

A photograph of two Black women smiling and embracing each other. The woman on the left has long braids and is wearing a white shirt. The woman on the right has curly hair, wears glasses and a white shirt, and has her arm around the other woman's shoulder. They are both looking towards the camera with warm expressions.

Transforming Lives with  
Permanent Relationships  
and Lasting Support



[www.chsva.org](http://www.chsva.org)

2018-19 IMPACT REPORT

# OUR FOSTER CARE ADOPTION PROGRAM

## 112 FOSTER CHILDREN

of all ages, races, and backgrounds served by CHS toward creating and supporting healthy, permanent families

## 53 ADOPTIVE PARENTS

were trained and served by CHS to build a family

## 45 FINALIZED ADOPTIONS

Including: *the adoption of an 18 year old and an 8 year old with SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS (cerebral palsy and wheelchair bound)*

## CHS NOW PROVIDES FOSTER CARE SUPPORTS

Expanded services to include foster care with our approved families that includes individualized service planning and supervision 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 CLIENTS

served this year

## 71 PARENTS

received intensive and trauma-informed parent coaching to address their children's behavioral and attachment needs

## 103 PARENTS

received Family Support Services that involved advocacy, case coordination and referrals

## 72 CHILDREN

participated in Kids Club respite program

## 100% OF FAMILIES

reported improved family dynamics as a direct result of CHS services

## 96% OF CHILDREN

reported feeling more connected to their peers after participating in Kids Club

Implemented a pilot program aimed at creating adoptive **FAMILY NETWORKS OF SUPPORT**

in both the Richmond and Fredericksburg areas



# THE IMPACT OF ADVOCACY

## THIS YEAR CHS ADVOCACY EFFORTS INCLUDED:

- Educating **60 LEGISLATORS** on foster care and adoption issues
- Working with 20 experts to identify **40 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**
- Successfully advocating for the Foster Care Omnibus Bill at the General Assembly
- Launching our advocacy blog
- **LISTENING SESSIONS** to hear from adoptive parents
- Serving on Three Branch Institute 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



Nahdiyah joined The Possibilities Project in the summer of 2017. After she had aged out of foster care at age 18 with minimal supports, Nahdiyah spent years in and out of homelessness. She attempted to start her college education, but soon found herself unable to maintain her classes on a consistent basis due to financial barriers and unstable housing. Prior to joining the program, unreliable transportation caused her to struggle to maintain the low wage jobs she was working. She was dealing with lots of stress and hardship—personally and within her family. Nahdiyah often put her needs aside to help others. With her education on hold and struggling with the challenges of daily life, any hope of building her future and achieving independence felt miles out of reach.

Nahdiyah finally decided to put herself first and apply for a spot in The Possibilities Project. In less than two years, Nahdiyah has maintained her job and has received numerous raises and promotions thanks to her stellar performance; in fact, she now makes much more than a living wage. 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 certificate in American Sign Language by the end of the summer. In addition to being able to maintain her classes, a full time job and becoming a licensed driver, Nahdiyah was also able to repair her credit, pay off her debt and build savings. Outside of her full time job, Nahdiyah works as a local and state advocate for other youth who have aged out of foster care or have experienced homelessness. She has also chosen to remain involved with The Possibilities Project as a peer mentor, helping those who are newer to the program.

With less than two years of stable housing and wrap around supports, this incredible young woman began to reach her potential and build the foundation for the rest of her adult life. Signing onto her own lease this past July was a surreal and proud moment—not only for Nahdiyah and her loved ones, but for her entire CHS family as well. The sky is the limit for her now, and we look forward to following her journey and seeing the countless accomplishments that still lie ahead.

# MORE CHS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

## THE POSSIBILITIES PROJECT

- Celebrated it’s third anniversary in March 2018
- 56 requests for services
- **14 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS** provided housing during fiscal year 2019
- **3 YOUTHS GRADUATED** and are now living independently—and giving back by mentoring TPP youth.
- 80% made **PROGRESS TOWARDS** educational/vocational **GOALS**
- **100% WERE EMPLOYED** either part-time or full-time
- **77% MAINTAINED THE SAME JOB** for three or more months
- 98% received trauma education and/or participated in mental health services
- Initiated **ON-SITE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** to reduce barriers to participating in counseling
- **TPP PORTAL** was developed and implemented for TPP Alumni **TO STAY CONNECTED** and to access resources and community services

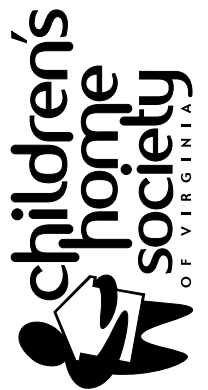
## TRAINING & PRESENTATIONS

- CHS **TRAINED 336 INDIVIDUALS** that included adoptive families, professionals and community members
- **98%** reported their knowledge of the subject matter increased after attending
- **100%** reported an increase in their skills after attending

YOUR GIFT STARTS WITH A STAMP!

Your support helps us create better futures for Virginia’s children and families!

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HOME.



Children’s Home Society of Virginia  
4200 Fitzhugh Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23230