



HRRRA.com
Hampton Roads
REALTORS® Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2022

HRRRA Foundation REALTORS® Have a Heart for helping veterans

CHESAPEAKE – Hampton Roads REALTORS® Association (HRRRA) Foundation REALTORS® Have a Heart program volunteers gathered March 1 at the Cypress Landing Veterans Apartments in Chesapeake for a pre-spring spruce-up.

The 50 REALTOR® and Affiliate helpers spent several hours painting, weeding, mulching, trimming, building, power washing and generally cleaning up at the Knells Ridge Boulevard apartments, a 50-unit veterans permanent supportive-housing complex.

Cypress Landing, part of the nonprofit Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation, serves homeless and disabled veterans who are at 50% or below the area median income. Residents receive wrap-around case-management services and have several onsite amenities to utilize. Among them in an outdoor area with a community garden. The HRRRA Foundation volunteers prepared the garden's beds for warm-weather planting as part of their community outreach.

The HRRRA Foundation is a charitable nonprofit whose mission is driven by four pillars of community commitment: educating HRRRA members and the public about Fair Housing; working toward alleviating homelessness; advocating for affordable housing; and improving the quality of life of Hampton Roads' neighborhoods through community service and financial support. This was the first time REALTORS® Have a Heart assisted VBCDC; the program will complete about nine projects in 2022.

The VBCDC provides affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income households in the City of Virginia Beach (and beyond). Since its inception, VBCDC has offered supportive services, from case management to direct financial assistance, to 10,000-plus individuals. It has also provided safe, stable and affordable housing to 6,200 families facing housing crisis.

"The mission of the Hampton Roads REALTORS® Association Foundation is to help improve housing for those in our community. Cypress Landing Veterans Apartments is part of the VBCDC's veterans' assisted and supported housing, so a lot of the folks who come to this facility have come out of homelessness. We're trying to help them find a better way forward," said REALTOR® and HRRRA Foundation Chairman Jeremy Caleb Johnson, who also serves on the VBCDC Board of Directors. "We as REALTORS® are happy to help them take care of this building, make it look a little bit better and improve their environment."

Warren Thrasher with Caliber Home loans was one of the Affiliates who volunteered.

"It's good to give back to the community and help veterans. That's the real reason. But, in my heart, I also just like being outside getting dirty and wet by power washing and landscaping. It brings me joy," he said.

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The nearly 5,000-member Hampton Roads REALTORS® Association is an organization of REALTORS® and Affiliates, whose mission is to enhance the ability of REALTORS® throughout Eastern Virginia to achieve business success in an ethical and professional manner, and to protect and preserve private property rights. Learn more at www.HRRRA.com.

