**April 11, 2022**

**PORT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 2021/2022 SEASON**

**(20 WEEKS – NOVEMBER 3 2021 – MARCH 23 2022)**

**LINK, founded in December 1990, began the PORT winter shelter program in November 1991 with a small grant from Newport News Shipbuilding. A group of interfaith congregations offered their congregational sites and volunteers from the downtown and east end congregations in Newport News supported the shelter capacity of 25 homeless persons. Mainly consisting of men and peppered with a few women, PORT undertook what has evolved to be the largest homeless provider on the Peninsula during winter months. Volunteers and sites have and continue to provide sites, clothing, food and financial support.**

On November 23, 2021, LINK’s PORT Winter shelter began its 30TH year, serving Newport News and surrounding area’s homeless men, women and children. The PORT program staff and volunteers struggled with the unexpected challenges of an increase of men, women and children suffering homelessness. Many of whom were dealing with the consequences of poverty, mental and/or physical disability, under-employment, unemployment, and those who were simply unhoused due to national housing shortages or being unable to afford increased rents that landlords are now charging.

LINK’s PORT 2021/2022 program was, for the second year, financially, emotionally, and physically supported by 61 (sixty-one) congregations of a variety of Christian/non-Christian denominations and 8 (eight) businesses. These dedicated interfaith congregations provided specific shelter sites and partnered to support the weekly program with shelter volunteers and others who provided partner volunteers. As in prior years, a large variety of communities and businesses provided food, food supplies, hygiene kits, clothing, and other items needed for persons suffering homelessness, in addition to donations which assisted with bus tickets and other supplies needed by our homeless guests.

Other homeless and financial supporters included: The Dept. of Housing and Community Development, the City of Newport News, Newport News Dept., of Social Services and the city’s homeless day program run by Four Oaks Day Support Center, Newport News Sheriff’s Dept., Newport News Police Dept., Salvation Army, Hampton Dept., of Human Services, Menchville House, HELP’s A Nights Welcome, Community of Faith Mission, Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Foundation, Riverside and Mary Immaculate Hospitals, Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board, Veterans Administration, Food Bank of the Virginia Peninsula, Family Centered Resources, local hotels/motels and GVPHC homeless providers.

The PORT program continued for the second full season utilizing COVID-19 protocols from the 2020/2021 season of PORT, which included daily deep cleaning, contracted movers, daily laundry, evening nursing staff, transportation, drivers and security coverage provided for evening/overnight coverage by Newport News Sheriff’s Dept. Interfaith volunteers increased during the 2021/2022 season and returned to cooking on site at each shelter and provided support during evening check-in period and sites were also able to provide some morning support for the a.m. check out.

Meals – 25,460 meals were provided for evening meals, “seconds”, meals ready to eat for latecomers and bagged breakfasts for distribution once guests were dropped in the mornings to either Four Oaks Day Support Center or downtown drop and pick up donations.

Three snow days were provided by the PORT shelter for daytime shelter. City personnel ran the shelters along with a few volunteers.

The city of Newport News, led by Assistant City Manager Alan Archer, again assisted with the provision of additional funds to cover shelter cost shortages. The funding shortfalls covered provided drivers transportation costs, laundry and evening nursing staff and supplies. The city continued to provide Hepa filters for each site. City personnel measured sites to provide an approximate capacity of persons for shelter. Evening supplies of plastic bags for guest belongings, laundry bags, cleaning fluids, sprayers to maintain shift cleanliness of transportation vehicles.

Riverside Hospital provided a number of volunteers who provided COVID-19 vaccines at shelter sites to volunteers and guests. Mary Immaculate provided the annual flu shots.

Nightly partner representation was provided by Newport News Social Services for families who entered the shelter. Families with young children were placed into alternate shelter and provided with support and housing referrals/placement. Adult Protective Services provided support for adults who were amputees, disabled or unable to care for themselves, and offered and found alternative housing placement.

Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board provided twice per week on site

engagement of persons with substance use or mental health issues. Four Oaks Day Support

Center provided storage of guest’s items, showers and day time shelter services which assisted some guests with rapid rehousing opportunities/placement. LINK’s staff utilized contacts with the VA Medical Center for support for veterans who entered the PORT site and opportunities of alternative placement, medical treatment and housing resources were provided.

Coordination with other homeless service providers was ongoing for the whole season providing support and housing placement and resources to PORT guests.

Sr. David Ann provided ongoing volunteer recruitment, coordination and support to LINK staff and PORT’s interfaith partners and businesses who participated in the shelter program.

Thank you to Peninsula Rescue Mission who remained maintained contact with LINK personnel exchanging shelter information.

Huge thanks are extended to both Hampton’s HELP and Community of Faith Mission executive directors, who accepted PORT guests at their shelter sites during two of the coldest weeks of the shelter season due to high capacity at one shelter location.

Clients were provided the utmost care and attention. If guests were sick they were provided with hotel rooms once Riverside Hospital had determined illness/Covid. Four Oaks Day Support Center and LINK staff ensured food was delivered on a daily basis to any guests placed into hotels.

PORT shelter was completely automated during 2020/2021 thanks to new computers from the city to help expedite check in. All data concerning the homeless was entered upon the guests’ night of entry, into the Homeless Management Information System which assists homeless providers track persons in need, maintain homelessness services, etc.

A staff of 15 seasonal staff were hired by LINK from November 3 2021 – March 23, 2022. LPN’s were contracted and provided medical oversight each night from 6.30 p.m. – 11 p.m. daily. Security was provided by Newport News Sheriff’s Dept., who were onsite nightly from 6.30 p.m. – 6.30 a.m. Two evening intake staff were onsite from 6.30 p.m – 10.30 p.m. and one person was on duty from 10.30 p.m. – 6.30 a.m.

In Touch CDC provided staff for moving the shelter, daily deep cleaning and daily laundry pick up and drop off.

Family Centered Resources provided nightly LPNs from 6.30 p.m. – 11.15 p.m.

There was a total of **13,555.36** volunteer hours and a total of **2,925** volunteers who worked at a value of $29.95 = $405,983.04

This season to date we have spent our usual grant awards totaling **$130,125** plus an additional **$116,613.70** from the city of Newport News.

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**Program demographics:**

• 555 men, women and children were provided with 10,064 shelter beds during the 140 nights of

operation.

• These consisted of 522 adults over 18; 33 children under 18

age/information; 355 men and 163 women and 4 transgenders

77 veterans

20 male children and 13 female children.

• 20 families with children served. Most of the families were transferred by Newport News Social

Services and/or Salvation Army to hotels/motels or Menchville House.

* 16 were children under age 5;
* 10 were children 5 – 12;
* 7 were children 13-17;
* 39 young adults 18 – 24
* 97 adults were 25 – 34;
* 104 adults were 35 – 44;
* 110 adults were 45 – 54 years;
* 97 adults were 55 – 61 years;
* 76 adults were over 62 years.
* The oldest persons 82 years and the youngest was 2 months.
* 130 persons suffered from chronic health conditions;
* 56 with developmental disabilities;
* 185 with mental health;
* 78 with substance use issues;
* 134 with physical disabilities.
* 87 persons had a suffered a history of domestic violence.
* 19 were currently fleeing domestic violence.
* 268 persons had no income;
* 3 received $1 - $150 per month;
* 3 received $151 - $250 per month
* 18 received $251 - $500;
* 119 received $501 - $1000 per month;
* 49 received $1001 - $1500 per month
* 15 received $1501 - $2000 per month;
* 15 received $2000 plus per month.
* 18 persons were diverted to housing resources .
* 21 persons were reported to Adult Protective Services
* A total of 17 persons received CSB housing.
* 14 persons were housed through other methods
* 5 persons self-resolved their housing issues. One person resolved by moving out of state.
* A total of 19 people received Emergency Housing Vouchers.
* Two Persons were amputees and offered housing by APS.
* 2 persons had cancer, and another single person had Kidney Failure.
* We had 2 persons who are now deceased, (heart attack and road accident).

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On behalf of the LINK Board of Directors and staff, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone,

at every level of the PORT program, who participated during this memorable 30th season of the PORT Winter Shelter Program. The partnership, support, understanding, acceptance and kindness provides a safe haven of support during the five coldest months of the year.

**Costs**:

**$130,125\* city and state grants plus $116,613.70 \* additional infusion of $ from the city of Newport News for shelter operation support**

**The shelter costs totaled: $246,738.70 \***

**Cost per person/20 weeks: (555) $ 444.57**

**Cost per duplicated bed night/20 weeks $ 24.61**

**Total value of volunteer hours donated: $405,980.04**

**Total value of donated sites $200,000.00**

**Total value of food 25,460 x $22.50 per meal\*\* $572,850.00**

\*\*includes seconds/thirds of breakfasts and dinners

Plus, hotel meals delivered to guests by PORT staff provided by

Congregations:

**Paper products etc. (LINK) $ 6,229.00**

**Total donated clothing/shoes $273,690.00**

**TOTAL IN-KIND $1,458,749.04**

PLEASE NOTE: THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS HAS, SINCE NOVEMBER 2020, ALSO PROVIDED PORT WITH SUPPLIES TO INCLUDE PLASTIC BAGS FOR PORT GUEST BELONGINGS, LAUNDRY BAGS, CLEANING FLUIDS FOR COVID PREVENTION, HEPA FILTERS FOR THE SITES AND VEHICLES, CONVERSATION SHIELDS FOR WORKERS, PAPER MASKS FOR NIGHTLY DISTRIBUTION TO GUESTS/VOLUNTEERS, NURSES, FACE SHIELDS, PROTECTIVE DISPOSABLE CLOTHING FOR NURSES, PORTA POTTIES, AND MORE.

Thank you, Alan Archer and staff of the City of Newport News for your support in protecting the homeless men, women and children, volunteers and staff.

Thank you, Sheriff Gabe Morgan and the Newport News Sheriff’s Department, for their donated labor and costs associated with the daily laundry of shelter linens.

Thank you, Nancy Littlefield of Riverside and Sr. David Ann for Mary Immaculate Hospitals, for on-site Covid inoculations, flu shots and caring for our sick clients.

Thank you, Chief Steve Drew and the Newport News Police Department for their onsite back up.