

THANKS  
to you,  
LIVES ARE  
transformed.

—  
2015 — 2016  
Annual Report



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We thank you for all of your help this past year

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**OUR MISSION** is to build strong permanent families and lifelong relationships for Virginia's at-risk children.



Thanks to you, young lives and families throughout Virginia have been positively impacted and our entire commonwealth is strengthened.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO

### Building strong families, one child at a time

It has been a year of extraordinary accomplishments at Children's Home Society of Virginia — and we could not have done it without you! We are both so proud to be part of a team of community-focused supporters, visionary board leaders, outstanding collaborative partners, dedicated social workers, and loving families who all share our passion that every child be part of a thriving family. This annual report reflects the spectrum of services that CHS now provides our vulnerable children — from the infant born with drugs in his system, to the brothers who want to be adopted before they start high school, to the 18 year old who faces homelessness because she has aged out of foster care. CHS continues its 116+ year legacy of service by offering a continuum of compassionate, impactful programs.

During this fiscal year, CHS has strategically expanded our programs and deepened our capacity for service by:

- Launching The Possibilities Project, an innovative and collaborative program which provides housing and myriad critical supports to youth who are alone and face dire outcomes because they have "aged out" of foster care at age 18, without any support systems or healthy family connections
- Beginning new collaborative partnerships with organizations to strategically strengthen our service capacity to CHS clients
- Serving more than 183 children and families through our adoption, counseling and training programs

It takes resources to deliver the spectrum of services CHS is providing Virginia's at-risk children and families. As we have expanded our services to respond to the community's needs, our own funding and volunteer needs have also expanded. The lives transformed by CHS's work clearly prove the value of our increased investment in creating strong families. As a CHS adoptee who was placed with his loving, supportive family as an infant and as a CHS adoptive parent whose family was created through adoption, we have both experienced first-hand the powerful, life changing impact of our agency's work. Our lives are real examples of how CHS has, and will, continue to transform our community for the better — one child at a time!

At CHS we know that strong families are the cornerstone of a strong community. So we again thank you for your interest in and commitment to our agency's mission!

Thanks to you, young lives and families throughout Virginia have been positively impacted and our entire commonwealth is strengthened.

Gratefully,

*Eddie*

Edward Lumpkin  
CHS Board Chairman  
& Adoptee

*Nadine*

Nadine Marsh-Carter  
CHS President, CEO,  
& Adoptive Parent

# THANKS to you, SUCCESS is possible.

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You help us make a difference every day — to the continuum of at-risk infants, children and young adults — for whom we find forever homes and provide emotional and concrete support. Thanks to you, Children's Home Society now successfully provides critical guidance and loving relationships to young adults who have aged out of foster care. We look forward to continuing to help our entire community of youth — together.



# 7 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

## Annual events and success stories make up our best memories of 2016

### 2016 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

In January, CHS hosted its 4th Annual Legislative Briefing at the Virginia General Assembly. The event was attended by representatives from the Virginia State Senate and House of Delegates, CHS Board members, community leaders, and volunteers from Impact 100 and staff from CHS and our Possibilities Project partner, the Better Housing Coalition.

During the briefing, CHS and BHC leadership shared information about the plight of Virginia children waiting to be adopted out of foster care, and about Fostering Futures — legislation that addresses needs of youth who “age out” of foster care. Afterwards, our delegation headed over to the State Capitol, where we were recognized by the House of Delegates.

All this capped off a productive week in which community volunteers, including Impact 100 members, connected with our legislative representatives to share important information about foster care.

### CWGA GOLFING HEROINES

On April 9, a very cold, windy, and even a snowy Saturday, Crossings Women's Golf Association members held their Invitational Golf Tournament to benefit Children's Home Society. The golfers planned a wonderful fun packed event and the generous sponsors contributed to the raffle, silent auction and contest prizes. **Over \$12,000 was raised to support CHS!**

### AWARD WINNING CHS FAMILY AND SOCIAL WORKER

In 2014, CHS Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter Krista Watson helped to match single dad, Steven Effinger, with two brothers who were waiting to be adopted. Krista's job is to find adoptive homes for the hardest to place kids in foster care, typically older teens with significant needs. Steven came to CHS to explore adoption after having had meaningful experiences as a mentor to at-risk young men. Krista's efforts ensured that Richard and Jeffery (then ages 17 and 14) were adopted by Steven in August of 2015.

Since that time, Krista has been recognized as recipient of the Outstanding Adoption Story of the Year award at the 2016 Wendy's Wonderful Kids Adoption Summit. In addition, Steven Effinger has been honored with a prestigious National Adoption Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Both boys have excelled as members of Steven's family. Richard graduated high school, attends community college, and holds a job. He is 19 years old and thriving under the care of a permanent family. Jeffery, now 16, has obtained his learner's permit and has also left an alternative program to return to mainstream school. Steven continues to provide a loving home and guidance to these remarkable young men.

### SECOND ANNUAL WATERMELON FESTIVAL BOOK SALE

Thanks to Sally Hirsch, W. Hirsch Oriental Rugs again sponsored a book sale held August 9, 2015 during the Carytown Watermelon Festival benefiting CHS. Thousands of donated books were gathered during the book drive. Dedicated volunteers organized the books by categories; children's, history and cookbooks were popular subjects and many families left with bags full of books. **CHS is honored to help keep gently used and well-loved books in circulation, and appreciates the support from Sally and our community!**

### A VERY THOUGHTFUL BIRTHDAY REQUEST

Lacey Neff decided for her eighth birthday party she would like to have a “donations” party. She asked her guests to donate gift cards for the young adults who have aged out of foster care, and are now enrolled in The Possibilities Project. Bless you Lacey!



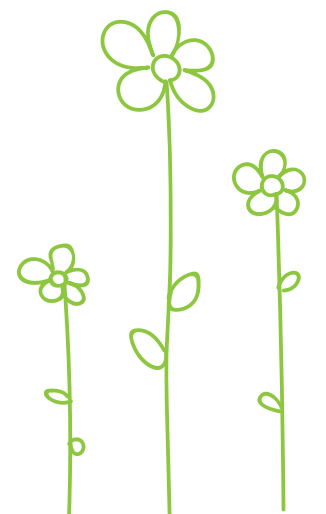
### SEVENTH ANNUAL LEGACY BREAKFAST AT LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN

On a beautiful spring morning, CHS welcomed keynote speaker Christopher Mooney, Head Basketball Coach of the University of Richmond. Coach Mooney spoke about how a team functions together to achieve their goals, much like a family!

There was much more on the agenda! The premier of the new CHS video ‘What is Family’ was screened, and Nadine emphasized that “everyone can help solve problems facing children in foster care.” 50¢ coins were placed at each table setting to illustrate Virginia's dead last rank of 50th for children who age out of foster care without being adopted. Youth Advocate Janeva Smith shared her personal struggles of growing up in the foster care system, and Natalie Newfield, longtime supporter of CHS, inspired the audience to make a pledge to join the Legacy Society.

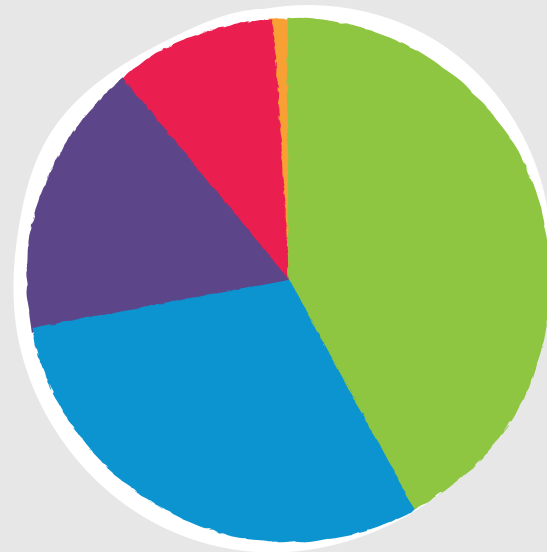
#### Thanks to our Legacy Breakfast 2016 sponsors:

Gold	Estes Express Lines
Silver	Hunton & Williams
Silver	Christian & Barton, LLP
Bronze	Thompson McMullen, P.C.
Bronze	Mary Washington Healthcare
Bronze	ACG Advisory Services, Inc.



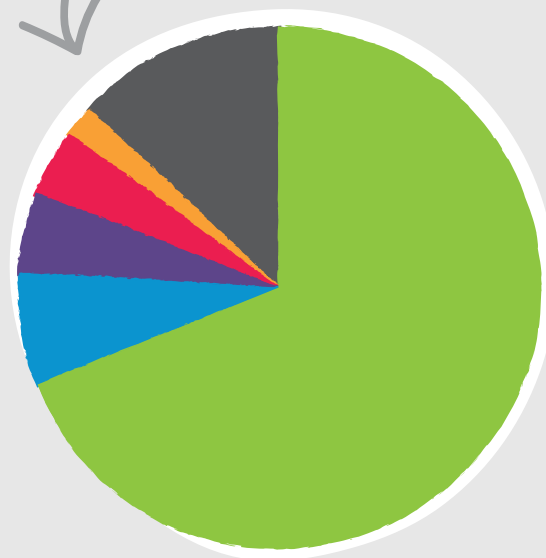
# CHS FINANCIALS

REVENUE = \$1,194,469



- 42% contributed
- 30% foundations
- 17% government reimbursement
- 10% program fees
- 1% in kind

EXPENSES = \$1,312,191



- 69% personnel
- 7% specific assistance to clients
- 5% professional fees
- 4% office
- 2% building
- 13% other

Though budgeted, in Fiscal Year 2016, CHS elected not to transfer any funds from the Memorial Fund to the CHS operating accounts to take advantage of the investment opportunities presented in the Memorial Fund. The budgeted transfer would have resulted in an operating surplus.

# BY THE NUMBERS IMPACT REPORT

785



customers served across all programs

24 at-risk infants were served

240 days of Temporary Infant Care provided

41 birth parents were provided counseling



foster youth served = 93

- 43% part of a sibling group
- 29% had birth parents who abused substances
- 31% were in 4+ foster care placements
- 37 foster youth were adopted
- 52% experienced physical and/or sexual abuse
- 35 foster youth were matched with a family
- 51% experienced significant neglect

183 parents and children received post-adoption services, including training related to trauma and parenting

19 interviewed and assessed for The Possibilities Project Program

7 young people moved into The Possibilities Project housing by June, after the program began in March 2015

# THANKS to you, FUTURES are brighter.



Our programs work with kids and families all along the spectrum of growing up, but our results for them are always the same: build a brighter future for those most in need. With your help, support and participation, we can all be proud that we have impacted the lives of infants, children and young adults for the rest of their productive and successful lives.





# INFANT ADOPTION

We help mothers when they need it most

For women who are pregnant or who have just delivered a baby, our trained social workers offer free, unbiased counseling support to help explore her options—with complete confidentiality. At CHS, we work with birth mothers and birth fathers during a difficult time, and help them develop a plan that's best for them and their child. We counsel birth mothers and birth fathers during the pregnancy, and we provide counseling and other support services after the baby is born.

## WHAT INFANT ADOPTION PROVIDES



### CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING

All services to birth parents are free of charge.



### PLACEMENT OPTIONS

This includes birth parents choosing a family or we choose a family.



### ADOPTION

We place healthy and special needs children for adoption.



### SUPPORT AND REFERRALS

Medical care, financial, housing, and other assistance before or after birth.

## INFANT ADOPTION SNAPSHOT



**Riley** was born to a birth-mother who was homeless with mental health issues, but was working with a pregnancy center who contacted CHS. We then introduced her to an adoptive family who had worked with CHS for several years. The birth-mother placed the baby with the adoptive family a few days after discharging from the hospital. She was relieved that she was able to have an open parental placement adoption for her daughter. Riley's adoption was finalized this summer.

The open parental placement adoption program allowed Riley's birth-mother to be confident in her decision of choosing a family for her daughter.







# FOSTER CARE ADOPTION PROGRAM

## Finding perfect matches for waiting children

In this type of adoption, a local Department of Social Services (DSS) has custody of a waiting child, and all parental rights to the child have been legally terminated. CHS works with prospective families who would like to adopt a child or teen, focusing on ages 12 and older as they tend to be the longest waiting children. Families participate in an approval process that includes training and a home study. CHS then matches them with a waiting child based on his or her individual needs, personality, and background. CHS guides the legal adoption process during which the child becomes a permanent member of the family. Many aspects of this process at CHS are funded by a grant from the State Department of Social Services.

## WHAT FOSTER CARE ADOPTION PROVIDES



PARENT RECRUITMENT & TRAINING



HOME STUDY APPROVAL



ADOPTION PREPARATION FOR THE YOUTH



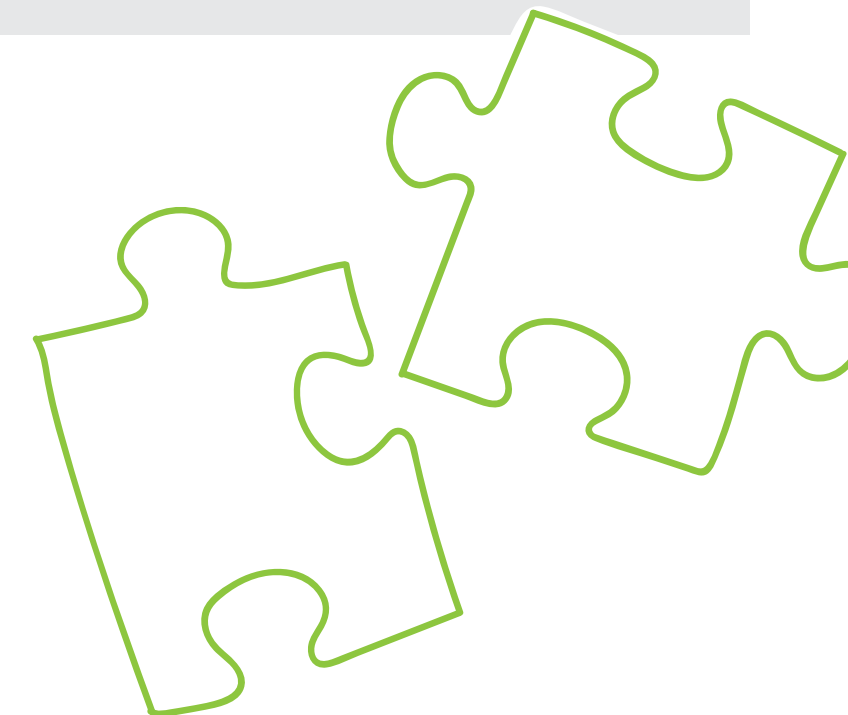
MATCHING WAITING CHILDREN WITH FAMILIES

## FOSTER CARE ADOPTION SNAPSHOT



**Nicole**, 18 years old, came into foster care when she was fifteen years old. Although Nicole felt like she could survive on her own, CHS began talking with her about adoption and what it would mean to have the lifelong support of a family. Together, Nicole and her social worker identified a family that she already knew – her friend’s parents! When asked, the family said that of course they could provide a forever home for Nicole. They went through the approval process to be adoptive parents with CHS, and just after her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, Nicole moved in with her new family. Nicole worked hard to graduate high school on time, and she looks forward to attending community college in the fall. Nicole’s adoption finalized in July of 2016, just shy of her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Instead of becoming another “aged out” statistic, Nicole has the family support that every young person needs.

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# POST ADOPTION PROGRAM

## Providing services for positive growth and development

Our Post Adoption Program at CHS has grown greatly in breadth and structure. We now offer three different services to adoptive and pre-adoptive families. Parent Coaching is an intensive, clinical service that provides families weekly support in therapeutic parenting and navigating the adoption process. We start working with families when they are matched with an adoptive child and continue working with them through the legal finalization of the adoption and beyond. Family Support Services are offered to families who need help with resources, advocacy and understanding challenges at different developmental stages. This service allows families to access short term support to help their family navigate difficult periods. Respite Services, including Kids' Club, are offered to allow parents of adoptive children opportunities for child care that are provided with their children's needs in mind. We maintain a low staff to child ratio with staff trained in trauma and attachment principles and offer 8 programs a year. During these days adoptive children can openly discuss their adoptive experience and work on skills in a supportive environment. All services are offered at no, or minimal cost to families and are available to any adoptive family interested; our goal is to help adoptive families form with healthy family dynamics and the building blocks for successful, permanent relationships.

**Our goal is to help adoptive families form with healthy family dynamics and the building blocks for successful, permanent relationships.**

### WHAT POST ADOPTION PROVIDES

- PARENT COACHING
- EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES
- RESPIRE OPPORTUNITIES



## POST ADOPTION PROGRAM SNAPSHOT



**The Johnston family** worked with CHS five years ago to adopt their son and, after just a few years, decided to grow again through adoption. After completing the home study process, they agreed to have a foster youth stay with them for a weekend as a means of providing respite to another foster family. The child who came to visit was **Karen**, an outgoing teenage girl; they knew instantly they wanted her to be a part of their family.

However, after eight different placements, Karen was hesitant about being adopted. The family worked closely with our Post Adoption Social Worker to understand her needs and to help her feel welcome in their home. They even advocated on her behalf to remain in her current school for 8th grade. She and her foster brother have attended Kid's Clubs together, and it's clear that they were meant to be siblings. The family has successfully bonded with her through the language of a teenager...music, shopping and just goofing around. They make her laugh. And, she has made their bond permanent — two weeks ago she signed an agreement officially accepting them as her permanent family!

**The family worked closely with our Post Adoption Social Worker to understand her needs and to help her feel welcome in their home.**



# THE POSSIBILITIES PROJECT

Building brighter futures for teens aging out of foster care

The young people of The Possibilities Project come to us from challenging circumstances. In addition to aging out of foster care, many were homeless before joining TPP. Some were living on the streets, others in rat-infested boarding homes. Others were couch-surfing after being kicked out of their homes. Still others were struggling to make ends meet and feeling anxious about their futures. They joined TPP having lived through a wide array of trauma, loss and extraordinary hardships throughout their young lives.


Despite these adversities, the program participants are remarkable and inspiring people. They have big dreams, goals and aspirations. They are resilient, hardworking, and determined to craft better lives for themselves. With the intensive support of TPP staff, they are grasping the belief that they deserve better than being destitute, worrying every day where their next meal is coming from, where they will lay their heads at night, or if they will be safe. Now they have the time and energy to consider their next steps and make progress towards their dreams and brighter futures.

In the short time since joining the program, their achievements have been incredible:

- **67%** are currently employed, compared to just 28% when they began the program
- **44%** are registered for college classes, significantly higher than the national average of 3-10% of emancipated foster youth enrolled in college
- **100%** of the program participants report that they are dedicated to continuing their education through either college or vocational training and 33% have enrolled in vocational training
- **100%** now have access to medical insurance and mental health services
- **100%** of program participants report feeling supported by CHS's TPP staff, and feeling that our program staff is "invested in their success." For many, this is the first time they've felt that another adult was invested in them for no other reason than the desire to see them thrive

## WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES PROJECT PROVIDES

Our Project goal is to empower these young people and change the trajectory of their lives. As part of The Possibilities Project, we offer them:



**TRANSPORTATION**  
without which getting to and from school and work would not be possible.



**INTERNET ACCESS**  
for applying for jobs and completing coursework



**CASE MANAGEMENT**  
once a week to ensure they are progressing towards their goals and to offer support.



**QUALITY HOUSING & ALL UTILITIES**  
to move from surviving to thriving



**JOB READINESS & JOB SEARCH TRAINING**



**SUPPORT NETWORKS**  
of caring community members



**MENTORING & PERMANENT CONNECTIONS**



**BASIC LIVING STIPENDS & EMERGENCY FUNDS**



**CLEANING & HOME SAFETY TRAINING**



**MEDICAL CARE & MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING**



**WELLNESS ASSESSMENTS & TRAINING**



**COOKING & NUTRITIONAL TRAINING**



**BUDGETING & DEBT MANAGEMENT SKILLS**

## THE POSSIBILITIES PROJECT SNAPSHOT



**James** came to us pending eviction after almost 2 years of homelessness. He spent some nights sleeping on cardboard boxes outside in downtown Richmond, and at times was "lucky enough" to find a couch or a floor to sleep on. Even homeless, James managed to occasionally find part-time work, but never earned enough money to ensure a weeks' worth of meals or to save any money towards stable housing. He eventually ended up living in a "rooming house" with several other adults, many of whom were drug addicts, or had violent criminal histories. In this rat- and roach-infested house, the room designated to him was actually a closet with a mattress for which he paid \$400 per month. Several months behind on rent, he was given notice to vacate just before he was accepted into The Possibilities Project. Despite all of his hardships and instability, James became involved with a local vocational training program. Since joining the program in March, James was granted a paid internship, began working towards his CDL and wants to resume working towards his long-term goal of completing his 4-year degree.

With your support, each young person in *The Possibilities Project* will achieve independence and acquire healthy, permanent connections to adults who will provide a lifetime of support and guidance.

## YOUR INVESTMENT IN VIRGINIA'S FUTURE

Your support of Foster Care Adoption and TPP is a critical investment in the future of these young people — and in the future of Virginia.

**\$16,000**

to support placing a child who is in foster care into a permanent home

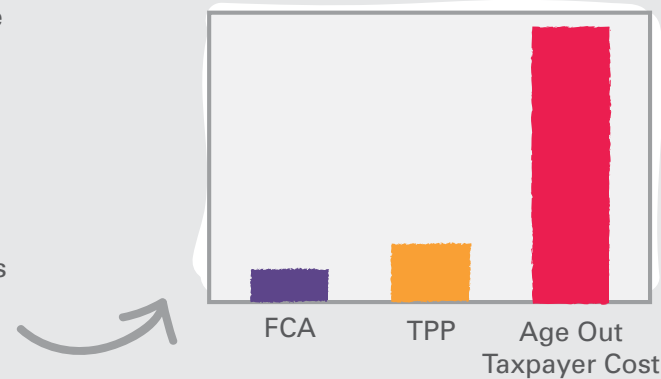
**\$30,000**

to support one young adult in The Possibilities Project for one year

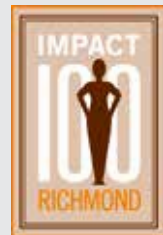
Youth who age out of foster care incur on average over

**\$300,000**

in social costs over their lifetime. This includes **taxpayer funded costs** such as public assistance and incarceration, increased medical costs and lost tax revenues.



## THE POSSIBILITIES PROJECT SUPPORTING FUNDS



The **Impact 100 Richmond Giving Circle** selected The Possibilities Project in a selective competition to be the recipient of a \$100,000 grant in May of 2015. Impact 100's grant allowed TPP to move forward with hiring staff and preparing the housing that would be used in the Project. The Impact 100 grant had an enormous effect on TPP's ability to launch. It also had a ripple effect by assuring other donors that TPP had competitively gained the support of hundreds of powerful and philanthropic women who saw the incredible impact the Project could have on our youth and community. CHS is extremely grateful for the support of Impact 100.

*"We see this innovative program both as a model for effective collaboration and as a long-term investment in youth that will pay dividends for years to come."*

### CHS IS GRATEFUL FOR THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S SUPPORT

CHS is extremely grateful for the generous support of numerous investors in The Possibilities Project, including The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia:

"At the Community Foundation, we believe we have a role in advancing solutions that help enhance economic prosperity in the region, including safe and affordable housing, effective workforce development and financial literacy programs. That is why we are proud supporters of The Possibilities Project, because it does all of this and more. By combining these same essential services with trauma informed counseling, The Possibilities Project gives extremely vulnerable and underserved young adults a chance to become productive, contributing members of society. We see this innovative program both as a model for effective collaboration and as a long-term investment in youth that will pay dividends for years to come."

Sherrie Brach  
Armstrong  
President and CEO

YOUR GIFT MAKES OUR PROGRAMS POSSIBLE.  
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

[DONATE NOW](#)

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4200 Fitzhugh Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230 | Phone: 804.353.0191 | Toll-free: 800.247.2888 | Fax: 804.353.7451 | [chsva.org](http://chsva.org)

