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WINTER  
2020

*Servings  
of  
Hope*





# TODD'S TALK



Todd Walker, Executive Director

We recently celebrated our 34th Anniversary as an organization with a virtual Un Gala. A special thank you to our host Grace Bible Church, our Un Gala sponsors, JCOC Board of Directors and staff, and you, our wonderful donors that supported the event as well as our efforts to end hunger and homelessness throughout the year.

While we continue to provide food resources to those suffering from food insecurity and work to house the homeless in the shortest time possible, your donations are needed more than ever! **JCOC has experienced a decline in funding since the pandemic. However, at the same time, hunger and homelessness is increasing.**

We have been alarmed at some of the new faces we are seeing when providing our daily to-go meals, especially the increase in families. We've been distributing approximately 102 meals every day since the pandemic! Our team makes sure to give each guest a warm smile, words of encouragement and a list of resources to help them navigate through their crisis. As I watched a family drive into the parking lot recently with 2 adults and 4 children, the look of desperation on their faces wanting something to eat motivated me to my core to continue ensuring we can always meet the need. Despite all of the great accomplishments we have achieved this year, this shows there is still more work to do.

As we approach the holidays and look forward to spending time with our families, I ask that you go above and beyond in your Year End giving to JCOC. Many we serve will not have the opportunity to be with family or celebrate the holidays as you or I may do. Your donation will get them closer to safe housing and/or a warm meal on the table during this unfortunate time. **As our Board member Bob Bibbs recently said, "Please give until it feels good."** Never miss an opportunity to be a blessing to others.

## THE NEWSFEED

**Congratulations!** After one year of being a part of our Veterans Transitional program, Brian moved into his new place on October 23rd. We wish him the very best.

JCOC recently received \$65,000 from the United Way of South Hampton Roads' Coronavirus Recovery Fund! The award will help our feeding and housing programs. Thank you!



**Thank you!** Day Support and Emergency Housing's toiletry and new underwear inventory was running low. We asked for help. You answered in an amazing way! Thank you for making sure our clients have access to these daily necessities.

## Shop & Give

The holidays are right around the corner! Have you set up Judeo-Christian Outreach Center as your charity on Amazon Smile?  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1417126>



## Fight Hunger Every Time You Shop

Choose JCOC (WV413) as your Kroger Community Rewards charity.



## WELCOME HOME! LIVES CHANGED THROUGH RAPID REHOUSING INITIATIVE

**THANK YOU!** Your response was overwhelming! In August, we shared the exciting news JCOC received a grant to expand our Rapid Rehousing Team and help an additional 35 homeless clients find permanent housing by early October. This was in addition to the 40 clients the team already had planned to help by the end of our fiscal year. With this BIG goal, we asked for your help as JCOC needed to collect enough items to fill Welcome Home Baskets for these 75 men and women.

By the first week in October, we received enough bedding, household items, cleaning supplies and financial donations to **COMPLETE ALL 75 baskets.** Boxes from IKEA were being delivered daily for a while!

The Rapid Rehousing Team has been hard at work partnering with area landlords to find affordable housing, and then

moving clients into their new homes. To date, twenty-three formerly homeless men and women including Annette, Peter, Eric, George, John, Lisa, and Joseph have moved into permanent housing! Everyone has been grateful to receive a Welcome Home Basket on moving day as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

**More affordable housing options are needed!** Do you own or know someone who owns rental property in Hampton Roads? For information on how you can help, contact our office at (757) 491-2846 or [jcoc@jcoc.org](mailto:jcoc@jcoc.org). Thank you again for the generous support you have shown.





# DINNER CHATS WITH BRET

It's a cloudy October afternoon. The Foodbank's truck just pulled into JCOC's parking lot and began unloading pallets of food that will be given to about 50 families during tomorrow's weekly Food Pantry. Our part-time kitchen manager Denise and several volunteers fill plastic bags with this fresh produce, meat and other perishable items. After everything is ready for Food Pantry, it will almost be time to open the double blue doors for Community Dinner at 5:00 tonight.

Those doors have continued to open every day even during the COVID-19 pandemic! Community Dinner volunteer groups have helped JCOC be able to give out more than 22,000 to-go meals and thousands of snack bags to hungry households and homeless individuals since March. One of those grateful guests is Bret.

"JCOC has done so much to help me," Bret reflected. "Even though I am independently living, sometimes I still get short on the food. I still need someone to talk to, be around. I needed this place to be able to interact with other people so I won't end up on drugs and homeless again."

Bret began attending NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meetings at JCOC thirteen years ago. He soon began participating in the Community Dinner and Food Pantry programs. Working two jobs, it's a common sight to see Bret roll in on his motorized scooter after work to pick up dinner. A Newport News native, this former Army Ranger served for

four years before becoming a civil service electrician for the Navy. He then became a federal fire fighter. Life took a turn when the single father of a teenage daughter failed a marijuana test at work. Bret was forced to resign, spiraled further into depression, and became homeless within three years. Thankfully, his mother cared for her granddaughter while he continued to slip.

More than ten years of homelessness followed. Bret then chose to come to Virginia Beach from Newport News and go through the Vetshouse Incorporated program. They referred him to come to the NA meetings held at JCOC. Now after years of successfully being healthy and drug free, Bret shares, "I can't leave God out of the equation because he's been looking out for me and sending guardian angels ever since I was first born."

The next time you come to JCOC's campus during Community Dinner, look for Bret – a huge smile surrounded by a salt and pepper beard, and blue helmet. And, he's probably singing.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JOHN FRANKLIN

**Meet John.** You can find him at JCOC's oceanfront campus multiple times a week with a smile on his face. John began volunteering in 2017 as a donations sorter. He went through bags and bags of clothing, toiletries and household items organizing them for the homeless men and women in our housing programs.

After a break, he came back to volunteer about a year ago. Every week John helps to unload the Foodbank truck delivery, fills grocery bags, and then assists with handing out the food to hungry families during our Food Pantry.

John shared, "I can usually count on my friend, Kathy (Food Pantry client) to come in on Tuesdays with a big smile and a hug for me. It warms my bones."

There is no project John says no to. We ask and he is there. This has included moving heavy furniture and directing traffic in our complicated parking lot. He looks forward to working with fellow volunteers and JCOC staff, who he now calls friends.

"I think one of the best things you can do in life is spread a little love and kindness around, especially to those that are in need," said John. "This world needs more of it, and if I can help even a little bit I feel like I'm doing my job."

We are grateful for John's heart to serve, his commitment, and the joy he brings when interacting with those in need. When not volunteering, John enjoys walking his dogs, watching bad, old horror movies, cooking, and spending time with his family.



John Franklin

For information about joining our volunteer team, contact Krishna Loya, Volunteer Coordinator at [kloya@jcoc.org](mailto:kloya@jcoc.org) or (757) 491-2846, ext. 102.

# OVER 200 WATCHED THE BLACK & WHITE UN GALA'S VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

The Black & White Un Gala's first Live Virtual Celebration was October 16th. Grace Bible Church's production team implemented a flawless 1-hour show! Approximately 200 partners from multiple states watched. Some hosted fun Watch Parties. More than 100 people bid on over 80 packages during our first online silent auction.

Rabbit, a Permanent Supportive Housing client, shared his moving story; and emcee Dale Murray and JCOC executive director Todd Walker talked about how our hunger and housing programs continued to help people during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as premiered an animation of what JCOC's Campus Rebuild will look like! Dale also talked with board members Laura Rowe, Drew Lankford and Bob Bibbs.

"Even though we missed seeing everyone face-to-face, it was so encouraging to see our partners and corporate sponsors get behind this one-of-a-kind event," commented Kristin Ward, development director.



**Did you miss it? Go to [Jcoc.org](http://Jcoc.org) or our YouTube channel to watch the Virtual Celebration recording!**

**Thank You Black & White Un Gala Sponsors!**

 – Onyx  GRACE – Production  
Bible Church

**Ivory:** Bank of America, Rodney Duckworth, Jr., The Floor Trader, Mark & Michele Partridge-Lane, Russell's Heating Cooling Plumbing Electric, Waterfront Advisory Group of Raymond James, and Mr. & Mrs. Wayne and Ashlin Wilbanks.



**Opal:** Robert & Carol Bibbs, Jeff Brown, Colliers International, Dollar Bank, Steve & Nancy Freeman, Frieden Wealth Management, Intellectechs, Laura C. Rowe Real Estate Team, James & Betty McCaa, David & Allison McDuffie, George & Janet Moore, Nimmo United Methodist Men, Pungorosa, Mr. Reggie & Mrs. Valerie Register, Sharon Smith, Robert & Kimberley Timms, and Wall Einhorn & Chernitzer.

**Media:** Virginia Eats + Drinks

# Judeo-Christian Outreach Center

1053 Virginia Beach Boulevard  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

**H****OPE**  
for the holidays



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

We need the following items:

**Turkeys and Hams**

**Mashed/Scalloped Potatoes (bag/boxed)**

**Stuffing Mix (bag/boxed)**

**Gravy (packet/canned)**

**Green Beans (canned)**

**Cream of Mushroom Soup (canned)**

**Sweet Potatoes/Yams (canned)**

**Cranberry Sauce (canned)**

**Dessert Mix (bag/boxed)**

**Will You Help?** In order to be able to get the Food Baskets out in time for Thanksgiving dinner, donations are needed by November 19th, and December 17th for Christmas.

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](mailto:kloya@jcoc.org) or (757) 491-2846, ext. 102. You can also make a financial donation online at [jcoc.org](http://jcoc.org).

Thank you for helping us bring Hope for the Holidays!

## JCOC Community Thrift

120 S. Plaza Trail in Virginia Beach  
(757) 965-8484  
Monday - Friday 11 am - 6:30 pm  
Saturday 10 am - 6 pm

## Second Chance Community Thrift

5193 Shore Drive in Virginia Beach  
(757) 305-9689  
Monday - Friday 10 am - 7 pm  
Saturday 10 am - 6 pm  
Sunday 12 pm - 5 pm