

Every child deserves a home.



Better Housing  
COALITION

## My Path Forward

Empowering Youth for Independence



### CHS Program for Young Adults Renames to Better Reflect Growth and Outcomes: *My Path Forward*

Children's Home Society of Virginia is excited to announce that our award winning program for youth who have aged out of the foster care system has a new name. As our program enters its fifth year—and many program participants have successfully followed individualized paths toward independence—we began to hear from them that our program does more than just explore possibilities. It helps them move forward toward a brighter future, each in their own way. That is why we are very pleased to announce that our program for youth who have aged out of foster care will now be called **My Path Forward**.

My Path Forward has already helped youth achieve amazing results. Our program participants are obtaining and maintaining employment, are making progress toward their educational goals, and have been given the financial literacy tools that will help them succeed going forward. With the bedrock of stable and secure housing and the support of our life skill coaches and case managers, My Path Forward looks toward a brighter future for each and every program participant.

We are also pleased to announce that we are accepting applicants right now as we look to expand the program. To learn more about My Path Forward or to apply for participation in the program, please visit [mypathforward.org](http://mypathforward.org).



### Adoption Spotlight: Kathreen

Meet Kathreen! Kathreen is a happy girl who loves to stay active. She enjoys swimming and playing outside. Kathreen is always interested in learning new things and wants to learn how to cook. She likes to have her hair braided and try new hairstyles. Kathreen is very friendly and enjoys meeting new people since she loves to smile and make people laugh. To help with her studies, Kathreen enjoys using educational computer programs. She loves animals, especially dogs and horses. [Click here](#) to view a heartfelt video of Kathreen.

*"I want to wake up in a safe place where people care about me and love me."*

We need your help to find Kathreen—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!



Carlon Zanders



Mel Tull

### Outstanding Board Chair Passes The Torch

As we begin our new fiscal year this month, we would like to congratulate our incoming Board Chair, Carlon Zanders and thank him for his incredible service to CHS. Carlon is President of Zan's Refuse and a true leader both in our community and on our Board. We are blessed that he has chosen to share his talents with us to lead us in serving our amazing clients.

We would also like to thank our outgoing Board Chair, Mel Tull, for his outstanding leadership of CHS over that past two years. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing team of leaders.



## Fall Virtual Fundraising Event: SAVE THE DATE!

We are excited to announce that CHS will present its first ever virtual fundraiser on **Thursday, October 15, 2020**. Our event will feature food delivered to your home, and a program featuring a jazz combo led by our own Bruin Richardson, a new video featuring stories of how our clients are managing the pandemic, and a keynote address by **Danny Avula, the head of the Richmond and Henrico Health Districts**. In addition, each person who purchases a ticket will be entered to win a fabulous sculpture valued at over \$4,000. We hope to "see" you then!



## Our Critical Services for Adoptive Families Safely Continue

We are continuing to provide services to our clients, primarily through remote and electronic means. When we do need to meet with clients in person we either utilize the common areas of the office or meet outside in a place like a park. For these reasons we are continuing to work remotely through the end of the summer and will re-evaluate at that time. We have developed stringent protocols

for when employees or guests do need to enter the building which include masks, social distancing and various cleaning and disinfecting procedures. Our primary concern is the health and safety of our clients and our staff. As there is not always someone in the building we have also secured a PO Box to receive mail. PO Box 6266, Richmond, Virginia 23230 is our current primary mailing address. Please contact Nadine or Bruin if you have any questions.



## Mt Olivet Baptist Church Delivers Big for our Young Adults in this Time of Need

CHS and our program for youth aging out of foster care, My Path Forward, would like to recognize our community partner Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Montpelier, VA. This spring we were again a recipient of their amazing generosity and thoughtfulness as they collected another huge annual donation for our young adults! Their third annual drive for donations for MPF concluded in March with an astonishing collection of food (canned goods, dry goods, desserts, pastas, beverages etc!), paper products, cleaning supplies, and gift cards.

The deserving young adults in My Path Forward come to us from the foster care system with little or no resources of their own. As they focus on their goals, plan their careers and grapple with employment, it is often a challenge for them to afford basic needs. Thanks to this generous donation from Mt. Olivet, we were able to provide our young people everything they needed to stay afloat for many critical months amidst the pandemic! Everyone associated with MPF and CHS—our staff, clients and supporters—would like to express our sincerest thanks to the entire congregation of Mt Olivet for their continued support and partnership.

Please visit the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church website at [www.mtolivetbaptchurch.org](http://www.mtolivetbaptchurch.org) to see more pictures (in the Gallery) taken in March at CHS during their spectacular delivery!



## Every dollar makes a difference in the life of a child

Please [visit our website](#) to learn about supporting CHS. [Click here to learn about YOUR GIFT'S IMPACT](#) to find out the many ways we put your gifts to work to support vulnerable children and youth as we build strong adoptive families in Virginia!

**Donate Now**



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