



THRIVE Peninsula Times



Helping Families Across the Peninsula

13195 Warwick Boulevard, Unit 2C, Newport News, VA 23602 www.thrivepeninsula.org 757-877-6211 June 2017

MISSION

To Encourage, Educate and Empower our neighbors in need toward transformed and self-sustaining lives.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Thursday: 10am-5pm
Call to schedule an after hours donation drop-off

FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 1pm-3pm
Tuesday: 10am-2pm



Give Local 757 Raised Needed Funds



Through the Give Local 757 campaign, THRIVE received donations from 54 individuals, totaling nearly \$4000.

That amount includes a \$757 Gold Ticket Cash Prize from the Peninsula Community Foundation. These funds will help provide THRIVE's services to the Peninsula families who need them most. These services include rent and utility bill assistance, fresh, frozen, and shelf stable food from

the pantry, and financial education. Thank you to all those who shared the word and invited friends to give. This campaign has been a great way for THRIVE to gain public recognition, connect with new donors, and raise funds to further support local families in need. Reaching \$4000 in funds for THRIVE's first year is a notable accomplishment. We are grateful for all those who participated in this fantastic community effort!

THRIVE Joins Virginia Peninsula Food Bank

Last month, THRIVE joined the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank (<http://hrfoodbank.org/>) in order to serve food to more families. This membership allows THRIVE to acquire frozen and shelf-stable food for 19 cents per pound, and fresh food at no cost.

In April, THRIVE was awarded a \$500 grant from the Portsmouth Service League which will provide 2,631 extra pounds of food from the Food Bank. During the summer months, THRIVE receives 30% more requests because children are home from school; this grant in partnership with the Foodbank, will help meet that need. THRIVE is now seeking the donation of 2 large coolers so we can transport cold food safely.

Food Pantry Most Needed Items

June 2017

- Beans
- Tomato Sauce
- Jelly
- Pasta



Coolers needed to transport cold food from the Food Bank to THRIVE.



Volunteer Spotlight



This month's volunteer is Brenda Dawson, president of the THRIVE's Board of Directors. Five years ago, she and fellow church member Roceda Dawson asked the pastor, Dr. Willard Maxwell, Jr., to resume the church's partnership with THRIVE (then DUCO). 2017 is Brenda's first year as THRIVE's

board president.

Brenda's vision for THRIVE for the next two years is to recruit more volunteers, increase staff, and expand fund-raising activities to generate at least a 10 percent increase in revenue in each of the next two years. These efforts will result in more services that can be provided to needy members of the community. Her goal is to motivate each member of the Board to become ambassadors for THRIVE in order to increase THRIVE's visibility in the community and its impact on serving the less fortunate. Brenda says that there is a lot of talent on the board, and working together, they can continue to do great things. She stresses the importance of the fund raisers for the food pantry and the shoe drives that enable people in third-world countries to have shoes that will protect them from dangerous parasites.

Benda retired in 2006 from 33 years of Civil Service with the Department of the Army. In addition to her many activities at THRIVE, she serves as a trustee for her church, and as a member of the Boards of First Advantage Federal Credit Union and the First Advantage Foundation.

Brenda is exceedingly grateful for the excellent volunteers and to the THRIVE staff: Angela, Sheila, and Stephanie. She is also grateful for the many churches that have formed partnerships with THRIVE and helped to make headquarters ownership a reality.

Brenda is a widow with two sons, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild; she cherishes each of them. She also enjoys her many church activities including making pillow-case dresses that missionaries take to young girls in poor countries. She describes herself as being blessed, so she has no choice but to try to bless others.

Client Testimony

Elaine * is a single mom with four young children, ranging in age from 18 months to 10 years old. After losing her job, she went on government



assistance for to stay afloat. When her assistance ended, she began working side jobs to support her family but it wasn't enough: she could not afford to pay her rent. She was referred to THRIVE Peninsula by her pastor at All Nations Church. Elaine says the staff at THRIVE were very helpful and rescued her family from being homeless again. She and her children had lived in a shelter for a short time. Elaine is actively seeking additional employment so that she can become fully self-sufficient.

* Name has been changed to protect client's privacy

Help us Fill Backpacks for 50 children!

We are seeking churches or groups to adopt an educational item or two that will be used to fill 50 grade-specific backpacks for children this fall. The backpacks will be filled with the required educational supplies for students who come from low-income families. If you're group is willing to adopt a school item, please contact Angela: 757-877-6211.

