

SUMMER 2018

HOPE

REIMAGINED

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“When I first started at John G. Wood School I was scared. I felt angry. I acted out my feelings. I started to find out that I’m better than this and I got help.”

–JACOB, AGE 11

save these dates

Campus Tours: Aug. 22, Sep. 26, Oct. 24

Youth Triathlon: Aug. 18

Band Together Fundraiser: Sep. 14

Youth Mental Health First Aid Workshops: Aug. 17, Sep. 21

Visit our website, VHBG.org, for more details.

Virginia Home for Boys and Girls (VHBG) is a nonprofit organization that has been serving children in crisis since 1846. Nearly 50% of VHBG’s budget is supported by philanthropic dollars and community volunteers play a critical role in supporting the organization’s needs. The trauma-informed care youth receive in our group homes, independent living arrangement, 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.

Virginia Home for Boys and Girls
8716 West Broad Street / Henrico, VA 23294
804-270-6566 / VHBG.org



Donors, partners, and highly-trained staff make Virginia Home for Boys and Girls' John G. Wood School a place for students to find hope for their future and the courage to thrive.

GIVE FOR SCOTT



Can you imagine how good it feels to overcome a challenge?

“Easy” doesn’t come close to describing the life of students like Scott who attend VHBG’s John G. Wood School. Some of the children we serve at JGW live in our group homes and some commute from surrounding localities. All of them have their own unique story to explain why they haven’t been able to succeed in public school. But what they have in common is some sort of trauma history and a need to build relationships and learn resilience skills.

The trauma-informed care provided at JGW reaches across a full range of academic courses that include Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes. Thanks to a generous donation of tools and other equipment this year, the expansion of our CTE program enabled our students to complete some amazing projects that strengthened their emotional health and taught them employable skills, like building a 10’ x 16’ toolshed and a full-size canoe.

These projects were not easy. But working as a team, students experienced a sense of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity—the foundation for psychological resilience and a path to a successful life. Donors, partners, and highly-trained staff at VHBG made this possible.

thank you.

These stories are real but names have been changed to protect the youth's privacy.

GIVE FOR ERIN



“In the beginning, when I first came to John G. Wood School, I hated it.

I felt like I could not do anything fun. I felt like everyone was against me. I felt like I didn’t belong here so I started acting out. Then one day Ms. Midlin was really trying to relate to me. She started talking to me and helping me with my feelings. She really did love me. So did everyone else. I wanted to ask them, “why do you guys love me even though I’m rude and mean sometimes?” But I know they would say I’m just that type of person that can’t go on living without being loved.

I used to think love was poison that went through you. It really killed you inside. It made you hurt. Maybe I was wrong. I then started doing my work and getting A’s. I still need to work on things and will always need to. I’m ready to go to public school to fight through the challenges that it gives me.

Change, even though we don’t like it, it’s a part of life and always will be. I take a step every day and I get stronger. There’s that saying and I think it’s right, “nobody ever said life would be easy, but it will be worth it.” Every person in the world has a choice to be incredible or make bad choices. Maybe I chose the right path.

All of my teachers helped me a lot. But it wasn’t just the grownups that I learned from it was every kid in the JGW elementary school. I didn’t really like kids, but now I do. I feel loved and that I belong with my peers. I’m a popular kid. They taught me a lot about nature, animals, and insects. I was more like their big sister and they were my little brothers and sisters. **They are smart kids and I know they will choose the right path just like I did.**

I believe in all of them like I believe in myself.”

-Erin, age 12