

A message from the
PRESIDENT



It's business as usual in unusual ways.

The care youth receive every day at VHBG isn't going to stop because of the unprecedented situation we're facing with COVID-19. This crisis has had a significant financial impact on our organization, but with your help, we're going to get through this stronger than ever.

Our strength is in our staff who provide high-quality care, pandemic or not, and our community that rises to meet ever changing needs. Efforts to keep our kids and staff safe and healthy have been amazing and you deserve to know the impact it's having on VHBG. **Thanks to people like you...**

our kids feel joy

Keeping up to six teenagers quarantined safely in each home is no small feat. Our hearts are bursting with love for the donors who've shopped from our Amazon wish list and sent us games, puzzles, art supplies, and other things that help to entertain idle youth. Imagine how delighted our youth have been to have their wishes granted.

our kids feel safe

Following CDC and health department guidelines, our on-campus nurse developed daily health screening protocols to ensure that youth are well and that staff entering campus are not sick. She's distributed and monitored our supply of masks, many have been sewn and donated by community members. Staff are regularly disinfecting our campus homes and we've even used the help of a professional cleaning service. Most of our staff are classified as essential and others are working from home. Visitors to campus are limited to only vital purposes and we've asked our volunteers to kindly delay providing their much-needed services for a few months.

our kids are comforted

Save RVA Restaurants made VHBG the recipient of numerous meals and special desserts. From pork stew to pizza, from cake pops to smoothies, they've worked with local restaurants to delight our kids and staff with delicious comfort food delivered to campus. Like all youth, they really miss going out to restaurants and visiting their favorite ice cream shops, but these special deliveries really put a smile on their faces.

our kids are learning

The minute Governor Northam closed schools and issued a stay at home order, we deployed our John G. Wood School behavioral coaches to our group homes to provide support to staff with added home schooling duties. Our JGW teachers went to work preparing educational packets and delivering Chromebooks to students. They're using technology to provide online classes so students can stay current with their educational needs but are also connecting with our students and their families to ensure that their emotional needs are met as well. Lettie, our therapy dog, makes regular Zoom appearances.

our kids are benefiting from strong leadership

When schools closed, some localities decided not to honor or fully honor our contracts with them. This put our school staff's salaries in jeopardy. However, our board of governors supported our efforts to secure a Paycheck Protection Loan from the Small Business Administration. This is made possible by the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) which was enacted by the federal government in late March. With this loan, we've protected the employment of our school staff until school can restart in

September. Our senior leadership team meets daily via Zoom to stay informed. We're conducting our usual business but in unusual ways these days.

our staff are doing a good job and are appreciated

Adherence to important policies and procedures are part of VHBG's normal operations. We have an expertise at responding to crisis situations, so our highly-developed skills and talents transitioned swiftly to a COVID response plan with efficient communication to stakeholders and staff. We consider it a top priority to provide a daily message to staff as COVID information changes frequently and we added CDC guidelines to our policies. It's more important now than ever before to protect our staff morale and mental health. Our spirits were lifted by this staff appreciation video, and we hope yours will be too. [CLICK HERE TO VIEW VIDEO.](#)

Your support ensures our youth will continue to receive essential, high-quality care, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Thank you so much for caring about the children at VHBG. We send you our very best and hope you and your loved ones are healthy and well.

Gratefully yours,

Claiborne Warner, VHBG President

THANK YOU!

P.S. If your circumstances allow, a special gift during this unusual time would be greatly appreciate.