Homeward is incredibly grateful for the successful partnership between the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care, the City of Richmond, local faith-communities, and concerned citizens in the collaborative efforts to get people out of large encampments and into safe shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic. Large encampments are at high-risk of a COVID-19 outbreak and many people living outdoors are older and/or have medically-compromised immune systems. As of Thursday, March 19, 64 people previously experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Richmond were successfully placed in hotels and emergency shelter beds to reduce these risks and to connect them with ongoing resources.

On Wednesday, March 18, the Blessing Warriors organization began removing their property from the site known as Camp Cathy and requested help disposing of vacant and unwanted tents, the residents of which had been moved into emergency shelters or alternatives. The City will continue to remove vacant and unwanted tents and items on Thursday, March 19 while continuing to coordinate with Blessing Warriors and residents as needed.

Moving forward, The Greater Richmond Continuum of Care will shift its focus to connect people to stable housing and services such as employment, education, and healthcare. We are confident that the strength of the partnerships formed during our community’s COVID-19 pandemic response will continue in the coming weeks and months to provide the services and resources to the people placed in safe shelter who were previously experiencing unsheltered homelessness.