



VIRGINIA
HOME FOR BOYS AND GIRLS



what we believe

We believe all children deserve to grow up surrounded by a loving, nurturing “family”. All children deserve encouragement, protection, and a sense of belonging that comes from supportive adult relationships in a healthy family environment and a safe supportive community. After all, healthy adult relationships are critical to every child’s ability to live a successful life.

our mission

At VHBG, our mission is to help youth across Virginia with emotional and behavioral health concerns by facilitating the healing process using a teaching-family 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.

our history

Since 1846, when we were founded as the Richmond Male Orphan Society, Virginia Home for Boys and Girls has provided enduring care, stability, and support to generations of Virginia’s children who have experienced trauma. While we began as an orphanage, we are now a comprehensive child and family services organization.

therapeutic neighborhood

Our 30+ acre campus feels like a neighborhood you'd want to live in. For some youth in crisis, a safe neighborhood is new to them. Tree-lined streets allow for biking and skateboarding. A gym, swimming pool, tennis court, and playing fields give youth the opportunity to get exercise and fresh air. Our Henrico County location allows youth to easily participate in off-campus activities like cultural experiences, day trips, summer camps, part-time jobs, and educational opportunities in their community. And, we don't overlook things like porch rocking chairs, gardens, swings, etc. that aid in the therapeutic experience.



Because “family” is everything

At VHBG, we use an effective, trauma-informed approach to serve youth with emotional and behavioral health concerns.

We choose to use the highly successful, evidence-based Teaching-Family Model (TFM) of care because it's grounded in relationships, teaches youth in a compassionate, family-like atmosphere versus an institutional- type setting, and has been proven to have better long-term results. The TFM is characterized by the belief that adolescents belong in nurturing, family-style environments and features a strong commitment to teaching skills that help preserve, maintain, and reunify the “family” unit. The TFM includes extra support systems around direct care staff such as extensive training, on-the-job coaching, and eyes-on evaluation. These supports contribute to the longevity and professionalism of those working directly with the youth which leads to a higher quality of care and better outcomes.

We ensure that every youth in our care receives a unique experience that is tailored to meet their needs with the ultimate goal for each youth to be on their way to a successful life.





group care and independent living

Licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services, our group homes and independent living arrangement (ILA) offer youth a stable home and place to grow.

Our group homes are accredited in the Teaching-Family Model (TFM) and include family-style living with individualized, supportive services for boys and girls ages 11-17. Trained Teaching-Parents use the TFM to help youth along their healing process with service planning to meet their specific needs. Academic development, behavioral support, therapy, community involvement, recreation, and family integration are paramount. Philanthropic support helps us normalize each youth's life with offsite outings, participation in sports leagues and other extracurricular activities. The ultimate goal is for each youth to be on their way to a safe, permanent home.

By offering housing and support services, our highly individualized ILA supports qualifying youth ages 17-21 who have aged out of foster care. Separate ILA apartments are located in our safe, therapeutic neighborhood and are within close proximity to colleges, employment, health care, shopping, entertainment, public transportation and can be a walkable commute to jobs. Highly-trained staff provide case management and independent living skills coaching that helps these youth in achieving success as independent adults.



specialized education

Our specialized school, John G. Wood (JGW), is just the right size to teach students with emotional and behavioral concerns that impact their academic success. Small student-teacher ratios accommodate individual learning styles with a goal to transition students back to their public school as soon as possible.

JGW includes a broad range of courses for students in kindergarten through grade 12 and Extended School Year (ESY) services are available during the summer. Some residents of VHBG's group homes attend JGW in addition to students who commute from multiple localities in the Richmond region.

JGW is accredited by VAISEF, whose accreditation process has been approved by the Virginia Council for Private Education as authorized by the Virginia State Board of Education. JGW is licensed by the Virginia DOE and aligned with Virginia SOLs. Teachers and trained behavior coaches incorporate the Teaching-Family Model into the curriculum. Students take a full range of academic courses that include Career/Technical Education (CTE) classes, online courses and electives with the ability to earn or work toward a Standard, Alternative, Applied Studies, or General Education Diploma (GED). Self-contained classrooms are also available for more intensive support.

Students get physical activity through the use of our gymnasium, playing fields, swing set equipment, and indoor recreation room. Each student receives the support they need to be successful including school supplies and lunch plus a snack every day.

Some additional opportunities we offer:

- Community volunteer projects
- Educational outings
- Individual and group counseling as needed
- Richmond Alternative School Sports League (RASSL)





therapeutic resources

Our therapeutic resource center offers a continuum of community-based care to meet the needs of the youth we serve on campus, as well as those residing in surrounding communities.

For youth engaged in other campus-based programs, our licensed clinicians provide individual, group, and family therapy that is individually tailored and trauma-informed in order to help youth dealing with a range of emotional and behavioral concerns. Services are strengthened through coordination with our on-campus mentoring, nursing, and psychiatry staff.

For community youth or those youth stepping down from other programs, we offer:

- Home Based Services
- Intensive In-Home Counseling
- Mentoring
- Outpatient Counseling
- Psychiatric Care

These services help families solve problems within the context of their families, rather than through placement outside of the home. One-on-one support and guidance is offered to children and their family to keep them together and safe in the community.





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