called JCOC Angels in hopes of fostering consistent donations in increments affordable to our vital supporters. The program asks that each donor give \$10 per month for 1 year. The funds provide support for all of our programs.



Another program that we look forward to stems from a successful endeavor in Baltimore, MD. Several JCOC staff members, Catholic Charities and the VB Department of Housing & Neighborhood Preservation were introduced to “Our Daily Bread,” a meal and employment placement program through which many lives are changed for the better. I will keep you informed of progress being made bringing this idea to life in our area. For now, keep the JCOC in your prayers and consider the JCOC Angels a way for you to participate in community solving community problems.

Kirk Welch,  
Executive Director

## 2009 Contribution by Source



## Board of Directors

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## Board Notes

We are moving ahead. Last month the contract was signed to start construction on the West Lane housing project. Thanks to a few major donors who saw a need and stepped up to meet it, the resident hall is receiving new windows, and the kitchen has new cabinets. These are things you can stop by the center to see or take a look on the back panel of this newsletter.

Still, these renovations are not the main thing. The most important pieces are the residents and families

the JCOC helps every day. The unemployment rate in Hampton Roads jumped to 7.9% as of March 2010, and the need for JCOC services is at an all time high.

I am in awe of the compassion the staff at the JCOC shows the residents every day. For years, a common testimony we hear from former residents has been “I would most likely not be here if it were not for the JCOC. My life was out of control until I came to the center.” Read Herbert Godwin’s story to get an idea of the impact the JCOC makes.

The JCOC continues to directly affect and change peoples’ lives. City and state grants have been cut- I hope you will help the JCOC continue its mission through monthly financial support or in-kind donations.

David Rippy, Chairman

## Meet Brandyn Denico

The JCOC would like to introduce our new Office Manager, Brandyn Denico. Born and raised in California, Brandyn flew to the east coast from a position with an animal welfare organization in San Francisco to join her fiancée in Hampton Roads. Having worked for over 15 years in non-profit management, she brings a rich skill set, fresh perspective and dedication to the opportunities part and parcel of the JCOC mission. She has been said to “wear many hats,” and we are excited to benefit from her wealth of experience. Welcome to the JCOC family!

## Building a Better Brand

We are excited to announce that the JCOC has been selected to participate in a mentorship program sponsored by the Public Relations Society of America Hampton Roads Chapter (PRSA). In partnership with VOLUNTEER Hampton Roads, the PRSA will be providing a highly-qualified volunteer to revamp the JCOC community relations game plan that will be key in improving your

For the next six working closely with the expand our influence Evans, Director of comes to the JCOC with clients and spreading to a national audience. the JCOC to make our

Check us out on  
Facebook & Twitter

keyword:  
JCOCVB

A big ticket item will be strengthening the JCOC brand and making sure that, in a society blitzed by virtual marketing frenzy, the mission of “community solving community problems” is recognized and embraced.

We are energized by the collaboration with the PRSA, and we encourage you to submit your questions and ideas throughout this process. Let us know how we are doing. You are, after all, the public in “public relations” that we are excited to reach!

months, Elizabeth Evans will be JCOC to improve our platform and in the Hampton Roads community. Public Relations for Cahoon & Cross, experience both promoting national the word about regional organizations Evans looks forward to working with brand and our budget “sing!”

## Don Reed: Chef with a Taste for Service

When Asst Executive Director Tony Zontini met Don Reed, he was blown away by the opportunities he saw in partnering with the executive chef and former Chief Food Officer for the US Navy.

Earlier this year, Don joined the JCOC team to plan and cater the annual Anniversary dinner, a night that welcomes nearly 500 guests. He not only orchestrated the meal impeccably, but he also had the idea to pass on the skills of the trade to those who need it most.

Don, a certified instructor in food handling and Serv Safe practices, turned our dining hall into a classroom in which JCOC residents learn the basics of meal preparation, food handling and culinary arts. They have the opportunity to earn Serv-Safe certificates to take with them into the workforce.

An experienced entrepreneur, Don developed the training program at JCOC into Catering Assistance Associates, a partnership with the JCOC that provides clients with full-service catering at an extremely affordable price. The local community now has a vendor capable of providing a variety of options and the benefit of making a difference to those who are “looking for a hand up, not a hand out.”

The JCOC thanks Don Reed, a volunteer who is serving up a plate of service that is truly inspiring.



## Herbert Godwin: Resident's Roadmap to Recovery

Last time Herbert Godwin, 42, met a crossroads, his judgment was clouded. Homeless and distraught, he had been addicted and unaccountable to his family for 23 years. Wrong turns hooked him up with a bad crowd and his plans to rebuild backfired. The voice of his son accusing, “You don’t have time for me. Where are you?” ultimately forced him to commit himself to sobriety.

When Godwin finished detox, he turned to the JCOC as a safe alternative to living with addicted relatives. His time at the JCOC was the chance he needed to “take a step back, breathe” and find his footing. He worked with Peter Galuffo, his case manager, to study for his welding degree and ultimately land a welding position with a Philly shipyard.

*“Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it.” Ezra 10:4*

He was worried that there would be no work for a convicted felon, but as Godwin would tell you, “you have to put yourself out there,”- anything is possible when your attitude trumps the facts.

Godwin insists that, in this life, “you have to do for you.” He lives by this creed and is driving down the right path with purpose, and he is thankful for the essential role the JCOC played in finding the way. We wish you the best, Herbert!

From Rollerblades  
to Restored Pianos...

JCOC

Thrift Store



Mon-Sat 10-6  
1805 Virginia Beach Blvd.

Fill a bag for \$7.99  
Fridays & Saturdays

Donations Welcome.

All proceeds benefit  
the Judeo-Christian  
Outreach Center.



## Scholarship (cont'd)


Ivan Alger (2006) accepted his magna cum laud degree in Biology from UNC-Wilmington on May 8th. After four years of rigorous study and research, Ivan proves our students are truly beating the odds.


The JCOC scholarship program helps students be proactive in fighting a culture of poverty- studies show that individuals who hold a college degree will earn nearly 80% more than workers with a high school diploma. The JCOC is honored to partner with you to offer this award for personal initiative. The legacy of enlightened minds given wings through your commitment promises great things for the futures of our youth and our community.

For more information concerning the scholarship or program sponsorship or to view the profiles of our scholarship recipients, please visit [www.jcoc.org/programs](http://www.jcoc.org/programs).


## What a Difference a Donor Makes


There's much to be done! Check out the creative ways donors take care of the JCOC To Do List:

 Dominion Power offered \$50,000 in funds and volunteers in March to complete major overhauls in the resident dorms and staff offices.


 Local home improvement guru, The Window Man, provided free labor and installation of energy-efficient windows for JCOC dorms and offices.



 Jim White Fitness knows that exercise is key in improving productivity. His team will be pumping some iron into our resident workout facility to promote healthy lifestyles.

 The Broad Bay Point Greens Garden Club spruced up the JCOC peripheral flower beds in partnership with Atlantic Garden Center. Their efforts won 2nd place in a beautification service contest held by the VB Council of Garden Clubs.



 Volunteers with Faith Works Coalition, Inc. completed an extreme restoration for a JCOC-owned duplex in Virginia Beach.



You can get involved in the progress, too- the opportunities for partnership are limited only by your creativity! If you are interested in donating your time and expertise to the JCOC mission, call us at 757.491.2846.

## Partnerships



JCOC Donation Code: 5073



Special thanks to all churches, organizations and individuals who make the daily Meals Program possible. Contact info for our supporting organizations may be found at [www.jcoc.org](http://www.jcoc.org).

The Judeo-Christian  
Outreach Center

To support or to find  
support, contact:  
757-491-2846

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