



December 2016



Jim, Bill, John and Griff



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Cooper Hurley Supports Blankets for the Homeless in Facebook Likes Campaign

Mariah Smith has a poignant reason to care about Hampton Roads' homeless people over the holidays. She was abandoned on Christmas Eve as a newborn.



Mariah was adopted and

brought up in a loving household but she later returned to the streets to help the homeless. Now, 22, Mariah is the founder of Blankets for the Homeless, a Virginia Beach-based nonprofit.

[Click here to play the video](#)

This winter, Cooper Hurley Injury Lawyers is supporting Blankets for the Homeless in our Facebook 'likes' campaign. We will be donating \$1 to the nonprofit for every like of our Facebook page up to \$500. See this video to find out more about Blankets for the Homeless.

When she was 17, Mariah was eating at a Sonic restaurant when she saw a homeless man nearby who was shivering. Mariah pulled a blanket out of her car, collected the food she'd just ordered and gave it to the man.

He wrapped the blanket around him and he started eating. The idea for a nonprofit was born. Mariah went home and made a flier with her phone number asking for donations of used blankets. Within a week, she had distributed more than 300 fliers at oceanfront hotels, local businesses, schools and churches. She received 50 blankets in two days.

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“Since then it has grown into so much more than blankets. It’s hats, gloves, hoodies, jeans, walking shoes, tents, toiletries, basically anything that the homeless community needs,” she said.

“The need is always there and it’s always great. It just changes as the weather does,” she said.

As well as homeless people on the streets, Blankets for the Homeless helps families who are living in hotels and in their cars.

“A lot of time they are working and simply not making enough to put down a security deposit and get into an apartment,” Mariah said.

Over the holidays, Blankets for the Homeless runs a stocking and toy event. People in the community make stockings and fill them with toys. Blankets for the Homeless gives the stockings to people living on the streets and in hotels.

“It gives them a special Christmas that they would not have otherwise,” Mariah said.

Read more about Blankets for the Homeless on its website.

Cooper Hurley supported Sugar Plum Bakery in our last Facebook ‘likes’ campaign. The bakery supports people with developmental disabilities. We presented a check for \$500 to the bakery in December.

Our Thanksgiving Turkey Raffle Winners and a Special Winner

Cooper Hurley’s Great Thanksgiving Give Away proved as popular as ever this year, attracting almost 400 entrants.

This year we upped the prize to 15 Food Lion gift cards worth \$50 each. Not everybody can be a winner. If you weren’t successful this year please look out for our raffles next year.

The raffle had one unexpected winner. Sharon Adams from Ocean View in Norfolk contacted us via our website Cooperhurley.com to find out if she was a winner just days before Thanksgiving. She explained she is disabled and was struggling to afford Thanksgiving lunch for her three grandkids.continued on page 3



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Our Thanksgiving Turkey Raffle....

We were happy to make a special award to the former nurse. Partner Jim Hurley dispatched attorney Mike Snellings to deliver a \$100 gift card to Sharon to brighten up her Thanksgiving.

“It wouldn’t be happening without this,” Sharon said in a video. “We’ll have a happy Thanksgiving.”



Cooper Hurley Makes a Special Thanksgiving Award to Sharon Adams

[Click here to play the video](#)

Alphonso McDonald, a Cooper Hurley client, and his wife Joyce, were among the winners.

“I was very surprised when I found out I was a winner,” said Joyce. “I’ve never won a prize ever.”

The 15 lucky winners were as follows:

- 1 Delbert Matheny
- 2 Barbara Holloman
- 3 Alphonso McDonald
- 4 Lucinda Thompson
- 5 Bonnie Johnson
- 6 Gavin Napolitano
- 7 Paul Warren
- 8 Barbara Polan
- 9 Hannah Dye
- 10 Tierra Smalling
- 11 Simone Walls
- 12 Maria Grise
- 13 Ersula Summers
- 14 Dwayne Nikolaisen
- 15 Huseyin Yardim

If you didn’t win this year, make sure to look out for our great giveaways in 2017. In 2016, Cooper Hurley Injury Lawyers raffled Food Lion cards in our summer BBQ competition and our Thanksgiving give away. Make sure to like us on Facebook to see the full details.

Dangerous Drug Xarelto May Cause Uncontrolled Bleeding

You may have seen the high profile TV ads for the blood-thinning drug Xarelto. If you or a loved one took Xarelto and had to be hospitalized for bleeding, you should call our firm to talk about a potential claim.

Xarelto (rivaroxaban) is touted as a modern miracle drug that can significantly lower the risk of having a stroke. It can treat and help prevent deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism and reduce the risk of blood clots after a hip or a knee replacement.

Thousands of older people in Virginia and North Carolina are taking this drug.

Despite the ads that feature older athletes and sports players, there is a frightening downside to this blood thinner. Xarelto is the subject of more than 10,700 federal and state lawsuits that link the drug to internal bleeding, gastrointestinal problems, brain hemorrhage and death.



The late and great golfer Arnold Palmer

These lawsuits have not stopped makers Bayer and Janssen Pharmaceuticals from broadcasting their TV commercials for the drug for the last few years

Arnold Palmer, the legendary golfer, was featured in ads for the anticoagulant drug. In a recent blog on our website we wrote about speculation that Xarelto may have been a factor in his death.

Although the big drug companies tout Xarelto as a replacement for warfarin which has downsides such as adverse food and drug interactions, a 2011 study in the New England Journal of Medicine found no evidence that Xarelto is more effective than warfarin.

Unlike warfarin, which has been used since the 1950s, there is no known antidote to stop uncontrollable bleeding with Xarelto.

You should read the fine print on the packaging of any drug you take. If you or a loved one has been harmed by Xarelto please contact us at (757) 455-0077. You can read more about the side effects of this dangerous product here on the dangerous medicine section of our website.

Cooper Hurley Welcomes Two New Staff Members

This fall we were pleased to welcome two new staff members – Nikki Stodden and Nya McLean. Nikki is attorney John Cooper's paralegal and Nya is the new client services director.

Nikki Stodden is a native of Chesapeake and a graduate of Indian River High School who now lives in Moyock, North Carolina. She has 15 years of experience in liability and injury claims and came to Cooper Hurley from the insurance industry in 2016. She studied Business Management at the College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, NC.

Nikki is from a military background. Her father came to the United States from the Philippines to serve in the Navy. In her spare time, Nikki and her husband Brett watch their 12-year-old son Connor play soccer for his school team. Nikki's older son Chase is a sophomore at UNC Charlotte where he studies mechanical engineering and is in the Air Force ROTC program.



Nikki Stodden

Nya McLean is Cooper Hurley Injury Lawyers' Client Services Director. She followed a family tradition when she joined the firm in 2016. Her sister Nicole has worked as Jim Hurley's legal assistant since 2011. Nya was born in New Orleans and fought cancer at an early age when she was three-years-old. Her military family moved to Hampton Roads so as she could be treated at Portsmouth Naval Hospital. She made a full recovery after a year of treatment.

Nya still lives in Portsmouth, has a son and will be getting married in the summer of 2017. Nya worked at Capitol One before joining Cooper Hurley. She is taking paralegal studies at Bryant and Stratton College. "I feel honored to work for Cooper Hurley because I finally am able to say I am on the journey to the start my career," Nya said. "Cooper Hurley has welcomed me in as a family member and everyone has allowed me to bring out my personality to help others in need."



Nya McLean

Where to See the Holiday Lights in Hampton Roads

You don't have to drive far in Hampton Roads to see flashing reindeer, Santas and other holiday light favorites.

Nevertheless, every year we hear stories of people who end up parked in miles of traffic because they went out to see the lights on the most popular night of the year. If you are going out to see the lights, consider nights. Exercise patience. While some of the more famous attractions charge, we include a free display in our list.



Lights at Newport News Park

Otherwise, just hit the streets and look at the brightly lit houses. Here are some of the most famous attractions.

McDonalds Holiday Lights on the Beach

Where: Southern boardwalk, Virginia Beach

When: Nov 18, 2016 to Jan 1, 2017 – 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Admission - \$15 per car, \$20 for a combo ticket including Santa's Seaside Village.

Drive through 30 blocks with displays of lights in a nautical theme. The lights are changed up each year and the south section of the boardwalk is closed off from walkers.

Newport News Celebration In Lights

Where: Newport News Park, Newport News

When: Nov. 24, 2016 - January 1, 2017. 5:30 to 10:00 p.m. every night.

Admission: \$12 per car.

Drivers pass through two miles of holiday light displays with more than 800,000 individual lights in a more rural setting in northern Newport News.

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Dominion Garden of Lights at Norfolk Botanical Garden

Where: Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Garden Rd., Norfolk,

When: Nov. 24 – Dec, 31, 2016 from 5:30-10 p.m.

Admission: \$20 per car, \$25 per car on Fridays, Saturday and Sundays

The botanical garden is transformed into a winter wonderland where you can enjoy a 2-mile drive through thousands of lights themed as the four seasons.

Annual Pagoda and Garden Lightfest

Where : TowneBank Fountain Park at Town Point Park, downtown Norfolk

When : Nov. 19 to Dec. 31 at Town Point Park

Admission : free

Walk through the beautiful display of lights featuring more than 40,000 sparkles of friendship in the Pagoda and the garden.

Peninsula Woman Hired Cooper Hurley After She was Hurt in I-64 Truck Wreck

Aubrey Turner from York County hired Cooper Hurley Injury Lawyers after she was badly injured in a wreck involving a tractor-trailer on Interstate-64 in Hampton.

She describes her terrifying accident in this video. She was the passenger in a car that was hit from behind by an 18-wheeler. The impact was so extreme her car was sent sliding into the guardrail and ended up on the opposite side of the highway. The truck driver was cited for following too closely.

Aubrey suffered serious ongoing issues from her injuries a year after the crash.



[Click here to play the video](#)

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“I had disk issues in my back. I had hip problems and chronic whiplash,” she said. She also suffered ongoing problems with chronic headaches and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

She worked with kids with autism at the time of the wreck and one of her clients recommended she talk to John Cooper of Cooper Hurley Injury Lawyers.

Aubrey said the firm made everything simple and removed the burden of dealing directly with an insurance company.

“It was just a single phone call. Everything was taken care of. It was nice. They organized it exactly how it needed to be organized,” she said.

Aubrey lost her job and her health insurance shortly before her accident. She said Cooper Hurley was able to find doctors who treated her ongoing problems.

“John just wrote a letter that said ‘I have her under my wing and I’m going to be taking care of her, so if you have anything you need to say to her, you have to say it to me now’,” she said.

“I like that John Cooper made us feel comfortable from the very first meeting to the time we got our settlement check. It was wonderful ...every question we had was answered completely. There were no guessing games with him.”

Cooper Hurley helps scores of people who have been injured in car, truck and motorcycle wrecks every year in Virginia and further afield. See our results page.

Trivia

We associate the holidays with eating too much but there was a good reason to fill up hundreds of years ago. Starvation was common as winter set in between January and April. The midwinter festival was the last feast celebration before the cold set in. Most cattle were slaughtered so they would not have to be fed during the winter. It was just about the only time of year when a supply of fresh meat was available.

December was also a time when wine and beer that was made during the year was fermented and became ready for drinking at this time.



The holidays in Williamsburg

Quote

"As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same."

Donald E. Westlake

Joke



Josh: What does Jack Frost like best about school?

John: What?

Josh: Snow and tell.

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday if you were born in december. At Cooper Hurley we like to celebrate the birthdays of all of our clients, former clients and friends. Email us your birthday to marketing@cooperhurley.com and we'll send you a card in the mail.



Thank You for Your Referrals

At Cooper Hurley Injury Lawyers we rely on our friends and former clients to send us new referrals. Many of you refer us new business and we are always grateful.

Unlike some of the big factory law firms, we value those people who we have had the honor of representing, even years after their case is over. We also value all of our friends and business associates in Virginia and further afield.

By receiving our newsletter, you will have the chance to take part in raffles. In the past we have raffled flat screen TVs, iPads and entertainment centers to lucky winners. You can also receive free copies of publications such as The Best Book About Virginia Car Accidents and Injuries and the Top Twenty Tips for Car, Truck or Motorcycle Accidents. Contact marketing@cooperhurley.com.

