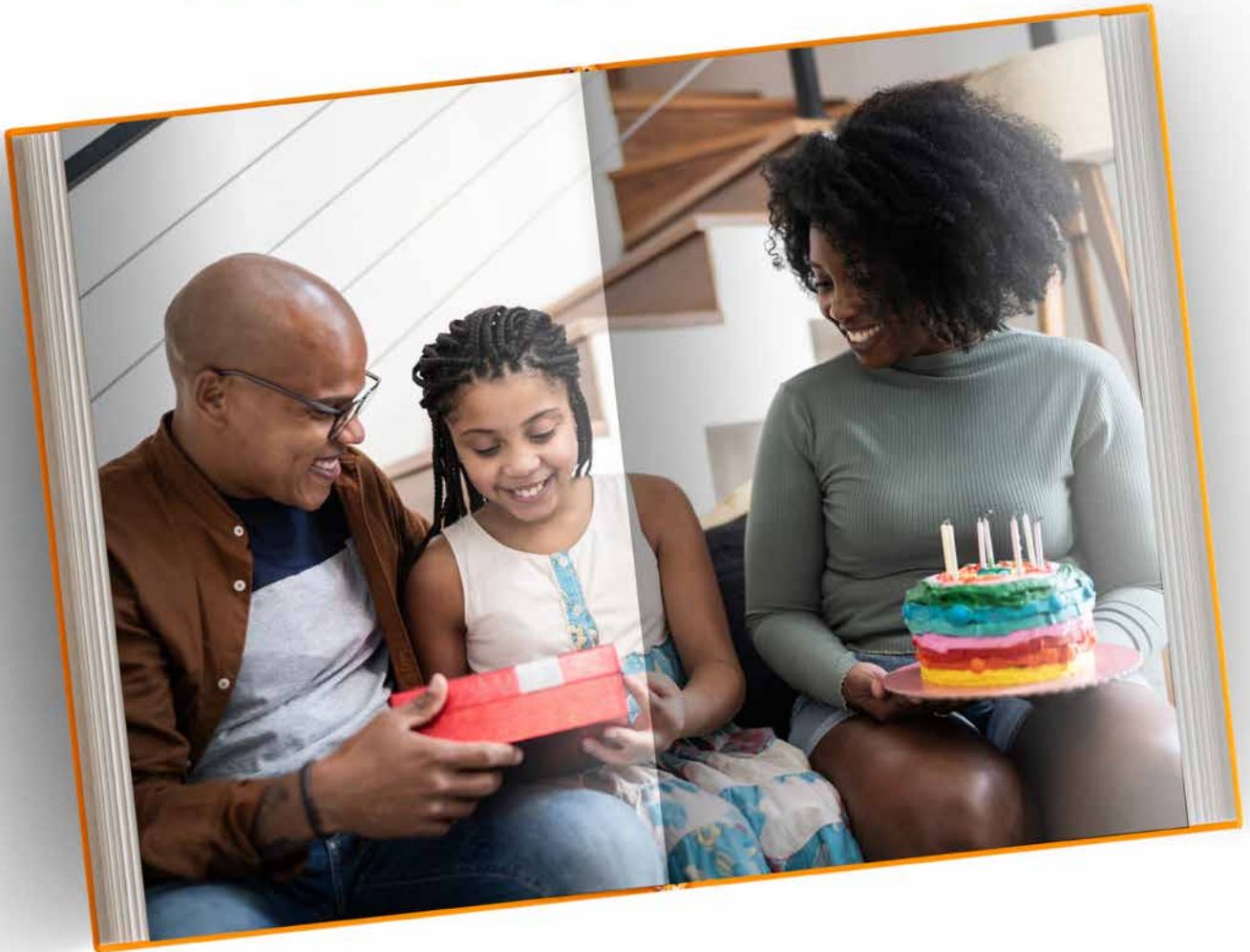


You help write these stories...



ANNUAL REPORT
July 2022-June 2023

 children's
home
society
OF VIRGINIA
Every child deserves a home.



Letter from the Chair and CEO

Dear Friends,

We are honored to have the opportunity to lead Children's Home Society of Virginia. While we often think in terms of how many children, youth and families have been served over the past 124 years (and it's a lot, over 17,000), much of the work we do is done one child, youth or family at a time. It is those individual stories of hope and love that touch our hearts, and we hope the stories we share with you in this report will touch yours.

Without the support of our donors and friends, CHSVA could not do the hard work that allows these stories to come to life – creating thriving families, and making Virginia a better place for us all. Many of you have your own adoption stories, and we are so appreciative of the life-long connections that make us all a part of the CHSVA family. It is our mission to do all we can to continue to create those connections and to give children and youth all the opportunities they need to thrive as adults.

Ultimately, CHSVA is about creating and preserving families, in many different shapes and sizes. Because it is the stories of our families that will tell the story of our future.

Thanks again for your support and interest in our mission, we are eternally grateful.

Krystal Thompson
CEO

John Owen Gwathmey
Board Chair

OUR SERVICES

Foster Care Adoption
Post Adoption
My Path Forward
Search and Reunion
Advocacy



Every child deserves a home.

Children's Home Society of Virginia

(CHSVA) is a full-service, private, nonprofit 501(c)(3), non-sectarian licensed child-placing agency, and one of Virginia's oldest adoption agencies. Since our charter by the Virginia General Assembly in 1900, CHSVA has been guided by the fundamental belief that every child deserves a home. To date, CHSVA has served over 17,000 Virginia children, youth and families.

OUR MISSION

To build strong, permanent families and lifelong relationships for Virginia's at-risk children and youth.

OUR VISION

A thriving family for every child.

OUR VALUES

Service
Integrity
Collaboration
Compassion
Equity

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Foster Care Adoption Program

141

Foster Children Served

105

Children Placed with a Family

51

Adoptive Parents Served

38

Finalized Adoptions



BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES, ONE CHILD AT A TIME

Since 1998, our nationally recognized Foster Care Adoption program has been committed to finding permanent, loving homes for Virginia's children in the foster care system. 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.

Shelly and Raelynn

Shelly always wanted to be a parent. As a single woman, she made the decision to open her home to youth in need. Through being a foster parent, Shelly gained experience parenting children who had experienced trauma and advocating for them. Soon, she made the decision to pursue her long-time goal of growing her family through adoption. She started working with CHSVA to complete her home study and received approval later that year. After more than two years of waiting for the right match, Shelly came across the profile of Raelynn – a smart and spunky 11-year-old who, like her, was waiting for her perfect match.

Raelynn came into foster care at the tender age of six and, by that time, had already endured traumas and losses including neglect, abuse, and abandonment. Raelynn's pain and feelings of insecurity often led to challenging behaviors. This resulted in several disrupted foster care placements and families feeling as if they couldn't support Raelynn's needs. By her own admission, Raelynn didn't think she was worthy of a forever family.

When Shelly and Raelynn met, their connection was instant – the two easily bonded over their shared love for animals and outdoor activities. Raelynn was placed with Shelly in February 2023 and is now fully enmeshed in Shelly's life and community. CHSVA has been by Shelly and Raelynn's side every step of the way, providing vital services like parent coaching and resource connection. Today, the new family is thriving!



**TRANSFORMING
A CHILD'S STORY WITH
LOVE AND HOPE**

POST ADOPTION PROGRAM

229

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)

113

Children, Youth & Families
Served Through
Provision of Day-Respite
and Family-Fun Events



PROVIDING SERVICES FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

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. Loss, grief, identify, attachment, and trauma impact children and their families throughout the lifetime of adoption. Our well-rounded program is designed to meet the individual needs of each child and family — from training and advocacy to day-respite events — with the goal of building strong, permanent families.

Jodi and Ben

When Jodi and Ben moved to Virginia, they felt lost. Jodi had adopted Ben in another state a few years earlier, but when she got to Virginia, she found little support for her family. Because Ben suffered significant intra-uterine trauma, he sometimes exhibited behaviors that were challenging, and Jodi needed help. That's when she found Children's Home Society of Virginia.

"Children's Home Society saved my family," says Jodi. "The incredible support of Amber and the team she has assembled helped us through the rough patches and has allowed us to grow into the bonds that are so important for us to thrive. So often people are apprehensive about bringing a child or teen into their family, but knowing that CHSVA is there to provide support and guidance should give any family the confidence they need to open their home to the gift of adoption."

With CHSVA's support, Jodi and Ben have found the services they need to help Ben become the incredible, lively, and loving kid he is today. In fact, inspired by CHSVA's example, Jodi has gone back to school to get her graduate degree in Social Work, excited to help others going forward. "Without CHSVA we were lost, but with their support our family is thriving and now we want to give back in a way that will help other families experience the incredible love and connection that we do." As Jodi says, "I'm getting to open up a whole world of love that I didn't expect to know."

**CREATING STORIES
OF HOPE AND
POSITIVE CHANGE**



My Path Forward Program

15

Youth Provided with
Safe, Quality Housing

100%

of Youth Employed

100%

of Youth Connected with a
Permanent Adult Mentor

100%

of Youth Receiving Mental
Health Counseling & Supports

100%

of Youth Maintaining Health
Insurance & Accessing
Medical Care



Friends of Gayton Baptist Church donated Christmas trees for each of the apartments. The donations we receive on behalf of the My Path Forward Program are an encouragement to our youth and the CHSVA staff.

EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR INDEPENDENCE

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.

Quinn

Quinn came to the My Path Forward/ILA program after aging out of foster care. He radiates vitality and optimism, readily sharing his plans for a bright future. Despite the challenges he faced in his childhood, Quinn has demonstrated incredible resilience in addressing his past traumas. His commitment to self-improvement is evident in his therapy sessions, reflecting his dedication to personal growth and healing.

A standout aspect of Quinn's progress is the meticulous upkeep of his apartment. From cleaning and decorating to addressing maintenance requests, he is a responsible and organized guy. His ability to advocate for himself, coupled with his friendly interactions with peers, shows his social skills and adaptability.

Quinn has not only embraced a budget for groceries but also maintains checking and savings accounts and a solid credit score. This shows his dedication to building a stable and secure financial foundation for himself. Currently employed at the YMCA in Midlothian, Quinn is not only self-reliant in commuting to work, but is also excelling at Bright Point Community College.

Quinn will soon be transitioning from the MPF-ILA program into our Legacy program. This marks a significant milestone in Quinn's journey towards continued growth and independence — the opportunity to transition to our Legacy program and continue his journey is what makes our program unique. His achievements — personal, academic, and professional — show the transformative power of the support provided by My Path Forward staff and Children's Home Society's donors.



**BUILDING CONFIDENCE
AND ENCOURAGING
NEW DREAMS**

Search & Reunion Program

74

Served via Inquiry Calls

35

Served via Adoptive
and/or Birth
Family Updates

80

Individuals Served via Search
& Reunion

2

Served via Heritage
Summaries



FINDING KIN AND EXTENDING FAMILIES

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.

A Holiday Reunion

This past October, CHS received a case assignment from the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). William, a 70-year-old adoptee, wanted to search for his birth family. He had reached a point in life where he felt prepared to accept whatever answers the search may uncover. The search did not disappoint. A social worker from CHSVA pulled William's file from the vault and began to comb through it for information that would help locate his family. Through online research, it was discovered that William's birth mother was alive, 90 years young, with three grown children who would be half siblings to William. The youngest sibling was the first to answer the initial call from the social worker. She relayed that they did not know about the adoption growing up, but their mother had told them later in life after a health scare. For the next month, CHSVA facilitated non-identifying letters between everyone with the intention to help them break the ice, adjust to this big change and get to know one another better. They discovered they all had a love for old movies, the Bible, family, and music. With the holidays just around the corner, CHSVA put a rush request in with VDSS and, within a week, permission was granted for the family members to have direct contact. Almost immediately, the family began coordinating their reunion with siblings traveling from three different states. When everyone met, William found it priceless to be able to give a "big hug" to his birth mother and said that, in meeting his siblings, he "felt a connection unlike anything" he has felt before. The family has continued to stay in touch and is excited to continue this journey.



**MAKING
CONNECTIONS THAT
SPAN A LIFETIME**

Advocacy Program

60

Legislators Educated on Foster
Care & Adoption

45

Youth & Families Engaged in
Advocacy Work



MAKING COMMUNITIES STRONGER

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 stories and perspectives, including through our annual Foster Care Advocacy Day.

- Advocated for systemic change in partnership with the Unified Foster Care Policy Network
- Hosted Annual Foster Care Advocacy Day at Virginia General Assembly
- Served as a Key Stakeholder for VDSS
- Raised awareness of foster care related issues through news media

Advocates For Change

This year, CHSVA continued to lift the voices of children, youth and families affected by the foster care system.

We educated 60 legislators on the need for improving Virginia's foster care system. During our Annual Foster Care Advocacy Day at the General Assembly session, we trained, equipped, and led 45 advocates — including adoptive parents, youth who have aged out of foster care, social workers and other community partners — to share their perspectives with legislators.

Our work in partnership with the Unified Foster Care Policy Network led to systemic changes including legislation that will reduce homelessness for youth who have aged out of foster care and are enrolled in higher education programs. Through this legislation, youth will be able to remain in their school-based housing during school breaks. Prior to this legislation, many youth found themselves homeless during holidays and summer breaks from school.

CHSVA is committed to advocating for systemic change for Virginia's foster care system and is always looking for new ideas, perspectives, and advocates. We welcome you to join us in our advocacy work in the future!



**INSPIRING PROGRESS
BY BUILDING A BETTER
TOMORROW**

123rd Anniversary Celebration



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



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We celebrated our 123rd 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. We heard from one of our amazing families, who adopted three siblings from foster care, about how all their lives were changed for the better. We also heard from our Keynote speaker, Rob Scheer, who shared his story of resilience and service to children and youth in foster care. 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.



Our Generous Donors

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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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Victoria Nathan
Jay Oakey
Ms. Catharine K. O'Neil
Mr. Thomas Owen
Mr. and Mrs. Palazzo
Joanna Papalios
Sarah Peck
Ms. Mary Pedini
Dianne and Alan Pennington
Ms. Terri Perkins
Mrs. and Mr. Sharon E. Peterson
Pinky's
Dr. Tracy Poling and Mr. Jay Poling
Mr. John W. Polk
Ms. Karen Polson
Mr. and Mrs. Peter M. Pufki
Robyn Puryear
Quirk Hotel
Damion R.
Erica Redd
Rhoadesville Baptist Church
Mr. Louis C. Richards
Mr. and Mrs. Bruin S. Richardson, III
Richmond Flying Squirrels
Richmond Kickers
Richmond Symphony
Richmond Triangle Players
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Richter
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Riopelle
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Riverside School Inc.
RMS Services, LLC
William Roberson
Mr. Roscoe Roberts
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Roberts

Mr. Andrew Robertson
Ms. Catherine Roller Tyrrell
Ms. Kalima K. Rose
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick A. Rush
Mrs. Penelope D. Saffer
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sessoms
Mr. and Ms. Paul Severin
Miss Kate Slayton
Mr. Allan M. Smith
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Myra Smith
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Karrie Southall
Mr. Robert P. Spears
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Stonehenge Country Club
Cheryl L. Storm
Ms. Martha L. Stout
Tim and Teena Stuller
Ms. Elaine T. Summerfield and Mr.
Richard A. Sebastian
Marian Swift
T. Rowe Price Foundation
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The Hope Group
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Lou Tisler
Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Toms
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United Bank of Switzerland
United Way
United Way of Lancaster County

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Venture Richmond
Virginia Repertory Theatre
United Way of South Hampton
Roads
United Way of the Greater Lehigh
Valley, Inc.
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Deb Ward
Nick Ward
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis K. Watson
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin W. Watson
Paul Watson
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Mr. and Mrs. John L. Williams
Dr. Verneeta L. Williams
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Wintergreen Resort
Brandy Wood
Ms. Denise E. Wright
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Wright
Ms. Cheryl G. Yancey
Yard Greetings RVA

FRIEND \$1 – \$99

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Ms. Joanne Allen and Mr. Robert Tucker
Ashland Ace Hardware
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Dr. Sheryl D. Bailey
Beverly H. Baker
Manuel Balbuena
Asa and Martha Banks
Teresa Beale
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
Bowlero
Xavier Burnside
Capital Ale House
Emily Caputo
Carytown Cupcakes
Chicken Salad Chick
The Children's Museum
Ms. Donna Christip
Jamie Clayton
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Clements
Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign
Anita Conner
Costco
Frederick Cunningham and Elizabeth Achaval
Cupcakes by Shyla
Demolition Coffee
Paul Dolci and Josie Sicheri
Terry Dow
Sandi and James Dunkum
Mr. F. W. Evans
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Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius H. Fedderman
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Gnome & Raven
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Ms. Diehdre Gregory-Holberg
Michael Hagood
Carla Harrell

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Ms. Laura C. Jacobs
Jolene Family Winery
Journey Church
Kendra Scott LLC
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Kregger's Tap and Table
Kim Kugelman
Abigail Lafoon
Sonya K. Lakhani
Mrs. Bettie K. Larkin
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Mrs. Austine M. O'Connor
Emma Olgers
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Susan Plantier
Pledgeling Foundation
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Emily Werner
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Williams Bakery
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GIFT IN KIND

The Adventure Park at Virginia Aquarium
AdventureWorks
Alewife
All Fired Up
Anonymous Donations
Ashland Ace Hardware
AvePoint
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Bobi Studios
Bowlero
Ms. Carolyn Bradley
Brambly Park
Brickshire Golf Club
Capital Ale House
Morgan Carvalho
Carytown Cupcakes
Chicken Salad Chick
Chick-fil-A
The Children's Museum
Ms. Donna Chrislip
Leesa Christian
Von Clarke
Common House Richmond
Costco
Cupcakes by Shyla
Demolition Coffee
Paul Dolci and Josie Sicheri
PGA TOUR d/b/a Dominion
Energy Charity Classic
Sandi and James Dunkum
Jim Ertel
Tory Everson-Roots
Firebirds
Mike and Jena Fleshman
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Mr. John Owen Gwathmey
Ms. Michelle L. Hall
Ms. Tamara Hardy
Haunts of Richmond Ghost Tours
Hospitality Quilters
International Spy Museum
Jolene Family Winery
Kregger's Tap and Table
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Mr. and Ms. William Roberson
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Saude Creek Vineyards
Rob Scheer
Science Museum of Virginia
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Ms. Amy Smith
Southampton Recreation Association
Ms. Penny Stein
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Superior Creamery & Confections/
The Weekly Bake
Suzkas Cakes & Cookies, LLC
Tap Truck RVA
Ms. Anne Michele Taylor
Ms. Kendra C. Taylor
Tazza Kitchen
The Grapevine Restaurant
The Hope Group
The Jefferson Hotel
The Trojan Grill
Torx Media, LLC
Triangle Rock Club
Troutman Pepper LLP
Tuckahoe Seafood
United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg
Elaine Vanderzille
Venture Richmond
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Virginia Repertory Theatre
Vitality Float Spa
Wendy Humble Photography
Emily Werner
Justin Wilkins
Williams Bakery
Wine & Design
Wintergreen Resort
Yard Greetings RVA

TRIBUTE GIFTS

HONOR

Elisabeth A. Arnold & Peter A. Fehrenbach

Mr. Robert J. Fehrenbach

Cayla & Austin

Ms. Christy A. Armitage

Colton

Christine Ertell

Ashlynn Crombie

Ms. Lisbeth L. Prins

Glen Currie

Mr. and Mr. Vicki P. Turner

Stephen Dause

Mikeala Skelton

Robert F. Earle

Robert Earle

Dr. Krista Edelman

Fran S. Cooper

Brad and Lindsey Foster

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Foster

Gerry Fuss, Jr.

Mr. Gerald F. Fuss Sr.

Lois Gibbs

Mrs. Nadine D. Marsh-Carter

Avery Godbey

Brooke/Patrick Los

John Owen & Kelly Gwathmey

Tim Tiller

Marshall Harris & Justine Kay Harris

Mrs. Mary H. Roberts

Grady Lewis

Mr. Daniel McMurtrie

Nadine Marsh-Carter

Mrs. Philip J. Bagley III

Dr. Sheryl D. Bailey

Beverly H. Baker

Lisa-Margaret Bryan

Jennifer and James McGrath

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Orfield

Ms. Dorothy C. Young and Mr. Alan H. Stone

Mrs. Joan M. Stromberg

Mr. and Mrs. Haywood A. Thorton

Voices for Virginia's Children

Rob and Anna Mason

Manuel Balbuena

Kate McCarty & Tristan Jones

Sarah Peck

Carolyn McGahee

Mrs. Austine M. O'Connor

Scot McRoberts & his Family

Debbie Barbuto

Missy, Tim and Sarah

Mr. and Mrs. William Adams

Mary Ann Petty Morgan

Liz Bowen

Our two beautiful daughters

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gross

Cassie Plevelich

Voices for Virginia's Children

Peter Pufki

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Peterson

Bruin Richardson

Mr. Robert Freis

Vicky Roberson

Ms. Johanna Gattuso

Paul Richardson Smith

Mr. Allan M. Smith

Micki Stout

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel L. Williams, Jr.

Shawn and Lauren

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight G. Barkley

Sebastian Summerfield

Ms. Elaine T. Summerfield and Mr. Richard A. Sebastian

Joe Thomas

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Thomas

The staff at CHSVA

Mrs. Susan H. Brewer

Thomas and Dana Ann

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Sayles

Mel Tull

Mr. John W. Polk

Krista Watson

Ms. Melissa K. Bass

Nancy S. Wright

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Wright

TRIBUTE GIFTS

MEMORIAL

Elizabeth Britt

Teresa Beale

Grace Broaddus

Mr. William G. Broaddus

Patsy Cashion

Mr. and Mrs. Randall C. Smith

Karen L. Ector

William Fagan

Julie & Lynn Fuss

Mr. Gerald F. Fuss Sr.

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Mrs. Bettie K. Larkin

Martha Hughes Matthew

Peggy L. Hombs

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Mr. Lee Nye

Mr. Mark R. Pellmann

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Ruth and John Coski

Marguerite Taylor

Mr. and Ms. John W. Lewis III

Blair Turner

Mr. and Mr. Vicki P. Turner

Ellen Vallei

Mr. Quinto Vallei, Jr.

Elinor Vasquez

John & Trish Deford

J.A. Wright, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Wright

CHSVA Financials

Revenue = \$2,118,346



- 24% Earned Revenue
- 20% Contributions
- 16% Foundations, Grants and UW
- 16% Bequests
- 9% Endowment
- 8% Government Reimbursement
- 7% Misc.

Expenses = \$2,302,642



- 40% My Path Forward
- 25% Foster Care Adoption
- 20% Administrative
- 15% Post Adoption

Stories Of Hope and Love



Shameneese, Amber, Justina, Kristina, and Kristy represented CHSVA at the Permanency Conference in Hampton.



WWK at Busch Gardens: Dean Bing, Senior Director of Partnerships for the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption; Krista Watson, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter at CHS; Josh (biological brother of Lars); Lars (adoptee); and Jason Adams (adoptive dad).



Amber and Kristina represented CHSVA at the CSA Conference in Roanoke.



Elizabeth Mintz with her mom, Debbie Mintz donated proceeds from her lemonade stand. Also pictured, Nadine Marsh-Carter and Bruin Richardson.



My Path Forward team wrapped the gifts donated to the MPF youth's Holiday Wish Lists.



We celebrated our generous donors during our Donor Appreciation Event on Oct 27, 2022.



CHSVA received a generous donation from "No Room at the Inn," hosted by Church of the Redeemer in Mechanicsville.



Back-to-school backpack donation from Katie McCall (in the center) pictured with Nadine Marsh-Carter, and Cassie Plevelich.

You are invited

CHSVA 2024 Annual Celebration

Sunday, April 28th
1-3PM

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Bloemendaal House

Music, Munchies and Mimosas
Enjoy a stroll through the gardens!

Tickets as well as sponsorship opportunities are available at www.chsva.org/events or by scanning the QR code.



This annual fundraising event is crucial to making sure the children, youth and families we serve have the support they need. With your support, we can continue growing strong families generation after generation. Together, we will help VA's at-risk children thrive and flourish into exceptional individuals.

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SOCIAL SERVICES**

Dave Thomas