



VIRGINIA

HOME FOR BOYS AND GIRLS



what we believe

We believe all young people deserve to be loved and nurtured as they are embraced for their unique authentic identities. We believe in the resilience of children, youth, and families and that they are destined for success regardless of the experiences of their past. In these journeys toward success, we believe in the power of encouragement, protection, and the sense of belonging that comes from supportive relationships with adults in healthy and safe environments. We believe that relationships are the first step toward overcoming the effects of individual and systemic trauma and that we can help young people and families on their paths to independence through relationships, teaching, coaching, and planning for the future.

our mission

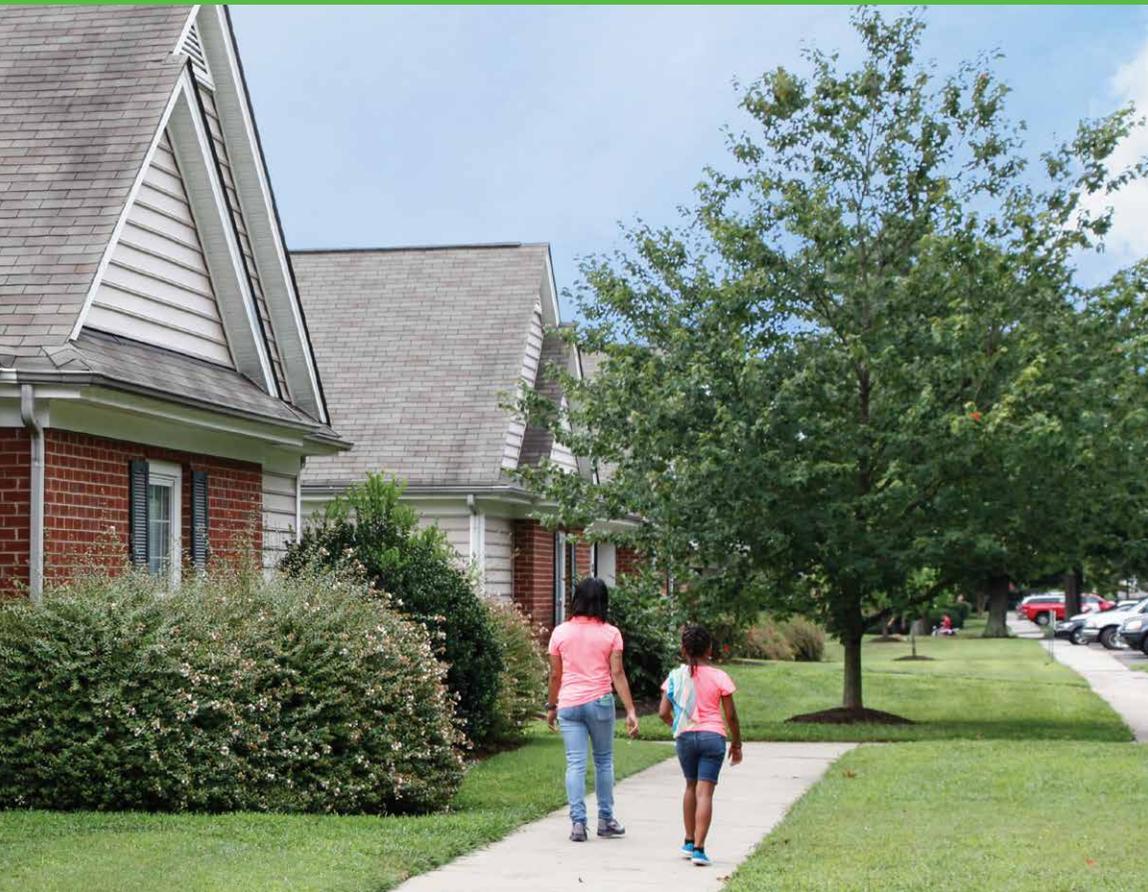
At VHBG, our mission is to help young people across Virginia with emotional and behavioral health concerns by facilitating the healing process using a teaching-family approach. The trauma-informed care young people receive in our transitional living homes, specialized K-12 school (John G. Wood), and 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 young people who have experienced trauma. While we began as an orphanage, we now provide an array of mission-aligned services for young people, families, and the community.

therapeutic neighborhood

Our 30+ acre campus feels like a neighborhood you'd want to live in. For some young people 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 young people the opportunity to get exercise and fresh air. Our Henrico County location allows young people 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.



It all starts with

belonging

At VHBG, we emphasize *belonging*—meaningful relationships and a sense of connection through authenticity—as the foundation of teaching and healing. We use an individualized approach with each young person that emphasizes their unique strengths and goals. Through relationship building, our counselors, coaches, and teachers nurture the potential of each youth.

Our caring team members use effective, trauma-informed approaches to serve young people and help them find their inner resilience. Our evidence-based practices of Motivational Interviewing and the Teaching Family Model are implemented with close consultation and coaching by leaders to ensure the practices are adapted to the needs of each youth.

We value self-determination and the importance of each youth charting their own life course with caring support from our team. Opportunities for program input are provided through one-on-one conversations, goal planning meetings, formal youth meetings in our programs, and a compensated youth advisory council.



transitional living

VHBG's **Group Care Services** program includes family-style living with individualized, supportive services for young people ages 11-17 with emotional and behavioral health concerns. Trained Youth Counselors help youth along their healing process with teaching skills to meet their specific needs. Academic development, behavioral support, counseling, community involvement, recreation, and family integration are paramount. Each youth's life is normalized 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. Licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), our Group Care Services program is approved as a Qualified Residential Treatment Program designated by the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Social Services Division of Family Services. Our group homes are accredited in the Teaching-Family Model and CARE.

VHBG's **Independent Living (IL)** is for young people ages 17-25 who are eager to learn how to live independently but are facing housing instability due to life circumstances. Knowing that relationships are the first step to overcoming the effects of trauma, each young person in IL works directly with an IL caseworker who provides support and encouragement. Our IL caseworkers guide young people on their path to independence through effective relationship building, supervision, coaching, counseling, and service planning. The majority of these young people come to us with little experience managing day-to-day tasks and VHBG teaches them how to depend on themselves while providing them with a safe, affirming, and stable place to live with a housemate or housemates during this transitional period in their life. VHBG meets the needs of young adults through two approaches to Independent Living services:

- VHBG's Independent Living Arrangement is a program licensed by the VDSS for young people who are transitioning out of the foster care system ages 17-21 and is coordinated with Fostering Futures, which provides some funding. They may be single or they may be pregnant and/or have their young child(ren) residing with them in the program.
- VHBG also provides Independent Living for young people ages 18-25 who are not connected to VDSS but are facing homelessness due to a variety of challenges and need short term temporary housing. In the first seven days, IL participants will set benchmark goals with their caseworker to achieve stable housing. Each benchmark achievement potentially allows for 30-day extensions as needed to find them stable housing. We have an affinity group for young adults who identify as LGBTQ+ on our campus called Pride Place at VHBG.



specialized education

Our specialized school, John G. Wood (JGW), is just the right size to teach Kindergarten through 12th grade 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. Some residents of VHBG's Group Care Services and IL programs attend JGW in addition to students who commute from multiple localities in the region.

Teachers and trained coaches incorporate social and life skills teaching into the curriculum. Students take a full range of academic courses that include Career/Technical Education classes, online courses and electives with the ability to earn or work toward a Standard, Alternative, Applied Studies, or General Education Diploma. Self-contained classrooms are available for more intensive support and Extended School Year services are available during the summer. Students engage in 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 include community volunteer projects, educational outings, individual and group counseling as needed, and competitive sports through the Richmond Alternative School Sports League.

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.

Disability categories served include:

- Autism
- Emotional Disability
- Intellectual Disability
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment





therapeutic resources

VHBG provides counseling, consultation, and psychoeducation services to individuals, families, and groups. All of these services are available through our Therapeutic Resource Center conveniently located on our campus.

For the young people in our programs, these services are in accordance with their Individual and Family Service Plan, when applicable. If a young person's or family's presentation warrants psychotherapy, VHBG will identify Licensed Clinicians within our network of trusted providers to appropriately match the client with said provider.

Our child welfare and behavioral health experts are knowledgeable about the vast and complicated network of Virginia' human service resources and understand the struggle of individuals seeking solutions to appropriate interventions. We use compassion to provide consultation and information to these families and professionals who may not be connected to our programs but are looking for community resources for their young people who are at imminent risk of physical or emotional harm.

VHBG also offers workshops to the public with the goal of strengthening the ability of community members to respond therapeutically to those in their lives who may be experiencing emotional or mental health concerns. Arrangements can be made to train private groups as well.





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