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Judeo-Christian
Outreach Center
VOLUME 2 | 2025

Todd's Talk

Congratulations! Executive Director, Todd Walker is a Civic Executive Class of 2025 graduate.

Here at JCOC, we are extremely excited about the progress being made in the construction of our new campus, which will include 38 single room occupancy units for people exiting homelessness. Recently while visiting the site, I saw a constant reminder of why this project and others under development are so important. **There was evidence of someone sleeping on the property.** I reflected on what may have led the person to get to this point. Everyone's story is different. But I find comfort in the fact that God uses us to help those in need add a new chapter to their story. A story of faith, victory and healing.

Scripture reminds us in Matthew 25:40, *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* In our community, the call to serve is all around us—on street corners, at the oceanfront, in emergency shelters, and in silent struggles.

The services we provide at JCOC are more than a meal, providing a safe temporary space for housing or permanent housing. We're compassionate, loving and recognize everyone we serve as a person. The respect and integrity established, lays the foundation for us to walk with our residents as we assist them in rebuilding their lives.

Your support provides us with the tools needed to start this rebuilding process for our brothers and sisters in need. Together, let us be the hands that help, the voices that speak hope, and the hearts that bring healing. Because when we lift up the least among us, we lift our entire community.

God Bless!

JCOC.org

Scan this QR Code with your phone to donate today!

The Betty Brown Chidester Campus Building Update

Thank you to Hoy Construction for sponsoring this update. Their team including Will Crocker and Paul Sprinkel are on track to finish construction by December of this year!

HOY CONSTRUCTION

Brick veneer continues on the first floor.

Roofing is near completion.

Once the windows are underway, the siding crew will follow in early July.

JCOC.org

See up to date progress on our construction site's LIVE STREAM! jcoc.org/help-hope-healing

Need for Hunger Relief Will Increase this Summer

Loretta picks up groceries weekly.

Loretta and her husband Eric are on a fixed income. She moved down to Virginia Beach from Maryland after meeting her husband Eric on a dating website three years ago. They are grateful for JCOC's Food Pantry.

Loretta shared, "JCOC's pantry is the only pantry I like going to! I like the ladies (volunteers) there. It's like a family. They look forward to me coming, and I look forward to seeing them."

Back injuries and early stage COPD forced her to retire from being a nursing assistant. Now, she enjoys her current job of sitting with a precious 90-year-old lady throughout the week.

Eric came to our Food Pantry before meeting Loretta. Money was tight for the retired security guard. Every week, this couple is one of dozens of families who get groceries from JCOC's Food Pantry. Eric and Loretta really don't have to buy many items from the grocery store, allowing their limited income to be used for other expenses including their car and home.

Every Tuesday, Jude volunteers at Community Dinner.

Scooter has been coming to Community Dinner for many years.

Do you know a family, couple or individual who is struggling? Everyone is welcome to call JCOC's office (757-491-2846) to schedule a Food Pantry appointment. It is on Tuesday and Saturday from 10am-noon at First Lynnhaven Baptist Church (2744 Robert Jackson Dr. VA Beach).

JCOC's team and Community Dinner volunteer groups serve to-go meals Monday-Friday from 5-6pm at Mount Olive Baptist Church (310 N. Birdneck Rd., Virginia Beach). More than 15,000 meals have been given so far this year! Children have received over 2,450 of those meals. We recently asked volunteer groups to increase the number of meals to 125.

You can join us in providing meals and groceries!

1. Make a donation at jcoc.org.
2. Volunteer to provide Community Dinner on a open date by contacting (757) 491-2846 or jcoc@jcoc.org.
3. Coordinate a food drive with your neighborhood, place of worship or workplace. Contact (757) 491-2846 or jcoc@jcoc.org for more info.

It was great to have Whiting Turner's team volunteer at Food Pantry in June!

8th Annual Farmers Markets Giving Back Food Drive Breaks Records!

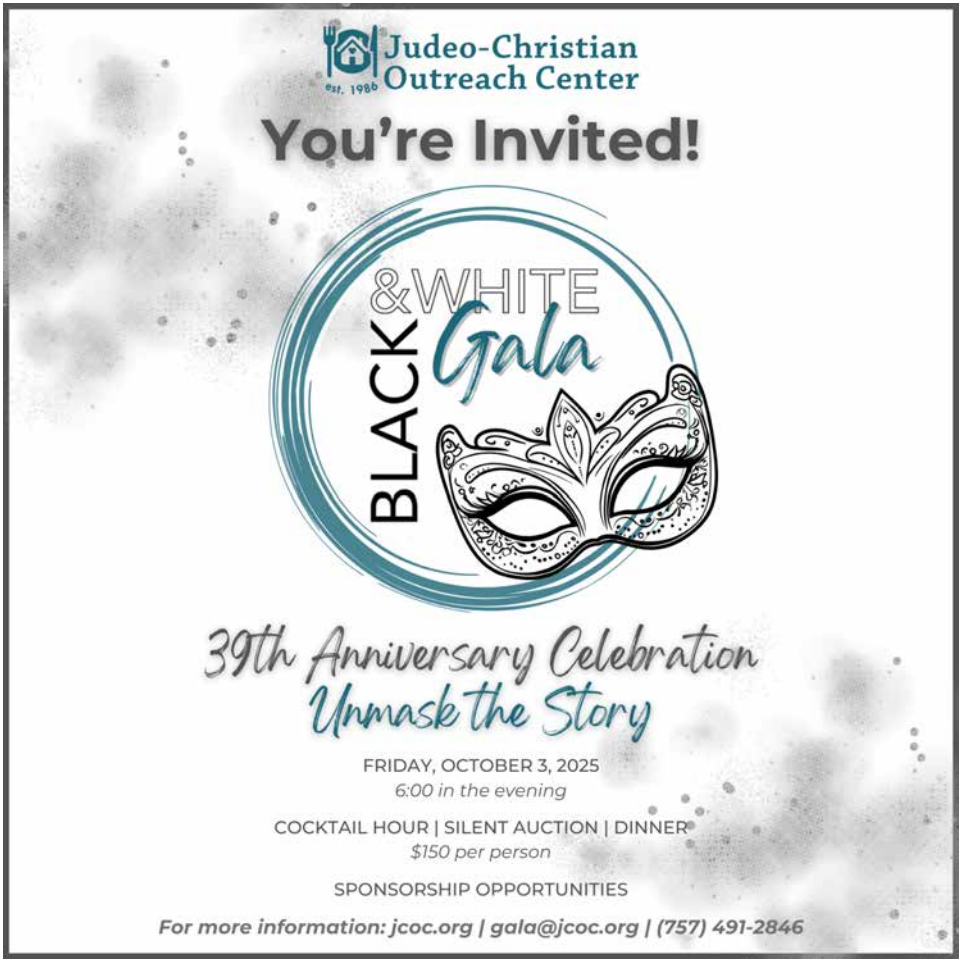
The 8th Annual *Farmers Markets Giving Back Food Drive*, held in June, was a huge success in support of JCOC's Food Pantry. Thanks to the combined efforts of the Kings Grant and Old Beach Farmers Markets, an impressive **1,583 pounds of non-perishable food** and **$3,330 in donations** were collected! These funds will help purchase an additional **1,725 pounds of food,** bringing the total contribution to a record-breaking **3,308 pounds.**

Krishna (left) and Lori (right)

This year's results surpassed last year's total of 2,977 pounds and more than **tripled** the first-ever drive in 2018!

Leading this incredible initiative is **Lori Golding Zontini**, Executive Director of both farmers markets and a dedicated advocate for JCOC. Lori's unwavering commitment to feeding our community shines through her personal motto: *"Everyone must eat."* We're deeply grateful for her leadership and for every individual who donated to make this event a success.

Lori (left) and Roger (right)



Behind every mask there is a face, and behind the face, a story! Thirty-nine years ago, JCOC began removing the mask of hunger one meal at a time. Now, masks of hunger and homelessness are being removed from thousands of individuals, veterans, and families throughout Hampton Roads every year.

JCOC invites you to join us for our annual ***Black & White Gala – Unmask the Story -*** on **Friday, October 3rd** at The Westin Virginia Beach Town Center. The masquerade will feature a cocktail hour with a silent auction and inspiring dinner program. As JCOC's largest annual fundraiser, we look forward to raising both funds and awareness as the organization steps into our 40th year!

JCOC.org/gala25

Find Out More Here!

Staff Spotlight: Meet JCOC'S Rapid Rehousing Team!

JCOC's Rapid Rehousing team is made up of three dynamic women. Together they work directly with adults experiencing homelessness in Virginia Beach to secure and maintain permanent, affordable housing.

Nina

Leading the team is **Nina Wray,** who began her journey with JCOC in 2018 as a volunteer then Housing Program intern while pursuing her bachelor's degree in human services at Old Dominion University. She was hired later that year to support JCOC's Winter Shelter Program and graduated shortly after. In 2019, Nina stepped into a full-time role as Housing Locator and, through hard work and deep commitment to her clients, was promoted to Housing Coordinator and team supervisor in 2023.

Stephanie Fox also got her start with JCOC as a volunteer in 2017. She returned in 2022 during her senior year at ODU, once again volunteering. After earning her bachelor's degree in human services, Stephanie joined the Rapid Rehousing team in early 2023 as a Housing Stabilization Specialist.

Stephanie (left) and Gigi (right)

In 2023, JCOC welcomed **Gigi Marshall** to the Rapid Rehousing team as a Housing Stabilization Specialist. She brings over fifteen years of experience in the human services field, with a strong background in addressing human trafficking.

The goal of Rapid Rehousing is to shorten the time someone experiences homelessness and reduce the chances of returning to it. Nina, Stephanie, and Gigi walk alongside their clients through the entire process—from securing housing to lease signings, move-ins, and even providing Welcome Home Baskets filled with essentials like food and household supplies. Stephanie shared, *"Being a case manager is about more than just putting a roof over*

"A safe home is not the finish line–it's the starting point for hope, healing, and a better future." - Gigi

someone's head – it's about doing everything possible to be a light during the darkest time in their life."

In the past year, the team has helped twenty-seven men and women transition from homelessness into permanent housing! Their support doesn't stop there. This amazing team continues to provide in-home support to their clients for up to two years. They offer budgeting, financial literacy, employment assistance, and much more. Financial assistance is also available to clients while in this program. Since its launch in 2014, the Rapid Rehousing initiative has helped hundreds of men and women find a safe, stable place to call home.

To learn more about Rapid Rehousing or how to become a landlord partner, contact us at (757) 491-2846 or jcoc@jcoc.org.

Serena Amerson Joins JCOC's Board of Directors

Please join us in welcoming Serena Amerson to JCOC's Board of Directors! She is an award winning fundraising professional and strategic nonprofit leader eager to make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve. Serena is the Assistant Vice President of Planned Giving at Old Dominion University. JCOC's future is even brighter with our dedicated board, which now includes Serena Amerson!

Kroger Shoppers, Choose WV413

Have you linked your Kroger Rewards card to JCOC?

Help Keep Our Pantry Stocked

The need for non-perishable food items at JCOC's Food Pantry is ongoing. Each month, we provide free groceries to approximately **350 households.** You can help by picking up a few extra items on your next grocery trip and bringing them to our pantry.

To schedule a delivery, contact us at **(757) 491-2846** or **jcoc@jcoc.org.**

Prefer to give online? Visit jcoc.org/#donate and select **Hunger Relief** to make a secure donation.

Together, we're feeding hope.

- **Canned Meats & Soups**
- **Canned Fruits & Vegetables**
- **Pasta & Pasta Sauce**
- **Beans & Rice**
- **Macaroni & Cheese**
- **Stuffing & Mashed Potatoes**
- **Peanut Butter & Jelly**
- **Cereal**
- **Oatmeal/Grits**

Please choose JCOC during your 2025 Workplace Giving Campaign!

United Way
United Way of South Hampton Roads

CFC
Combined Federal Campaign
#33053

Platinum Transparency 2025
Candid.

JCOC's Summer Wish List

Summer is here, and with it comes a new set of challenges for many in our community.

While we enjoy the sunshine and longer days, countless individuals and families are struggling to meet their basic needs. Food, hygiene items, and everyday essentials are in high demand, and your support can make all the difference.

Your gift, whether supplies or monetary, helps us meet urgent needs this summer.

Scan this QR Code with your phone to donate today!

Full-Size Toiletries Needed:

- Shampoo
- Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Washcloths

Summer Clothing Needs:
Men (all sizes) and
Women (large and bigger)

- Shorts
- Tank Tops
- T-Shirts
- Brimmed Hats
- **Underwear – new only** *(men's & women's)*
- **Bug Spray**
- **Sunscreen**

Give today and help bring hope to someone in need this summer.

Contact us at 757-491-2846 or jcoc@jcoc.org to schedule a drop-off time for donations.

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