



City of Hopewell, Virginia

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MEDIA RELEASE

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****Successful 1st Annual Holiday Meal Assistance Event ****

[Hopewell, VA] – Our 1st Annual Holiday Meal Assistance Event was a huge success! Our hope was to give back to as many families as possible and Saturday, November 21, 2020 we did just that. We were able to distribute over 51, 000 lbs. of food to those in need. Food was served to over 2,000 vehicles that arrived at the Hopewell High School.

This was no small task. Two Hopewell Police Officers, Ron Fregeolle and Mike Redavid thought up this magnificent event. For months, these two officers, our Community Engagement Team, reached out, spoke to, and coordinated with businesses and members of our community to donate food for this celebration. It was their efforts and the giving hearts of Tyson Foods, Randolph Market, Food Lion, Feed More, Hopewell Food Pantry, Destination Church (Prince George County) and the Hopewell Police Department employees who came together to ultimately donate 25 tons of food for this event.

We could not have put together this event and the food for distribution without the help from an enormous amount of giving people making up this team. The team consisted of members of the Hopewell Police Department, Battalion Chief Ronnie Ellis and members of the Hopewell Fire/EMS, Sheriff Steve Kephart and members of the Hopewell Sheriff's Office, the Hopewell Food Pantry, members of our community, faith-based leader Pastor Vodricka Epps, our City Manager John "March" Altman, our members of City Council, Mayor Jasmine Gore, Councilor Brenda Pelham, Councilor Janice Denton, Senator Joseph Morrissey and citizen volunteers. We must also thank our Hopewell Public Schools for allowing us to utilize Hopewell High School for the event location.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what you are doing for others?" We could not have had such a successful event and given back to our community without these partnerships and the fellowship we had yesterday. We want to say thank you again to those who made this event possible, and for its creation by Officers Fregeolle and Redavid. We look forward to more events to continue to build our relationship with our wonderful Hopewell community. We wish all a very Happy Holiday!

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