



**serve
the
city.**

peninsula



2025

Annual Report

Serving Like A Superhero!

The term “superhero”, initially describing individuals with exceptional talents or courage before becoming synonymous with comic book characters, has been around for well over 100 years. In 2025, the idea of volunteering superheroes became the theme for Serving Stories, a podcast from Serve the City International (check it out wherever you get your podcasts or at servingstories.net – you won’t be disappointed). And our volunteers are superheroes, in the original meaning, to those they serve.



The truth is, most of what our volunteers do doesn’t look like what we typically imagine when we think of superheroes. There are no spotlights or headlines. Instead, it looks like showing up on a cold evening to serve a warm meal. It looks like pulling weeds in a yard that has been overwhelming for someone to manage alone. It looks like listening—really listening—to someone who just needs to be seen.

And yet, these simple acts carry extraordinary weight.

Over the past year, we’ve been reminded that the real impact of service is often found in moments that don’t keep a schedule. It’s found in the pause between tasks, in the conversations that weren’t planned, in the trust that builds slowly over time. What begins as a project often becomes something more—connection, dignity, and a renewed sense that none of us are alone.

We’ve also seen how service has a way of shaping not just the communities around us, but the people who step into them. Many who come to serve expecting to give something away find that they receive something just as meaningful in return—a deeper connection to their neighbors, a clearer sense of purpose, and a growing belief that small actions really do matter.

And perhaps most encouraging is this: service has a way of multiplying. One act leads to another. One person stepping forward creates space for others to do the same. Over time, what starts as a single moment of care becomes part of something larger—a shared culture of compassion that strengthens an entire community.

As we look ahead, the needs in our communities are not going away. But neither is the willingness of people to step in and care for one another. If anything, this year has reminded us that hope grows in very real ways—through hands, through presence, through simple acts of love.

So thank you—for showing up, for leaning in, and for being part of this story.

Because in the end, superheroes don’t wear capes.

They show up.



Cindy Hahne

Executive Director

Serve the City Peninsula

In 2025, we showed up—together. Through simple acts of service, volunteers built relationships, met urgent needs, and helped restore dignity across our community.

A Year of Presence and Practical Love

Early in 2025, volunteers gathered on chilly winter evenings to make meals and serve warm hospitality to men, women, and children at the PORT winter shelter—packing not just food but conversation and companionship for those who had nowhere else to be. One volunteer shared, ***“It wasn’t about the meal itself — it was being there, looking someone in the eye and telling them they matter.”*** These moments — quiet, humble, and relational — set the tone for how we served throughout the year.



Meeting Urgent Needs with Compassion

The faces of our community became familiar to many volunteers — the father pushing a grocery cart full of blankets, the grandmother with aching knees who couldn’t keep up in her yard. In one of our yard service projects in September, volunteers transformed an overgrown yard for an elderly neighbor who had said simply, ***“I didn’t think anyone would come.”*** In their own words, volunteers returned from serving saying, ***“We left more blessed than we arrived”*** — a testament to the mutual dignity in service.

Investing in People, Not Just Projects

The heart of our movement was reflected in volunteer spotlights throughout the year — from students logging hours during summer breaks to retirees who became steady project leads. One volunteer described their motivation succinctly: ***“Service isn’t something we do once — it’s how I stay connected to hope and to my community.”*** These voices remind us that the true impact of STC lies not just in tasks completed, but in lives changed.



Serving Neighbors at Home

Home-based service requests grew significantly in 2025, with dozens of neighbors applying for help with minor home repairs, painting, and yard work that otherwise would go undone. These visits often became moments of shared humanity. In one memorable case, a homeowner hugged the volunteers after they completed work and said, ***“I thought I’d have to wait here forever. You came today.”*** That simple statement captured the profound impact of small kindnesses.



Mobilizing Volunteers at Scale

Big Volunteer Week in June mobilized volunteers across feeding programs, gardening, home repair, and community cleanup sites. One volunteer team leader reflected, ***“We saw neighbors we’ve known for years step up together — parents, students, retirees — all saying ‘this matters to me.’”*** A highlight came during a community garden day in September, when local neighbors joined STC volunteers to prepare plots for fall growing — a simple act that generated laughter, sweat, and new friendships.

Looking Ahead with Hope

As we look toward the future, the stories from 2025 — like the joyful embraces after a home was refreshed, or the shared jokes in a community garden on a warm September morning — remind us why public service matters. One seasoned volunteer said it simply: ***“Hope grows where hands reach out.”*** This season of service deepened our resolve to meet neighbors with compassion, courage, and humility into 2026 and beyond.



Strengthening Community Partnerships



2025 saw strategic growth in collaboration with longtime partners like LINK of Hampton Roads and new allies such as HESources All, who opened their doors to STC volunteers to help sort food and clothing for distribution in Newport News. This growth extended also to our volunteer partners and our financial partners. Here is a complete list of all our superhero partners, without whom none of what we do would be possible.

Our Service Partners

Barrett-Peake Historical Foundation
City of Newport News
City of Hampton
East End Neighborhood Alliance
ECHO Family Care Partners*
Exchange Club of Wythe
Fear2Freedom
Greater Hampton Roads Diaper Bank
Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture
HESources All*
KUF Marketplace Resource Center
LINK of Hampton Roads
Newport News Green Foundation*
Newport News RHA

Newsome Park Elementary School
Peninsula Foodbank
Riverside Hospital*
SAME*
Sleep In Heavenly Peace
Tarrant Middle School
The Hampton Area Missionary Council*
The Heart of Giving
The Simple Sunflower
THRIVE
Tidewater Friends of Foster Care*
Tree of Life Clinic*
United Way of the Virginia Peninsula
Wreaths Across America*

We Value Our Partners—We're Better Together

Financial Partners

Barrett-Peake Heritage Foundation
Bernadine Franciscan Sisters Foundation
City of Newport News
Ferguson Cares
Huntington Ingalls Industries – Newport News Shipbuilding

Keep the Promise Ministries
Kroger Community Rewards*
The Blocker Foundation*
Walmart*

And our many individual donors!

Volunteer Partners

Branches of the Vine Community Church

Christopher Newport University

Community Knights

Ferguson Enterprises

Freedom Life Church

Good Girls Movement - Hampton University*

Hampton University*

Hilton Baptist Church

Home Educators Recreation & Enrichment

Huntington Ingalls - Newport News Shipbuilding

Immanuel Baptist Church

Isle of Wight Academy

Junior Enlisted Association at JFK

Menchville Baptist Church*

MRC Health Dept

Newport News Fire Department

Newport News Police Department

Peninsula Catholic High School



Peninsula Community Chapel

Pretty Aura Pretty Ways LLC

Rotary Club of Warwick*

Summit Christian Academy

Temple of Peace Church

Truth in the Spirit Ministry

US Airforce

US Coast Guard*

WSA Sr. Beta Club

Youth Volunteer Corps of Hampton Roads

**** A special welcome to all our 1st time partners***



To all of these wonderful organizations and individuals—

Thank You!

From the Board of Directors and Core Team of Serve the City Peninsula



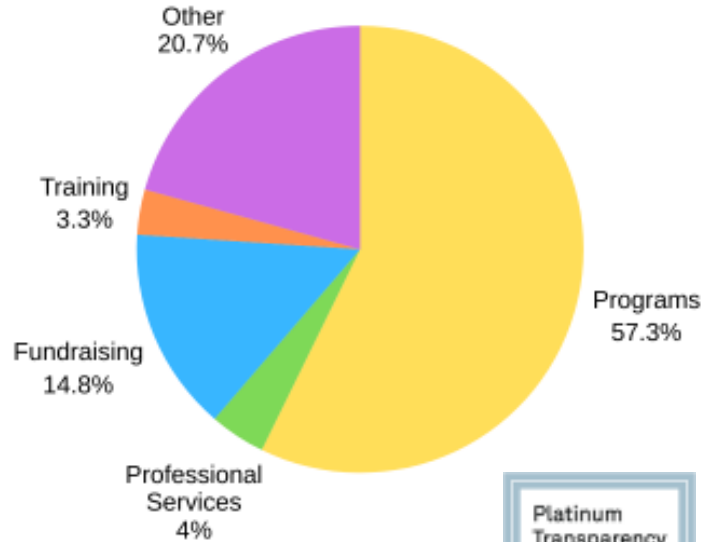
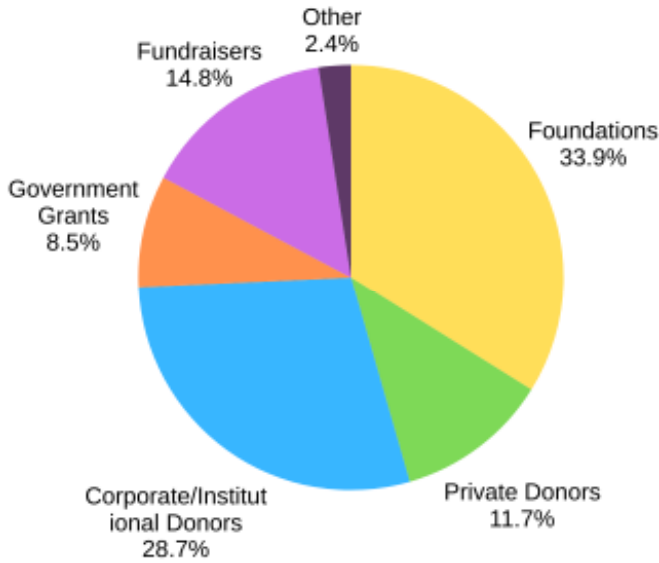
MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION AT [STCPENINSULA.COM/DONATE](https://stcpeninsula.com/donate)

Or make a check payable to “Serve the City Peninsula”

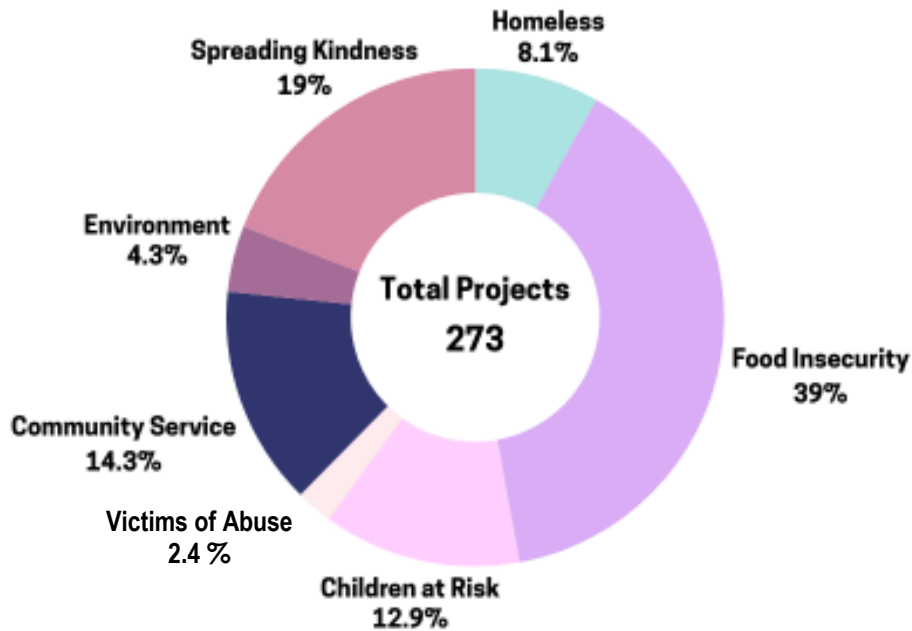
Mailed to: STC Peninsula, 11836 Canon Blvd. Suite 500, Newport News VA 23606

Total Revenue: \$117,090

Total Expenses: \$114,331



In 2025, every dollar raised produced \$2.49 of impact in the community because of the value our volunteers bring to our projects—impact to a variety of people in need in a variety of ways





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Kindness In
Progress!



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