



# IMPACT *REPORT*



**THE URBAN RENEWAL CENTER**

Awakening Society to its Promised Wholeness.



Dear Partner,

We are grateful for the continuing opportunity to serve Hampton Roads. Throughout 2021, the Urban Renewal Center (URC) was blessed to work alongside several private and public organizations to support homeless citizens and to empower the city's youth. Also, our research division made headway in a deep dive into systemic challenges along racial and economic lines. We are grateful for all the donors who helped achieve our goals for 2021. We could not have done it without you!

We look forward to more opportunities this year to unite the community in "building the Beloved Community" through the following:

- Helping the homeless citizens of Hampton Roads secure employment.
- Launching groundbreaking research partnerships across Virginia.
- Facilitating youth empowerment through the arts and recreation.
- Working with organizations to foster better environments of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Advocating for lower-cost housing.
- Collaborating with law enforcement and mental health agencies toward a safer region.

This year, 2022, is the URC's 5th anniversary. As reflected in the Impact Report, the vision is unfolding immensely. Again, thank you so much for believing in our vision and helping us unite the community for positive change.

Rise to the call,



Antipas L. Harris



# HOMELESS IMPACT



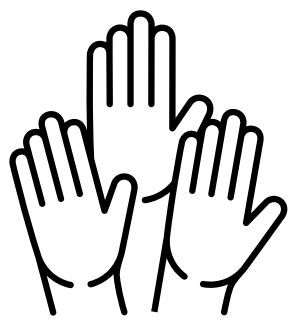
**500**  
VOLUNTEERS



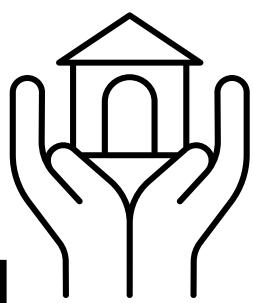
**38,800** MEALS PROVIDED



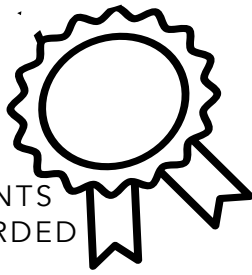
**7,376**  
NUMBER OF  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS



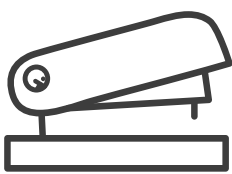
**150**  
COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZATIONS  
THAT PROVIDED  
DONATIONS AND  
VOLUNTEER TIME



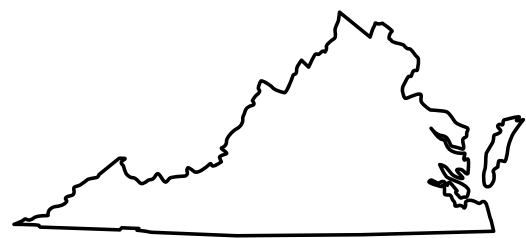
**41** GUESTS  
TRANSITIONED  
INTO HOUSING



**12**  
GRANTS  
AWARDED



**83** GUESTS  
RECEIVED JOB  
OFFERS



**3** LOCATIONS + **1** CITY



**125**  
GUESTS  
SERVED  
DAILY



**5** GUESTS  
ENROLLED IN  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE



**7** SUMMER  
INTERNS

# TRANSITION TO *PERMANENCE*

What an amazing journey this past year has been! In December of 2020, in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, First Presbyterian Church and the Urban Renewal Center hosted NEST at a single location for 5 months. While at First Presbyterian guests received a hot dinner and breakfast each day. The URC organized volunteers, meals and laundry for 55 guests nightly at this location.

In May of 2021, the City of Norfolk and the URC came together to launch the first low-barrier homeless shelter in Hampton Roads, constructing a place for our city's homeless population at the old Greyhound Bus Station. This temporary Center gave each guest a private tent, cot, and chair. It expanded capacity and gave space for up to 80 people to stay. The Center provided shelter, hot meals, showers, and resources to help those in need find more permanent housing and employment.

Throughout the summer and fall, the City and the URC worked tirelessly for a permanent solution. In October the shelter found its new permanent home, now called the Housing Center on Tidewater and located at the former Budget Inn. This space serves as a day center and residential shelter for 100 overnight guests.

As we were transitioning from transience to permanence our guests were also working to transition. During this time, we have helped 41 guests move to permanent housing.

As we move forward into this next chapter, we are excited about the awareness building in our city and the opportunities we have to work together for change. There have been over a hundred organizations that have partnered with us and we are so appreciative of everything offered, especially their time.





# PROVIDING BRIGHT *futures*

The end of the year came with the start of something new. As the day to day shelter operations reallocated to the City of Norfolk, upon the transition to the permanent location, the URC's deep commitment to serving the most vulnerable in our community remained steadfast. The URC created a new job role: Director of Homeless Employment Services. This role provides hands-on support towards upward mobility and additional independence for our guests.



The Homeless Employment Services Director wears many hats. The role involves everything from career mentorship, to coalition building, referrals to existing workforce programs, providing practical resources, and one-on-one work force preparation with guests. Our vision is that this effort would grow into a program that includes volunteer mentors and collaborates with educational opportunities to yield higher paying jobs.

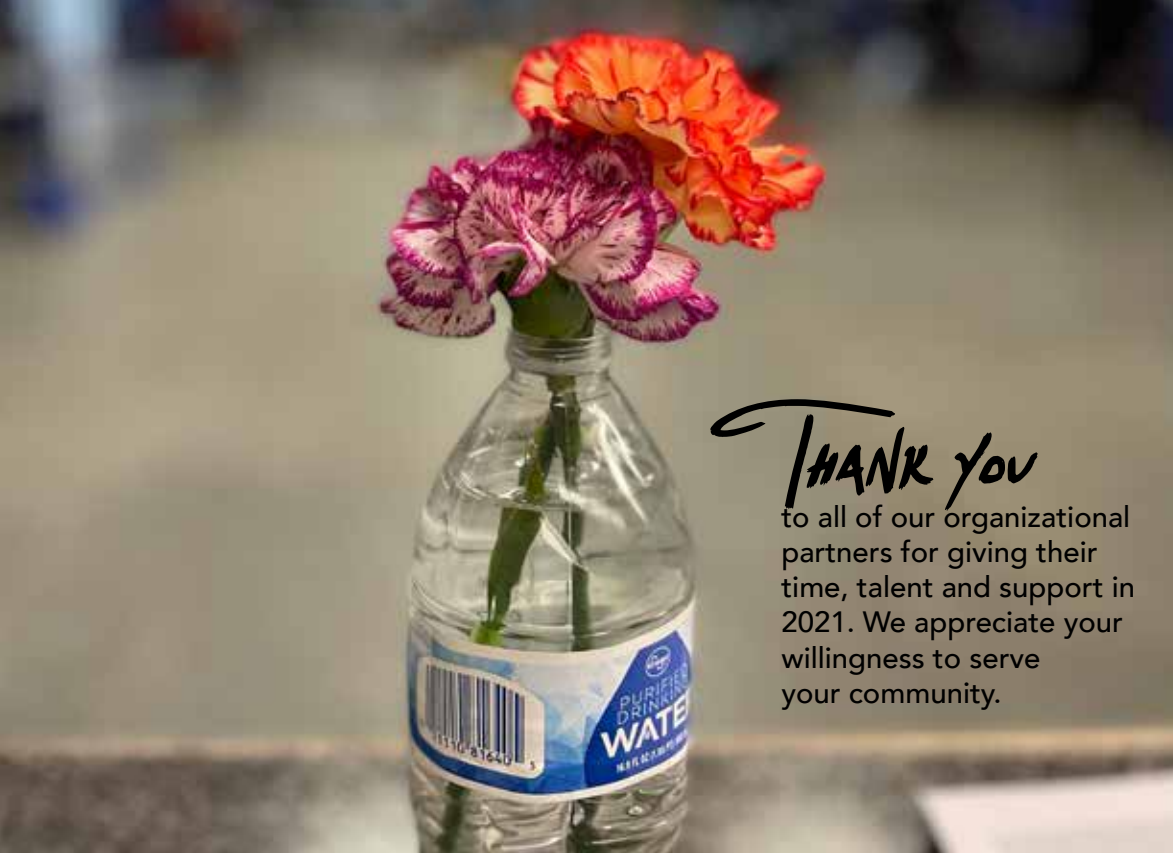
This past December we organized a computer, laptop and tablet drive. Our goal was to outfit a computer lab for work force preparation and virtual training. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our partners, we collected 22 computers, laptops, and tablets for the Workforce Lab at the shelter, which will be finished in February 2022. We look forward to being a part of transforming our guests' present situations to positively impact their future.



“

After staying with us at The Center for two months, our friend JJ was referred to and began working with the LGBTQ Life Center. Through this connection, she was able to begin a program and receive case management support assisting her with finding affordable housing. On September 30, she moved into her new apartment. The URC and our partners provided essentials and helped her furnish her new home. Since then, JJ has come back to the Center to volunteer and during the first week of our relocation, she posted encouraging messages to residents in the community room. We have stayed connected to her and she is thriving and thankful for the time she had at The Center. We hope she continues to move forward in great ways!





*THANK YOU*

to all of our organizational partners for giving their time, talent and support in 2021. We appreciate your willingness to serve your community.

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

K Shoes 4 1K Smiles  
3MC Car Club  
A Touch of Loving Care, Royal Hearts, Dedicated Hearts (Home Health Agencies)  
ABC Learning Center  
Acceptance Worship Church  
Amazing Grace Outreach  
American Legion Post 327  
AR&C, LLC.  
Bachata Vida Dance Company  
Baila Fuzion Dance and Creative Center  
Basilica of St. Mary  
BAZ VA Mission  
Behenn Church  
Berean Community Church  
Best Life Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine  
Bethel Church  
Biology Graduate Student Organization – ODU  
Black Lives Matter PAC  
Blessed Sacrament Church  
Bruce Jones Love Ministry  
Bryant Baptist Church  
C4C Ministries  
Calvary Revival Church  
Cathedral of Faith/Missionary Evangelist Outreach  
Chef Luv Food Truck  
Christ & St. Luke Church  
Christ United Methodist Church  
Coach Q Driver Improvement School  
Coalescence Coffee Company

Communities In Schools of Hampton Roads  
Crestar Health  
DAVA Unit #20  
DJ Be-Eezy  
DJ Joe Fu  
Dreal's CCS  
Ebenezer Baptist Church – VB  
EL Raines Transitional Housing  
Ethiopian World Federation  
Everyday Angels LLC  
Everyone Staffing & Homecare LLC  
Eastern Virginia Medical School  
First Baptist Church of Norfolk  
First Church of Christ  
First King 001 & Makeda  
First Lutheran Church of Norfolk  
First Presbyterian Church of Norfolk  
Flaming Knights LLC  
Freemason Baptist Church  
Genesis Lodge #2  
Gethsemane Community Church  
God Prepared Word Outreach  
GPW Outreach Ministry  
Granny's Givens  
Girlfriends Tea with Sebrina  
Hampton Roads Church  
Have Bread Will Travel  
Hawkins Hauling LLC  
Heart of Giving  
Hedges & Highway



Holland Baptist Church  
Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
House of Prayer  
HRVA Homes Impact Church  
IKEA  
Impact Worship Center  
Islamic Center of Tidewater  
Keep VA Warm  
Kings of King David #001 Masonic Lodge  
Kitsch  
La'Roy Reynolds  
Larchmont Elementary School  
Larchmont United Methodist Church  
Lighthouse Assembly of God  
Lindsey Brothers, Inc  
Love Nation  
Manna Ministry  
MeanZ Clean  
Mercy Chefs  
Miles Memorial United Methodist Church  
Moms on a Mission  
Moore Management & Entertainment  
Mr. Shawarma  
My Kidz Mentoring Program  
Nannie C. Phelps Women's Missionary  
Society - St. John's A.M.E. Church  
Naomi Lodge No. 87  
National Collision for Youth & Families  
New Calvary Baptist Church  
New Covenant Life Kingdom  
New Heights Fellowship  
New Life Church  
New Macedonia United Church of Christ  
New Vision Pioneers  
Norfleet's Cares  
Norfolk Botanical Garden  
Norfolk Catering Company  
Norfolk Criminal Justice Services  
Norfolk Elk's Lodge #38  
Norfolk Indoor Sports Turf  
Norfolk Fire Department  
Norfolk Police Department  
Norfolk Public Library  
Norfolk Public Schools  
Norfolk Sheriff's Office  
Norfolk Smoothie  
Norfolk Social Services  
ODU Athletic Department  
Ohef Sholom Temple  
Operation Smile  
Panera Bread  
Pard N Tha Smoke BBQ  
People of Change  
Price-LaGrange Books  
Promo Kings Radio Podcast  
Pursuit Clothing  
Queen St. Baptist Church  
Queens of Judah Order of the Eastern Stars  
Rebekah #024  
Residence Inn of Norfolk  
Reynold Reach Foundation

Rotary Alumni Association of Norfolk  
Rose of Sharon Revival Center  
Royal Legends  
Royster Presbyterian Church  
Sacred Heart Church  
Say It Sis, Inc.  
Sentara Ambulatory Care  
Sentara Leigh Hospital  
Sentara Norfolk General Hospital  
Sentara Trauma Department  
Serena Serenity Food Truck  
Sharp Men  
Shiloh Baptist Church  
Sinai Baptist Church  
Sistas with Jeeps VA  
Sisterhood of Muslimah  
Sisters of Martha #102  
Slover Library  
Southern Automotive  
Southside Baptist Church  
Spring Branch Church  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church  
St. Catherine's  
St. Kateri Church  
St. Paul CME Church Missionary Society  
St. Paul Community Development Corporation  
Starbucks  
Steven Wiley Law Office  
Sunrise Breakfast Shoppe  
Sweet Jam Café  
Synergy Health Systems  
T + C Truckin, LLC.  
T. Parker Host  
Taco Bell Norfolk – DMA  
TALA Unit 5  
Teens with a Purpose  
Temple Beth-El  
The Essence of Life Ministries  
The Millers Foundation  
The Norfolk Catering Company  
The Pentecostal Church of God  
The Recovery Team VA  
The United Order of Tents  
Third Presbyterian Church  
Thrivent Financial  
TIS Foundation  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Tundiclор  
United States Navy  
United Way  
VAW-121  
Vessel Craft Coffee  
Victorious Living Community Development  
VPA The Port of VA  
Wayside Communication Outreach, Inc.  
Whole Way Ministries  
Within Interior Design  
Women of Steel from NNSY  
World Overcomers Kingdom Ministries  
X-Seeds, INC

# IMPACTING OUR *YOUTH*

For the past four summers, the Urban Renewal Center has hosted IMPACT Camp. This camp is free of charge and offered to any student in the city of Norfolk. The goal is to develop Norfolk's youth into the next generation of leaders in the community and the world. Due to COVID-19 we revamped our camp from three weeks every day, to hosting 25-35 middle school aged campers from various Norfolk public schools each Saturday throughout the month of June.

The camp was held at Norfolk Indoor Sports Turf and centered around a different leadership attribute each week. The students participated in a variety of engaging, educational and fun activities. They enjoyed visits from the Norfolk Police Department Harbor Patrol, K-9 unit, SWAT team and traffic division. Each morning camp started with a variety of fitness activities and students learned about health and wellness choices.

Some of their favorite activities were dodgeball and getting breakfast from local restaurants. The children built relationships with counselors and made new friends! They all left asking when they could come back. This camp builds confidence, resilience and responsibility, turning students into empowered, inspiring leaders.



# SHARING WITH *OTHERS*

In November, the URC joined with the TIS Foundation and the St. Paul's Community Development Corporation to distribute turkeys. More than 200 turkeys were delivered to families in need in the neighborhoods of Tidewater Park and Young's Terrace. What a privilege to connect with these communities and share our blessings!



# GIVING BACK TO OUR *community*

The Urban Renewal Center partnered together with Thrivent and Baila Fuzion Dance and Creative Arts Center to lead our first ever Christmas Toy Drive. Working with Communities In Schools of Hampton Roads, we located more than 1,000 children in the region that we could bring a smile to on Christmas morning. We collected hundreds of toys in our toy drive! People from all across Hampton Roads and throughout the country donated. On the Saturday morning before Christmas we gathered to spread Christmas cheer to local families.



# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

## Income

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Donations.....                                   | \$214,467.98     |
| Grants .....                                     | 103,000.00       |
| Amazon Smile.....                                | 11.20            |
| Network for Good (social media fundraising)..... | 635.00           |
| Programs and Services.....                       | 199,128.33       |
| <br>TOTAL  | <br>\$517,242.51 |

## Expenses

### PROGRAM EXPENSES

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Meals for Homeless.....       | 95,709.63        |
| IMPACT Camp.....              | 17,964.64        |
| Internship Program .....      | 8,419.29         |
| Guest Support Service .....   | 895.52           |
| Beloved Community.....        | 600.00           |
| <br>Administrative Costs..... | <br>13,927.68    |
| Salaries & Benefits.....      | 270,454.93       |
| <br>TOTAL                     | <br>\$407,971.69 |

NET INCOME \$109,270.82

## GRANTS RECEIVED THIS YEAR:

Frank & Aimee Batten Donor Advised Fund

City of Norfolk

Blocker Foundation

Hampton Roads Community Foundation

Blackbaud Giving Fund  
[from the Tegna Foundation]

Human Services Grant

James & Karen Squires Donor Advised Fund

Presbytery of Eastern Virginia

Ghent Area Ministries

Starbucks

Community Development Block Grant

TEGNA



# RESEARCH FOR *The future*

This year saw the greatest advancement in the URC's Research Center since its launch in 2019. We ended 2021 with a growing and engaged audience as our work continued to shape public discourse around housing in Norfolk.

This year, we published five articles, hosted seven student interns from two universities, and were awarded 12 grants. Our impact was principally led by our *Squeezed Out* series which looks at Wall St.'s buy up of apartments in Hampton Roads, and the resulting crisis of affordable housing. Our *Squeezed Out* series has been viewed thousands of times. It garnered national attention and led to speaking invitations alongside esteemed scholars at NSU, Virginia Wesleyan, Virginia Beach Public Schools, and Americorps.

This past year also saw renewed attention on previous projects from the Research Center. Our previous work on gentrification landed Antipas Harris a spot on Soledad O'Brien's television show *Disrupt and Dismantle*. At the same time, Research Director Alexander Fella (pictured top left) will be featured in an upcoming feature-length documentary on tolls for his piece *When Tolls Take a Toll*.

While our focus in 2021 was on housing, we expanded our research mandate to include work on the way climate change is impacting communities in Norfolk. Our work on climate and housing brought us new partnerships with universities, local news outlets, and national non-profits. Building off the success of 2021, our collaborations will lay the ground for 2022 as we continue to advocate for housing justice in all its forms across Hampton Roads.

INTERESTED IN READING THESE PUBLICATIONS & MORE?  
VISIT [WWW.THEURCNORFOLK.COM/RESEARCH](http://WWW.THEURCNORFOLK.COM/RESEARCH)

## 2021 by the numbers...

**12** GRANTS AWARDED

**7** INTERNS

**6** SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

**5** ARTICLES WRITTEN



“

Forty-six year old, Mr. “K. Georges,” was known around the shelter for having one of the best, most persistent smiles. Georges was on the streets for a year before he learned about The Center. He shared that when he was on the street he was working odd jobs and did not have any motivation to change his life. When he received a tent at The Center, things began to change. He began to regain stability and with that stability - motivation. By the end of August, he had an opportunity to work consistently with a construction company. By September 15, he shared with the staff that he had found a rooming house and would be moving out on October 1. Mr. Georges is now celebrating 4 months of living in his new home, working construction, and now regularly stops by the shelter to share his progress.





**THE URBAN RENEWAL CENTER**  
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