PEOPLE FIRST

Winter Coat Drive: Over 300 coats were donated during our January coat drive. Special thanks to our community partners including Waterside who offered gift cards in exchange for donations at their host location, Elegance Cleaners for donating garment bags to individually wrap each coat, the Norfolk Sherriff’s Office for laundering approximately 250 coats, and Mr. DeAnthony Anderson, U.S. Army and resident, who singlehandedly transported the coats to the Sherriff’s Office in his vehicle. Additional thanks to Gethsemane Community Fellowship for serving as a host site, Faith Deliverance Christian Center, United Way, For Kids, Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia, and residents for pitching in to keep families warm this winter.

Education: People First hosted a virtual parent workshop ‘Attendance During a Pandemic’ with Norfolk Public Schools in February. Parents participated in a Q&A session about actions needed if their children fell behind on assignments and NPS addressed concerns about virtual technology. People First will continue to support families to increase attendance by increasing enrollment in virtual learning support programs, emotional well-being and tutoring services offered by our partner network and engaging with families through workshops and coaching calls to ensure they have the resources and support needed to succeed in the virtual environment.

Health & Wellness: People’s Pharmacy, LLC is providing health assessments and health plans to 10-12 residents per month with chronic health conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and asthma.

Economic Mobility: The ODU Dream Builder program, focused on business ownership and entrepreneurship, held a virtual graduation for the inaugural Tidewater Gardens class in January. The second cohort of the program began in February with 11 residents. The Up Center is providing individualized financial planning and counseling services to residents.

Relocation: 120-day relocation notices will be issued to 18 households in February. People First hosted two group mobility counseling sessions with these households in addition to their ongoing individual mobility and family coaching sessions.

Partner Collaboration: 28 partners participated in the People First quarterly service partner network meeting in February. Partners reviewed trendline data on supportive service enrollment for families, identified potential factors impacting the data, and developed strategies to address any adverse factors.

Resident Services and Engagement Snapshot (as of 1/31/21)

- Signed up for services so far: 1,415 People (includes children)/ 519 Households
- Total number of household assessments completed: 459
- Service linkages since August 1, 2019: 559
- Housing Stability Interventions: 61
- Relocations: 293 (150 of which utilized Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV))
REDEVELOPMENT

Blue-Greenway/ Resilience Park: A collaborative design workshop for the blue-greenway was hosted virtually by the Moffatt & Nichol consultant design team. The blue-greenway is a 26-acre resilient park that will protect the community from flooding by managing stormwater and tidal issues related to sea level rise, but will also serve as a great amenity to the community and the city. Toole Recreational Planning and Stromberg, Garrigan & Associates, partners of Moffatt & Nichol, are focusing on the design of the community recreation and amenity aspects of the blue-greenway. This team began stakeholder interviews with residents, community organizations, the St. Paul’s Advisory Committee, and city staff this month and will continue engaging community members in the process to ensure the design reflects their vision.

Demolition: The McDonald’s on St. Paul’s Boulevard closed in January, and the building will be demolished by early spring to prepare the site for the new Freemason Street extension, which will provide east west connectivity for the redevelopment. The development team is working closely with the owners of McDonald’s to include them back into the redevelopment.

City Infrastructure: Bid packages for stormwater improvements on Posey Lane & Wood Street and the new pump station were received by Public Works and the Utilities Department and awards are pending. Construction is projected to begin on both by early spring.

Economic Inclusion: City departments continue to collaborate on the implementation of the new Economic Inclusion Plan and Procurement Policy in their respective contractual work for the St. Paul’s Area and the development of outreach strategies to small businesses. Next steps include the exploration of an external advisory/engagement group comprised of business owners, residents, and technical assistance providers to give feedback on the developing plan and approach.

Community Engagement: The team hosted a virtual development focus group meeting with 6 residents in February. Topics discussed include unit layouts, indoor and outdoor amenities, spaces for children to play, and cultural/ historical neighborhood assets. This feedback will help guide the continued planning and design of the Tidewater Gardens redevelopment and the team will continue to host more focus group meetings in the future.

ST. PAUL’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

Next Virtual Meeting: February 16th, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. Tune in here.