



Todd's Talk

May 20th's Groundbreaking Ceremony on JCOC's Virginia Beach Blvd. campus was a dream come true! I had to hold back a floodgate of emotions standing at the podium while sharing. Memories of countless conversations over the last 12 years about the upcoming campus rebuild passed through my mind. I recognized most of the guests, but also knew several of our trailblazers were celebrating with us in Heaven. This includes founder Dick Powell as well as former board members George Moore, Buddy Redfern and most recently Doug Archer. The seeds of compassion, dedication and servant leadership shown by these men will continue to produce Help Hope and Healing in Virginia Beach and throughout Hampton Roads for generations to come.



Todd Walker

We'll have more celebrating to do over the next 18 months – demolition this summer, construction starts in the Fall, hard hat tours and the ribbon cutting. Most importantly, JCOC will then move into our new home and be able to provide affordable housing for 38 single adults and serve more people in our new dining hall and commercial kitchen. Thank you! It is an honor to be an extension of your compassion.

Your financial donations are needed now more than ever! JCOC's housing support and hunger relief programs will continue during construction. Find out more about what's going on and how you can be a part in the following articles. Thank you, again. God Bless!

“

*Your financial
donations are
Needed
now more
than ever!*”

”

Did you know?



Welcome Home Baskets

Dollar Bank is raising funds for Welcome Home Baskets in August. Patrons can easily donate using Dip Jar devices in 7 VA Beach branches. Thank you!

Sea Pointe College

Volunteers from Sea Pointe College recently volunteered during Food Pantry for the first time!

Please choose JCOC during your 2024 Workplace Giving Campaign!



JCOC Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony on Betty Brown Chidester Campus

JCOC broke ground on Monday, May 20, 2024, on the \$14 million transformation of its current location, 1053 Virginia Beach Blvd, near the oceanfront. The invitation-only event included elected officials, philanthropists, business and community leaders, and JCOC Board and capital campaign committee members. The ceremony was the symbolic start of the construction phase of the new campus.

The new campus will include:

- 38 affordable-housing units (approx. 300 sq. ft. each), greatly expanding JCOC's role in building a bridge for the unhoused to move into permanent homes of their own.
- A more inviting, flexible and cost-effective dining hall and safe space for those dealing with food insecurities. The complex will house the Community Dinner, Food Pantry and Food Box programs.
- New administrative offices for JCOC's Rapid Rehousing and supportive programs to help participants achieve self-sufficiency.

For more than 37 years, JCOC has served as a lifeline to those who are unhoused, including our veterans, and those who are food insecure. We have outgrown the current facilities, yet the need for services continues to increase.



The ceremony began with an invocation from Father Ben Randall, Senior Associate Rector of Galilee Church. Galilee is one of the founding churches of JCOC and continues to be one of the strongest supporters of the mission of the organization.

State Senator Bill DeSteph, representing Virginia's 8th district, read a letter of congratulations from Governor and Mrs. Glenn Youngkin. The governor applauded JCOC's mission and thanked the organization for its work with unhoused residents and those who are food insecure.

Virginia Beach Mayor Bobby Dyer talked about the history of JCOC and how its work reflects the good and caring people of the resort city. "Clearly the JCOC is meeting a critical need for those in our oceanfront community who are suffering," said Mayor Dyer. "They offer second chances to people in crisis. They don't just offer a hand-out, but a hand up."

Executive Director Todd Walker shared, "We learned during this housing development process that



JCOC Board of Directors



JCOC Staff

we have to walk to get far, because you can fall when trying to run. Our patience has to shine through because homelessness is truly a life-or-death matter for so many."

"I am a native Virginia Beach girl and I have always known that we are blessed to live in this great city, in a great region, filled with amazing people when it comes to helping others, but you all made it easy work of making this dream a reality," said Allison McDuffie, Chair of the Help. Hope. Healing Capital Campaign – the most successful capital campaign in the history of JCOC.

She then announced that the **\$150,000 Brock Challenge** had been matched successfully surpassing the campaign's **\$14 million goal.**

Thanks to the very generous \$2 million contribution by Norfolk physician and philanthropist Dr. Paul Chidester, the new campus is named the Betty Brown Chidester Campus in memory of his wife. The main building will be named after philanthropist Joan Brock in honor of her \$1 million contribution. The transformation is further supported by hundreds of other public and private donations.

Dr. Chidester shared, "After my wife's death in September 2021, I wanted to highlight the life she lived; one of serving others and a desire to know and follow the will of our Lord. When I learned of the plans to build a new campus for JCOC, I felt that a contribution to support this organization would be a perfect way to remember Betty."

Following closing remarks by Steve Bleile, Director of Project Development with the Virginia Development Community Corporation (VDCDC), speakers, elected officials and JCOC leadership joined together and "turned the dirt", symbolizing the beginning of construction.

Special thanks to volunteer ZTV Landscaping for beautifying the campus in time for this groundbreaking celebration!

The new buildings will be constructed by Hoy Construction and should be completed by the end of 2025.



Wish List

Will you please help replenish our supply of items for our Hunger Relief and Housing Programs?

The following items are needed for our Emergency Shelter clients as well as individuals experiencing homelessness coming to JCOC's various locations seeking help:



Bug Spray
Sunscreen



Snack Bags
Water

We give snack bags to Community Dinner guests in addition to their meal every day when available. These snacks help serve as a way to relieve hunger throughout the day. Bags can include individually packaged items like: canned meat (pop tops or packages only), chips, cookies, granola bars, crackers, fruit cups, meat sticks, and bottled water or juice box (small).

Donations can be delivered **by appointment only** to our Hunger Relief program office. Please contact our office at (757) 491-2846 or jcoc@jcoc.org to schedule an appointment. Donations can also be ordered online and shipped to our admin office at 762 Independence Blvd., Suite 100C, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

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 offsite and serving them to guests at our new, temporary locations; Mt. Olive Baptist Church and First Lynnhaven Baptist Church. Meals range from home-cooked meals to sandwiches and chips to fried chicken and sides to fast food combos. We have the upcoming open dates listed below that we need to fill. Can you help?

Tuesday, August 27

Monday, September 2

Thursday, September 5

Tuesday, October 1

Friday, October 25

Tuesday, October 29

Thursday, October 31

Wednesday, November 20

For guidelines for preparing and serving the meal and a complete list of open dates for 2024, contact Community Engagement Manager, Krishna Loya at kloya@jcoc.org or (757) 491-2846, ext. 102.



Judeo-Christian
Outreach Center

Save the Date



38th Anniversary Celebration

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024

6:00 in the evening

COCKTAIL HOUR | SILENT AUCTION | DINNER

\$150 per person

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

For more information: jcoc.org | jcoc@jcoc.org | (757) 491-2846



Kroger Shoppers, Choose WV413

Have you linked your Kroger Rewards card to JCOC? Thirty-seven households participated last quarter raising \$146. Thank you!

David's Hope

After living in a tent for years, David moved into JCOC's Emergency Shelter on April 18th of this year. Our housing team secured affordable housing for him less than month later! The 57-year-old was thrilled to move into a senior community and have an "overwhelmingly nice" 1-bedroom apartment with small balcony on the first floor.

David thought about life before the move. While living in a tent, he came to JCOC's Community Dinner quite a bit to eat inside the Frank Bragg Dining Hall.

"If it hadn't been for organizations like yours, I probably wouldn't have made it," he shared.

"Going to JCOC, I had a lot of hope knowing things will be okay. I could always charge my phone and get a good meal. Blankets, socks, gloves. If I was going through something, there would always be someone to talk to." David grew up in New York City. His father came back from the war a heroin addict and began beating David's mother. She fled with their five children when David was 15. They stayed in a family shelter until settling in an apartment in Manhattan's Chelsea area. David reflected, "It was the best project to grow up in. Nice public school."



Sometimes there wouldn't be any money to buy food, and his mom prayed. Every time her prayers would be answered by way of a knock on the door and food on the stoop or other provisions.

David said, "I was the black sheep of the family, and got into drugs." For years he dressed the part of a functioning addict, working in food services and as a bicycle messenger. He worked to get a paycheck, spent it on crack, would lose the job for not showing up the next morning, repeat.



David got fired from Windows On The World in the North Tower of the World Trade Center. The next morning was September 11, 2021. he watched in horror from the apartment window as the second hijacked plane crashed into South Tower. If he hadn't been fired, David would have been at work on the 106th floor in the North Tower.

Now a father, David was awarded full custody of his young daughter and moved to Virginia Beach. Eventually, he turned to meth and then experienced homelessness.

The encouragement he's received from JCOC at Community Dinner and attending P.I.N.'s church service has motivated David to change. David has been drug free from meth for five months.

Did you know David is...

- 1 of the guests served 37,257 meals at Community Dinner in the last 12 months.
- 1 of 283 clients to have stayed in JCOC's Emergency Shelter in the last 12 months.
- 1 of more than 150 single homeless adults that our team found permanent housing for over the last 12 months.

The future is full of hope. Even though herniated disks prevent him from working manual jobs, David wants to finish a cyber-security degree and eventually build a shelter for battered women. Thinking of his mom back in NYC, "She's been praying for me a quite a while!"

JCOC is honored to be an extension of your compassion! Your generous donation is needed today! Thank you.



YOU'RE INVITED!

JOIN JCOC'S VOLUNTEER TEAM!

"Love and charity are service, helping others, serving others. When you forget yourself and think of others, this is love!" Pope Francis



Over the last year, 148 individuals volunteered an amazing 1,062 hours at JCOC. In addition, 134 groups representing 1,227 individuals volunteered 18,563 hours. That's nearly 20,000 volunteer hours and a lot of love! We are so grateful for the time our volunteers spent picking up food, distributing groceries, preparing and serving meals, sorting donations and so much more.

Without our volunteers, it would be extremely difficult to be able to continue providing the services we offer to our community. But there is so much more work to do! We invite you to join our passionate team of volunteers.

Longtime volunteer Jude shared, "When we all come together to serve our community, it makes the community a better place for all of us. Helping at the JCOC with my child allows him to see the reality of life for so many veterans, families, and neighbors at the Beach. Our guests become our friends and together, we can make a difference."



Jude's son Mikey added "It feels good to feed people. Food is healing, and we are healing the community through our service."

Opportunities to serve include:

Food Pantry Assistants: Help unload, sort, stock and pack food donations and assist with distributing free groceries to our pantry guests.

Community Dinner Assistants: Help unload meals, set up, hand out meals to dinner guests and breakdown.

Group opportunities are also available for these two programs!

Want to serve behind the scenes? We have other ways you can use your time and expertise to help fulfill JCOC's mission.

Front Desk Assistants: Answer incoming calls and assist visitors.

Photographers: Capture photos during outreach activities and special events. Experience required.

Social Media Assistants: Create engaging content for JCOC's social media platforms. Experience required.

To learn more, contact Community Engagement Manager, Krishna Loya at (757) 491-2846 or kloya@jcoc.org.

Ready to jump in? Visit jcoc.org or scan the QR code to sign up for our next Volunteer Orientation.



**Judeo-Christian
Outreach Center**
762 Independence Blvd., Suite 100C
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Norfolk, VA
Permit No. 171