

COMING HOME

CHS Newsletter | OCTOBER 2019



Every child deserves a home.



YOU'RE INVITED: CHS "Play for Keeps" 2019 Fundraiser

Bring the whole family on November 16 for an afternoon of fun & games in support of Virginia's children waiting for adoption and youth who have aged out of foster care. In recognition of National Adoption Month, Play For Keeps 2019 is presented by CHS's Junior Board. It will feature arcade games, CHS bingo with fabulous prizes, food, beverages, raffles and a silent auction featuring terrific items from throughout Virginia.

- November 16, 2019 from noon – 3:00 pm
- Bingo Beer Company on Broad St. in Scott's Addition
- Tickets are \$45 and include food, arcade game tokens, bingo, two adult beverages, and a silent auction! Raffle tickets are available for purchase.
- \$25 tickets are available for kids 14 and under!

Please register at chsva.org/play-for-keeps-2019/



Adoption Spotlight: Aangel

Aangel is a loving teenager with a smile that can light up any room. Aangel also has a great sense of humor and is always telling jokes to make other people laugh. She loves to have conversations with people and will ask you deep philosophical questions. Aangel is an animal lover and enjoys having a pet to take care of. She enjoys playing basketball and football, board games, listening to music, and dining out. Seeing the beach and putting her feet in the water is on her bucket list! In a family, Aangel would love to attend church,

be active, travel and feel like she belongs. You can help Aangel fulfil her dreams!

“I want to play on a team, see the beach, and feel like I belong.”

We need your help to find Aangel--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!



Thanks To Our Generous Facebook Community of Support!

Earlier this year CHS announced that The Possibilities Project, which provides housing and full wrap around supports for young adults who have aged out of foster care, was expanding to serve more youth. With this great news came the need to ask our supporters for help.

While several generous donors had already offered to furnish the new apartments, we had an immediate need for a storage unit to temporarily store the furnishings. So CHS initiated a Facebook fundraiser for \$400 in donations by September 1.

The reaction was swift and amazing! In just a few days, several supporters in our community made donations to the tune of nearly \$700! ***We'd now like to recognize our very generous donors who met and exceeded the call for support...THANK YOU!***

We know that CHS and The Possibilities Project has many more fans who want to help. So please stay tuned to [our Face](#)

[book](#) for future funding and donation requests. Also please visit the [Wish List](#) on our website. In early November, check out the [Holiday Wish List](#) that will enable you to make the holiday spirit come alive for these deserving youth like they may have never known before!

You too can participate in the noble mission of supporting these deserving young adults as they transition from struggle to great success.



OUR FOSTER CARE ADOPTION PROGRAM

- 112 FOSTER CHILDREN** of all ages, races and backgrounds served by CHS licensed program and supporting healthy, permanent families
- 53 ADOPTIVE PARENTS** who have and serve by CHS as baby & family
- 45 FINALIZED ADOPTIONS** including the adoption of an infant and post-adoptive care
- CHS NOW PROVIDES FOSTER CARE SUPPORTS** to help families to help children, pay off for their own expenses to help with child care and other expenses of the child's placement

"I support CHS because it allowed my wife and me to adopt three wonderful, loving and loyal children. Our lives were forever changed because of CHS."

POST-ADOPTION SERVICES

- 431 CURSITS** provided to date
- 71 PARENTS** receive telephone and in-person professional support, including in-home support, coaching and referrals to other services
- 103 PARENTS** participate in Family Support Network and in-person advisory team
- 72 CHILDREN** participate in CHS Child Support program
- 100% OF FAMILIES** receive in-person family support at a minimum once per year
- 94% OF CHILDREN** reported being more confident in their parents after participating in CHS CHS

CHS is a pilot program aimed at creating vibrant, FAMILY NETWORKS OF SUPPORT to help the placement and strengthening ones.

THE IMPACT OF ADVOCACY

THIS YEAR CHS ADVOCACY EFFORTS INCLUDE:

- Engaging **60 LEGISLATORS** per house state and legislative sessions
- Working with 20 agencies to identify **60 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**
- Researching legislation for the House & Senate (Division 10 of the General Assembly)
- Learning our advocacy story
- LISTENING SESSIONS** to hear from advocates
- Working on these Senate bills for implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act

"I support CHS because of the work they put into getting it right, doing research, supporting families, and most importantly listening to the needs of the children they serve. CHS brings us closer to a world where every child has the love and support they deserve."

THE POSSIBILITIES PROJECT SUCCESS STORY

Madhulika joined The Possibilities Project in the summer of 2017. After she had spent one of her best years at age 18 in an out-of-home placement, Madhulika spent years in and out of homelessness. She is determined to give her siblings education, but some social barriers made it difficult for them to get into a community college due to financial barriers and unstable housing. Prior to joining the program, Madhulika's transportation was a struggle to maintain her car until she was working. She was dealing with lots of stress and feeling physically and emotionally exhausted. She had been unable to find a job and was struggling to pay her rent. She was also struggling with the challenge of daily life, why keep on looking for a job and maintaining independence but not out of work.

Madhulika finally decided to get herself first and apply for a spot in The Possibilities Project. In less than two years, Madhulika has maintained her job and has received educational support and job training. Thanks to her employer, she has obtained her driver's license and her first vehicle. After finally being able to focus on her education, she is set to complete her college coursework in American Sign Language by the end of the academic year. In addition to being able to maintain her job, Madhulika now also able to support her family, pay off her debt and still maintain her life of fun time. Madhulika works as a foster care and child advocate for other youth who have spent out of home care in their experienced homes. She has also chosen to remain involved with The Possibilities Project in a paid capacity, helping those after she came to the program.

With over three years of stable housing and job and school support, she has been able to get her first apartment and work for the Possibilities for the last of her adult life. Her story has been featured in a report and annual report, not only for Madhulika and her loved ones, but for her entire CHS family and staff. The way in which she has been able to get back toward the top rung for housing and seeing the countless accomplishments that will be ahead.

THE POSSIBILITIES PROJECT

- Completed its first anniversary in March 2018
- 80 employees for support
- 14 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS completed housing training last year 2018
- 3 YOUNG GRADUATED and are now being hired, employed and going to the university. 100 youth
- 4 YOUNG PROGRESS TOWARDS educational completion GOALS
- 100% WERE EMPLOYED within placement in 2018
- 77% MAINTAINED THE SAME JOB for three to more months
- 100% received housing education and support, in-person family services
- continued ON-SITE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES to reduce barriers to participating in counseling
- 100% PORTALS are operational and implemented for 100% of the TO BEYOND CONNECT and in-person housing and family services

TRAINING & PROFESSIONALS

- CHS TRAINED 316 INDIVIDUALS in residential education, family, professional and community members
- 14% received their knowledge of the subject matter reported after attending
- 100% reported an increase in their skills after attending

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Children's Home Society of Virginia
4200 Fitzhugh Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23220

CHS FY2019 Impact Report

Did you know that CHS facilitated 45 adoptions for Virginia's most vulnerable children last year, and that we worked with a total of 112 children waiting in Virginia's foster care system for a permanent family?

Or that our Post Adoption Services Program provided 431 parents and adopted children support, coaching, referrals and much needed respite?

Or that our statewide advocacy efforts engaged 60 legislators and identified more than three dozen policy recommendations?

[Please click here](#) to check out our just-produced IMPACT REPORT for fiscal year 2019, where you'll learn about ALL of our great outcomes and efforts over the last year. Hopefully you'll be inspired to support and donate to CHS!

Also check your mailbox for the Impact Report, and please consider returning the enclosed envelope--or making an online donation--as a generous token of your appreciation for the lives CHS transforms on behalf of the deserving but often overlooked children of our Commonwealth.

Join the PAC—Kid's Club is now The PAC! ("Post Adoption Club")



A name change to our adoptee respite program was made to more accurately describe what we are doing. The clever acronym "the PAC" has been very well received by our participants and supporters! Over the summer months we were very encouraged by the growth of our PAC events in the Fredericksburg region, where our two events turned out to be the highest ever attended—totaling 33 participants. We also hosted 3 Richmond-area PACs over the

summer, also with 33 total participants. All told, over the summer we provided 528 *much needed* respite hours for the adoptees' exceptional parents!

One participating sibling set of three brothers who have been adopted into two separate families were able to use our summer PAC as a way to have "brother time." The oldest brother even chose to attend our Busch Gardens trip, instead of going with his summer camp, so that he could spend the day with his brothers.

Another highlight was that one of our attendees participated in her first ever PAC after being discharged from a week-long hospitalization—and quickly made friends with another participant. The two youth have kept in touch and have been awesome supports for each other ever since!

COMING UP:

- The PAC—Fall Adventures—10/14/19 in Fredericksburg.
- The PAC—Sports Center of Richmond—Election Day 11/5/19 in RVA

Look For and Support CHS During National Adoption Month 2019

It's almost November, and once again during National Adoption Month CHS will be generating great awareness about adopting children out of foster care—and asking the community to financially support our amazing programs for Virginia's vulnerable youth and adoptive families. Look for CHS promotions in your Facebook feeds, Google searches and a variety of public websites. We are hoping for some great press in the newspaper and on television and radio, and have purchased a full page ad in November's Richmond Magazine. Don't forget about our [Play For Keeps Fundraiser](#) at Bingo Beer on November 16! Please help CHS make this year's National Adoption Month the best ever.

GIVE A CHILD HOPE

DO SOMETHING WONDERFUL.
ADOPT A TEEN.

There are over 700 foster care children waiting for adoption in Virginia. Meet our waiting children to "get started" or make a donation at www.chsva.org.

children's home society
OF VIRGINIA

WWW.CHSVA.ORG • 800.247.2888 toll free

Join the Friends of the Possibilities Project

If you too are a fan of The Possibilities Project and want to participate in our efforts to support Virginia's youth who have aged out of the foster care system without being adopted, please [sign up to be a member of the Friends of TPP](#). You'll receive the latest updates and news about the progress of the youth enrolled in The Possibilities Project, and learn about ways you can help these former foster children who are working towards achieving their dreams.



Every dollar makes a difference in the life of a child

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

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Children's Home Society of Virginia
[4200 Fitzhugh Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230](#)