

LINK of Hampton Roads, Inc.

10413 Warwick Boulevard
Newport News, VA 23601
757-595-1953

ANNUAL PORT REPORT 2020 – 2021

This being the most challenging season during PORT's 29 years of providing homeless services to the peninsula, managed to provide services the entire 20 weeks, greatly supported by local interfaith congregations and city of Newport News.

Volunteers from our partners from Temple Baptist and Denbigh Presbyterian assisted with the initial planning and logistical input.

Temple Baptist Church amazing parishioners, leadership and other interfaith and school volunteers provided both sleeping facilities for the first three weeks and a feeding site for up to 75 plus persons per night for the entire 140 nights of PORT!

New Beech Grove Baptist Church provided 17 weeks of ongoing site facilities for up to 60 persons nightly and also a superb plethora of willing volunteers mainly from New Beech Grove and a few from interfaith partners. After a few weeks of high numbers at both Temple Baptist Church and New Beech Grove Church, B floating sites were opened. First Baptist Newport News, Hilton Baptist, Warwick United Church of Christ, Denbigh Presbyterian Church, St. Jerome's Catholic Church and All Generations Church provided the excess shelter space for women and children. Some of these sites were manned by volunteers and others decided that they would let LINK's PORT staff and security oversee their facilities.

The city of Newport News provided a team of city personnel, led by Assistant City Manager, Alan Archer. These persons assisted with planning, logistical support, policing, security, budgeting, site set up, Covid updates and provided financial support, cleaning supplies, food supplies, etc., for the entire season. Members of the Sheriff's Dept., NN Police Dept., Health Dept., Social Services, Four Oaks, Planning, Codes, Budgeting, were all present and input to make PORT one of the most secure and clean programs during the height of Covid and the winter months.

United Way, Mary Immaculate and Riverside Hospital provided legal and medical support for our homeless guests. Riverside Hospital donated Pfizer vaccines to over 140 of our volunteers in January and the Health Dept., followed up with another 130 volunteers in March.

Nightly partner representation was provided by Newport News Social Services for families entering. 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, some showers and day time shelter. LINK staff utilized contacts with the VA Medical Center for support for veterans who entered. Coordination with other homeless service providers was ongoing for the whole season.

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First Baptist Newport News donated a bus to LINK to use during PORT; Temple Baptist and Denbigh Presbyterian both leased for \$1.00 their busses for use during PORT. Transportation was limited to 50% capacity of each vehicle and often times we had 3 – 4 vehicles on the road per morning or evening shifts.

Sr. David Ann and Temple Baptist's Tom Cline, Jackie Chambliss and Matt Beagle provided ongoing volunteer recruitment, oversight, disaster food preparation classes and oversaw that each day was covered for PORT feeding nights/bagged breakfasts.

Thank you to Peninsula Rescue Mission who remained on standby with room for men only at their facility in the event we needed to open a C shelter due to high numbers.

Clients were provided the utmost care and attention if sick. A total of eighteen persons we know of suffered from Covid, these consisted of guests, staff and volunteers. Guests were provided with hotel rooms once we had determined illness and one of the two hospitals had confirmed with staff the need for a hotel. The Key West Inn on Jefferson Ave., were awesome about accepting our clients who were sick. LINK staff ensured food was delivered on a daily basis to these folks, in collaboration with Four Oaks Day Support Center.

PORT shelter was completely automated this year, thanks to new computers from the city to help us expedite check in with minimum volunteer support. All data concerning the homeless was entered upon the guests' night of entry, into the Homeless Management Information System which helps homeless providers track persons in need, etc.

A staff of 62 seasonal workers were hired by LINK. LPN's provided medical oversight each night from 4 p.m. – 6.30 a.m. daily; security provided by Stealth Security and Newport News Sheriff's Dept were onsite also from 4 p.m. – 6.30 a.m. daily. Expedite Properties undertook the daily deep cleaning and daily laundering of each shelter site. Intake staff provided intake support to guests, nightly from 6.30 p.m. – 6.30 a.m.

Program demographics:

- 407 men, women and children were provided with 6,143 shelter beds during the 140 nights of operation.
- These consisted of 363 adults over 18; 43 children under 18; 1-person unknown age/information; 254 men and 107 women and three transgenders; 32 veterans; 21 male children and 22 female children.
- 20 families with children served. Most of the families were transferred by Newport News Social Services to hotels/motels or Menchville House.

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- 43 persons were placed into housing – 324 persons -resolved their homelessness.
- 53 persons were over 62 years and the oldest person was 84 years.
- PORT shelter is usually run for the 20 weeks, with grants totaling \$130,125 and donations from interfaith sites and partners who provide some financial support, food, food supplies, clothing, volunteers, etc.
- The in-kind value of the 9,000 plus volunteers/hours and food, site costs etc., far exceeds \$1.7 million annually!
- This season to date we have spent our usual grant awards totaling \$130,125 plus an additional to date, \$527,572.14, (which is still being finalized with the city of Newport News). Our designated donations for PORT from individuals, businesses and congregations was an additional \$9,003.00.

A thank you lunch is planned for June 5, 2021 from noon – 3 p.m. at Temple Baptist Church, 235 Harpersville Road, Newport News. **ALL who participated in PORT, welcome** – Please bring your own table and chair and be ready to eat! Food is BBQ – hamburgers, hot dogs, cold slaw, baked beans, and dessert. Contact Amelia at a.orlando@linkhr.org or call 757 504 8702.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and LINK staff we extend our grateful thanks to everyone at every level who participated for the PORT program this year, what an amazing job by one and all!