



Jeremiah's Story: Building Accountability and a Future

When Jeremiah first arrived at Virginia Home for Boys and Girls as a teenager, he was navigating one of the most difficult transitions of his young life. Facing peer pressure, separation from family, and overwhelming feelings of anger, he struggled to make decisions that reflected the person he wanted to become.

Jeremiah spent nearly three years in VHBG's Group Homes program, where steady guidance and consistent support began to change his path. While he says it's impossible to point to just one staff member or moment, he credits the collective impact of caring adults who showed him patience, structure, and belief in his potential.



"Accountability," Jeremiah says, is the most important lesson he learned during his time at VHBG. Learning to take responsibility for his choices—and understanding how those choices affect others—helped him develop confidence and direction. Staff members became more than supervisors; they became trusted mentors and, in many ways, a second family.

With encouragement from the program and his own determination, Jeremiah graduated from high school a full year early—an accomplishment he remains deeply proud of.

Today, Jeremiah is living independently through the Gates to Success program and is enrolled at Fortis College, where he is completing his second semester studying HVAC technology. Continuing his education and working toward a skilled trade career represents both independence and personal achievement.

Looking ahead, Jeremiah has ambitious goals. He hopes to one day own his own HVAC company. He believes the accountability and perseverance he strengthened at VHBG will be essential to reaching that dream.

"I've always wanted to finish what I start," he says. "VHBG helped push that mindset further."

Jeremiah's journey reflects what becomes possible when young people are given stability, guidance, and the opportunity to grow—turning challenge into confidence and potential into purpose.