



For Immediate Release
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www.RivahFest.com

RivahFest Honors Inasmuch with a Community Grant

Tappahannock, VA (March 20, 2009) – RivahFest Steering Committee is pleased to announce the third in a continuing series of grants to support local community organizations.

RivahFest has selected Operation Inasmuch as the recipient for this third grant of \$500. The Inasmuch project is organized by Essex Churches Together made up of representatives from Christian churches of all denominations and races in Essex County.

Operation Inasmuch, now in its second year, is a one day mission blitz - a whole day of high activity volunteers from participating churches. Last year Operation Inasmuch mobilized over 500 people doing tasks such as clearing gardens for the disabled, replacing light bulbs and smoke alarms for the elderly, repairing porches and painting houses for those unable to do so for themselves. The people being served are those most in need in our community: those with challenges, the elderly, and children from difficult home situations.

The grant received from RivahFest will be used to fund construction projects on the day of Operation Inasmuch - April 25th, 2009. "These funds will enable us to get a jump start on several projects that need supplies and materials" commented Ken Wilbur currently heading up the Inasmuch Planning Team. "Last year we were limited by expense for some of the projects on our wish list. This year we can move ahead with several thanks to the RivahFest grants, such as the wheelchair ramp that we would like to rebuild for a handicapped man and a roof that is leaking water into an elderly woman's house."

"One of the best things about Operation Inasmuch," said Sheriff Stanley Clarke, a member of the Inasmuch Planning Team, "is that it affords people from vastly different churches

and Christian traditions to work together to help their neighbors. It's going to be a great day, and a lot of good will come of it, I'm sure."

The Operation Inasmuch Planning Team (see photo) has working hard since early February. "A lot of advance planning goes into making a day like this possible," stated Alice Roye, another Planning Team member and co-leader of Essex Churches Together. "It was so gratifying when nearly every one of the Team members, who worked so hard last year, agreed to sacrifice their time again this year."

"The initial objective of RivahFest was to bring attention to our community and our local businesses with the sincere hope that the event would be successful enough to allow us to be able to share that success financially with well-deserving programs in our area". Sharon James, 2005 & 2006 RivahFest Chair and Bank of Essex Assistant VP, commented "Operation Inasmuch provides a wonderful free service to many needy families in our community as well as providing an opportunity for our local churches to interact and work together. All of us on the RivahFest committees are very pleased and excited to now be able to support and encourage these important programs and organizations that bring so much to our community."

RivahFest 2009 is scheduled for Saturday, June 20 and is being co-chaired by Katherine Newman (EVB) and Libbie Franklin (Bank of Essex). The RivahFest steering committee for 2009 draws volunteers in many areas: Thomas Bradshaw (Entertainment), David Broad (Promotion & Website), Terry Brooks (Arts & Crafts), John Clickener (Treasurer), Ronnie Gill (Chamber representative), Jeff James (Planning & Liaison), Sharon James (Past Chair), Tyler Lowery (Past Chair & Maritime), Glenn Morse (Sponsorship) and Joey Reinhardt (Publications & Liaison).

The final recipient of RivahFest Grants for 2008-09 will be announced in April 2009. For more information about Tappahannock-Essex RivahFest media or publicity contact David Broad at 804-443-1221. If you are interested in volunteering for RivahFest, either in the planning stages or on RivahFest Day June 20th, please contact us at 888-992-7772 or visit www.rivahfest.com/help



Essex Churches Together INASMUCH planning team accepts a \$500 RivahFest Grant check. From left to right front row: Jeff James (RivahFest Planning & Liaison), John Hardy, Sharon James (RivahFest Steering Committee), Hannah Healy, Kathy Hughes (ECT representative), Anita Latane, The Reverend Ken Wilbur (Chairman of the OIAM Planning Team); Back row: Dick Flaherty, Mike Hartenbach, Joe Hartenbach, Dawn Douglas, Sandy Baytops, Stanley Clarke (Sheriff of Essex County), Reverend Dr. Candine Johnson, Sylvia Allen. Not pictured: Alice Roye, Carmen Sandlin, Brooke Carillo, and Bruce McComb.