

WINTER 2021



DR. OZ GOOD LIFE



Servings of *Hope*

TODD'S TALK



Todd Walker
Executive Director

On October 15th, JCOC celebrated our 35th Anniversary. There were many highlights throughout the evening. Guest speaker Kathy Izard was amazing. Our 35th anniversary video was great

detailing some of our history, but my favorite part was seeing seven of our former clients attend.

As I greeted each of them, they beamed with light, happy to be a part of the celebration. I smiled as they nervously asked if they looked okay while displaying a warm sense of pride. The smiles on their faces said it all. I told each of them, "You are the reason for everyone being here tonight. Your perseverance and courage to address your homelessness and belief in our support and resources, gives the community reason to continue investing in JCOC." I sincerely thank everyone who supported the event!

As the holidays quickly approach, families begin to make plans to be with each other to spend time and celebrate. For most, food is always one of the main parts of the celebration. Households struggling with food insecurity, unfortunately do not have the luxury to plan these types of parties because they don't even have enough food for themselves. Feeding America reports, "One out of every 9 children in Virginia face food insecurity." They also share, "People in Virginia facing hunger are estimated to report needing to earn \$433,605,000 more per year to meet their food needs."

The pandemic has been extremely challenging for all of us. Everyone deserves the opportunity to celebrate the holidays while enjoying a wonderful meal. Here at JCOC we often say, "Food is Love."

Your generous Year End Donation will help spread love this season! One way is through our annual Holiday of Hope campaign. We will be giving a minimum of 150 Thanksgiving and 150 Christmas Food Baskets to area households who truly need it. As we begin the next 35 years, thank you for bringing Help Hope and Healing with us. God Bless!!

STEPHEN'S 48-HOUR TURNAROUND

Stephen slept in a porta potty at the oceanfront for three nights. Yes, a porta potty. He later commented, "It sounds disgusting right? But it was warm."

Ten years of homelessness plagued the 54-year-old before seeking JCOC's help. In just 48 hours, his life took a dramatic turn -

Night 1: He found refuge from the wind and rain in a porta potty.

Night 2: Our Rapid Rehousing staff began looking for a place for him to live. He sought shelter in the same place after getting a blanket and warm clothing from JCOC.

Night 3: Ate a meal at Community Dinner. His last evening in a smelly box.

Thankfully October 28th was moving day! The Rapid Rehousing staff had found an opening in a 4-bedroom home. This type of shared living arrangement is affordable and empowering to our clients. Each room has its own lease making individual tenants responsible for their own rent rather than one lease for the whole house. Surrounded by a new mattress, Welcome Home Basket and Food Box, Stephen was ready to settle in and cook his first meal in a long time. He said, "You guys have blessed me over and over again."

Drugs and alcohol had been a part of Stephen's childhood. In spite of learning to work hard delivering newspapers and mowing lawns as early as 10-years-old, he was a "full-fledged" alcoholic and drug addict by 15. His mom and "three dads" also struggled with addiction. As the years went by, the young man had jobs in landscaping, painting, and restaurants. He divorced twice.

Moving from Delaware to Pennsylvania, Stephen was a property manager for a mobile home park for several years. With a strong desire to stop taking drugs, he chose to leave everything behind. He has been clean for 12 years. However, in 2010 he became homeless bouncing through every state between Florida and California.

Last July Stephen decided to try Virginia Beach. A bounty hunter he met told him about a seasonal fulltime job at the oceanfront. He was hired, but couldn't find affordable housing. "I believe in God, and I don't give up," he shared. "I just kept doing what I needed to do to survive."

Now that JCOC has helped find Stephen a warm and permanent place to stay, he hopes to find a job that will sustain him until the fulltime seasonal position opens back up. His dream job is to train dogs for people with disabilities. SNAP benefits help with his food



costs. Staying focused is important as he overcomes PTSD, a bi-polar diagnosis and seeks sobriety. He's also trying to get a hold of his mom in Delaware to tell her that he is okay.

"Things are definitely looking up," commented this determined man. "When deciding to help [a homeless person] look into their eyes. My momma told me that. There is help available for the homeless. It does take time. Just don't give up no matter how bad life gets. I haven't."

The Rapid Rehousing Initiative's goal is to reduce someone's time in homelessness by quickly securing permanent housing and minimize their chance of returning to homelessness. Our Housing Stabilization Case Managers recruit area landlord's in establishing affordable housing throughout Hampton Roads. In-Home one-on-one Case Management services include budgeting, financial literacy and employment assistance. Financial assistance is provided as needed on a case-by-case basis.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 132 clients received case support services including 99 who moved into affordable housing during JCOC's last 12-month Rapid Rehousing grant cycle.
- We partner with area rental property owners to provide affordable housing! If you have a rental property opening, please email ltolly@jcoc.org.

Your generous Year End gift will help homeless and hungry individuals like Stephen receive the Help Hope and Healing they need to thrive. Please give today!

THE NEWSFEED



Mercy Chefs and JCOC collaborated this fall to provide over 1,500 nutritious microwavable meals to Community Dinner and Food Pantry guests.

Dominion Energy recently awarded JCOC a generous Critical Community Outreach grant. Thank you!



USAA recently awarded generous grant funding in support of JCOC's emergency shelter and feeding programs. Thank you!



BLACK & WHITE GALA EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Thank you for celebrating JCOC's 35th Anniversary! Almost 300 guests attended the October 15th dinner program in person and dozens more watched the live stream virtually. Guests bid on 50+ great silent auction packages during the cocktail hour as a string quartet from Symphonicity played. After dinner, emcee Devin Tucker spoke with Executive Director Todd Walker about JCOC's impact over the last year as well as the latest on our campus rebuild. When Todd invited seven formerly homeless clients to stand, those surrounding them cheered in support. Award-winning author and key-note speaker Kathy Izzard then shared her inspiring journey of helping to bring transformation to Charlotte in the areas of homelessness, housing, and mental health. A lively live auction and dancing capped off the night!

WATCH THE PROGRAM VIDEO AND SEE MORE PICTURES ON JCOC.ORG!

Special thanks to our sponsors, dozens of donors who gave auction items, Fr. Ben Randall of Galilee Church, Astro Enterprises, David O'Dell Photography, Design Bright Events, Michael H. Schmitt Photography, Symphonicity, and JCOC's Board of Directors and staff.

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WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

JCOC is blessed to have 16 dedicated individuals serving on the Board of Directors. Two new members joined this year. Welcome Gabrielle (Gabi) Rosenblum and Frederick (Freddie) Fletcher III. Gabi is a community volunteer, and Freddie is a development manager at The Lawson Companies.



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HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



It's that time of year again! #TeamJCOC gives Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets to more than 150 hungry families in our community each holiday – that's a total of at least 300!

WE NEED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

Turkeys and Hams	Gravy (packet/canned)	Sweet Potatoes/Yams (canned)
Mashed/Scalloped Potatoes (bag/boxed)	Green Beans (canned)	Cranberry Sauce (canned)
Stuffing Mix (bag/boxed)	Cream of Mushroom Soup (canned)	Dessert Mix (bag/boxed)

Will You Help? In order to be able to get the Food Baskets out in time for Christmas dinner, donations are needed by December 16th.

You, your family or group of friends and co-workers can order food donations online and have them delivered to: JCOC, 1053 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Or, in order to drop off food donations to JCOC's main office, please first make an appointment by contacting our volunteer coordinator, Krishna Loya at kloya@jcoc.org or (757) 491-2846, ext. 102. You can also make a financial donation online at jcoc.org.



THANK YOU FOR HELPING US BRING HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS!