PEOPLE FIRST

**Education:** People First Empowered by USI is supporting families as children embark on the new school year. People First hosted a school supply giveaway event in August for Tidewater Gardens families on Walke Street and participated in open houses at P.B. Young and Tidewater Park Elementary to engage with families and provide supplies and resource information. The team joined staff and community members at Ruffner Academy to welcome students back on the first day of school. People First continues to work with families individually to support their education goals.

**Genealogy Program:** Tidewater Gardens residents participated in genealogy workshops offered by Don’t Duck History, a local history non-profit. The first workshop was a paint party and introduction to genealogy. The second workshop took a deeper dive and included family research. One participant learned the names of relatives, including great-grandparents, that she had not known about prior. These workshops will continue to be offered virtually this fall. Don’t Duck History is a recipient of a People First Micro Grant to offer this programming to residents to learn more about their family histories and ensure that the history and identity of the community is documented and celebrated.

**Economic Mobility:** Five Section 3 participants graduated from the inaugural class of the Dignity of Work program last month, three of which are Tidewater Gardens residents. Three graduates were placed into jobs with Virginia Carolina Civil and Bridgeman Civil on City of Norfolk infrastructure construction projects currently underway in the neighborhood. Two graduates are working with People First to secure additional certifications and opportunities to reach their goals. The Dignity of Work program is a free 5-week construction fundamentals training program that provides OSHA10, forklift, and flagger certifications. This program is offered through a partnership with Tidewater Community College and Hampton Roads Workforce Council.

**Bank On:** Bank On Hampton Roads is launching a virtual 5-month financial literacy program for St. Paul’s Area residents this month. The program pairs instruction with one-on-one financial coaching and a matched-savings incentive to support participants in reaching their goals in the areas of budgeting, savings, credit score improvement, and debt reduction.

**Resident Services and Engagement Snapshot (as of 8/31/21)**

- Signed up for services so far: 1,518 People (includes children)/ 575 Households
- Total number of household assessments completed: 501 (unduplicated)
- Service linkages\(^2\) in August: 81
- Housing Stability Interventions\(^3\): 62
- Relocations: 386 (206 of which utilized Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV))

To learn more about our People First work, outcomes, and read resident success stories, view our [Year 2 Impact Report](#).

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1 Section 3 is a HUD program designed to ensure employment opportunities generated by federally-funded projects are directed to low-income individuals in the local community.

2 Intentional connection to a supportive service resource for which a family has demonstrated need in the area of housing stability, economic mobility, health and wellness, or education. People First tracks at referral, waitlisting, enrolled, connected and completed.

3 Rent and utility relief, mobility and landlord-tenant counseling, barrier removal support to ensure families remain stably housed.
Economic Inclusion: The City hosted a virtual webinar focused on doing business with the city for Minority-owned and Women-owned businesses on August 26th as a part of the St. Paul’s Transformation – Build Your Business, Build Your Community campaign. During the event, the city’s Chief Procurement Officer provided an overview on the city’s procurement process, understanding city solicitations and requests for RFPs, how to get connected to opportunities, and concluded with a question-and-answer session. 20 individuals participated in the live event and 80 individuals registered and received the recording of the event afterwards to view at their convenience. The team is currently planning the next virtual lunch & learn in the series that will be focused on business operational readiness and small business support.

Minority and Women-owned businesses interested in participating in the project should visit our website www.norfolk.gov\stpaulsopportunity for more information or call our hotline at 757-664-6800.

City Infrastructure: The contract advertisement for Phase I infrastructure construction was posted in August and closed early this month. The team is currently reviewing bid submissions for the project which include economic inclusion plans. Phase I infrastructure work includes new roadway, stormwater, and utility infrastructure to support the neighborhood and new housing that will be built around the downtown HRT transit center. Construction is anticipated to start in December 2021.

Redevelopment Surveys – We Want to Hear From You!
Three surveys are currently open for community feedback on aspects of the Tidewater Gardens redevelopment in the St. Paul’s Area. There are three survey stations in the neighborhood at the People First office on Walke Street, Hunton YMCA, and St. Mary’s Church with paper surveys for residents to complete as they visit these locations. The surveys are also available online and citywide feedback is requested. Please use the links below to access the surveys and share with community members.

- **Tidewater Gardens Vision Survey** Help refine the vision for the neighborhood and initial housing design concepts in the Tidewater Gardens neighborhood.
- **Resilience Park (Blue-Greenway)** The Resilience Park will be a 26-acre park that will protect the neighborhood from flooding by managing stormwater and will also serve as a great community recreational park amenity. Tell us what a great day in the park looks like to you!
- **Roadway Network** Provide your feedback on the Department of Transit’s design for the new multi-modal roadway network that will support the neighborhood.

**ST. PAUL’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE Next Meeting:** September 21st, 2021 at 6 p.m. at St. Mary’s Basilica. Missed the last meeting? You can find the [meeting minutes here](#).