

Rotary Alumni Summer/Spring Service Project - 2021

After a successful fall service project in conjunction with the District 7600 Conference in Virginia Beach, your Rotary Alumni sought an opportunity to combat the secondary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic during its Spring / Summer service project. Because social distancing requirements reduced overall capacity, many homeless shelters were unable to provide housing services in the face of increasing demand. This dilemma left many of our neighbors on the street or in tent cities.

After research and consultation with non-profits across the district, we partnered with [The Salvation Army Central Virginia](#) in Richmond and [The Urban Renewal Center](#) in Norfolk to provide ponchos to transient people who do not have access to shelters in our communities.

We purchased the 100 ponchos through a local vendor, *Hand Over Your Logo*, in Mechanicsville. The durable, multi-use ponchos were made from Brazilian sugar cane and the producing company, Green Gear Supply, donates a portion of each purchase to environmental sustainability initiatives. As with many efforts during COVID, shipment was delayed but the ponchos arrived in early July and were delivered immediately.

On July 9th, Rotary Alumni President John Miller delivered the first 50 ponchos to the temporary shelter in downtown Norfolk. Mr. Jordan Brown, director of the Urban Renewal Center, received the donation and noted that the shelter remained at max capacity. The following day, the ponchos were put to use as the shelter residents moved to Scope Arena in advance of the first hurricane weather impact of the year.



On July 16th, Rotary Alumni Adeeb Hamzey and Jan Rowley delivered 50 ponchos to the Richmond Salvation Army shelter. Captain Jason Burns, Area Commander for the Central Virginia Area Command of the Salvation Army, expressed his gratitude for such a practical donation that would enhance the services provided to the clients of the shelter. Captain Burns talked about the efforts to make the services for clients transformational instead of transitional and we look forward to being part of that effort in the future. In one project, your Rotary Alumni supported our homeless neighbors, our local business, and our environment in one initiative. That's what we call a winning effort.



Special thanks to Class of 2020 Rotary Alumni Inductee and Rotary Club of Oyster Point E-Club President, Ashley Olin for sourcing the ponchos and the following contributors: Jan Rowley, Adeeb Hamzey, Clenise Platt, James Probsdorfer, Tom Dana, Ken Morgan, Shelly Hunter, Megan Smith, Michael Desplaines, Yvonne Bjorklund, and Shaunna Hunter-McKinney.

Submitted by 2020-21 Alumni Association President John Miller and Alumni Jan Rowley.