

JULY 2021-JUNE 2022

I M P A C T

R E P O R T



YOU BRING
US TOGETHER



Every child deserves a home.

GRATEFUL FOR YOU



This year, we commemorate Children's Home Society of Virginia's 120+ year legacy of creating hope for children, youth, and families by celebrating the thousands of families uplifted through adoption and looking forward with enthusiasm to our next 120+ years.

Our Foster Care Adoption Program continued finding families for children waiting to be adopted into safe and nurturing homes. Our Post Adoption Program supported even more adoptive families by providing a variety of trauma-informed support services. My Path

Forward served even more aged out foster youth by helping them navigate the additional health, employment and myriad other obstacles created by COVID-19. And the advocacy successes we enjoyed will help ensure youth who age out of foster care have the tools they need to thrive in the workplace.

We remain eternally grateful for your investment of resources and time. Your support continues to transform lives, ultimately positively impacting our entire community! We thank you for making CHSVA's first 12 decades so amazing and look forward to all the future will bring!

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Nadine

Nadine Marsh-Carter
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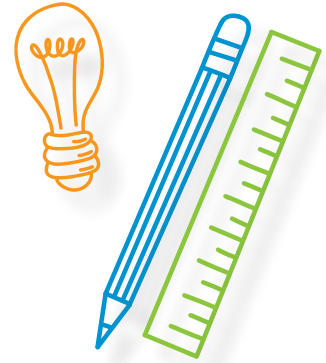
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FOSTER CARE ADOPTION PROGRAM

Virginia has over 700 children waiting in foster care to be adopted. Children are placed in care due to abuse or neglect and need well-equipped families to help them feel safe, learn to trust and thrive within a family.

Children's Home Society of Virginia partners with local departments of social services to find adoptive families for children, youth, and sibling groups in foster care. We train families about trauma and its impact on behavior and brain development. We also support families as they learn to parent through challenges related to mental health, regulation of emotions, attachment, and trauma related behaviors.

- **144 Foster Children Served**
- **89 Children Placed with a Family**
- **55 Adoptive Parents Served**
- **48 Finalized Adoptions**



THE TOTH FAMILY

Our Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter began working with 13-year-old Takoda in April 2021, after he had been in foster care for two years due to neglect. During his first visit with our recruiter, Takoda was excited to talk about adoption and said he desperately wanted and needed a family. When our WWK Recruiter asked him, "What does adoption mean to you?" He replied, "A family that doesn't yell and is kind. That's all I really want." And so, we got to work right away.

Takoda is on the autism spectrum so we sought out a family who is experienced parenting a child with unique needs. Jim and Katie Toth offered all Takoda needed, including experience parenting a child on the autism spectrum. After our recruiter reached out to the Toths, they started visits with Takoda within a week and he transitioned to their home within two months. They were wonderful to Takoda and also diligent about reaching out for CHSVA support when the adjustment period became trying or tumultuous.

After six months, Takoda started his countdown to "his big day" - May 20, 2022 - the day he would legally become a Toth! Many folks turned out for his adoption day, including his bus driver from his old school. When it was time to make things official in court, Takoda clapped, squealed, and piped up saying, "I'm so happy! Let's do this!" With that, the judge struck his gavel at 11:01 and said, "It's official, you are adopted!"

The Toth family has a rich history with CHSVA. Over the years, they have participated in support group activities, mentored other CHSVA adoptive families and been an overall asset to our agency. They will now be utilizing our post adoption supports as they continue their journey.

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS CHS CREATE ADOPTIVE FAMILIES FOR WAITING CHILDREN!



**"Adoption gave us the opportunity to create our family. We found kids that we love to the moon and back. It's not always easy but it's the best choice we ever made."
-Katie Toth**

POST ADOPTION PROGRAM

CHSVA understands that adoption is a lifelong process. We are committed to providing high-quality, personalized support services for children and families at any point after adoptions have been finalized. Throughout the lifetime of adoption loss, grief, identify, attachment, and trauma impact children and their families. Our well-rounded program is designed to meet the individual needs of each child and family—from advocacy to respite—with the goal of building strong, permanent families.

- **209 Children, Youth & Adoptive Parents Served Through Our Facilitation of Adoptive Family Peer Support Activities**
- **172 Clients Served via Individualized Family Services (including case management, parent coaching and clinical supports)**
- **156 Children, Youth & Families Served Through Provision of Respite Care and Adoptive Family Trainings**

THE FRAIN FAMILY

Our Post Adoption team has worked with The Frain family for over two years. The Frains adopted two young boys who are now teenagers. The parents were having a challenging time understanding the behaviors the boys started to exhibit as they became older. When the boys started having problematic social interactions and strife in the home, they were referred to our program by another family CHSVA had served. In the beginning of working with the family, things were challenging. But our Post Adoption team put together a service plan that included therapy for the parents and family support groups for the whole family.

CHSVA Post Adoption social workers met with the family regularly to work through the challenges they were facing. The parents truly embraced all the information and utilized resources to help them parent cohesively from a trauma-informed and adoption-competent lens. When they came to our program, the family was experiencing daily conflict. They incorporated all they learned from the support groups, counseling, books, and other resources we provided. They made great strides and ultimately were doing so well, they no longer needed CHSVA services. Mrs. Frain even went through training to start her own peer support group for other adoptive parents! The Frains took advantage of all the support they were offered and now are doing better than ever as a family.

YOU HELP US SUPPORT ADOPTIVE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES!

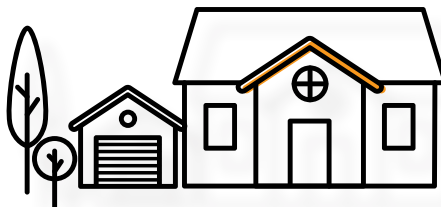


MY PATH FORWARD PROGRAM

My Path Forward is a collaboration between Children's Home Society of Virginia and Better Housing Coalition, Richmond's premier community development organization providing high quality affordable housing and building vibrant communities.

My Path Forward provides housing and wrap-around services to aged out foster youth in Virginia. Our experienced staff tailors service plans for each youth to meet their unique needs—and develop their individual talents—to ensure they are getting ahead in life and able to thrive as independent adults.

- **24 Youth Successfully Completed Program Goals**
- **24 Youth Provided Safe, Quality Housing**
- **92% of Youth Employed**
- **100% of Youth Connected with a Permanent Adult Mentor**
- **100% of Youth Receiving Mental Health Counseling & Supports**
- **92% of Youth Maintaining Health Insurance & Accessing Medical Care**



JACKIE

Like all the youth served by our My Path Forward Program (MPF), Jackie aged out of foster care after experiencing significant trauma throughout her life. She also has a multitude of health diagnoses which require frequent medical management.

When Jackie started MPF, her team spent time learning about her goals and dreams and then assisted her in making plans to achieve them. One of Jackie's many goals was to complete her GED during the current spring semester. The team provided her a variety of supports, which included holding Jackie accountable to attend her GED classes, providing spaces for studying, and coordinating logistics for test days. Jackie utilized MPF supports and in June of this year, she passed her final subject exam and earned her GED! In addition, on the same day, Jackie also took and passed her test to earn her driving learner's permit!

Through hard work and with the support of her MPF Case Manager, Jackie achieved these significant accomplishments just six months after starting the MPF Program. She's also acquiring important life skills, has received emotional supports to address her lifetime of trauma, and received all the intensive medical interventions that she required. Jackie is now so excited for the future. In fact, she wants to go to college and pursue a career in the medical field that will allow her the opportunity to help individuals who have lived through challenging life experiences similar to hers.

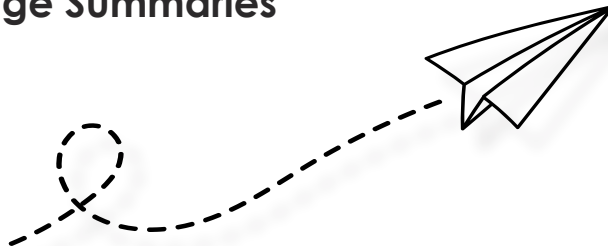


YOU CREATE BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR AGED OUT FOSTER YOUTH!

SEARCH AND REUNION PROGRAM

Our Search and Reunion program offers education and supportive counseling to adult adoptees, birth families and adoptive parents when they inquire about connecting. Whether they seek heritage information, medical history, or the possibility of connecting directly, they receive one on one assistance as they navigate this process from start to finish.

- **149 Served via Inquiry Calls**
- **71 Served via Adoptive and/or Birth Family Updates**
- **63 Individuals Served via Search & Reunion**
- **6 Served via Heritage Summaries**



ALEX AND COREY

Five years after her adoptive father passed away, 24-year-old Alex contacted the Children's Home Society of Virginia's Search & Reunion team to search for her birth family. With the support of her adoptive mother, Alex told her social worker "my fear of not starting a search and following through with the process was greater than my fear of being disappointed." With this attitude of strength, she worked with CHSVA's social worker who began the process of locating her birth family. While we were able to locate her birth parents, they were not prepared to move forward with a connection. With her social worker's support, Alex worked hard to accept what was out of her control and to find peace with this outcome. The worker encouraged her not to lose hope because the circumstances could change in the future.



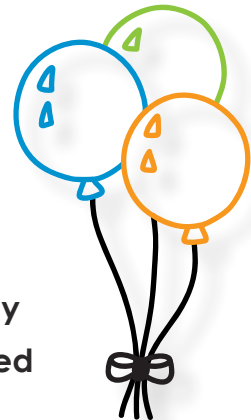
Fast forward two years, when in 2021 CHSVA was contacted by 40-year-old Corey, who wanted to search for his birth family. CHS located Cory's birth parents, but as with Alex, they were not able to connect at that time. CHSVA's social worker, however, realized that Corey's birth mother was also Alex's birth mother! She reached out to explore whether the siblings would like to connect. Since then, Alex and Corey have been talking frequently. Alex and Corey were both raised as only children, but now, thanks to the work of our Search & Reunion Program, they each have a sibling!

**YOUR SUPPORT HELPS CHSVA BE A
LIFETIME ADOPTION RESOURCE!**

ADVOCACY PROGRAM

CHSVA's Advocacy work includes collaborating with state and local leaders on foster care and adoption best practices. We engage families and youth with lived experience and work to amplify their voices. We provide advocacy trainings and opportunities to meet with legislators to share their stories and perspectives, including through our annual Foster Care Advocacy Day

- **68 Legislators Educated on Foster Care & Adoption**
- **39 Youth & Families Engaged in Advocacy Work**
- **Served on VA Commission on Youth Workgroup on Workforce Development**
- **Advocated on bills to support children and youth touched by foster care**
- **Hosted Annual Advocacy Day at VA General Assembly**
- **Presented at Workforce Development Roundtable hosted by Senator Mason**



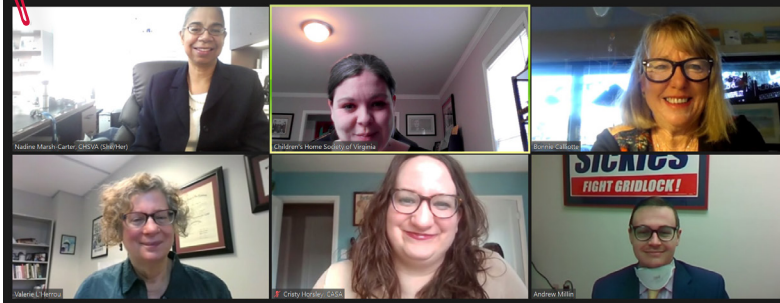
CHSVA ADVOCATES FOR CHANGE

CHSVA's Advocacy work continues to focus on creating improved outcomes for children and youth with foster care experience. This year, our Advocacy team focused on 1) assuring that policy makers understand the urgent need for workforce development resources for foster youth and 2) incorporating the voice of youth when creating those resources.

Studies have shown that by age 26 only 46% of youth with foster care experience are employed, compared to 80% of 26-year-old youth in the general population. In addition, those who are working are often underemployed, making significantly less than their peers.

We asked the Commission on Youth to study workforce barriers and solutions for youth who have aged out of foster care and recruited youth to share their stories as we lifted their voices. One important recommendation from the Commission was the ifoster portal, a cell phone app that will connect youth with workforce development resources. We successfully advocated for the implementation and funding of this program during the 2022 General Assembly session.

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS US TO ADVOCATE FOR IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN AND YOUTH - ULTIMATELY MAKING COMMUNITIES STRONGER!



Advocacy Day 2022 involved CHSVA staff and community partners teaming up with adoptive families, including CHSVA adoptee, Bonnie Calliotte, adopted as an infant in 1955, to educate the General Assembly on foster care issues.

122ND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We celebrated our 122nd anniversary in May at Main Line Brewery in Richmond. It was a night of looking back at our extensive history and looking forward to our future of continuing to make a difference in the lives of youth of all ages.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONORS!

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Almost 250 people came out from our community to make this night possible. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our mission! It is because of your support that we will be able to continue changing lives.



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Our Legacy Society supporters have each made a multi-year pledge of at least \$1,000 per year.

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Our 1900 Society supporters have taken the generous step of making provisions for CHSVA in their wills or estate plans. These gifts are a testimony to each individual's deep belief in our mission, as well as their level of commitment to making a difference in the lives of Virginia's children and families.

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For more than a decade, Estes Express Lines and the Estes family have provided critical support to CHSVA. Through their contributions of time, talent and treasure, they are a model of the impact a great partner can have on advancing our important mission.



"A family-inspired culture is the foundation of Estes Express Lines, and our company is dedicated to giving back to the communities we serve. As long-time supporters of Children's Home Society of Virginia, we're proud to extend this philosophy by sharing our personal resources in ways that make the world a better place."

-Rob & Jean Estes

"Family has always meant so much to us and our company, but there are so many kids and youth out there who don't have one. That's why, year after year, sponsoring Children's Home Society of Virginia continues to be such a satisfying investment."

-Webb & Rose Estes

"Building strong, permanent families is so important. As parents ourselves, we understand what a stable home-life can mean to kids. Supporting Children's Home Society of Virginia is one of the ways that we give back to our community — and the next generation."

-Carrie & Tommy Johnstone

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"My support for the Children's Home Society of Virginia revolves around the belief that it takes a village to raise a child. Experiencing the loss of my parents at a young age, I know that without my village of close relatives and family friends, the outcome for my siblings and me could have been very different. While we were fortunate, there are children in Virginia who do not have a village for support. So, my commitment to CHSVA is to be an engaged partner through my volunteer Board service, by assisting in providing a stronger environment for those children, teens, and young adults who are supported by CHSVA. This is one of the ways my passion leads me to contribute to my community's future.

CarMax has been very supportive of my Board service with CHSVA. The CarMax Foundation was a key component in helping me to make the connection with the CHS. The CarMax Foundation provides further support through a grant to CHS in my honor annually. I am also proud to be a part of an organization that stands behind matching my contributions, whether it is hours or dollars, to the non-profit that I am passionate about." ~Neal

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"Ideally, I'd like to adopt or foster all of the children at CHSVA. Contributing to CHS allows me to make a meaningful difference in the lives of these children in support of their finding forever families or having the necessities they need. My employer, Markel Corporation, takes my donation and ensures that CHSVA benefits even more by offering a triple match. It warms my heart to have Markel support a cause about which I am very passionate." ~Cynthia



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TOGETHERNESS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



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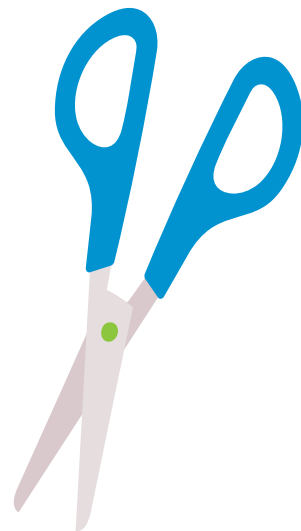


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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF RICHMOND, VOLUNTEERS

ADVOCACY
DAY!





SUMMER & VENUS, MY PATH FORWARD PANTRY DRIVE



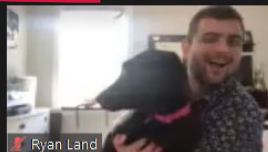
ENTEGRA, MY PATH FORWARD HOLIDAY MEALS



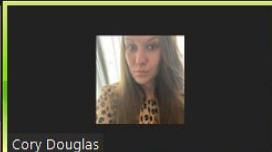
3116 CENTER, MY PATH FORWARD HOLIDAY WISH LIST



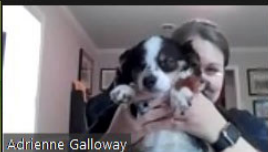
MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, MY PATH FORWARD PANTRY DRIVE



Ryan Land



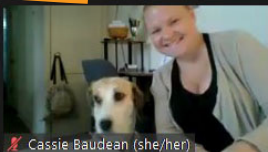
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Adrienne Galloway



Amanda Ritchie



Cassie Baudean (she/her)



CHSVA Adoption Worker (she/her/...



Tory Everson-Roots



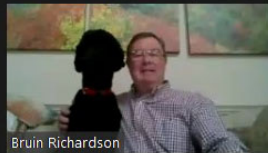
Children's Home Society of Virginia



Kristy Frick



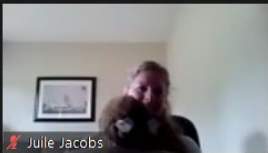
Nadine



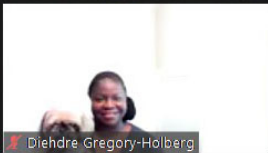
Bruin Richardson



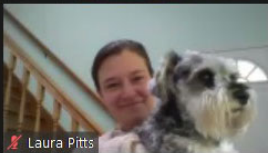
Anna Yates



Julie Jacobs



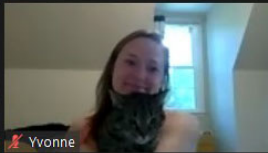
Diehdre Gregory-Holberg



Laura Pitts



Gregory Sampson



Yvonne



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Shakia Mackey

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