2016 Community Impact

"Making the Virginia Peninsula a better place for everyone who lives here."

In 2016, the Foundation continued to provide a great benefit to the Peninsula. Last year, we provided a total of $4 million toward critical projects in our community. Here are some of the ways we are impacting the quality of life on the Peninsula:

We are strengthening our local not for profit infrastructure.

- Our third Give Local 757 event raised $610,000 in 24 hours for 223 local nonprofits. The project has raised $1.2 million to date.
- We partnered with the Daily Press-Ferguson Holiday Fund campaign to raise over $163,000 for 23 grants to 23 Peninsula nonprofits.
- We helped launch a new giving program, Impact 100. In its first year, 198 Peninsula women came together to raise $106,000 and awarded two $50,000 grants to nonprofits that provide critical assistance to families on the Peninsula.
- We managed the investments of a dozen nonprofit endowment funds, including five new funds, helping them to grow a sound financial base.

Our Scholarship programs continue to grow and provide needed support.

- We currently manage eleven scholarship programs that serve a variety of students on the Peninsula.
- Last year we provided 87 local youth with over $144,000 to attend college.

Our Large Employer Hardship Funds continue to serve more people.

- In 2016, we helped 86 families to get back on their feet after an unplanned catastrophe had threated their quality of life.
- Although our economy is continuing to improve, we are seeing more employees struggle to meet basic needs when trouble arises.

We are the only non-governmental agency providing thought leadership and independent research on issues impacting the Peninsula.

- The Housing Crisis Hotline, created in 2015 from our collaboration with Ferguson Enterprises and 60 local nonprofits, received over 10,000 calls in 2016. As a result, 3,098 Peninsula families were placed in emergency shelters and 2,832 were provided rental assistance. These numbers demonstrate the tremendous impact we are making toward the intended goal: ending homelessness on the Peninsula.

- We concluded our Early Childhood Development study in 2016. Based on our community report and in conjunction with the Board of Smart Beginnings, we have helped produce a new strategic plan for programs for our children under the age of five.
- Last year, we began identifying major demographic and economic trends facing the Peninsula and began developing strategies necessary to ensure an improved quality of life.
- We are working with the City of Newport News to improve the quality of life for its citizens based on our research. This includes working as a member of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative in Ridley Circle and identifying potential partners for future work in the Southeast community.
- Based on our research, the City of Hampton has agreed to fund a community needs assessment in two of its oldest neighborhoods. They have agreed to provide $50,000 in funding over the next year to assist in our study.

We have, in a relatively short time, become a community resource.

- We are sought out daily for our opinions and support by a wide range of programs and persons seeking to improve the quality of life on the Peninsula.
- We are strategically partnering with a variety of organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, Smart Beginnings of the Virginia Peninsula, the Fort Monroe Authority, Christopher Newport University, Thomas Nelson Community College, and many others.

The Community Foundation is making an impact. Our ability to move forward is only constrained by our imagination, and our ability to fund new initiatives. You can help in both areas by helping us think about a better future and helping to raise the capital needed to make great things happen.