



April 2017

Director's Corner:



Shannon Woloszynowski

A heartfelt thank you to all who so generously responded to our very first Easter basket distribution! Our volunteers had such a great time packing and handing out Easter baskets to kids in need. All in all, we had enough supplies to pack 165 Easter baskets. In the end, we were able to distribute baskets to all those who signed up in advance and all of the formerly homeless families in our housing program. We were even able to give baskets to the several of the homeless men and women in the Harbor (our day center

for the homeless) who have children staying with other family members. They were excited to be able to surprise their kids with Easter baskets!

The response to our request for funding assistance for our first Friday Mobile Food Pantry was overwhelming. We currently have all but three months funded through the end of the year. Both the April and May donors asked to remain anonymous but their gifts will be a blessing for many people. The Mobile Food Pantries are a great volunteer opportunity for the young and the seasoned! Contact Nicole Lancour (nlancour@bedeva.org) or Brenda Tamborini (btamborini@bedeva.org) for more information.

The Williamsburg House of Mercy is currently running low on men's t-shirts and underwear (M, L, XL). Any style or brand is acceptable, however, we do ask that they be new.

And finally, this year we are participating in the Give Local 757 campaign! Give Local 757 is a local initiative to increase philanthropy in the Hampton Roads region. Brought to you by the Peninsula Community Foundation, Hampton Roads Community Foundation and the United Way of the Virginia Peninsula. Give Local 757 will take place during a 24-hour period on Tuesday, May 9, 2017. Starting at midnight, donations will be accepted through givelocal757.org with a goal to inspire and unite our community in supporting thousands of local nonprofits.

Key messages:

- 24 hours to give where you live
- Make a donation at givelocal757.org on May 9th and your gift will get amplified from incentive funds and additional dollars with prize challenges throughout the day that you help your nonprofits win.
- Donate online at givelocal757.org

Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook!



Upcoming Events:

- The Williamsburg House of Mercy Mobile Food Pantry is **May 5**.
- The Upper County Mobile Food Pantry at Stone House Presbyterian is **May 8**.
- Give Local 757 **May 9**.

"Today You Became Homeless"

You have a Ph.D and are well employed in CA. Even though you are happy enough where you are living, you miss your family in Virginia. Your brother in Virginia convinces you that the job market is thriving here in your field and that you should pack up your life and come stay with him until you get settled. When you arrive, you quickly realize that his own marriage is failing, his wife resents your presence, and you find yourself in an unhealthy, abusive situation. Through many trials and tribulations, you find yourself sitting in your vehicle of an outreach office (House of Mercy) surrounded by your life—a diet Coke in the cup holder—wondering how you got here. You know you have to go inside and try to explain to these people who don't know you that you really do have a license and a Ph.D. in another state, and your brother and his wife have skipped town with your backpack and important documents, and they apparently stopped paying the rent before you even got to town. You are fragile from having suffered abuse at the hands of family you loved and trusted, and you don't know how you are going to get through tomorrow.

(We maintain a relationship with this very special client and she has become a mentor and source of strength to many others who are walking the path she once trod. Funding to House of Mercy assists with permanent housing and "fresh starts"!)

Contact us:

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