



**VIRGINIA**  
HOME FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

ESTABLISHED 1846

ANNUAL **2022** REPORT

# Leadership

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# A Year in review

Ten years ago, Virginia Home for Boys and Girls held its first Youth Triathlon which was also my first year as President. Khadasha, a youth in Group Care Services at the time, couldn't swim, didn't have a bike, and had no idea what a Triathlon was. But she had **support, encouragement, and the desire to try** the race.

As an alumna, Khadasha recently came back to campus to say hello to me. The first time she stopped by, I was away so she left a sweet note. Then we made arrangements to meet which let me know she had a serious agenda for reconnecting with me. Back in the day she used to walk into my office and say "Madam President!" and proceed to tell me her opinions. That hasn't changed. At her visit, she walked right in my office and addressed me in her usual way. She was eager to see how things had changed or stayed the same, so we walked all around campus to places that were familiar to her. She reflected on her happy memories and recounted stories of her escapades as a typical teenager. She also shared some tough lessons she'd learned over the years but credited her resilience to the skills she learned at VHBG. When she saw the pool, she proudly talked about being in the Triathlon and was even on the cover of our fall 2012 newsletter. She remembers learning to swim, just for the Triathlon, and feeling the love from people who cheered her on. She called VHBG "home" and to her, coming back for a visit was coming home. She felt a sense of belonging here. She had meaningful relationships at VHBG and a sense of connection—all of which were her foundation for learning and healing. She wrote me a story that she wants to share with the world so I've included it in this annual report.

Hearing how Khadasha had persevered over the past ten years and how happy her life is today inspired me to reflect on my ten years here at VHBG. Like Khadasha, I've also had **support, encouragement, and the desire to try**. With the help of donors and support from our Board of Governors, VHBG has added

programming like our John G. Wood elementary school for grades K-5 and Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes like Woodshop and Culinary Arts; our Transitional Living program now includes Independent Living for young people ages 17-25 with affinity groups like Pride Place at VHBG; our Therapeutic Resource Center was created and now offers a robust internship program for students in VCU's School of Social Work Master's program; we completed the renovation of our 56-year-old dining hall building and replaced the roof and ceiling in our 50-year-old old gym. We've persevered through some really tough times like an unprecedented pandemic and a house fire. And finally, we've achieved major milestones like celebrating our 175th anniversary, continued accreditation, and recognizing diversity and inclusion as part of our culture.

With all these changes, one thing has remained the same...we have always been dedicated to responding to the unique and ever-changing needs of youth and families in crisis. VHBG will continue to grow and evolve as needs of the community change and we'll do it with **support, encouragement, and the desire to try**.

We appreciate all of our donors, Board members, staff, and partners who help make this organization relevant today and in the future.

*Claiborne Warner*

Claiborne Warner, President & CEO



## CONTENTS

A Year in Review	4	PROGRAMS	Events & Volunteerism	12
Khadasha's story	6	Transitional Living	Champion's Story	14
		John G. Wood School	Proclamation & D+I	16
		Therapeutic Resources	Financials	17
			Supporters	18



“The family I never had until

I did.”

Imagine a world where fear consumes you, where the show of love is distorted into something so terrible that you actually reject it in every way. Imagine a trauma so deep that the very thought of it makes you hate your own reflection. When I was a young child, I was repeatedly abused and neglected and did not attend school. I had no hope. That was the darkness I lived in for years.

But when I was 15-years-old, I was taken by Social Services from the only home I'd ever known and placed in a group home at Virginia Home for Boys and Girls. At first, I thought more trauma awaited me. But what actually happened was that my hope for love was reawakened.

Initially, my life at VHBG was 'guarded'. I didn't trust anyone. Why should I? I didn't know what to expect. I had never been treated kindly and fairly, so it was foreign

to me. People at VHBG understood my trauma. They understood me, especially Ms. "J". When I first arrived, she showed me my bedroom. I was shocked. I actually had my 'own' room with an actual bed with windows and a radio and even a bathroom.

It was not only a shock it actually made me angry because I realized what I had been without my whole life. Later that afternoon, we enjoyed a dinner. The shocking part about that was the family aspect of the whole thing. But it warmed my heart to see everyone eating together like a real family. I realized a lot of things in that moment. I realized we all need kindness and need to be loved. Family basics are the cornerstone of VHBG and kindness and love were not lacking there. I felt so good. Throughout my three years at VHBG I had many trials and tribulations, but the overflow of love never stopped. It was consistent and persistent. I had a nurse who took me to my first gynecologist appointment. That was so frightening to me because of my previous traumas.

I learned to swim and thrived in my first triathlon held on campus. I got my first contact lenses and braces provided by VHBG. I went to my high school prom and made memories with my high school classmates that I will cherish for a lifetime. In the midst of my worries and trials I not only had faith warriors in my home I had a village to help guide and raise me.

I am grateful to be able to say I was a child that lived at VHBG and it is my honor to honor the ones that helped me along my journey. One thing is for certain I am truly blessed to have had such a place to call home then and now. I am grateful to be able to come back and speak and share my story with other young people.

I'm married now and expecting my first child in 2023. It's a real blessing how I will finally be having a family of my own."

**-Khadasha Barakhyahu**







The concept of ‘transition’ in our environment implies a temporary, gradual, and deliberate teaching process of moving forward towards permanency.



## GROUP CARE SERVICES

A VDSS licensed program that provides a home and services to young people ages 11-17 who are unable to live in a traditional home or foster care environment. Group Care Services helps them overcome past trauma, build relationships, and work on transitioning to a more permanent environment.

## INDEPENDENT LIVING (IL)

Providing a home and services to young people ages 17-25 who are eager to learn how to live independently but are facing housing instability due to life circumstances. We offer two approaches: an IL Arrangement licensed by VDSS for young people aging out of foster care ages 17-21; and IL for young people ages 18-25 who are not connected to VDSS but are facing homelessness. We have an affinity group for young adults who identify as LGBTQ+ and live on campus called Pride Place at VHBG.



VHBG’s Group Care Services program was first accredited by CARF in 2019 and received another three-year accreditation in 2022. CARF stands for Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and is an

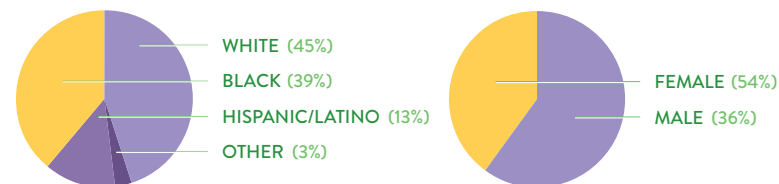
independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services, enhancing the lives of persons served worldwide. The accreditation process applies CARF’s internationally recognized standards during a site survey conducted by peer surveyors. This is an excerpt from the accreditation decision: “VHBG demonstrated substantial conformance to the standards. The homes in which services are provided are warm, safe, comfortable, and conducive to the residents’ personal outcomes and recovery. Residents appear to be thriving with the services they receive. VHBG takes pride in

providing a safe, nurturing, and homelike environment where the residents receive individualized, life-changing services. A culture of inclusivity and celebration of differences emanates from executive management throughout the organization. Among the many strengths of VHBG are its highly capable, dedicated leadership and board; caring, well-trained staff members who go above and beyond typical expectations to address the residents’ needs; the supportive workplace culture; the priority placed on safety; the effectiveness with which it managed and maintained operations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and its ongoing responsiveness to community needs. Referral sources and other stakeholders expressed satisfaction with and appreciation for the organization and its services and staff members. VHBG incorporates the CARF standards in its day-to-day service delivery practices and business functions, and its practices show continuous quality improvement.”

Transportation can be a key to independence and our clients in **Independent Living** are on the road to success thanks to staff and partners in our community. Tapping in to special federal funds for youth in foster care who need transportation, four scooters, three electric bikes, and two cars were purchased. 90% of the young people we serve who are aging out of foster care have now overcome their barriers to transportation. To achieve this, staff developed relationships with MOTO of Richmond, Agee’s bicycle, and H&C Auto, to get the best deals that fit each IL client’s budget and ability and they negotiated for custom helmets and accessories. Staff spent extra time with our youth discussing transportation options, obtaining insurance, going to many dealerships, test driving, scheduling a moped riding safety course, and finalizing the accounting requirements. A whole new world can open up for these young people who are now even more independent.



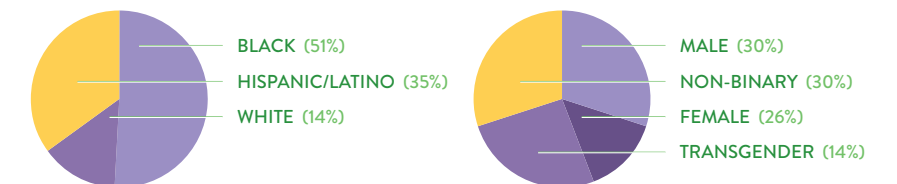
### GROUP CARE SERVICES



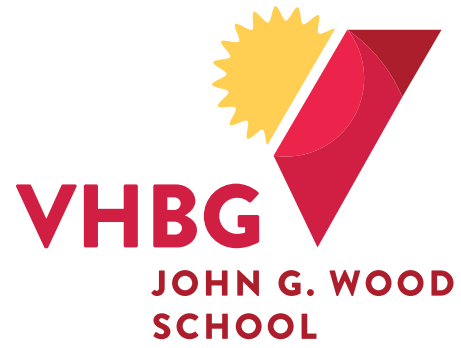
**98%** PROGRESS TOWARD GOAL ACHIEVEMENT  
**17** MAJORITY AGE SERVED

PROGRESS TOWARD GOAL ACHIEVEMENT **96%**  
MAJORITY AGES SERVED **19-21**

### INDEPENDENT LIVING







Specialized education fully licensed by VDOE for K-12 students who are not able to be successful in public school.

Serving students with autism, emotional disability, intellectual disability, other health impairments, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment. Some residents of our Transitional Living programs attend JGW in addition to students who commute from multiple localities in the Greater Richmond region. Career and Technical Education classes, wood shop and culinary arts teach practical, vocational skills.

### Stay Fit

VHBG's gym was built in 1969 and countless people around the region claim to have played there. Primarily, the gym is used by our John G. Wood School students and for residents of our Transitional Living programs for exercise. But for decades we've partnered with the community for outside groups to use the gym for basketball clinics, practices, and games. Time had taken its toll on the building and thanks to generous donors, the gym's roof and ceiling have been replaced and fresh paint covers the outside walls. Interested groups are encouraged to contact us for use of the gym ([philanthropy@vhbg.org](mailto:philanthropy@vhbg.org)). More renovations are still needed to the building and will be scheduled as funds allow.



### Live Red

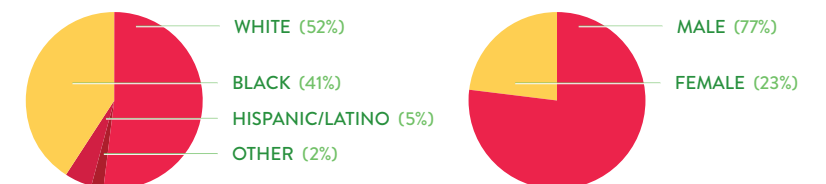
In addition to our trauma-informed education practices, our long-time youth triathlon partner, Endorphin Fitness, created a special program through their Live Red Foundation to offer free fitness sessions to our John G. Wood School students. Believing in the power of fitness to transform lives, they use fitness to empower and equip youth to create a successful future for themselves and their communities by teaching eight core life skills while being challenged physically: setting goals, empathy, self-belief, mindfulness, self-control, positive risk taking, resilience, and perseverance. Our Live Red volunteer instructors Michelle Hylton, Ed Gotta, and Jasaan Brewster provided this program during school hours in our gym.

### Expressions

Non-verbal expression is a productive outlet for intense feelings of fear, isolation, sadness, anger, and loss. Our creative arts program uses a variety of mediums to facilitate a therapeutic experience that results in artwork on display for all to appreciate. Lessons extended beyond the classroom in FY22 as students took a variety of field trips to places like museums, parks, and hiking at Humpback Rock. One student stated, "I wanted to quit the hike. It was exhausting but I managed to get to the top. I promised Ms. "J" I'd do the trip as a senior and I kept my promise. I achieved something that wasn't easy." Each day, our teachers create a safe space where student's feelings can be processed and hope can be restored. In addition to our strong foundation in academic instruction, we are helping our students build resilience, improve self-esteem, and develop coping and control skills - all of which lead to a strong future for them, their families, and our communities.

PASSED THEIR CORE CLASSES **98%**  
 MAJORITY AGES SERVED **16-18**

### JOHN G. WOOD SCHOOL







Meeting the mental health needs of the young people we serve on campus. Resources include counseling, psycho-education, an on-campus nurse, and partners who provide psychotherapy and psychiatry in our therapeutic resource center. Youth Mental Health First Aid workshops are provided free-of-charge to the community.

Depression has been on the rise in young people for years, and statistics have only grown more grim since the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, depression and anxiety in youth doubled compared to pre-pandemic levels. One in four adolescents globally are “experiencing clinically elevated depression symptoms, while on in five youth are experiencing clinically elevated anxiety symptoms” (JAMA Pediatrics). Unfortunately, warning signs such as these often go ignored due to the stigma and difficulty associated with getting help, or lack of education. As a community partner, VHBG is

committed to early intervention efforts that lead to the prevention of serious mental health issues. The staff at VHBG has unique expertise in children’s behavioral health and trauma-informed care and are glad to educate the community about youth’s mental health. They believe anyone anywhere can be the one to make a difference in the life of someone with a mental health challenge if they know what to do and what to say.

In FY22, our team members spent 251 hours in training and consultation to support community members and teams in need of our expertise impacting upwards of 626 individuals.

**Examples include:**

- Creating *Building Resilient Communities* training videos for professionals and mentors working with individuals who have experienced trauma
- Providing consultation to individual parents and professionals who need assistance and help with navigating Virginia’s child welfare systems
- Leading trainings related to trauma-informed care and mental health
- Serving on teams that support children and families in crisis with making decisions and facilitating access to appropriate services



Our 2021/2022 Master of Social Work Interns from VCU provided over 4,000 hours of support to Group Care Services, John G Wood School, and Independent Living programs. This partnership is in its 10th year and has helped to cultivate the workforce for human services.



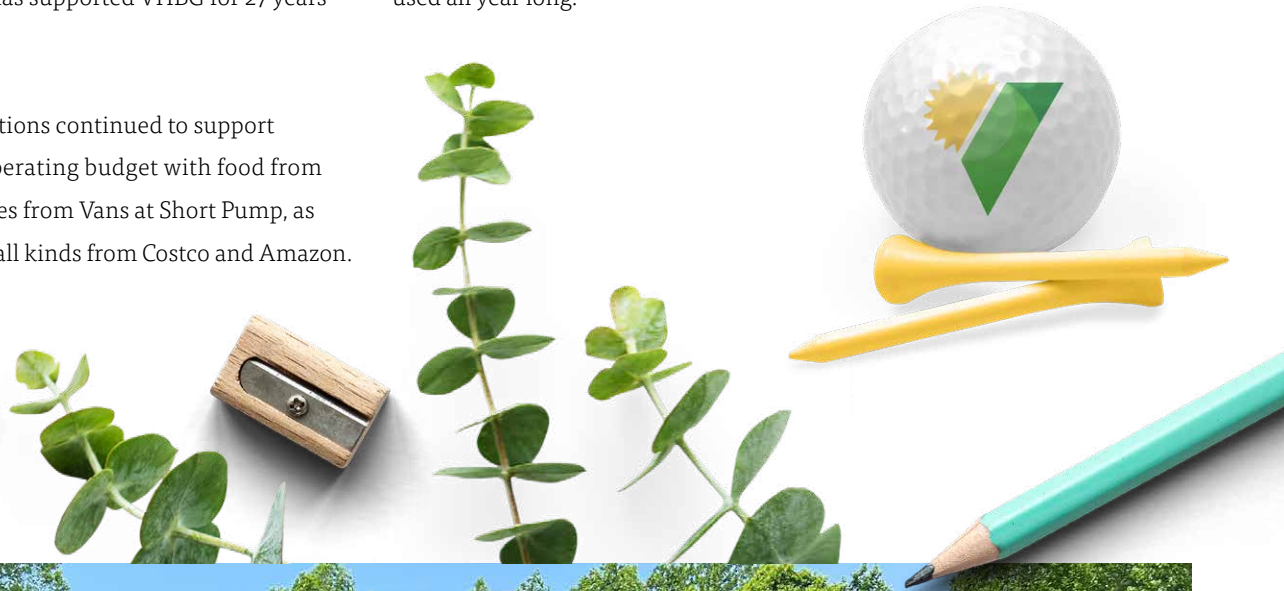


# events

Social gatherings continued to be a challenge due to the pandemic but the solution seemed to be in taking the fundraiser outside. We carried out the 33rd annual Golf Classic fundraiser at the expansive Club at Viniterra. Our 29 teams enjoyed beautiful weather and a pleasant day of golf provided by our many sponsors like Heartwood Wealth Advisors, JanPro of Richmond and Charlottesville, and Amazon.

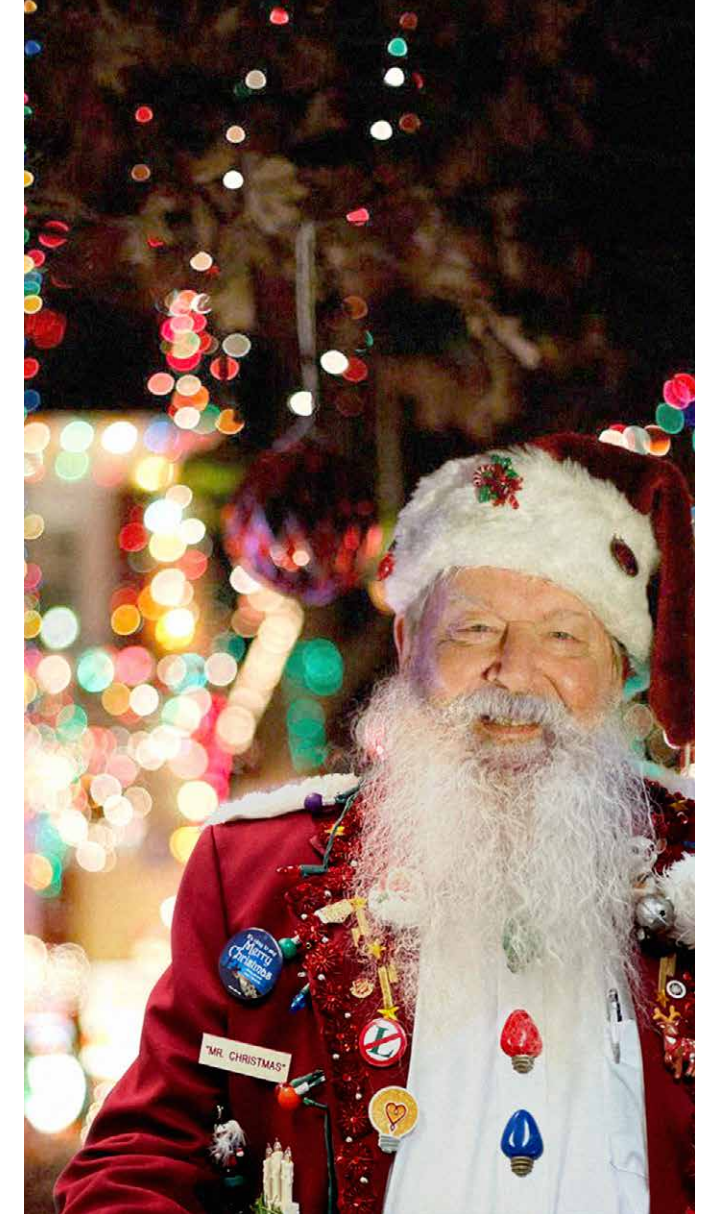
Donations were collected by Mr. Christmas (a.k.a. Frank Hudak). His house decorated with tacky lights and displays located at 2300 Wistar Court in Henrico County has supported VHBG for 27 years and raised more than \$160,000.

In-kind donations continued to support VHBG's operating budget with food from Publix, shoes from Vans at Short Pump, as well as items of all kinds from Costco and Amazon.



# volunteerism

Collection drives and landscaping helped volunteers stick to good social distancing practices again this year. Students from a VCU Human Trafficking Class and a Boy Scout troop weeded and planted our campus garden. Volunteers from 501 Architects landscaped our newly renovated dining hall entrance. Sunday School classmates from Grace Christian Church unboxed and sorted supplies in our campus store. And collection drives from Lewis Media Partners, the House Finch, Worthdays, Trinity Christian Church, Theta Phi Sigma Christian Sorority, River City Consulting/Disco sports, and Amazon helped with holiday gifts, bikes, as well as items to be stored and used all year long.







MARY GORDON CURRENT BOARD MEMBER,  
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S CHAIR 2021-2022



I JUST COULDN'T FATHOM HOW IT'S POSSIBLE IN A COUNTRY LIKE OURS THAT HUNDREDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVE VIRGINIA'S FOSTER CARE SYSTEM AT AGE 18 BEFORE THEY HAVE BEEN CONNECTED TO PERMANENT FAMILIES.



- MARY GORDON

"I'm retired now and thought I knew a lot because I'd enjoyed a successful, 30+year career at Altria. I held numerous leadership roles and had earned multiple degrees. Little did I know just how much more I needed to learn regarding the plight of our youth— our future."

While at Altria, I attended an Employee Giving Fund event where nonprofits set up a display to raise awareness of their mission. I listened to the person at the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls table talk about young people who need a home. I just didn't know that every night there were so many young people having no place to sleep. I always thought of a homeless person as an adult on the streets. I just didn't know.

My mission was now to learn more so I could help. I toured VHBG's campus. I was astonished by the myriad of programs related to transitional living available for youth and began to volunteer my time, talent, and treasure. I wanted to fix the issues causing youth to need a home and I wanted to find a home for every child. My understanding and passion grew even stronger when I met one young person named Michael. He was 11 years old and he told me how he had just arrived at VHBG because he needed a place stay. He appeared a bit scared but he did say he hoped this would be a better place for him than his previous home. I was heartbroken hearing that he didn't have a safe home with parents who could care for him. I thought no child should ever be put in this situation. About a year later, I had an opportunity to see Michael again. He was much more talkative and he boasted about his plans to leave. He was excited and optimistic about his future.

Michael's attitude taught me a valuable lesson. No matter how horrible a situation may have been, don't focus on what is behind you. Instead look forward and focus on making every future moment better. VHBG is a place that does that.

I have learned more about the impact of trauma that young people like Michael experience and how individualized the care for each child needs to be. What I love about VHBG is that they treat each child as a unique individual. There is no mass treatment where one size fits all, or where there is a focus of herding large numbers of kids in and out. Every young person is given the care and the time they need. Some may need more time, but it's worth it. I'm so proud to serve on the VHBG board that insists on making these services possible for these young people in need.

I now know about the circumstances causing youth homelessness like aging out of foster care or being marginalized due to life circumstances. By getting involved with VHBG, I learned about youth who've found their own success as well as the fact there are so many more youth and young adults who need our help. So, I'm on a mission to educate others - my friends, family, and acquaintances - that VHBG is an organization that can help young people in need reach their potential and live a productive life, ending the negative cycle that they have experienced. While it is heartbreaking to know that youth can experience a terrible childhood, I am comforted by the fact that I can make a positive difference at VHBG.

In the words of Paul Shane Spear, "As one person I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person." I hope everyone will give to VHBG. Every individual youth is worth your gift.

Trust me, I now know.

I just  
never knew.

Donors like Mary Gordon are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children in crisis.

Join them by making a donation with the enclosed envelope, or visit [www.vhbg.org/give](http://www.vhbg.org/give)





PROCLAMATION

History in the making

The pandemic caused us to scrap many of our plans to celebrate our 175th anniversary. But the State of Virginia and the County of Henrico both recognized this achievement by issuing resolutions proclaiming this accomplishment.

Per their proclamation, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Henrico, Virginia recognizes the important role that Virginia Home for Boys and Girls plays in the care of young people in the region and does herby express its appreciation to Virginia Home for Boys and Girls for its dedication and perseverance in serving youth in crisis for the past 175 years. VHBG Board of Governors member Shannon Taylor and VHBG President and CEO Claiborne Warner received the resolution from the Chairman of the Henrico Board of Supervisors, Dan Schmitt. Per his proclamation, Governor Ralph S. Northam, recognized 2021 as the 175th anniversary of Virginia Home for Boys and Girls in our Commonwealth of Virginia and called this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Beyond the buzzwords

VHBG's leadership team encourages employees to bring their authentic self to work, whatever that means for that employee. We do this through unbiased recruiting practices, advocating for employees to participate in our Inclusion Ambassador Council, implementing employee feedback and offering training opportunities focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. VHBG nurtures belonging and retains a highly engaged workforce in order to achieve the best experience and outcomes for our clients. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees and the clients we serve. VHBG was also recognized by the Virginia Interfaith Center for paying our employees a living wage.



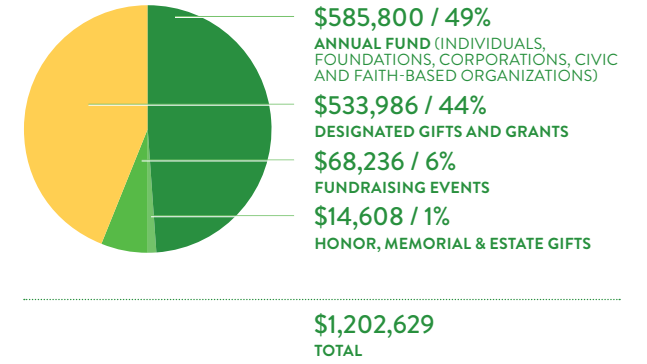
TOUR INVITATION

Come visit

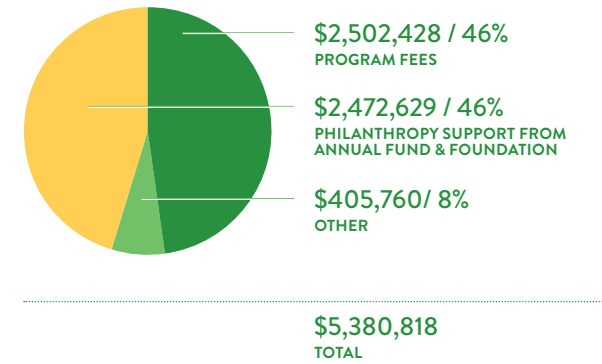
We often invite supporters to take a tour of our campus to see our programs in action. 100% of the time, these people are amazed and profoundly affected by what they see and hear. Not only do they see the buildings and beautiful campus scenery but they meet and talk to staff who exude passion and excitement for the work they do. And, they sometimes witness the youth we serve, on good and not so good days, getting the trauma-informed care they need. Even if it's been a few years since you've been to campus, we invite you to take a tour with us. Contact philanthropy@vhbg.org to schedule your tour.

FINANCIALS

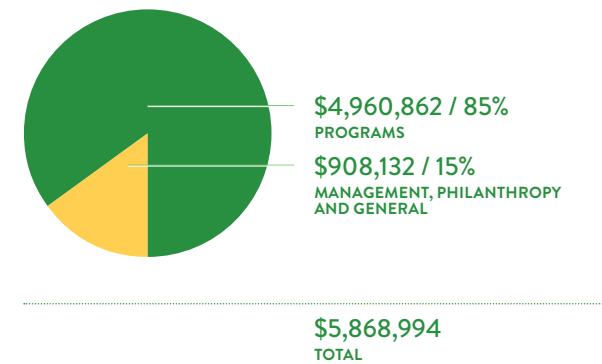
Philanthropy Revenues



Operating Support



Operating Expenses



“IT WAS SO LOVELY TO HAVE MET YOU AND EVERYONE AT VHBG. VISITING WITH Y'ALL AND SEEING FIRST HAND ALL THAT VHBG PROVIDES WAS HEART-WARMING AND INSPIRING. VHBG IS NOW A TOP PRIORITY FOR OUR FAMILY. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO HAVE MET SO MANY OF THE STAFF AND TO SEE THE OUTPOURING OF ENERGY REVEALED IN THE YOUTH'S ACTIVITIES. TRULY, AN AMAZING, COMMITTED, AND PURPOSEFUL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOUTH WHO HAVE INNUMERABLE CHALLENGES. THE LOVE AT VHBG IS PALPABLE AT MANY LEVELS.

”

- SANDY PRESTON



## SUPPORTERS

Gifts from 7/1/21 – 6/30/22

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\$25,000+

Altria Contributing Together  
Armstrong Family Fund  
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Mrs. Esther M. Bunzl  
Community Foundation  
for a greater Richmond  
Mr. Alan R. delForn  
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Ms. Stephanie M. Sullivan  
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Foundation  
The McCann Family Fund  
The Steven and Katherine Markel  
Foundation  
Virginia Sargeant Reynolds  
Foundation  
W. W. Whitlock Memorial Fund

### WEBB SOCIETY

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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Ms. Susan C. Cedillo  
Constance C. and Linwood A. Lacy,  
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Universal Leaf Foundation  
West Charitable Trust  
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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Calhoun

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Clarke  
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Dennis Foundation  
Elam-Busser Family Fund  
Estes Foundation  
Ms. Alison Foley  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. Hudak, Jr.  
JAN-PRO of Richmond/  
Charlottesville  
Mr. & Mrs. H. Stuart Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. E. Sidney Martin III  
Martin L. and Patricia H. Giles Fund  
Mr. Rick Mears  
Norman R. Seay Trust  
Mrs. Sarah Plymale  
Ms. Betty Seay  
Stephen M. and Cheryl G. Goddard  
Family Fund  
TowneBank Richmond Foundation  
Walter P. Lossing Trust  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell G. Wyatt

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\$2,500- \$4,999

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Anonymous  
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Mr. Lionel J. Bacon  
Mr. & Mrs. George L. Bryant III  
CentiMark  
ColonialWebb Contractors  
Family Holdings, LC  
Mrs. Anne Farrell  
Farrell Family Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. Wesley B. Kaufman  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Melnick  
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Milne  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Mitchell III  
Mutual Assurance Society of  
Virginia Fund  
Paul H. Pusey Foundation  
Mrs. Corinne A. Richardson-Lauve  
Rick Mears Charitable Fund  
Mrs. Janet L. Sauer  
Mr. James D. Snowa, Sr.  
Synergy Technical, LLC  
The Richmond Group USA, Inc.

### CARNEAL SOCIETY

\$1,000- \$2,499

Ace Electric Company  
AIG  
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Arrow Exterminators  
BDS Holding Company, LLC  
Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Bennett II  
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*At VHBG, our mission is to help youth across Virginia with emotional and behavioral health concerns by facilitating the healing process using a relationship-based, cognitive-behavioral approach. The trauma-informed care youth receive in our group homes, independent living apartments, specialized K-12 school (John G. Wood), and therapeutic resource center restores hope to them and their families who then find the courage to thrive.*



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