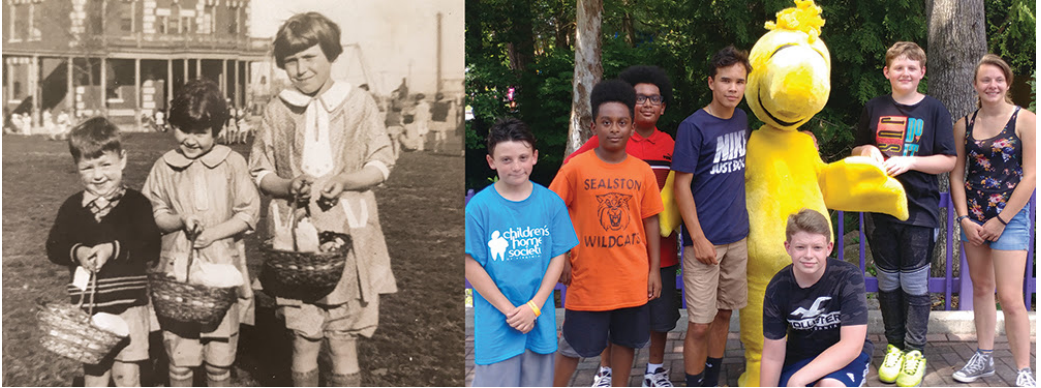


COMING HOME

CHS Newsletter | January 2021



Every child deserves a home.



Thank You For Celebrating Our 120th Anniversary With Us This Year!

For the last year, we have been celebrating our rich history. We have recognized and shared our feats, triumphs, challenges, and more in our Red Stocking Calendar, [Annual Report](#), a series of [blog posts](#), social media posts, office gatherings and during our October Virtual Fundraiser. Throughout our 120 years, one thing always stayed the same: Children's Home Society of Virginia's ability to adapt and innovate to serve Virginia's children and youth.

Reflecting on our history and the evolution of our critical programs, CHS President Nadine Marsh-Carter writes, ***"As the CHS President, former board member, and adoptive parent, I am humbled and proud to be a small part of the agency's 120+ year legacy of serving Virginia's children, youth and families. Like CHS's charter board members who started the agency in 1900, our current board, staff, and community supporters are committed to ensuring children are adopted into permanent, loving families. In addition, today we work diligently to ensure that youth who don't have a permanent family get the supports and skills they need to thrive as adults."*** [Click here](#) to read Nadine's entire message about our history and her personal and compelling testimony.

On January 30th, we re-set the clock to celebrate our 121st birthday! ***Please join the celebration!*** In honor of the upcoming 121st Year of Children's Home Society of Virginia, please consider making a donation today at www.chsva.org/donate-now-chsva and help us raise **\$12,100!** Whether you give \$121, \$1,210 or the full \$12,100, your support will help us attain our mission of permanency for Virginia's children and youth for the next 121 years.

Adoption Spotlight: Forrest



Meet Forrest! Forrest is a charming, caring, and active 16 year-old. He has a strong sense of competition and loves to show off his skills, whether it's playing football, basketball, or enjoying board games or card games, and loves books, movies, and music.

***"I'm hoping for a family that can show me new experiences-
-and where I can feel secure
and worry free!"***

Forrest is a great student and hopes to attend college one day. He aspires to become a professional Youtuber, video game designer, architect, or engineer. He is very creative and a talented artist; he enjoys origami and coloring! He hopes to one day have the opportunity to learn to snowboard and to travel to places such as England and Japan.

We need your help to find Forrest—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!

Thankfully the Holidays were Happy for our My Path Forward Participants!

CHS' My Path Forward (*formerly The Possibilities Project*) team really stepped it up and delivered for this year's MPF 2020 Holiday Event. It was a very festive and safe time for all! Gifts, stockings, and TWO complete Holiday meals—with dessert—were delivered to each MPF participant. We had decorating contests, holiday trivia games, and "sang" carols.

In addition to our generous donors who help make this happen each year, CHS would like to take a moment to thank the behind-the-scenes crew, including our Junior Board and the entire MPF staff, for making the holiday season (Thanksgiving included) an amazing time for our young people. A huge New Year THANKS to CHS staff and supporters alike!



My Path Forward is Producing Positive Outcomes for Young Adults like Kelly...Thanks to You

Kelly reached out to My Path Forward after researching independent living programs. She realized that at 21 years of age, there weren't many opportunities left for a former foster care youth. Since living on her own since 18 years of age, Kelly had endured three years of homelessness, job instability, and hardship.

Kelly came to My Path Forward with the simple goals of "learning to stand on my own two feet and making it to 22 years old." With the relief of being in safe and stable housing, Kelly and her My Path Forward Team mapped out a plan and began the process of building her new path to

independence. Since she's been in the program, Kelly has severed ties with an abusive ex-boyfriend, maintained employment, and participates in weekly individual therapy through My Path's Forward partnership with a local therapy office. Kelly also completed a successful semester in community college and earned a scholarship through Better Housing Coalition which will enable her to continue her studies towards nursing.

Outcomes like this are possible because of your continued support. Kelly has a safe home and stable employment despite the unimaginable challenges she and other Virginia youth now face. Your support has helped us build a program and an environment where Virginia's youth can reach their full potential without ever becoming a cost to society. Amid this ongoing pandemic, which affects the disadvantaged populations we serve even greater than society at large, these deserving youth need our help now more than ever. Please [reach out for more information](#) about the at-risk youth we serve—and opportunities for your vital support.

New Employee Spotlight: Yvonne Fox, Outreach Specialist for My Path Forward

As our My Path Forward program has exceeded all expectations and delivered amazing outcomes for young adults who aged out of the foster care system without being adopted, CHS has made plans to expand the program to add more participants. We'd like to introduce Yvonne Fox, MSW, who as Outreach Specialist will bring her extensive experience and connections in the field to help us identify and enroll even more young adults into the program.

Yvonne is well suited for this new role, having supervised independent living programs in Central and Northern Virginia, and acted as a liaison for local departments of social services and court services. With the support of Yvonne and our other qualified My Path Forward team members, our award-winning program is set to help deserving young adults continue to become contributing members to society for many years to come!



Get Ready to Get Out and Walk for CHS's Spring Fundraiser!



CHS is making plans for a Spring "Go The Distance Challenge-Supporting Children, Youth and Family," in **May 2021**. Please plan to sign up and spread the word in support of Virginia's vulnerable children and youth, and the adoptive families that make permanent homes for them. Participants will pledge to walk a certain number of miles during the month of May, and recruit their friends, loved ones and colleagues to walk with them or support their participation with

a generous donation. Walk to support CHS on the golf course, hiking trails or just the neighborhood at your own time and pace. Stay tuned or visit our [events page](#) for more information and registration coming soon!



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!

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Children's Home Society of Virginia

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