

COMING HOME

Every child deserves a home.



This e-newsletter is sponsored by SUNTRUST

March 2019



Thanks to Our Advocacy Efforts, Partnerships and Outreach, A Record Number of Foster Care Bills Passed The General Assembly This Session!

In partnership with Voices for Virginia's Children and the Virginia Law Poverty Center our Advocacy Team blitzed the Capitol during the 2019 General Assembly. After dozens of meetings and presentations with elected senators and delegates from both parties over the last several months, our supercharged team is proud to report that major reform of our Foster Care system has begun.

Among the many victories, the The Foster Care Omnibus Bill, SB1339, patroned by Senator Reeves is a standout. This bill is a result of the [JLARC report](#) that came out in December about the foster care system in Virginia, and incorporates many of the recommendations from that report to improve our system to better serve our children and youth in foster care. We are grateful to see that Virginia has used this report as an opportunity to make some important and necessary improvements.

Among other things, this bill will allow Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) to assume temporary control of a local board of social services; require a confidential hotline to receive reports and complaints from foster parents and others; and requires VDSS to establish caseload standards that limit the number of cases that can be assigned to each foster care caseworker. The full bill can be found [here](#).

This is a crowning achievement of innovation and hard work taking place at CHS in service of Virginia's underserved and vulnerable populations. [Subscribe to the CHS Advocacy Blog here](#) to read about our entire epic journey!



Adoption Spotlight: Mutusim

To put it simply, 11 year-old Mutusim is a lover of life. He can rarely be found without a smile and uses each and every one of his muscles to laugh at his own jokes. He is a passionate young man who is eager to share his many interests with others. He loves to dance without an ounce of shame and is an avid fan of sports. Mutusim loves to be outdoors and active and hopes to find a family who enjoys similar activities. Though he was born in the United States, Mutusim's biological parents immigrated here as refugees from Sudan and Egypt. He is bilingual and can speak both Arabic and English. Mutusim is eagerly anticipating the day he will be able to meet his forever family!

"I'm beyond excited to be adopted."

We need your help to find Mutusim--and all of our waiting kids--the permanent family every child deserves. Make sure to visit our [Waiting Children](#) page on our website. Or, [CLICK HERE to make an appointment](#) to start the adoption process! Thank you!



Veil Brewing Co. Happy Hour Fundraiser for CHS March 21

As part of the Third Thursday series at The Veil Brewing Co., Children's Home Society will be featured as the beneficiary on **March 21 from 5-8 pm**. A generous **15% of sales goes to Children's Home Society!**

The Veil is located in trendy Scott's Addition in RVA at [1301 Roseneath Rd](#). Please plan to attend, and support the under-served youth population of Virginia while you enjoy some tasty award-winning beer. Please email dave@chsva.org to let us know you're coming to happy hour!

Encouraging Collaboration Between Adoptive Families

CHS and our Post Adoption Program recognize that sometimes families need support from other adoptive families. Because of this, we facilitate a number of events throughout the year aimed at encouraging natural bonds to develop between the youth and families involved in our program.

Recently Maria participated in a CHS Post Adoption Kid's Club and became fast friends with Tiffany, a girl about the same age whose adoption finalized over the summer. After noticing this newly formed friendship, their two families met each on a number of occasions for dinner. Through the natural forming of these relationships, Maria has benefitted from the support and experience of a seasoned adoptive family. The two girls have both gained a friend who has shared experiences of foster care and adoption.

Through Kid's Clubs, Adoptive Family Engagement events, and sometimes simply sharing contact information, we encourage our families to get to know each other--and add each other to their natural supports. [Click here to read a blog on our new Adoptive Family Engagements.](#)

This spring we have scheduled several parent-led social meet-ups in Richmond and Fredericksburg. These meet-ups are open to any adoptive family or family in the process of pursuing adoption. Attendance is free, please contact your local staff facilitator to get registered or [click here for more information!](#)



CHS Annual Report and Donor Recognition...it's "in the mail!"

Our 2019 Annual Report is not just a vehicle to present our impressive outcomes and financial strength during Fiscal Year 2018. It is also an opportunity to offer a message of thanks from our CEO and Board Chair, showcase just a few of the accomplishments of our various programs, express our gratitude to our venerated community partners and donors, and ask for your continued support of our critical mission.

Please check your mailbox this week for your Annual Report. As you review the messages, images and graphics, please consider returning the enclosed envelope--or making an online donation--as a generous token of your appreciation for the Power of Trailblazing that CHS embarks upon on behalf of the deserving but often overlooked children of our Commonwealth.



CHS Supporters Rocked in the New Year at our Second Annual Eve of the Eve Fundraiser!

We were thrilled with the turn out,--and sponsor support--for our second annual winter party Eve of the Eve. Held on the evening of Saturday, December 29th, the event was sponsored by SunTrust, Aetna and M&T Bank--and hosted by the CHS Junior Board members. Ticket sales benefited all of our programs for waiting children, adoptive families and at-risk youth transitioning out of foster care.

This festive fundraiser featured an impressive spread of Mexican fare, desserts, dancing, and a silent auction at Casa del Barco on the Canal in Shockoe Slip. [Click here](#) to see the photos on Facebook, and **GRACIAS to all of our attenders and supporters!**



CHS CEO & President Nadine Marsh-Carter IN THE NEWS:

Richmond Memorial Health Foundation "Equity Champion" interview: Nadine Marsh-Carter

Community Foundation for a greater Richmond highlights "bold women leaders in our community" in celebration of Women's History Month



Every dollar makes a difference in the life of a child

Please [VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) to learn about supporting CHS, and some of the ways we put your gifts to work building strong adoptive families in Virginia: [YOUR GIFT'S IMPACT.](#)

Donate Now