



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 30, 2019

## **H2O-Help to Others Program Available to Assist with Water Utility Bills**

Because of the recent government shutdown, Hampton Roads federal workers and their families may find their resources are temporarily stretched to cover the necessities: housing, food and utilities. The Help to Others (H2O) program might be able to provide some relief. H2O is a community-based program that assists people in a financial crisis through the generosity of donations.

Through H2O, families or individuals in danger of losing residential water service because of a family crisis can receive one-time financial assistance to pay their local public utility and/or HRSD bill. The program was established in 1999 by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission with the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) and the public utilities departments of the following localities: Chesapeake, Gloucester, Hampton, Isle of Wight, James City County, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Smithfield, Southampton, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, and York County.

The program is administered through HRSD and the Hampton Roads Salvation Army. For information on how to qualify and apply, please visit [www.shareH2O.org](http://www.shareH2O.org) and contact the Salvation Army Command near you.

For those looking for a way to help our neighbors impacted by the shutdown, please consider donating to H2O-Help to Others. You can donate any amount, and when you do, every cent goes to helping a local family in crisis. Donations to the H2O Program are completely tax deductible and 100% of all contributions are applied directly to the program.

And you can donate online! Click [HERE](#) for more information on donating.

### About Help to Others (H2O)

In 1999, the Hampton Roads Sanitation District and the public utilities departments of Hampton Roads joined forces through the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission to establish Help to Others (H2O) to help families in need. The program is made possible by a partnership with The Salvation Army. H2O allows people to make tax-deductible donations to help local families who cannot afford their water bill due to crises beyond their control. 100% of all donated funds go to the H2O program for bill payment assistance. Visit [www.shareh2o.org](http://www.shareh2o.org) to make a donation and for more information.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 22, 2019

## **Help to Others Celebrates 20 Years of Assisting Families in Need**

HAMPTON ROADS, VIRGINIA – The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) is celebrating two decades of assisting local families in need through the Help to Others (H2O) program. H2O supports area residents who are in a financial crisis and cannot afford their water and/or wastewater utility bill. In celebration of the milestone, HRPDC and its member jurisdictions are sponsoring a \$20 for 20 Campaign. Anyone who is capable of making a \$20 contribution – \$1 for each year of the program’s existence – is encouraged to make a donation between now and December 31 at [www.shareh2o.org/donate](http://www.shareh2o.org/donate).

“We’re thrilled that we have been able to assist our neighbors in need for the past two decades,” says Katie Cullipher, H2O Team Leader. “But the work isn’t done. Though the community has been tremendously supportive, there are times when we don’t have enough funds to assist every family who requests it. This means they have to go without water for drinking, washing, cooking – daily activities we so often take for granted.”

The H2O program is open to families in 18 localities across the Hampton Roads region, and requests for assistance are administered through The Salvation Army. Donations are tax deductible, and 100% of all donated funds goes directly to helping those in need. Thanks to the collaboration of local water utilities, HRPDC, the Hampton Roads Sanitation District and The Salvation Army, donated funds are never used for any administrative expenses.

“We like to say that we help the kindness flow,” says Cullipher. “When you realize that losing water service can happen to anyone through a sudden layoff or an unexpected medical condition, it hits home. With the holidays just around the corner, we’re hopeful that we can rally a tide of support from those who have a lot to be thankful for, and that they can find it in their hearts to give.”

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