

**BUILDING FAMILIES.
SUPPORTING FUTURES.**





OUR SERVICES

Foster Care Adoption

Post Adoption

My Path Forward

Search and Reunion

Advocacy

Letter from the Chair and CEO

Dear Friends,

As our nation enters its 250th year, it is exciting to realize that CHS has been a part of our fabric for more than half of that history. From an orphanage early in the 20th century to an infant adoption agency mid-century, CHS has evolved with the changing needs of our society. When the need for adoptive families for children in foster care became acute, CHS was one of the first agencies in the Commonwealth to partner with the Department of Social Services to match families with waiting children.

As adoptive families' needs for training and support grew, CHS was one of the first to heed the call and introduce a post-adoption support program. When Virginia was one of the worst in the nation for the percentage of youth aging out of foster care, CHS jumped in along with Better Housing Coalition to create what is now My Path Forward one of the very first programs of its kind, to serve those youth.

Over the past year, we have rebranded to reflect our continuing focus on building families and supporting futures, while modernizing and professionalizing our look and feel. We have also planned and begun fundraising to renovate our nearly 60 year old building, which will bring our space and technology into the 21st century while positioning us for the future.

None of these things would have been possible without our generous donors like you. For over 125, years folks like you have supported some of Virginia's most vulnerable children, youth, and families – allowing us to serve nearly 18,000 individuals. Your support gives us hope and confidence that we can serve 18,000 more. Thank you!!!

Krystal Thompson
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Children's Home Society of Virginia (CHS) 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, CHS has been guided by the fundamental belief that every child deserves a home. To date, CHS has served nearly 18,000 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
Inclusivity

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Foster Care and Private Adoption Programs' Impact

235

Clients served

136

Foster youth placed with a family

39

Finalized Adoptions

Commitment Changes Lives — Michael's Story

At the age of nine, Michael entered foster care alongside his siblings after they were found walking along a highway. He had experienced severe neglect and years of instability, moving through foster care and higher levels of care due to complex needs. By the time he was referred to the Wendy's Wonderful Kids® (WWK) program in February 2023, he was 12 years old and living in a locked residential treatment facility.

"Whenever I begin working with a child, I ask a simple but powerful question," says Krista, Recruiter for WWK. "Who in your life has loved you that you wish you could

reconnect with? Michael named one person. Amanda.

Amanda had been a family friend to a previous foster parent. When CHS reached her, she was relieved to know Michael was safe and asking about her. She immediately asked, "What do I need to do to adopt him?"

As Amanda began the foster-to-adopt licensing process, she and Michael reconnected through regular visits, creating precious time together filled with meals, conversation, laughter, and a sense of consistency. For Michael, this was the first time he experienced safety and care in this way.

As adoption became real, Michael's anxiety increased and he required a brief return to treatment. Amanda never wavered—attending therapy sessions, team meetings, and visits, reminding Michael she was not going anywhere. When he returned home to Amanda, the adoption process resumed. Michael officially became Amanda's son through adoption in April 2025.

This is why we do this work. CHS and Wendy's Wonderful Kids® give children with complex trauma the chance to be seen, known, and chosen. Michael's story reminds us that commitment changes lives.

A Legacy of Building Hope, Connection, and Permanency

On any given day, Krista Watson can be found playing a board game with a young person, sharing a snack, or simply listening as they talk about their life. She knows each child on her caseload — not just their name or what their file says, but their hopes, fears, and relationships.

This past summer, Krista was recognized for 15 years of service as a recruiter for Wendy's Wonderful Kids® (WWK), a signature program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. Krista embodies the WWK child-focused recruitment model,



For more than 10 years, Laura Pitts (left) and Krista Watson have worked together.

putting its principles into action every day. She employs a truly child-focused approach, allowing her to build strong connections and find permanent families for children, often identifying potential matches within the relationships they already have.

“Krista has a remarkable gift for connecting with young people, many of whom see her as a mother figure. Steady, reliable, and always there when needed, even after they leave her caseload, Krista is invited to graduations and baby showers,” says her supervisor, Laura Pitts.

Krista is highly respected in her field. Her deep knowledge, years of experience, and “can-do” approach to leading and collaborating with partners across the state, combined with her talent for building trust with young people, have earned her an excellent reputation.

“The support CHS and WWK have given me has been vital in allowing me to continue this hard work,” says Krista. “They understand the emotional toll it can take, and even in the heartache, I stay motivated knowing these kids need someone — and a whole village — investing in their future.”



Krista Watson (left) with Wendy Thomas at the annual Wendy's Wonderful Kids Summit.

“Krista is truly a gem... She knows the youth on her caseload and helped us to get to know each other in an authentic way,” says Shelley, an adoptive parent. “Having a knowledgeable adoption worker has made a huge difference in our adoption journey.”

Supporting Futures

CHS understands that adoption is a lifelong journey. Our Post Adoption Program excels at building community — giving families connection, support, and tools to succeed — through our events, training classes, and leadership in search and reunion work. Families leave our program stronger, more confident, and better connected. Our Search and Reunion team provides personalized guidance and counseling for adult adoptees, birth families, and adoptive parents seeking heritage information, medical history, or connection.



“We really appreciate the post adoption family events. It’s really helpful to have events we can bring our son to where we know he will have supportive adults that can handle his behaviors and it gives him a chance to experience “normal” things.” — CHS Adoptive Parent

Post Adoption and Search and Reunion Programs’ Impact

505

Clients served by Post Adoption Program

259

Participants attended Respite-Family Events

67

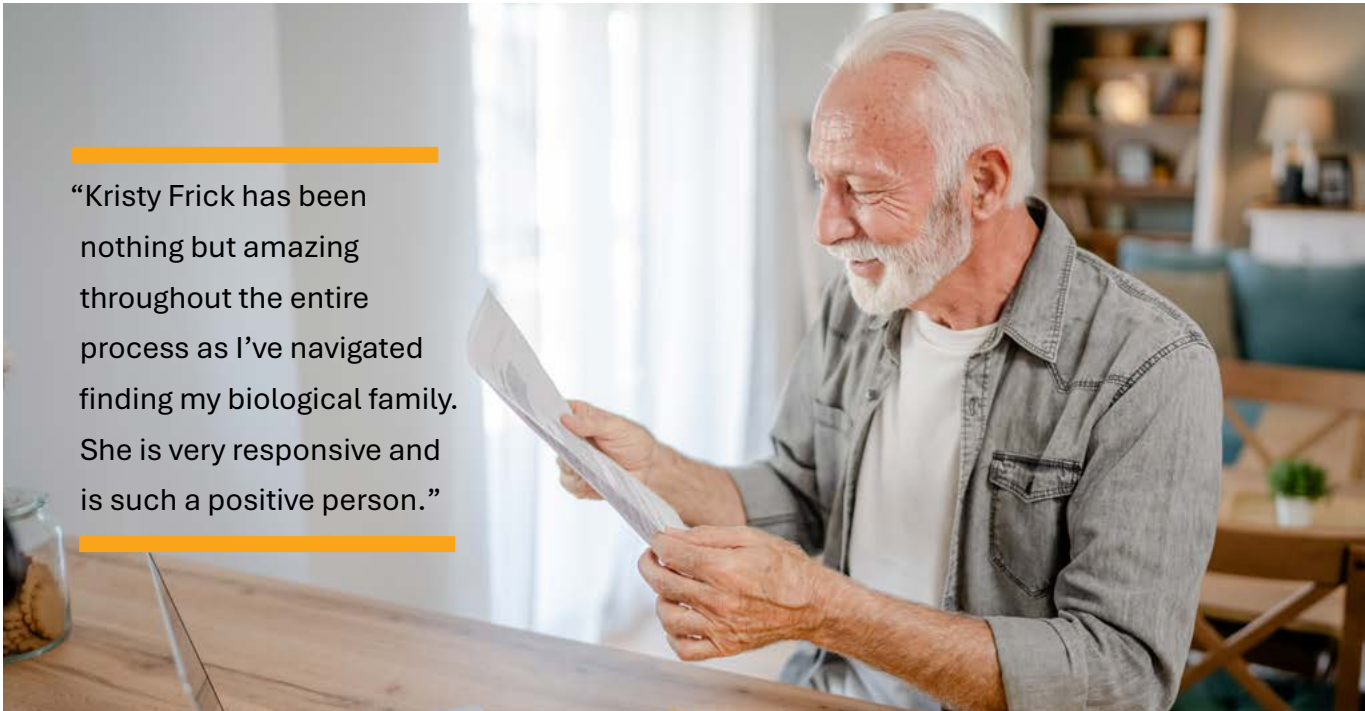
Children and youth attended Respite Drop-Off Events

48

Families received case management services

205

Clients served by Search and Reunion program



“Kristy Frick has been nothing but amazing throughout the entire process as I’ve navigated finding my biological family. She is very responsive and is such a positive person.”

A Story of Sibling Connection and Family Healing

Chris is a CHS adoptee who came to CHS last summer seeking medical history and the possibility of connecting with his biological family. Although his birth mother passed away three years ago, she had two daughters. CHS began reaching out to determine whether they were aware of the adoption.

After two weeks of trying to connect, one of Chris’ half-sisters returned the call. She shared that, yes, her family did have a

connection to adoption — but she didn’t know all the details. She explained that when their mother was sick, she told them that she had placed a child for adoption. As she spoke, she began to cry, sharing how loving her mother had been and how close they were.

When asked if she would be open to getting to know the child who had been placed for adoption, Chris’ half-sister eagerly agreed.

Through letters, Chris began discovering hobbies and interests

he shares with his birth family. Thanks to the photographs they shared, Chris was able — for the first time — to see the faces he had long dreamed about. Chris is deeply grateful for the blossoming relationship with his sister and for her welcoming spirit in sharing stories about their mother.

Both siblings are excited about the future and the relationship they are beginning to build together.

My Path Forward: Building Toward Independence



PB and JK reached an incredible milestone this year — graduating from high school — a major achievement worth celebrating!

The My Path Forward program had another successful year, serving 23 youth with housing and wraparound support as they moved toward independence. One hundred percent of the youth engaged in individual therapy and participated in a healthy recreational activity each week, promoting both emotional well-being and positive social development. In addition, two youth graduated from high school and one youth is working towards an esthetician certification. Workforce development has also been a key outcome, with 72% of participating youth securing part-time or full-time employment.

Notably, one youth was accepted into the prestigious Mercedes-Benz Rising Star Program, providing a pathway to advanced career training and long-term employment opportunities.

This year also provided opportunities for our youth to engage in advocacy and some fun activities, because we know that all of their hard work needs to be balanced with opportunities for fellowship and laughter. We believe every young person deserves the opportunity to thrive, and — with the generous contributions of our supporters — we can continue our mission of supporting futures for those who need it most.



MPF staff and youth met with Congressional representatives in D.C.



MPF staff and youth enjoyed trips to Water Country and Busch Gardens.



Supporting Brighter Futures Through Advocacy

At CHS, our mission is deeply rooted in advocating for children and youth in foster care, guiding them toward healing, lifelong connections, and the chance to truly thrive. Every day, we stand alongside young people whose lives have been shaped by loss, uncertainty, and transitions. Our work goes beyond meeting immediate needs — it's about creating lasting opportunities for permanency, stability, and well-being.

DID YOU KNOW? More than 5,600 children are in foster care in Virginia. Nearly half are teenagers, making the search for permanent

families urgent. Each year only about 31% of these youth are reunified with birth families, and roughly 500 age out of foster care without permanent support.

Events like Foster Care Advocacy Day in Richmond bring this reality to life. Adoptive families, foster youth alumni, and partnering agencies share their journeys, giving legislators and attendees a deeper understanding of the challenges in the system and solutions that will improve the lives of children and youth.

Our advocacy work includes stabilizing the workforce, increasing access to kinship

care for children and youth, and expanding support for youth who have aged out of foster care.

We know it is critical to ensure that the voices of children, youth and families involved in foster care are heard at the policy level. Through trainings, legislative meetings and annual advocacy days, we remain committed to lifting up those voices and advocating for change.

If you want to learn more about raising awareness or how you can be a part of our advocacy work, please reach out to Cassie at 804-353-0191 or cassie@chsva.org.



On January 29, 2025, CHS staff, adoptive families, foster youth alumni, and partnering agencies came together at the Virginia State Capitol to champion the needs of foster youth.

Advocacy Impact

112

Legislators educated on foster care and adoption

65

Youth and families engaged in advocacy work

Celebrating CHS 125th!

On January 30, 2025, supporters, partners, friends, and staff gathered to celebrate, connect, and reflect on more than a century of life-changing work. The celebration included special birthday wishes in a video message from First Lady Suzanne Youngkin, along with congratulations from Senator Warner, Senator Kaine, Delegate Sturtevant and Delegate Earley, honoring this significant milestone.



Keynote speakers included CHS Board Chair Ed Solarz (left) and CHS Memorial Fund Chair Tommy Johnstone (right).



Friends, staff and board members gather at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture to celebrate CHS's 125th Anniversary.



Board member Steve Yeakel with staff and guests.



CHS's senior leadership team.



Board member Mike Evans discussing advocacy efforts with Cassie Plevelich, CHS Chief Operating Officer.



Guests enjoy delicious food by MOSAIC.



Adoptive parents Bill and Joyce May take a moment to enjoy historic CHS photographs.



Former Board Chair and CHS adoptee Eddie Lumpkin with Krystal Thompson, CHS CEO.



Del. Mark Earley, Jr. with CHS supporter Steffani McGurn.

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Our 1900 Society supporters have taken the generous step of making provisions for CHS 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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Charities Aid Foundation of America
Chicago Clearing Corporation
Leesa D. Christian
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Clements
Anita G. Conner
Jasmine Craighead
Lindsey Dombert
Anjali Ferguson
Ellen Foster
Mr. Robert Freis
Diane Frey
Trene' Gannon
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hilemn
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Joynt
Mr. and Mrs. Knapp
Kelly Lopez Alas
Margaret A. Gillam Charitable
Foundation
Chasity Miller
Mrs. Gail Rolle Miller
Firat Narinc
National Financial Services LLC
Ms. Barbara Nicholl

(FRIEND CONTINUED)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Orfield
Erin Philpy
Mr. Tony P. Renaldi
Ms. Roberta D. Rhur
Mr. and Mrs. William Richardson, Jr.
Mary H. Roberts
Judith and Hubert Roop
Julie Rosson
Jennifer L. Royal
Ms. Freda B. Sarpong
Ann W. Sayles
Mikeala Skelton
Chris Sleczkowski
April Station
Ann Stephens
John Thomas
Mrs. Ann C. Tinsley
UK Online Giving Foundation
United Way of South Hampton Roads
United Way of the Greater Lehigh
Valley, Inc.
United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge
Eline Warren
Mr. and Mrs. Paul K. Watson
Mia Watts
Frankie Webster, Jr.
Lindsey Wells
Mr. Todd J. Wisner

GIFT IN KIND

acac
AdventureWorks
Anant
Apollo 13 - Eta Tau Chapter of Delta
Sigma Theta Sorority
Art Factory
Artwork by Sonja
AvePoint
Baltik's Bagel
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Barden
Bark Box
Bass Pro Shops / Islamorada Fish
Company Restaurant

(GIFT IN KIND CONTINUED)

bbgb
Heather and JD Beam
Believable Skin Care
Beloved Pet & Equine Photography
Benihana
Blanchard's Coffee
Bobi Studios
Bogeys Sports Park
Cakes by Jen
Capital Ale House
Cassie Lane Aesthetics
Chicano Boy Taco
Chicken Salad Chick - Glen Allen
Chipotle
Cinema Café
Cirrina Head & Body Spa
Von and Bobby Clarke
Closet Factory
Coleman Brothers Flowers
Billie Connelly
Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurants
Corazón Cake Company
Cross Creek Nursery
Cupcakes by Shyla
Dave & Buster's
Ko Nam David
Duncan Garden Design
Sandi and James Dunkum
Flagstop Car Wash
Mike and Jena Fleshman
For the Love of Chocolate
Foxtail Coffee Company
GalaxyCon Richmond
Mr. Russell A. Gambrel
Garden Party Cocktail Catering
Gearharts Fine Chocolates
Camille Gerrick
Global Fusion RVA
Glory Days Grill
Gnome & Raven
GourmetGiftBaskets.com
Gracefield Hall Bed & Breakfast
Grit Coffee Roasting Co.
Mr. and Mrs. John Owen Gwathmey

(GIFT IN KIND CONTINUED)

Jeff Hansen
Heritage Hill Bed & Breakfast
Cheryl R. Heuser
Hidden Gems Escape Room
Holiday Barn Pet Resorts
Indigo
Iron Pony Adventure Park
James River Cellars Winery
Jolene Family Winery
Julie Atlas Photography
Kate Uncorked LLC
Kava Club
Samantha Kelly
Kimmy Kakes RVA
Lakeside Park Club
Lee's Hill Golf Club
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Linden Row Inn
Luray Caverns
Mango Salon
Maple Street Biscuit Co.
Marsh McLennan Agency
Ms. Lee McCraw-Leavitt
Meadowlark Ridge B&B
Minglewood Bake Shop
Mrs. Debbi Mintz
Mission Laser RVA
Mt. Olivet Baptist Church
Elyssa Myers
Natalie's Taste of Lebanon
NES Cornhole Lounge
Niche Pilates Studio
Nothing Bundt Cakes - Short Pump
Oh! Mochi
OMO Catering
Mrs. Michelle L. Patterson
Paul C. Joyner Foundation
Paws to Swim
Peak Experiences
Ms. Mary Pedini
Pegasus Restaurant
Perry's Steakhouse & Grille
Peterson Enterprises
PGA TOUR d/b/a Dominion Energy

(GIFT IN KIND CONTINUED)

Charity Classic
Pinky's
Play RVA
Michael and Cassie Plevelich
Posh Life RVA
Pretty Fly Designs
Purify
Quirk Hotel
Mr. and Mrs. Bruin S. Richardson, III
Richmond Flower Truck
Richmond Flying Squirrels
Richmond Symphony
River City Roll / Bar West
Robert Harris Photography
RVA on Wheels
Sarah Richardson Travel
Scarlet Springs Farm
Science Museum of Virginia
Chris and Tracy Scoggins
Scoop
Sefton Coffee Co.
Shake Shack
Sheetz, Inc.
Shyndigz
Six and Sky
Sky Zone
Sneed's Nursery & Garden Center
Southampton Recreation Association
Arlan and Marcy Stehney
Ms. Penny Stein
Chantel Stevenson
Sticks Kebab Shop
Studio Two Three
Sugar Shack Donuts
Sumac VA LLC
Superior Creamery & Confections/The
Weekly Bake
Target
Taziki's Mediterranean Café
Tazza Kitchen
Texas Roadhouse
The Adventure Park at VA Aquarium
The Babcock House
The Cheesecake Factory

(GIFT IN KIND CONTINUED)

The Children's Museum of Richmond
The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
The Dessert Diva RVA
The Dinner Detective
The Glass Spot
The Golf Club at Mattaponi Springs
The Grapevine Restaurant
The Highlands
The Hot Yoga Barre
The Hotel Roanoke & Conference
Center
The Inn at Little Washington
The Jefferson Hotel
The Nate Evans Love & Light
Foundation
The Queen's Library Tea Room
The Tobacco Company Restaurant
The Virginia Cliffe Inn
The Virginian Hotel Restaurants
Theta Wellness / The Yoga Dojo
Krystal F. Thompson
Three Blacksmiths
Three Notch'd Brewing Company
Topgolf
Total Wine & More
Twisted Carrot Farm
U of R Athletics
U of R Black Law Students
Association
Up All Night Bakery
VCU Athletics
Venture Richmond
Virginia International Raceway
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Virginia Museum of History and
Culture
Virginia Repertory Theatre
Samantha Vitale
Voices For Virginia's Children
Wawa Community Care
Wegmans
Well Into Life Massage & Skincare
Wendy Humble Photography
Whitley's Peanut Factory

(GIFT IN KIND CONTINUED)

Justin and Tiffany Wilkins
William & Mary Athletics
Williams Bakery
Teresa Wilson
You Matter Juice Bar
Young Chefs Academy

TRIBUTE GIFTS- HONOR

Alice Y. Key

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Young, Jr.

Anne S. Warlick

Mr. I. Bruce Cauthen III

Armistead T. Saffer and Maria S. Cobb

Mrs. Penelope D. Saffer

Ben and Sarah Horrocks

*Mrs. Elaine G. Thompson
Elaine Goldsmith Thompson Inc*

Brent Idleman

*Dr. David A. Russell and Cristin
Camaione-Russell*

Bruin Richardson III

Mr. Robert Freis

Carrie & Tommy Johnstone

Mrs. Philip J. Bagley III

Cassie Plevelich

Voices For Virginia's Children

Colton Ertell

Christine Ertell

Cornelius H. Fedderman

CarMax Foundation

Glen Turner

Vicki and Blair Turner

Grace and Bill Broaddus

Elizabeth Scioscia

Grayson Miller

Chasity Miller

Hannah Robertson

Mr. and Mrs. M. Keith Robertson

James P. Toth

Aaron and Angela Stein

Jason B. Roop

Judith and Hubert Roop

(HONOR CONTINUED)

Jay and Kay Henderson

Don and Barbara Henderson

Joe Thomas

Bobby and Hazel Thomas

John Owen Gwathmey

Michael and Lelia Golden

JP, William and Steven Boyce

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Boyce, Jr.

Justin M. Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Anderson

Katrina Tillman

Kennard and Marian Tillman

Krista M. Edelman

Fran S. Cooper

Lilly Simons

Ashley Townsend-Simons

Michael and Christine Coughlin

Mr. William Coughlin

Nancy S. Wright

Margaret S. Wright

Olev Rissler

Ms. Maia Linask and Mr. Grant Rissler

Our mother who was adopted in

Virginia

David and Melanie Dow

Paul R. Smith

Mr. Allan M. Smith

Robert F. Earle

Robert Earle

Stephen Dause

Mikeala Skelton

Thom Raybold and Dana Ann

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Sayles

TRIBUTE GIFTS- MEMORIAL

Albert K. Atkinson

Mrs. Mary T. Atkinson

Barbara B. Leonard

Aaron and Angela Stein

Jean Ballard

Raymond West

Wade Wright

Mr. William Garrison

(MEMORIAL CONTINUED)

Bev and Joe Sgro

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Orfield

Brenda Worrell

Mary Arnold

Conrad Warlick

Ms. Anne S. Warlick

Mr. I. Bruce Cauthen III

Elinor S. Vasquez

Mr. Marion M. Wall

Ellen Vallei

Mr. Quinto Vallei, Jr.

Emma Pankey

Jason and Judy Copes

Grace Broaddus

Mr. William G. Broaddus

Jerry B. Copes

Jason and Judy Copes

Lee Nye

Mark and Deborah Pellmann

Lois K. Burnett

The Guy Vincent Burnett Trust

Marguerite Taylor

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Lewis III

Marshall C. Harris

Mary H. Roberts

Patsy M. Cashion

Mr. and Mrs. Randall C. Smith

Peter M. Pufki

Mrs. Nadine D. Marsh-Carter

Ramsay R. Smith

Mr. Allan M. Smith

Susie M. Young

Kimberly Redmond

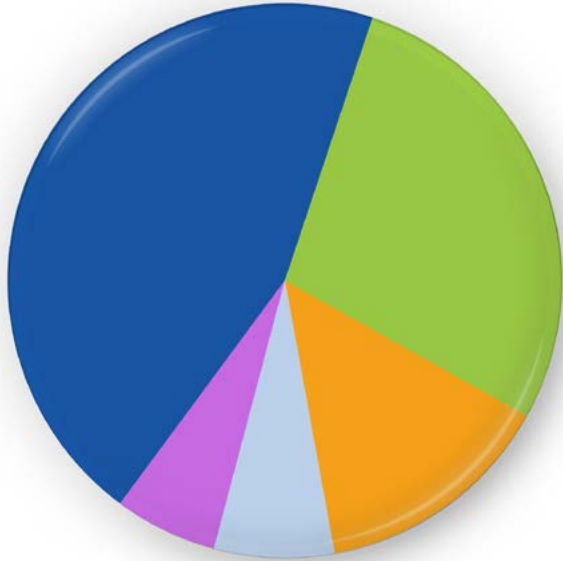
Tom and Irene Bishop

Mr. and Mrs. M. Keith Robertson

Warren and Bettie Lee Snead

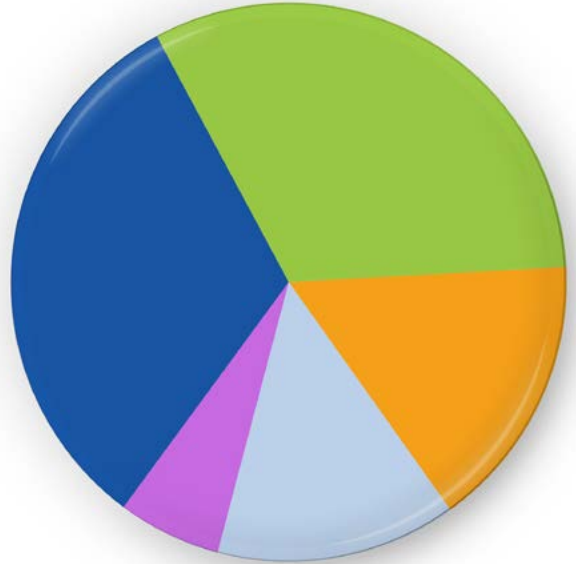
Dr. and Mrs. Warren L. Snead, Jr.

CHS FY2025 Financials



Revenue = \$2,434,051

- 45% Program Fees and Investment Income
- 28% Contributions
- 14% Foundations
- 7% Government Reimbursement
- 6% Trusts and Bequests



Expenses = \$2,296,509

- 32% My Path Forward/Advocacy
- 32% Foster Care Adoption
- 16% Post Adoption/Search and Reunion
- 14% Fund Development
- 6% Administrative

Let Love Grow

2025 Annual Event



On April 26, 2025, the CHS community gathered at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden for an afternoon of connection and celebration, where guests enjoyed delicious food, explored the silent auction, and shared meaningful time together. The program featured heartfelt reflections from JD and Heather Beam, who spoke about how adoption has shaped their lives, sharing both the joys and challenges of their journey and highlighting the healing power of loving, intentional relationships and the steady support of caring adults. CHS was honored to receive a Joint Resolution from the Virginia House and Senate presented by Delegate Carr, recognizing 125 years of service to children, youth, and families across Virginia.





Thank you to our Annual Event Sponsors!

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CHSVA CELEBRATES 125 YEARS
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love
grow


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Healthcare


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Brockenbrough


Baskervill


Genesis
MATT & MOLLY
THE CHEEK

The **iDeA** Center
Marketing with a Mission


RIVERFRONT
INVESTMENT GROUP

A special thanks to our community and government partners



Clean-shaven and full of gratitude! In fiscal year 2025, CHS received a \$15K check from M4K thanks to Bruin's annual mustache-growing. If one lone mustache raised \$15K for CHS, imagine what we could achieve with even more hairy heroes! Consider joining Bruin for November 2026.



Better Housing
COALITION



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES



Dave Thomas
Foundation
for Adoption®



Paul Watson w/ Soul Strangerz and Dizzy Wunda selected CHS as the beneficiary of their Fall for a Cause concert, turning music into meaningful impact for the children and families we serve.



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Rho Eta Omega Chapter hosted a donation drive for My Path Forward. We are grateful for their continued partnership and support.

Wendy's
Wonderful Kids®





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You are invited

CHS 2026 Annual Celebration

**Sunday, April 26
1-4 PM**

**Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Bloemendaal House**

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

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



Our 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 Virginia's at-risk children thrive and flourish into exceptional individuals.