



December 19, 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we close out 2024, we take a moment to reflect on a year of extraordinary progress, resilience, and collaboration in the transformation of Tidewater Gardens into the vibrant Kindred community. Together, we have reached remarkable milestones and witnessed firsthand the positive impact of this initiative on families, neighborhoods, and the city of Norfolk.

At the heart of this transformation is our unwavering commitment to providing families with the tools, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive. It's about more than just buildings—it's about creating a future where everyone has the chance to succeed.

Empowering Families Through People First ^{USI}

This year, the People First ^{USI} initiative continued to make a profound difference in the lives of former Tidewater Gardens families:

- **Fostering Economic Mobility:** Between July 2023 and June 2024, 117 residents gained new jobs, and the average household income reached \$37,985—more than doubling since we began this journey.
- **Health and Wellness:** Ninety-eight percent of adults and 100% of children now have medical insurance, and 85% of adults have a regular healthcare provider.
- **Fighting Food Insecurity:** 121 families received Thanksgiving food boxes, and nearly 300 residents joined the inaugural Holiday Extravaganza, celebrating community with food, games, and prizes.

January 2024 marked a milestone when the first returning Tidewater Gardens family moved into their new home in Kindred. By year's end, 45 families had joined the community, bringing new energy and hope to this vibrant neighborhood.

Building a Thriving Kindred Community

The Kindred neighborhood continues to grow and flourish, with exciting developments in housing, infrastructure, and cultural enrichment:

- **New Homes and Places to Thrive:**
 - Aspire at Church Street opened this year, reserving 21 of its 85 units for former Tidewater Gardens residents.
 - Origin Circle, Kindred's second residential building, is fully leased, marking another milestone in the community's return.



- Unity Place reached a significant milestone, with framing completed for new homes set to open in 2025.
- **Infrastructure Advances:**
 - Phase II of infrastructure development began, adding new roads and utilities to the neighborhood.
 - Kindred's Blue/Greenway, a transformative green space, reached 100% design completion, with construction scheduled for next year.
- **Celebrating Culture:**
 - An exciting public art initiative kicked off, with 29 talented finalists selected to create works reflecting the history and spirit of the Tidewater Gardens community.

Advancing Economic Inclusion

Diversity, equity, and inclusion remain cornerstones of the St. Paul's Transformation Project. This year, we:

- Awarded demolition contracts for Tidewater Park Elementary and Hunton YMCA to minority-owned businesses, advancing our inclusion goals.
- Designed the \$3M Tenant Improvement (TI) Program to help small, minority-, and women-owned businesses establish themselves in Kindred's commercial spaces.

Looking to 2025

While we celebrate how far we've come, we know there is still much to achieve. The coming year will bring new opportunities to welcome families, break ground on transformative projects, and deepen our commitment to creating a vibrant and inclusive community.

None of this would be possible without your steadfast support. To our partners, residents, and supporters: thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are building not just homes but a brighter, more equitable future for all.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a New Year filled with hope and opportunity.

Warm regards,

Dr. Susan Perry

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