

SPRING 2022

Servings of Hope



JCOC.org
est. 1986



TODD'S TALK



Rasheed's homelessness ended in January!



Rasheed is thankful for his room for rent as he attends college.



Todd Walker
Executive Director

As Spring quickly approaches, I look forward to warmer weather and watching college basketball's March Madness tournament! I love basketball! The excitement March Madness brings to me as we enjoy the games leading to the crowning of a new college basketball champion remind me of some unsung champions. Ones most of us will never meet or notice. Our homeless brothers and sisters.

I've heard first hand when people put so many expectations on them while they struggle to survive day by day. "They need to stay clean from drugs and alcohol," or "they just need to get a job". Homelessness is a traumatic experience for those we serve. We have to display empathy and meet people where they are currently to see progress. Every day, JCOC's housing programs save lives by getting the most vulnerable people off the streets and into a place they can afford while beginning their healing process and work towards being independent, productive members of the community.

I challenge you to join me and be a part of JCOC's **Hoops for Hunger and Homelessness** campaign this month! Check out my challenge video on jcoc.org, and see if you can beat my score. Your support will help to eliminate hunger and homelessness in our community. In closing, no one has the power to change the past, but within all of us, we have the power to shape the future. Your support of JCOC will help make these unsung champions' future very bright.

TAKE JCOC'S HOOPS FOR HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS CHALLENGE

MARCH 13TH THROUGH APRIL 4TH

OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$22,000 DURING MARCH MADNESS THIS YEAR.

1. **Shoot and Post a Video:** how many baskets can you make in 30 seconds? Play on a basketball court, in your driveway; or at the office. It doesn't matter where!

For example, say: "Hi! I'm [your name], and I'm taking JCOC's Hoops for Hunger and Homelessness Challenge. Let's see how many baskets I can make in 30 seconds. I'm going to give online at jcoc.org. [friend's name], I challenge you to take JCOC's Hoops for Hunger and Homelessness Challenge and beat my score!

2. **Pass the Ball:** share your challenge video on social media profiles and/or email at least once during March Madness (March 13 - April 4). Don't forget to tag @JCOCVB!

3. **Go for the Win:** please make a donation at jcoc.org or include a check in the enclosed envelope.

- \$25 can provide toiletries for four housing clients.
- \$50 can feed 10 hungry guests at Community Dinner.
- \$150 can shelter one homeless adult for four nights.



YOU CAN BE A PART OF #TEAMJCOC WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE A BASKETBALL FAN!

THE NEWSFEED



Thank you! Your generosity allowed us to give 419 Holiday Food Baskets to hungry households last year.

We earned a 2022 Platinum Seal with Candid! Look at our profile to learn more and make a difference with your support: www.guidestar.org/profile/54-1417126



GIVE LOCAL 757!

Mark your calendars for May 10th! It will be a day for everyone to support JCOC's campaign at Givelocal757.org.

Choose JCOC at your workplace giving campaigns including United Way of South Hampton Roads and CFC.



#33053

JAN'S SHOCK TURNS INTO SHELTER

"It's a bit of a shock," expressed Jan. This beautiful woman thoughtfully continued, "My hope is that I'll never be homeless again."

In 2019, the annual Point in Time Count identified 1,079 individuals experiencing homelessness in the Hampton Roads area (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development). Sadly, data from the City of Virginia Beach found the number of residents who reported being at risk of being homeless during the pandemic more than quadrupled compared to the year prior.

Jan became homeless in February 2020. The affordable housing shortage became her reality. While social distancing was on the forefront of everyone's minds, she couldn't find a shared living arrangement. Her friends opened their doors until October 2020. No stranger to hard work, this former hair salon owner and cook already had a fulltime job at a school as a night custodian as well as a part-time position at a bank doing Covid cleaning.

During this trying season, an acquaintance told Jan about JCOC's Emergency Housing (shelter). Unfortunately, she had to wait for an opening. Winter was coming. Jan had no choice but to park her car in a parking lot close to work and sleep underneath the false safety of a street light. When it was too cold, she dipped into meager savings to stay in a motel for a night or two at a time. Strained local family relationships didn't allow for an opportunity to stay with them.

Determined to have a home again where her teenage grandson could come visit, Jan continued looking for an affordable place while being promoted to head night custodian. Thankfully, a bed opened up for her in JCOC's shelter on February 3, 2021. "The day I got there I was so grateful," remembered Jan. "All the stress fell off my shoulders!"

Our Housing Support Specialists (HSS) began helping her work on a unique housing plan right away. This included applying for benefits Jan is qualified to receive. Moving day came in February 2022, just one week shy of a year later. They helped her move into a 3-bedroom townhouse in Virginia Beach. Jan was happy to already know her two roommates from shelter! One of them cleans for a living, and their home is spotless. JCOC also gave her a food box and a Welcome Home Basket full of new towels, bedding, pots, pans, dishes, and cleaning supplies. "I believe JCOC has my back no matter what", said an elated Jan.

Since moving out of Emergency Housing, Jan...

- Enjoys being grandma!
- Continues the habit of changing her sheets every Wednesday like our shelter clients do.
- Loves going and coming as she pleases.

JCOC has the only year round shelter in Virginia Beach for single homeless adults. It is based in the City of Virginia Beach's Housing Resource Center, and has 55 beds for individuals. Clients like Jan work with our HSS to obtain permanent housing, employment and other services needed to succeed.

Your gift of \$150 can shelter one of our Emergency Housing clients for four nights! Please give today.



SUPPORT AND SHOP

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<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1417126>



Choose WV413

JCOC COMMUNITY THRIFT

120 S. Plaza Trail, VA Beach

SECOND CHANCE COMMUNITY THRIFT

5193 Shore Drive, VA Beach

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MEET JCOC'S DAY SUPPORT TEAM

Nicole McInnis, Nina Wray and Humberto Gettys make up a Terrific Trio. Together, they help operate JCOC's Day Support program at the Housing Resource Center (HRC). In partnership with the City of Virginia Beach, this program offers homeless single adults access to shower, laundry, meal and mail delivery services as well as personalized case management five days a week.

Nicole, Nina, and Humberto, all Housing Support Specialists, engage, assess, and connect individuals in Day Support to housing and other services needed to succeed. During the last fiscal year, this team helped 320 homeless individuals.

Nicole joined the JCOC team in 2011 as our Administrative Assistant. While studying for a Master of Social Work, she was promoted to Emergency Shelter Case Manager. Shortly after, she became a Housing Stabilization Case Manager, where she helped grow JCOC's Rapid Rehousing program. Nicole left for a short time before returning in 2018 to her current role. "[I like] meeting people where they are and helping them to transition to where they want to be," she shared. "I enjoy talking and hearing their stories; especially talking to the elderly and younger adults."

In 2018, Nina became a JCOC volunteer as part of her pursuit of a Bachelor of Science in Human Services. Just a few months later, she was offered an internship at JCOC to help complete her degree. During her internship, she was hired part-time to work in our Winter Shelter program. She was later promoted to full-time as a Housing Locator with the Rapid Rehousing Team, and has since transitioned to Day Support. "I love coming to work every day to be able to bring hope to those who are feeling hopeless in their situation," she shared. "It's not easy being homeless."

Humberto was hired in 2019, but had previously led a weekly Bible study for our shelter clients as a volunteer for three years. He also has worked for Volunteers of America's Day Support and Winter Shelter programs.

Humberto enjoys "working closely with all the clients, encouraging them, helping them get off the streets and into housing and working alongside an amazing team!" His life action Bible verse is, "Love never fails."

This trio's hard work, dedication and passion for those we serve is evident each day. JCOC is grateful to have them on our team and look forward to their continued success.

For more information about all of JCOC's services, visit jcoc.org.



OUR WISHLIST



Every night an average of 75 adults and children come for Community Dinner. As homeless guests head back out to brave the weather, our kitchen managers give snack bags and items to help keep them dry and warm. Supplies are running low.

PLEASE HELP WITH:

Hand & Toe Warmers | Rain Ponchos | Adult Backpacks (new or gently used) | Bottled Water | Crustables (PB & J) | Slim Jim's/Beef Jerky | Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, Spam) | Jelly (grape and berry)

Clothing Donations: No business, business casual or formal wear please. We can use tennis shoes, boots, sandals, flip flops, loafers, belts, wallets, purses, and coats sized 2X and up.

Schedule to deliver your donation: (757) 491-2846 or jcoc@jcoc.org, OR have ONLINE ORDERS shipped to JCOC, 1053 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23451.



Volunteer to Provide Community Dinner

Volunteer groups of all types and sizes are welcome, faith-based and community organizations, businesses and families!

Groups are preparing to-go meals and serving them to guests seated in our dining hall and those preferring to pick up food. Meals range from sandwiches and chips to fried chicken and sides to fast food combos.

We have dates open in April - June that we need to fill. Can you help? For guidelines for preparing and serving the meal and a complete list of open dates for 2022, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Krishna Loya at kloya@jcoc.org or (757) 491-2846, ext. 102.