



# The Friends of Foster Care



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Friends of Foster Care

# Organization Overview

## Our Mission

To create opportunities and environments for vulnerable youth and their families to thrive.

## Our Vision

To be the most innovative, valuable and inclusive partner in creating community-based support for youth and families interfacing with the foster care system.

## Our Values:

We find a way to say “Yes” to those in need and build on the strengths of those we serve. We are solution oriented with a commitment to integrity, excellence, inclusivity, diversity, and accountability. We take holistic approaches with measurable and lasting impacts. We deliver on our commitments with compassion, respect and humility.

## Our Goals:

To ensure every child has a loving family placement capable of meeting their emotional, physical and psychological needs—through targeted outreach and training initiatives for foster parents.

To eliminate placement disruption and systemic recidivism within the foster care system—through comprehensive, on-going support of youth and families across all realms of the child welfare system.

To improve long-term outcomes of youth interfacing with the foster care system—through steadfast and strategic investment in enrichment programs that bridge gaps between publicly available resources and those elements essential to a healthy, happy and rewarding childhood.

# Welcome to Our 2025 Annual Report

<b>Letter from the CEO</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Our Board &amp; Officers</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The State of Foster Care</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Programs Update</b>	
Tutoring	8
Tutor of the Decade Spotlight	9
Dorm Days!	10
Gifting Program	11
Youth Enrichment Activities	12
Program Impact	13
<b>Special Events</b>	
Gala	14
Foster Care Aware	14
Art From the Heart	15
<b>Development &amp; Investment</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Donors &amp; Sponsors</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Thank You to Our Supporters</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Looking Ahead</b>	<b>26</b>



# LETTER *from the* CEO



**Audra Bullock**  
CEO

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on 2025 and The Friends of Foster Care's approaching ten-year anniversary, I am filled with deep gratitude for all that we have accomplished together and tremendous optimism for what lies ahead.

When we began this work in 2016, our vision was simple but ambitious: to ensure that every child and young adult touched by foster care has the same opportunities for stability, success, and belonging as any other child. Nearly a decade later, that vision has grown into a statewide movement powered by foster families, educators, social workers, donors, volunteers, and community partners who believe that brighter futures are possible.

This year, we surpassed many important milestones: we served our **5,000th child**, delivered our **75,000th hour of individualized tutoring**, granted our **14,000th gift wishlist**, and opened doors to more than **5,400 enrichment and extracurricular opportunities**. These numbers tell a story of impact, but the true measure of our work is found in the young people who are discovering their strengths, reclaiming their confidence, and charting a path toward adulthood with encouragement at every step.

2025 was also a year of meaningful expansion. With the launch of new partnerships across Central Virginia, including Richmond and Henrico, and the continued growth of our Pathways programming for youth ages 14 to 18, as well as our transitioning youth program for 18 to 26 year-olds, we strengthened our commitment to supporting young people not just while they are in foster care, but as they transition into independence. From our Tutoring Program to YMCA memberships, from life-skills development to college tours and employment pathways, these programs represent the comprehensive support our young people deserve.

None of this would be possible without you. Your generosity, your advocacy, and your belief in our mission have fueled our ability to grow, innovate, and respond to the evolving needs of the children and youth we serve. Every tutoring session, every enrichment experience, every moment of joy or confidence a child experiences is a direct reflection of your support.

As we prepare to celebrate our 10-year "Diamond Anniversary" in 2026, I am humbled by the journey that brought us here, and inspired by the road ahead. The need continues to grow, but so does the community that surrounds these young people with hope and opportunity. Together, we are building a future where foster youth across Virginia know they are valued, supported, and never alone.

Thank you for standing with us through this year, this decade, and the transformative work still to come.

With deep gratitude,



**Audra Bullock**

*CEO, The Friends of Foster Care*

# OUR BOARD & OFFICERS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Audra Bullock**

*Board Chair & CEO,  
The Friends of Foster Care*

### **Christy Allen**

*Realtor,  
Decker Allen Realty*

### **Sarah Bishop**

*MSW,  
The Up Center*

### **Mary Brock**

*Training Specialist,  
USAA*

### **Tonya Byrd**

*Director of Community Engagement  
& Local Affairs, Dominion Energy*

### **Karen Campbell**

*Vice President for Student Affairs,  
Tidewater Community College*

### **Antonio Dill-Word**

*Assistant Director, Student Center for  
Inclusive Excellence, William & Mary*

### **Robin Foster**

*Professor of Pediatrics and  
Emergency Medicine at Children's  
Hospital of Richmond at VCU*

### **Amanda Gift**

*Strategic Advisor & Head of Norfolk  
Office, Brown Advisory*

### **Chuck Gray**

*President,  
Infinity Counseling Group*

### **Edy Herrera**

*Principal, Surrender Network*

### **Jenn Holland**

*Community Leader*

### **Cheryl Jones**

*Vice President,  
Access College Foundation*

### **Tracy Keller**

*CEO,  
Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast*

### **Richard Litton**

*President,  
Harbor Group International*

### **Deana Malek**

*Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney,  
Henrico County*

### **Robert McCartney**

*CEO, James Barry Robinson  
Institute*

### **Jalana McCasland**

*Vice President of Ambulatory  
Service, VCU School of Health  
Administration*

### **Doug Mitchell**

*Medical Director, Children's Medical  
Group, CHKD*

### **Kate Powell**

*Executive Director, Tidewater Arts  
Outreach*

### **Elizabeth Stuart**

*Senior Vice President of  
Communications and Business  
Development, The James  
Barry-Robinson Institute*

### **Anthony Walters**

*President & CEO, YMCA of South  
Hampton Roads*

## OFFICERS

### **Audra Bullock**

*CEO*

### **Autumn Young**

*President*

### **Emma Kolar**

*Vice President*

### **T. Richard Litton, Jr.**

*Secretary, Treasurer*

## ADVISORY BOARD

### **Kimberly Lewis**

*Norfolk DHS*

### **Stefanie Fabrizio**

*Portsmouth DSS*

### **Saniyyah Manigault-Westbrook**

*Suffolk DSS*

### **Angela Miller-Carney**

*Norfolk CPS*

### **Jennifer Bond**

*Virginia Beach DHS*

### **Reynold Jordan**

*Isle of Wight DSS*

### **LaCora Harris-Baskerville**

*Richmond DSS*

### **Tamara Temoney-Porter**

*Hampton DHS*

### **Margaret Mack-Yaroch**

*York-Poquoson DSS*

### **Tiffany Gordon**

*Mathews DSS*

### **Felicia Legarde**

*Chesapeake DHS*

### **Melvin Roy**

*Foster U*

### **Sunny Catalano**

*Gloucester DSS*

### **Sarah Rexrode**

*Franklin DSS*

### **Grace Carpenter**

*Henrico DSS*

### **Bebe Tran**

*Commonwealth Catholic Charities*

### **Rhonda Williams**

*Newport News DHS*



# The State of Foster Care



Virginia's foster care system is at a pivotal moment. As of December, 2025, 4,851 children and youth ages 0 to 17 were in foster care across the Commonwealth, with 1,069 living with family members and the remaining 3,788 placed in non-relative foster homes or congregate care settings. An additional 895 young adults ages 18 to 21 are supported through Virginia's extended foster care program, Fostering Futures. These numbers represent more than a statistic—they reflect the ongoing need for safe, stable, and nurturing families, and the critical importance of supports that extend beyond childhood.

The average length of stay in foster care in Virginia is approximately 20 months, meaning most children remain in care for nearly two years before reaching permanency (reunification with parents or adoption). This extended time in care underscores the importance of consistent academic, emotional, and enrichment supports to promote well-being during a critical phase of their development.



Virginia also faces a profound challenge: foster parent inquiries have dropped by about 40% since 2020, mirroring national trends and leaving fewer families available just as needs remain high. To address this, Virginia has made notable progress in kinship care, placing children with relatives or close family friends whenever safely possible. As of 2025, roughly one in five Virginia children in foster care are placed with family members, a significant improvement from 2016, when only about 5% of children were in kinship foster placements. Even so, Virginia still trails the national average of roughly 30%, underscoring the need to continue strengthening kinship supports. Research consistently shows that kinship arrangements reduce the impact of trauma, support permanency, and are associated with better emotional and behavioral outcomes for children.

While kinship care has many benefits for children, kinship caregivers often more face significant challenges than non-relative foster parents. Many relatives take on caregiving responsibilities with little notice and little training. Kinship families must also support children who have experienced trauma and present with academic gaps, behavioral challenges, and emotional needs, all while navigating complex family dynamics with biological parents.



TFFC's programs play an important role in strengthening kinship foster care placements by reducing caregiver strain and ensuring youth have access to the same opportunities as their peers. Individualized tutoring helps children recover academically and boosts confidence, while extracurricular activities, YMCA memberships, and camps provide healthy outlets for social, emotional, and physical development, along with much-needed respite for caregivers. Birthday and holiday gifts relieve financial pressures and help children feel valued and included during important moments. Together with the care coordination from social services, these supports help stabilize kinship placements, promote normalcy and well-being, and create the conditions for successful permanency and long-term family stability.



Virginia has also taken important steps to support youth transitioning from foster care into adulthood. The Fostering Futures program offers voluntary extended foster care to young adults ages 18–21, providing housing support, education and vocational assistance, and other resources aimed at successful transition. Recent legislative initiatives have sought to extend this support to the age of 23, a needed and important bridge to help prevent homelessness and incarceration.

Virginia has historically ranked among the lowest states on key transition indicators. Data show that a higher percentage of Virginia youth age out of foster care without a permanent family or strong support network—over 20% compared to 9% nationally—which is associated with elevated risks of homelessness, unemployment, and justice system involvement.

Across multiple longitudinal and administrative studies, roughly one-quarter to one-third of youth leaving foster care experience arrest or incarceration in early adulthood, a rate far above their peers in the general population. A Virginia-focused analysis finds 25% of our own foster care alumni incarcerated by age 21. Research indicates that placement instability, group care, and poorly supported reunifications increase risk of incarceration, whereas strong connections to school, employment, and supportive programs reduce the odds of later incarceration.

These realities highlight the importance of robust transitioning youth programs that blend housing stability, academic and career support, financial literacy, and consistent, caring adult relationships, precisely the gaps programs like TFFC's Dorm Days and Pathways Programs are working to fill.

For TFFC, this statewide landscape shapes our priorities. Our tutoring, enrichment, caregiver support, kinship collaborations, and transitioning youth programs are intentionally designed to:

- Strengthen kinship and foster families so children can remain in nurturing, family-based settings whenever safely possible.
- Equip youth aging out of care with the skills, stability, and relationships they need for a successful launch into adulthood.
- Deepen caregiver engagement so that every child in care is surrounded by informed, supported adults who can walk alongside them through healing and growth.

Foster care in Virginia presents both urgent challenges and powerful opportunities. TFFC's work is a direct response to that reality—partnering with caregivers, kin, and young people themselves to transform these trends into brighter futures.



# Program Updates

## TUTORING

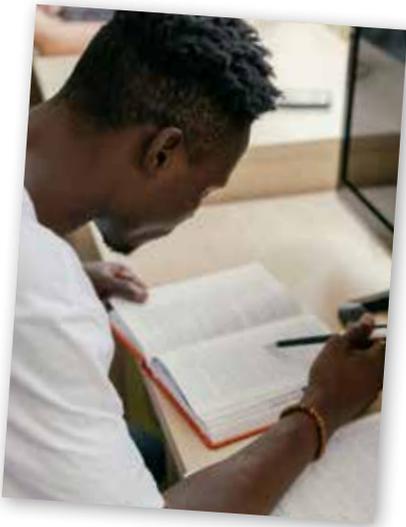
In 2025, The Friends of Foster Care delivered more than 15,000 hours of individualized tutoring to 496 students, ages 4 to 21, spanning every grade level from Pre-K through college. For youth who often experience frequent school changes, disrupted learning, and emotional stress, this consistent academic support provides stability, confidence, and a lifeline to success. Our tutoring program remains one of the most effective interventions we offer—meeting students where they are, building skills step by step, and helping them achieve academic milestones many once believed were out of reach.

During the 2024–25 school year, 385 students received at least one session of tutoring, while 351 students completed four or more sessions, the level after which we see the most significant academic gains. Of these active students, 91% persisted in tutoring throughout the year, demonstrating their commitment to growth and learning. Their achievements speak volumes: 93% were promoted to the next grade level, 88% passed all of their tutored classes, 86% passed every class they took, and every senior in tutoring graduated on time or early. These outcomes illustrate not only academic improvement, but also the development of self-confidence, resilience, and perseverance—skills that extend far beyond the classroom.

The transformative power of tutoring comes to life in the stories of students like Jacob, who entered our program at age 13 reading at an elementary level after enduring 34 foster placements. With steady, compassionate support in reading, math, science, and study skills, Jacob not only closed his academic gaps but began to envision a future for himself. After participating in TFFC’s College Tour, he found new motivation, doubled down on his work, and ultimately graduated a full year early, earning a TFFC Post-Secondary Scholarship. He now plans to study at Tidewater Community College while pursuing certification in a skilled trade.

Stories like Jacob’s reflect the broader success of our tutoring program. Since 2016, TFFC has provided more than 75,000 hours of tutoring to nearly 1100 students, and year after year, our youth continue to exceed expectations. Their achievements are made possible by the dedication of more than 400 highly trained tutors, who over the last decade have shown up consistently, built meaningful relationships, and provided the academic and emotional support that helps young people thrive.

As the need for academic support among foster youth grows, TFFC remains steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that every child, no matter their history, placement, or circumstance, has the opportunity to succeed in school and build a brighter future. Our tutoring program continues to be a cornerstone of that promise.



# How did our students do in the 2024-25 Academic Year?

## 385 Students

Received 1 or more hours of tutoring

## 351 Students

Received 4 or more hours of tutoring

## 12,883 Hours

of one-on-one instruction with students

## Outcomes for Students

With 4 or more sessions of tutoring

### 91% Persisted with Tutoring

Stayed for 4 or more sessions

### 93%

Promoted Grade Levels

### 88%

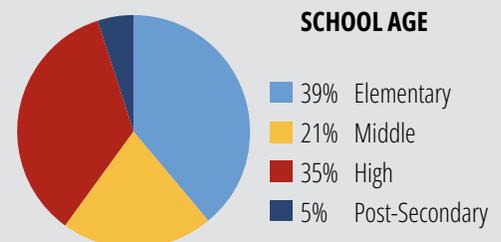
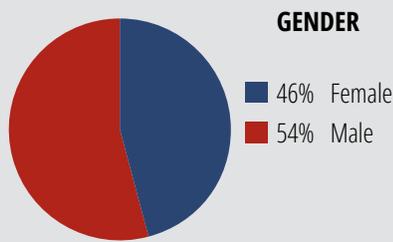
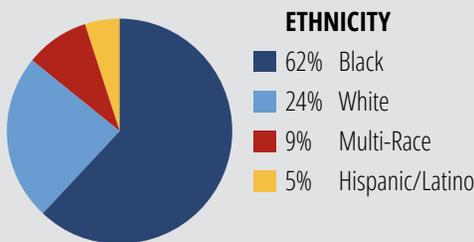
Passed all tutored classes

### 86%

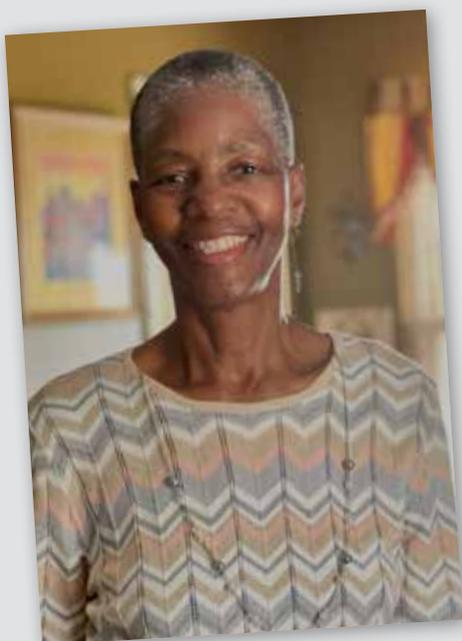
Passed every class this year

### 100%

Seniors graduated early or on-time



**All Years: 95% Promoted, 88% Passed all tutored classes, 98% Seniors Graduated!**



## Our Tutor *of the Decade*: **Sandra Hall**

Sandra Hall, a lifelong Hampton Roads resident, has dedicated her career to education and service. With degrees from Norfolk State, Old Dominion, and Regent University, she has taught in K-12, adult education, and at Tidewater Community College. A skilled American Sign Language interpreter for more than 30 years, Sandra also brings the strength of her own journey as a brain injury survivor to her advocacy work on the Board of Community Brain Injury Services.

Since joining TFFC in 2016, Sandra has tutored 39 foster youth, helping them grow academically and gain confidence through her patient, thoughtful approach. Her expertise and warm encouragement have made a lasting difference in the lives of the students she serves. We are grateful to have Sandra as a valued member of our tutoring team.



## DORM DAYS!

Transforming Futures  
Through College Readiness

**Dorm Days Camp – The College Experience** was one of The Friends of Foster Care’s most impactful youth empowerment initiatives during the year. This immersive, two-week residential summer program for high-schoolers was designed to prepare foster youth and foster care alumni for life after high school by offering an authentic introduction to college life while building essential academic, life, and career skills. Hosted at Old Dominion University, the first week of Dorm Days immersed participants in campus living. Youth resided in dormitories and engaged in hands-on workshops focused on financial literacy, nutrition and cooking, career exploration, résumé and portfolio development, and physical wellness. Foster care alumni mentors played a vital role, offering encouragement, relatability, and guidance while helping participants build confidence, community, and a clearer vision for their futures.

The second week expanded participants’ horizons through a **Virginia College Tour Adventure**, during which youth visited institutions including Virginia Tech, James Madison University, Radford University, the University of Virginia, and William & Mary. These campus visits helped students envision post-secondary pathways, demystify higher education, and spark aspirations for continued learning—while also creating shared experiences and lasting peer connections.

Participation in Dorm Days also included automatic enrollment in the **First Star Pathways Academy**, a year-long college-preparatory program that continues beyond the summer. Through monthly Saturday sessions, youth received ongoing academic support, life-skills training such as budgeting and self-advocacy, and sustained mentorship.

The program served rising 9th–12th grade foster youth and foster care alumni, as well as current high school seniors and GED earners up to age 18. All program costs—including housing, meals, transportation, and activities—were fully covered, ensuring equitable access and eliminating financial barriers to participation.

Above all, Dorm Days Camp fostered **confidence, connection, and possibility**. From late-night dorm conversations to college campus explorations, participants left the experience better equipped, more self-assured, and empowered to pursue their next chapter with resilience and hope.





## GIFTING PROGRAM

### Celebrating Children, Restoring Joy

Every child deserves to feel celebrated especially during moments that should be filled with joy. This year, our Holiday Project and Birthday Project brought that belief to life for thousands of children and youth in foster care, thanks to an extraordinary community of sponsors, partners, and supporters.

### Holiday Project: A Season of Collective Generosity

During the holiday season, our community rallied in remarkable ways to ensure children in foster care experienced the magic and dignity of receiving thoughtful gifts chosen just for them. In total, **2,003 holiday wishlists** were fulfilled with the support of **462 individual and group sponsors**, each one stepping forward to make the season brighter for a child in care.

Each gift was a reminder to a child that they are remembered, valued, and worthy of care. From surf boards to nail polish, these gifts helped create moments of normalcy and joy during a season that can be especially difficult for children in care.

This year, our Holiday Project reached far beyond our local community through an inspiring partnership with **Laura, the Foster Parent Partner**. Laura shared our work on TikTok and Instagram, inviting her audience into the heart of the Holiday Project. Laura's TikTok video went viral and reached **1 million views** and directly resulted in **\$92,930 in in-kind donations**, with packages and gifts arriving from across the United States and even around the world.

What began as a single post became a global outpouring of generosity. Hundreds of packages arrived daily from people who had never met the children they were supporting, but who believed deeply in showing up for them. We are so grateful for Laura and her followers!



Foster Parent Partner

### Birthday Project: Making Every Child Feel Special

This year, our Birthday Project ensured that no child's special day went unnoticed. Over the course of 2025, the Birthday Project delivered **1,508 birthday gifts**, made possible by the generosity of **175 birthday sponsors** who ensured each child felt remembered on their special day. Each birthday package was thoughtfully prepared to reflect the child's interests and preferences, reinforcing a transformative message: you are worth celebrating.

Together, our Holiday and Birthday Projects served more than **3,500 moments of joy** this year alone. This brings our lifetime gifting total to over 14,000 wishlists granted! These programs are made possible by a village of sponsors, volunteers, partners, and advocates who believe that care should extend beyond basic needs to include dignity, delight, and belonging. Because of our supporters, children in foster care were not forgotten during the holidays, and their birthdays were marked with joy, recognition, and hope.



## YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

### Enrichment, Extracurriculars & Summer Camp

#### Creating Opportunity, Confidence, and Joy

Throughout the year, The Friends of Foster Care invested in enrichment experiences that supported the social, emotional, and physical well-being of children and youth in foster care. Recognizing that learning and growth extend beyond the classroom, TFFC ensured that young people had access to extracurricular activities, summer camps, and community-based programs that fostered confidence, connection, and belonging.

**Extracurricular activities** provided opportunities for youth to explore interests in sports, arts, music, STEM, and other skill-building pursuits. Participation encouraged teamwork, self-expression, discipline, and resilience while helping children build positive peer relationships and a stronger sense of identity.

### 131 Youth Participated in 228 Extracurricular Activities

**Summer camp** played a particularly powerful role in creating transformative experiences. From day camps to overnight and specialty camps, youth were given the chance to try new activities, build independence, and experience the joy of being a kid—often for the first time. Camp experiences strengthened social skills, boosted confidence, and created lasting memories in safe and supportive environments.

### 196 Youth Attended 42 Summer Camps, Totaling 809 Weeks of Camp

In addition, TFFC provided **YMCA memberships** to children and families, expanding access to year-round physical activity, swim lessons, youth programming, and mentorship. These memberships promoted healthy routines, emotional regulation, and consistent community engagement beyond structured programs.

### 444 YMCA Youth Memberships Provided

Together, these enrichment opportunities supported whole-child development by removing financial barriers and ensuring foster youth had access to experiences that nurture confidence, resilience, and joy – the key ingredients for long-term success.

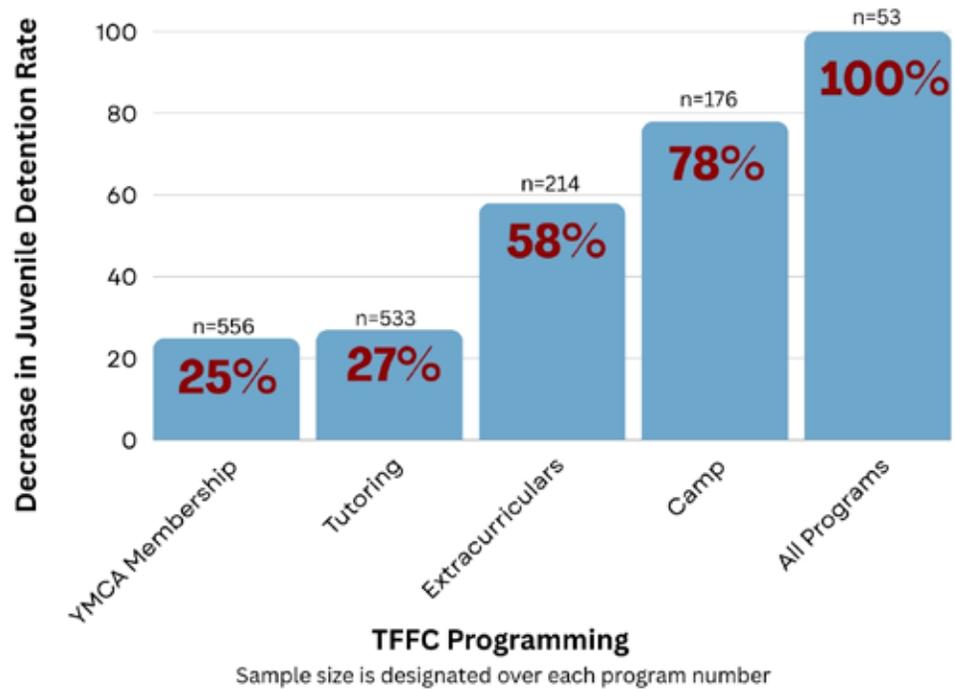


*“Going to camp helped me feel like I belonged. I made friends, tried new things, and realized I could do more than I thought.”*

**Foster Youth Participant**



## REDUCTION IN JUVENILE DETENTION RATES AMONG YOUTH 12+ YEARS OLD BY PROGRAM PARTICIPATION



### PROGRAM IMPACTS

*“When foster youth have consistent support—academically, socially, and emotionally—their paths begin to change. These results show what’s possible when a community invests in the whole child.”*

**Audra Bullock**

CEO, The Friends of Foster Care

### How TFFC Programs Help Keep Foster Youth Out of the Juvenile Justice System

At The Friends of Foster Care, we believe that young people thrive when they are supported consistently, holistically, and with care. During the year, TFFC took a closer look at how participation in our programs influenced long-term outcomes for foster youth ages 12 and older—particularly their interaction with the juvenile justice system.

**What we found was deeply affirming:** *When support surrounds a child, outcomes change.*

Across every program area, foster youth who participated in TFFC services experienced lower rates of juvenile justice involvement than peers who received no services. Even a single point of connection—such as tutoring or extracurricular activities—was associated with meaningful reductions. As services became more comprehensive, the positive impact increased.

Programs that offered structure, enrichment, and belonging—such as extracurricular activities and summer camp—were especially powerful. These experiences gave youth safe spaces to build confidence, strengthen relationships, and practice decision-making skills that carried forward into other areas of life.

The strongest outcomes emerged when youth received support across multiple programs. When academic help, enrichment, mentorship, and emergency assistance worked together, the results were transformative—**for the 53 foster youth who engaged in all of TFFC’s core services, there a 100% decrease in juvenile justice involvement**—underscoring the importance of investing in the *whole child*, not just a single need.

These findings reinforced TFFC’s commitment to integrated, relationship-driven programming that helps foster youth stay connected to opportunity and on a path toward stability, growth, and hope.



# Special Events

## 2025 GALA

*“When I left the event, I told my friend what a beautiful opportunity it was to share the evening with such wonderful people. I pray that God continues to bless this ministry—because that is truly what it is: a ministry that reaches out and uplifts others. From the depths of my heart, I am deeply grateful for all that this organization has done for the children who have been in my home over the years.”*

**Sheranda**  
Foster Parent

*“A first class event from a first class team with a first class cause.”*

**Michael**  
Community Leader

## FOSTER CARE AWARE

The 2025 Annual Gala was an unforgettable evening of celebration, heartfelt reflection, and community solidarity, drawing together donors, partners, volunteers, and friends committed to serving youth in foster care. The event honored the extraordinary contributions of individuals and organizations across multiple spheres of child welfare. We celebrated Mr. Robert McCartney, CEO of the James Barry Robinson Institute, as our Special Honoree for his visionary service to military-connected and foster families. Delegate Anne Ferrell Tata received our Statewide Impact Award for her leadership in policy and systemic improvements across Virginia’s foster care landscape.

We also honored REACH, Inc. as Partner of the Year for its collaborative work distributing more than 4,000 books with every TFFC birthday and holiday gift, alongside inspiring awardees such as Artist of the Year “Jacob”, Volunteer of the Year Mrs. Lisa Edwards-Soblotne, and Tutor of the Year Ms. Nadine Joyner, each exemplifying the passion and dedication that fuels our mission.

The Gala also spotlighted the remarkable resilience of youth through the *Outstanding Youth Achievement Award* presented to Michael Patterson, whose journey from foster care to college exemplifies the transformative impact of sustained support and community investment in foster youth. Attendees were moved by powerful testimonies from guest speakers like Mr. Richard Litton and Dr. Adam Starks, whose personal stories deepened the evening’s connection to TFFC’s work. Together with creative contributions such as a special reading by literary artist and foster youth Josiah Hill, the 2025 Gala not only honored key partners and changemakers, but strengthened collective resolve to expand tutoring, enrichment, and support services in the year ahead.

## Building Community, Raising Voices

On May 17, 2025, The Friends of Foster Care hosted Foster Care Aware at Old Dominion University’s Constant Hall, bringing together a vibrant community of caregivers, advocates, professionals, teens, and families to celebrate National Foster Care Month and deepen understanding of the foster care experience.

Foster Care Aware was designed as a Family Fun Day & Community Summit that blended education, connection, and celebration in a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. The event opened with a lively outdoor carnival featuring bounce houses, obstacle courses, face painting, a petting zoo, balloon twisting, and games, giving children the space to play and families the chance to relax and connect.



Throughout the day, tailored tracks engaged participants at every stage of the foster care journey. Current and prospective foster parents, adoptive families, and families of origin attended workshops on topics such as trauma-informed care, Trust-Based Relational Intervention, navigating the court process, and best practices for supporting youth with complex needs. Expert speakers—including family law professionals, pediatricians, trauma specialists, and foster care leaders—shared actionable insights and facilitated meaningful dialogue.

A dedicated advocate and prospective parent track equipped community members with foundational knowledge about foster care 101, how to begin fostering, and ways to support youth and families. Meanwhile, the teen track offered engaging, hands-on sessions for youth, ranging from wellness activities and poetry workshops to app development and culinary confidence building.

Foster Care Aware 2025 was more than an event, it was a movement to elevate lived experience, strengthen community ties, and inspire action. By combining joyful celebration with deep learning, the event honored the resilience of foster youth and underscored the power of a community united in support, advocacy, and care.

We are grateful to all who attended, presented, volunteered, and supported the day. Together, we continued to expand *The TFFC Village*—the network of individuals and organizations committed to ensuring that every child in care feels valued, supported, and seen.



## ART FROM THE HEART

Art From the Heart continued to be a powerful platform for youth voice and self-expression in 2025, inviting foster youth to share their stories, creativity, and perspectives through art. This year, the competition expanded beyond visual arts to include literary art, welcoming poetry and written reflections alongside mixed media works and photography. The addition of literary submissions deepened the impact of the program, offering youth new ways to process experiences, build confidence, and be seen and heard through their own words.

This year's competition proudly recognized Talasha as the First Place Literary Art winner for her moving piece, *"Home if even just for a while."* Her work captures the longing, vulnerability, and hope that define so many foster care journeys. In recognition of its power and authenticity, Talasha's piece is featured in its entirety in this annual report, serving as a poignant reminder of the importance of creative expression as a pathway to healing, empowerment, and connection for foster youth. Our Visual Media First Place winner was Sury for her piece *"Crecimiento y Cambio - Growth and Change"*. Sury has the distinction of being the first artist to win our competition in multiple years: 2023 and 2025.

This year's competition culminated in the celebration and recognition of participating artists, whose work reflected resilience, hope, and personal growth. Art From the Heart not only showcased remarkable talent, but also reinforced TFFC's commitment to holistic well-being through use of creative expression as a tool for healing, empowerment, and connection. By broadening the competition to include multiple artistic mediums, TFFC further strengthened opportunities for foster youth to express identity, build pride, and engage meaningfully with the community.



Please enjoy a larger view of the poem on the inside back cover, page 27.



# Development & Investment

## By the Numbers

2025 Financial Snapshot

**90%+** of all donations invested directly in programs.

**\$2.1 million** total invested in foster youth programs this year.

**52%** of annual budget dedicated to education initiatives.

**520** students supported through tutoring and academic services.

**First Star Pathways launched**, serving 31 foster teens in its inaugural year

**1335** youth engaged in enrichment, camps, arts, and YMCA programs

**2625** youth served in **118 cities/towns** across Virginia

The Friends of Foster Care remains deeply committed to improving outcomes for children and youth in foster care through education, enrichment, outreach, and community engagement. In 2025, TFFC navigated a complex fundraising environment shaped by economic uncertainty, federal funding cuts, and heightened competition for charitable foundation dollars. Even so, our commitment to fiscal stewardship and mission impact remained unwavering. For every dollar donated, at least 90% was invested directly into programs benefiting foster youth, upholding a promise we have consistently honored. To date, TFFC has invested more than \$8.5 million in direct services that strengthen youth outcomes and the broader foster care ecosystem.

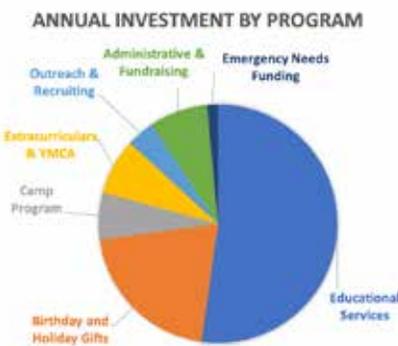
Education continues to anchor TFFC’s investment strategy and long-term vision. In 2025, over 52% of our annual budget supported education initiatives, including individualized tutoring, academic enrichment, scholarships, and college and career exposure. These investments remain critical as foster youth face persistent academic disruptions and achievement gaps. Youth served through TFFC’s educational programs continue to demonstrate measurable improvements in academic engagement, performance, and postsecondary readiness – outcomes that are essential to long-term stability and success.

This year also marked the launch of our new First Star Pathways Program, a transformative new program designed specifically for foster teens navigating the transition to adulthood. Developed in partnership with the nationally recognized First Star model, Pathways provides older youth with intensive academic support, life-skills development, leadership training, and postsecondary preparation. The program reflects TFFC’s growing emphasis on serving teens and young adults at a pivotal moment in their journeys, ensuring they are equipped not only to graduate, but to thrive beyond foster care.

TFFC also continued robust investment in enrichment programming, recognizing that healing and growth extend beyond academics. Through arts initiatives, athletics, music, summer camps, and access to YMCA memberships, foster youth were given opportunities to build confidence, develop social skills, and experience joy and normalcy. These experiences foster resilience, strengthen relationships, and support emotional well-being, all of which are important protective factors for youth who have experienced trauma.

Outreach and community engagement remain essential to sustaining impact. Recruiting and supporting foster parents, engaging advocates, and welcoming new supporters into the mission often begins with small acts of generosity, such as providing birthday or holiday gifts. TFFC takes a holistic approach to engagement—educating, inspiring, and empowering supporters to grow in their involvement over time.

As TFFC continues to expand geographically and deepen programming, we remain steadfast in our commitment to transparency, efficiency, and maximizing every charitable investment. Even amid fundraising challenges, our community’s generosity enables us to respond with resilience—meeting urgent needs today while building brighter futures for foster youth tomorrow.



# Our Donors & Sponsors

## **GUARDIANS** (\$25,000 and over)

Anonymous  
Atlantic Bay Mortgage  
Bernadine Franciscan Sisters Foundation  
The Blocker Foundation  
Joan Brock  
First Star  
Hertz Investment Group, LLC  
Hampton Roads Community Foundation  
Ethel T. Jones Fund  
Kate & BC Wilson Family Fund  
Lawson Family Foundation  
Rebekah L. Huber Family Charitable Fund 3  
The Landmark Foundation  
T. Richard Litton, Jr. & Audra Bullock  
The City of Norfolk  
Martin Charitable Trust  
REACH Books  
The Shearwater Foundation, Inc.  
James & Karen Sparks

## **BENEFACTORS** (\$10,000–\$24,999)

American Borate Company  
Stephen & Ashley Armbruster  
Beazley Foundation Inc  
Berkadia Commercial Mortgage  
Car Max  
Phil & Laura Cathlina  
Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation  
E. C. Wareheim Foundation  
Grant Hacking  
Harbor Group Cares  
Edy & Nikki Herrera  
Langley Foundation  
Bobby Lawrence  
Jalana McCasland & Lou Ellen Blackwelder  
Richard McDaniel  
Microsoft  
Newport News Shipbuilding  
Portsmouth General Hospital Foundation  
Priority Automotive Charities  
Mark Sheggeby & Kristin Sparks  
Mark & Michelle Warden  
YMCA of South Hampton Roads

## **AMBASSADORS** (\$5,000–\$9,999)

Bruce & Sarah Bishop  
Robert & Kjersti Childers  
Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters  
Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond  
Cox Charities  
Matthew & Alyssa Dangler  
Liza Delpierre  
Eugene & Andrea Holloman  
Kimberly Johnson  
Dan & Tracy Keller  
KPMG  
Jon & Kim Kushner  
Levenfeld Pearlstein LLC  
Robert & Shirley McCartney  
Douglas & Karen Mitchell  
Kristy Nilsson  
Obici Healthcare Foundation  
Paul & Julie Olson  
Peter Decker Children's Charity  
Jay & Anna Rathbone  
William & Lynn Roohan  
Joseph & Carla Stoner  
Suffolk Foundation  
Virginia Natural Gas  
Wawa Foundation  
Williamsburg Community Foundation

## **DEFENDERS** (\$2,500–\$4,999)

Christy Allen  
American Online Giving Foundation Inc.  
Barry Robinson Center  
Judith Blevins  
Alex & Mary Jo Bradley  
Brown Advisory  
Butler Paper Recycling, Inc  
Carlton & Karen Campbell  
Christian Case  
Gregory Davis  
Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation  
Hiscox Foundation  
Cheryl Jones  
Kiwanis Club of Norfolk  
KPMG Family for Literacy  
Manns Horne Youth Foundation  
Charles & Theresa McPhillips  
Nikki Nixon  
North Suffolk Rotary Club  
Peninsula Community Foundation  
Carly Saviano  
Sentara Health Plans  
Joseph & Beth Smyder  
Southern Bank and Trust  
TCC Educational Foundation  
United Way of South Hampton Roads  
Lewis & Kim Webb  
Craig & Amy West  
Woody & Roberta Woodard  
Chris & Cheryl Xystros

## **CHAMPIONS** (\$1,000–\$2,499)

Scott & Monique Adams	Tim & Marcella Davis	Charles Lota	Claire Rosen-Shaud
Mary Ahrens	Stephen Disney	Louis & Mary Haddad Foundation	Rotary Club of Great Bridge, Inc.
Anonymous	Erica Flack	Gregory & Beth Lydon	Brad & Sara Salter
Angela Antoine	Grey & Amy Folkes	Joseph Massey	Jordan & Laurie Slone
Marshall Atwood	Robert & Alicia Friedman	Vincent & Suzanne Mastracco	Rickey Smith
Beautiful Faith Ministries	Fun Box VA	Rebecca Miller	Elizabeth Stuart
Sumner & Susan Bell	Sharon & Bernard Goodwyn	William & Lynne Monroe	Rinda Theibert
Chris & Gerry Bolton	Chuck & Melissa Gray	Robert Morgan	Virginia and John L. Sinclair
Patricia Bratton	William Guglielmo	Carrie Anne Mosser	Foundation
Mark & Mary Brock	Friedrich & Bridget Haimberger	New York Life Foundation	Jane Walsh
Larry & Kacky Bryant	Taylor Harrell	Order of the Eastern Star	Kevin Walsh
Children's Hospital of Richmond	Belle Humphrey	Steve & Donna Parker	Anthony & Toshia Walters
Sherill Christian	King's Grant Presbyterian Church	Portsmouth Service League,	Lynn White Cobb
Clearstead Advisory Solutions	Michael & Cheryl Kos	Incorporated	Wilcox Savage
Collier Community Foundation	David & Nichole Kushner	Marc & Kate Powell	Eric & Sara Will
Nathan & Shana Corday	Land Planning Solutions	Meredith Renegar	Pamela Wilson
Mark & Julie Crowley	Christine Lee	Larry Ringgold	Carolyn Young
Michele Dallman	Julia Liebler	Joe & Michelle Roomsburg	

## **LEADERS** (\$500–\$999)

Anthem Healthkeeper Plus	Cynthia Dalessio	Ray & Kathryn King	Roger Scheffel
Atlantic Union Bank	Tracy Davis	Kiwanis Club of Virginia Beach	Wayne & Ann Shank
Jane Batten	Melissa Di Domenico	Pete Kotarides	Brant & Melissa Smith
Courtney Booth	Paul Dinardo	Kim Lewis	David & Deborah Stearns
William Brady	Elizabeth Gavin	Joe Lister	Patrick & Cecile Tedesco
Carlos Brown	Kyle & Amanda Gift	Dawn Martinez	Tele-Video Productions &
Dwight & Deborah Bullock	Rodolfo Granados	Lisa McDaniel	Advertising Agency
Tonya Byrd	Andrea Grant	Christine McMahan	The McDonnell Group
Capital One	Cliff & Cindy Guard	Elias Neujahr	The Stockpot LLC
William Casanova & Astrid Grow	Tori Hanbury	Jessica Perry	TowneBank
Cerity Partners	Lavina Harris	Harold Phillips	Sheila Traficante
Christian Community Foundation	Perry Hohman	Ashley Picklesimer	Heather Troudt
of Memphis & The Mid-South	Adam & Kelli Kahrl	Kaitlin Robb	Virginia Beach Pearls Foundation
Mary Commander	Ross & Robin Kantor	Daniela Robins	Virginia's Kids Belong
Connect With A Wish	Kempsville Center for Behavioral	Mark & Shanda Rouse	Matthew & Jean Whitcomb
Cindy Curtis	Health	Mark Schadler	Williams Mullen Foundation

## **ADVOCATES** (\$250–\$499)

Aldo's Ristorante	Richelle Burney	Gail Durant	Maria Hansley
Alpha Xi Delta - Delta Mu	Vickie Butts	Debbie Dyckman	Peter & Nancy Huber
Holden Barry	Donna Chiapperino	Robin Dyksterhouse	International Monetary Fund
Michael & Judie Belka	Cheryl Daniel	Sergio Elizondo	Sheila Johnston
Bruce & Lilly Bradley	Chuck Davis	Tracy Fick	Craig Jones
Errol Brown	Andrea Dennis	Matthew & DeAnna Fisher	Joe & Nancy Kennedy
Jason Brown	Lauren Diggs	Shari Friedman	Douglas Knack
Ricky Brown	Warren Dudley	Amanda Gregory	Amber Kostka

## ADVOCATES continued

Chuck Lane	TJ Reid	Corey Simoneaux	Kevin & Lauren Tremper
L. Robert Layton	Nicole Richardson	James Stebbins	Michelle Turner
Gina Markos	Ralph & Joy Rios	Sean Stebbins	Robert Unger
Andria McClellan	Katrice Robertson	Anne Ferrell Tata	United Methodist Family Services
Rebecca Moore	George & Sheri Sabol	Toni Taylor	Maxim Urenev
Valerie Moore	Blythe Scott	The Up Center	Len & Nancy Weireter
Norfolk Department of Human Services	Kathleen Seitz	Together We Can Foundation	Maegan Wessels

## SUPPORTERS (\$100–\$249)

Eric & Jennifer Adams	Sheronda Farrow	Jason & Cheri Krawczyk	Michael Russo
Elizabeth Axson	Danielle Feagan	Clifford & Lakysa Laing	S&P Global, Inc.
Nicole Baker	Joe & Terri Finnegan	Becky Lakin	Lane Shea
Alexis Beaver	Heather Foxwell	Adrienne Lambert	Kathryn Simmons
JoAn Berry	Alan & Beverly Frieden	David Levin	Hannah Sinclair
Colleen Bessen	Patricia Gadzinski	Richard & Jacqueline Limerick	Roger & Mary Smith
Judith Best	Katharin Garner	Bonita Makdad	Shirley Smith
Darcie Betchy	David & Margaret Gillikin	Frances Mariconda	Michael Snyder
Joycelyn Bethea	Fanchon Glover	Britt Markovic	Victoria Southall
Kandra Blackwell	Efrem Graham	Corey McCray	Yolanda Spooney
Blackwood	Nakkia Gray	Cat McCulle	Kia Spruill
Tim & Leigh Blum	Marguerite Greene	Hattie McFarland	St Andrews Episcopal Church
Katrina Bradford	Martha Grondin	McIntyre Stein & Ashby, PLLC	Teresa Stanley
Chuck Brooks	Carson Hanna	Kitty McMaster	Ty Stark
Christopher & Melinda Brown	Alexia Hargrove	Donna Mill	Mark Stevens
Jermaine Bullock	L Harrell	MixedFit Hampton Roads	Alana Stevenson
Jesse & Connie Burgess	Dontel Harris	Alisha Muroi	Kaitlin Stiffler
Joe & Cathy Butner	Nikki Harris	Rebecca Myers	Gregory Stoeger
Kelly Butterworth	Lyn Hebert	Alina Nakos	Toni Stubbs
C.L. Pincus Jr. & Co., Inc.	Kimberly Hobbs	Caitlin Naske	Aedan Sullivan
Jan Cannon	Amy Holkeboer	Thomas & Tracy Newman	Ed Tworek
Kristine Carretta	Jessika Hunt	Daria Norman	United Way of Lancaster County
Alvah Chapman	Melba Sherrie Hurst	Suzanne O'Donnell	Virginia Beach Human Services
Christ and St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Denetra Isaac-Kennon	Okta	Marie Vowell
Vicki Coffman	Lynn Jacobs	William E. Parker	Erin Walsh
Rosanina Collins	David Janoff	Jade Penney	E.B. & Elise Walthall
Anita Cotton	Herta Jones	Pete Peterson	Silvana Watson
Claiborne & Linda Coupland	Lawanda Jones	Felix & Erinn Portnoy	Katelynn Weinschel-Jones
Amelio & Darwin Cruz Caceres	Matthew A. Jones	Nancy Prather-Johnson	Mary Jo Whelan
Nancy DelVecchio	George & Dorothy Kello	Susan Ramsland	Jennie Wiebke
Alex DePaula	Lindsay Kelly	Mark Ratliff	Ben Winters
Melody Dillon	Elizabeth Kessler	Bonita Reed	Amy Wood
Adela Durmishaj	Ed & Morgan Khawly	Brenda Roberts	Mel Wurster
Shirley Elder	Paul & Mary Kinyon	Ryan & Chelsea Rooney	Rob Young
	Victoria Krauchunas	Brittney Rose	

## FRIENDS (\$10–\$99)

Alpha Delta Kappa Alpha Nu  
Alyce Anderson  
Autodesk, Inc.  
Olivia Bayus  
Amanda Becker  
Timothy Bellman  
Chris Bennett  
Susan Bernard  
Melissa Bertoncini  
Alexandra Leigh Blum  
Terry Bolt  
Karen Bothe  
Layne Broadwater  
Larry Brooks  
Mary Buffler  
Benita Cabbler  
Arielle Camp  
Carolyn Champion  
Cinema Café  
Shawnda Cole  
Kara Collot

Kristin Contreras  
Gloria Coppage  
Claudia Cotton  
Tage Counts  
Linda Davis Hesson  
Chris Dement  
Karen DesRoches  
Steven Ditsworth  
Anne-Marie DuPont  
Jessica Dupuis  
Katie Fenimore  
Rachel Fortner  
Frontstream  
Jo Gable  
Joshua Gainey  
Dihann Geier  
Gabrielle Goetze  
Jamia Gray  
Rebecca Groman  
Chenita Hall  
Elisa Hall

Jason Hancock  
Rebecca Irizarry  
Quanisha Jones  
Jennifer Keane  
Sheila Kilpatrick  
Luisa Kropcho  
Amanda Latoria  
Samantha Lingad  
Lucky Lady Bug Living, LLC  
Pedrito Manugo  
Gabriel Marquez  
Joanne Marquis  
Becky Massey  
Maximilian McCall  
Bryce Messer  
Brittany Miller  
Marie Moien  
Megan Montoya  
Mark Mosser  
Darlene Nipper  
Northampton Woman's Club

Barbara Nowak  
Katie O'Brien  
Desiree Overton  
Carly Pine  
Alexis F. Reed  
Kim Roque  
Carrie Snead  
Fran Stoddard  
Peter Szczepankiewicz  
Gordon Theisz  
Margaret Thompson  
Susan Twining  
Hannah Wenger  
Emily Whitcomb  
Tyler Williamson  
Willow Oaks Evening Garden Club  
Angela Wilson  
Barbara Wilson  
Mike & Christy Wires  
Irene Xu  
Mei Yuen

## OUR GIFT SPONSORS

Christine Abriss  
Alycia Adams  
Jocelyn Adams  
Juli Albero  
Haifa Alhourani  
Rachel Allman  
Lauren Amendolare  
Brian & Tina &erson  
Wendy Anderson  
Holly Anderson  
Adam Appleton  
Dustin Armstrong  
Amy Aruch  
Cynthia Arzola  
Aviana Atchison  
Elizabeth Aultice  
Ashlee Autore  
Ana Aysanoa  
Alex Babb  
Dominic Bagley  
Shannon Bail  
Mariah Bainbridge  
Nicole Baker  
Megan Baker

Megan Baluyot  
Lindsay Barnum  
Yokasta Batista  
Sabrina Beasley  
Roni Beasley-Ledet  
Alexis Beaver  
Julie Beck  
Victoria Belding  
Michael Belka  
Leah Bell  
Louann Bencomo  
Carly Bennyhoff  
Chrissy Berl  
Amber Berry  
Joycelyn Bethea  
Amanda Bethune  
Annie Bird  
Sarah & Bruce Bishop  
Tammy Blackwell  
Bianca Bland  
Taylor Blenk  
Jay Blizzard  
Jennifer Bolden  
Gerry Bolton

Dwayla Booth  
Valerie Borkowski  
Carly Bosco  
Giordana Boyd  
Mary Jo Bradley  
Kim Bradley  
Sarah Brandt  
Nicole Brewington  
Melody Bright  
Chikara Britt  
Keana Britten  
Sarah Brock  
Laurel Brockenberry  
Sameerah Brown  
Anthony Brown  
Melinda Brown  
Yosselyn Brown  
Shakira Brown  
Kate Brunick  
Nikki Brust  
Suzanne Bueltel-Beckett  
Jaime Buie  
Audra Bullock  
Thquita Bunting-Oliver

Miles Burcher  
Betty Burke  
Shayna Burko  
Kim Burko  
Susan Butler  
Heather Caldwell  
Karen Campbell  
Jan Cannon  
Bethany Carille  
Shane Carlisle  
Tyler Carmack  
Lisa Carnell  
Katie Carter  
Raine Carter  
Michelle Case  
Jeanne Catalano  
Laura Cathlina  
Marissa Chalin  
Andrew Chianese  
Kassandra Clark  
Taylor Clark  
Amanda Clayton  
Lynn Cobb  
Madison Coker

## OUR GIFT SPONSORS *continued...*

Nina Collins	Susan Durlak	Katie Golob	Tricia Hudson
Rachel Colón	Debra Dyckman	Abrielle Goodwin	Asia Huff
Lindsay Connolly	Lauren Eady	Cassidy Gould	Chelsea Huff
Shana Corday	Rebecca Earwood	Deb Gransbury	Michelle Huffman
Amy Cornish	Jill Edsall	Chuck & Melissa Gray	Kim Hurst
Cara Cotter	Kimm Edwards	Hailie Gray	Melba Sherrie Hurst
Rebecca Coulthard	Jen Edwards	Kristian Gray	Joy Intal
Kate Coyle	Lisa Edwards-Soblotne	Jennifer Gray	Andrea Jackson
Matt & Andrea Crawford	Katherine Egyed	Tristen Gray	Audravette Jackson
Debra Cromartie	Katie Elder	Rebecca Groman	Amanda Jackson
Christina Cronauer	Tori Eleonora	Emily Gudvangen	Draven Jackson
Catherine Cronquist	Taylor Esselman	Gabriel Guido	Caitlin Jaquis
Kathy Crothers	Gevonya Evans	Aimee Ha	Jessenia Jenkins
Johanna Cryder	Ciera Everrette	Anke Hacker	Amber Jensen
Brittany Culbertson	Alecia Faison	Mia Halla	Kathleen Jensen
Christina Cumbia	Sheronda Farrow	ShaBreyah Hammond	Holly Johnson-Rodriguez
Toshanna Curran	Jacqueline Fazio	Jason Hancock	Brittany Joles
Kelsey Curtis	Phyllis Fedele	Jennifer Hand	Cynthia Jones
Tanika Cushing	Melissa Ferguson	Katharine Hanna	Jacqueline Jones
Sara Dailey	Sydney Ferrer	Maria Hansley	Kala Jones
Cris Daly	Barbara Fessel	Courtney Harding	Alison Jordan
Alyssa Dangler	Keila Figueredo	Eugene Harmon	Emily Jungblut-Swinarski
Taylor Daniel	Betsy Fink	Regina & Randy Harrington	Nelson Kelley
Amanda Daniel	Laura Fiorentino	Shannon Harris	Abby Kellgren
Melissa Dassau	Matthew Fisher	Grace Harrison Betterton	Lindsey Kelly
Amy Datoc	Stephanie Fitzpatrick	Rebecca Hartley Creech	Lauren Kelly
Woodrow Davidson	Freddie Fletcher	Behirah Hartranft	Melissa Kemple
Chelsea Davis	Carol Flynn	Hillary Hartung	Kammy Ketterman
Louise DeCarlo-Umfleet	Kathy Flynn	Jessica Harvey	Savannah Kimble
Liza Delpierre	Jeanne Forde	Joslyn Hatfield	Sandra King
Diane Dempsey	Heather Foxwell	Courtney Hawkins	Katie Knipp
Alexis Desire	Paige Fraasch	Candy Hayes	Bianka Koka Stuit
Rachel Detrick	Stephanie Frazier	Lauren Haygood	Emma Kolar
Karley Devera	Sofya Frenzel	Lyn Hebert	Caroline Kolb
Stephanie Dewald	Alan Frieden	Brittany Hendrickson	Ann Korsak
Stephanie Dietz	Robert & Alicia Friedman	Danielle Henning	Amber Kostka
Lauren Diggs	Shannon Fuhrman	Jennifer Hennis	Lisa Kowalczyk
Donna Dillon Stockburger	Faith Fuller	Whitney Hensley	Lauren Krager
Cheyenne Dodson	Kenny Galderisi	Odester Hepburn	Jenn Krings
Margaret Dodson	Rachel Gale	Lela Hernandez	Luisa Kropcho
Katy Dooley	Debra Garber	Sheera Herrell	Lucaya Lamphier
Mary Downey	Paige Gardziola	Anessa Hill	James Lassiter
Isabel Drescher	Sheryl Garland	Briana Hoffman	Brooke Lawsing Miller
Adriene Duncan	Rokisha Gates	Kerry Holgate	Caroline Leck
Wendy Dunlap	Christina Gedney	Cherie Hollins	Jacquelyn Lennox
Wendy & Robert	Roslyn Gervin	Kathryn Horne	Holland Leopold
Dunlap-Kelford	Amber Gillen	Jennifer Howard	Natasha Leshanski
Rose Duong	Ellen Giordano	Emily Hrin	Francis Lewis

## OUR GIFT SPONSORS *continued...*

Trevellis Lewis	Whitney Mechling	Ashley Patenaude	Sherri Sabol
Kristina Liggett	Jenn Meeks	Michelle Pauliks	Renee Sainato
Amy Lindgren	Tina Melusky	Amber Peltier	Michael Saltisiak
Alexandra Little	Jennifer Metzger	Hailei Perkins	Alyssa Sass
Abbey Lombardo	William Meyers	Michelle Pestik	Amber Sasser
Kristy Lovewell	Microsoft	Stacy Peterson	Jennifer Scarbrough
Melissa Lowery	Crystal Midlik	Leslie Phelps-Meeker	Kristin Schadler
Katherine Lucas	Taylor Mihaly	Samantha Pierre	Roger Scheffel
Kendall Lucas	Linda Miller	Susan Pilato	Christina Schofield
Toni Lunceford	Katie Miller	Amanda Pine	Tracey Scott
Kate Lynde Shultz	Stephanie Miller	Carly Pine	Scottie Scott
Juliana Lyons	Gates Minis	Sara & Aaron Pomeranz	Amy Scott
Harmony Madden	Jasmine Minott	Laura Pommerenk	Amy Silva
Raya Madden	Adrienne Monahan	Mackenzie Potter	Shaina Silverman
Bonita Makdad	Megan Montoya	Kathryn & Marc Powell	Hannah Sinclair
Noelle Maldonado	Becky Moore	Jenna Powell	Brooke Lynne Singh
Dorine & Vincent Malfitano	Bobbie Moore	Lindsay Puleo	Elana Sison
Judy Manges	Lindsey Moore	Diane Puma	Ann Sledge-Iltis
Ryan Maniace	Valarie Moore	Priscilla Queen	Laurie & Jordan Slone
Kaylah Maniace	Barbara Morgan	Patrick Quemuel	Laurie Slutz
Mary Mann	Alexandra Morgan	Ashley Quinn-Myers	Sha-Raye Smiley
Laura Manns	MacKenzie Mortimore	Annie Radigan	Rickey Smith
Jasmine Danielle Manson	Alisha Muroi	Laurel Ramey	Tiffany Smith
Emily Mapp Brannon	Shannon Murphy	Meghan Randolph	Nancy Smith
Alice Marcelo	Christina Murray	Anna Rathbone	Laura Smith
Frances Mariconda	Jessica Napier	Christopher Reed	Michele Smith
Brenda Mariniak	Caroline Neal	Amanda Regan	Lindsey Snow
Amber Mark	Shannon Neiman	TJ Reid	Lindsey Snow
Anne Markiewicz	Chelsea Nelson	Rachel Reynolds	Victoria Southall
Gabriel Marquez	Francis & Kirsten Nelson	Karen Richardson	Abigail Southern-Kline
Julie Anne Martin	Carolyn Nelson	Mari Richardson	James & Karen Sparks
Nicole Masian	Mea Nenn-Youngblood	Cresia Ricks	Katie Sparks
Anna Mason	Andrea Newman	Rhonda Riddick	Joy Speelman
Vince Mastracco	Aiden Newman	Ann Rivenbark	Gift Card Sponsor
Ashley Matters	Tiearra Nicholson	Krystin Rizzo	Yolanda Spooney
Faith Mcardle	Nikki Nixon	Kaitlin Robb	Dana Spruill
Meghan Mccarthy	Liz Nolz	Meghan Roberson	Janelle St Louis
Rob McCartney	Jackie Norman	Alex Robertson	Juliet St. Lawrence
Jalana Mccasland	Julia O'neill	Megan Roche	Kristin Stephens
Devan Mcclelland	Diana Oblisk	Amanda & Kevin Rocheleau	Kristin Stephens & CIVIC
Kayla Mccreight	Olive Olivia	Jordan Rodriguez	Dawn Stevens
Hattie Mcfarland	Julie & Paul Olson	Erin Roe	Riley Stocki
Anna Mcginn	Paige Ouimet	Robert Romero	Laura Stone
Janet McGraw	Lauren Overman & Wishing Well	Brittney Rose	Rebecca Straseskie
Mcintyre, Stein & Ashby, LLC	Jennifer Palmer	Delroy Ross	Andrea Strickhouser
Gregory Mclaughlin	Valeria Palmertree	Joan Russell	Erin Suarez
Thomas Mclaughlin	Christine Parise	Michael Russo	Latanya Sutphin
Anna Mclin	Noah Parker	Lisa Rutter	Brittany Swain

Erin Swartz  
 Sherril Swiney  
 Ceresse Tabora  
 Erin Tadlock  
 Toni Taylor  
 Meghan Taylor  
 Emily Taylor  
 Meaghann Terrien  
 Tammy Theriault  
 Raya Thomas  
 Lindsey Tice  
 Debbie Toms  
 Chris Topping  
 Katelyn Torres  
 Xylem Tree Experts  
 Ashleigh Tripp  
 Lilian Trujillo Solorzano  
 Lizzie Truman  
 Nicole Tsetsilas  
 Blair & John Tyler  
 Sally Underwood  
 Chrissie Van  
 Bonnie Vanecko  
 Hillary Varvel  
 Julia Vicchio  
 Angelita Villagomez  
 Julia Villegas  
 CeCee Vlk  
 Deb Vollmer  
 Liat Vonegloffstein  
 Kelly Voshall  
 Courtney Wagner  
 Debbi Waitzer  
 Kathleen Waldrop  
 Jessica Walker  
 Erin Walsh  
 Julie Walsh  
 E.B. Walthall  
 Amanda Warring  
 Kelly Weingart  
 Nora Weiser  
 Amy West  
 Hillary & Cynthia Westbrook  
 Robin Westbrook  
 Suzanne Wheatley  
 Courtney Wheeler  
 Autumn White  
 Kelly Whitney

Lindsay Widener  
 Jennie Wiebke  
 Emily Wilburn  
 Johanna & Matt Willette  
 Jolene Williams  
 Rob Williams  
 Robert Williams  
 Mila Williams  
 Tiara Williams  
 Danea Williams  
 Lisa Wills  
 Sarah Wilson  
 Alyssa Wilson  
 Matthew Winters  
 Bonnie Wojcik  
 Vanessa Wong  
 Elyshia Wood  
 Elizabeth Woodard  
 Autumn Woods  
 Brycelyn Woodward  
 Melinda Wren  
 Moriah Wrenn-Sandkulla  
 Alexandra Wright  
 Rachael Wuornos  
 Rachel Yarbrough  
 Patricia Yeiser  
 Amanda Yoder  
 Autumn Young  
 Lauren Young  
 Melissa Zizzo

**Disclaimer**

*Donor list from 1/1/2025–12/31/2025.  
 We sincerely apologize for any inadvertent  
 omissions or errors.*

*Please contact The Friends of Foster Care  
 Development Office at 757-227-4187 for  
 corrections.*



# Thank You to Our Supporters



Shearwater  
FOUNDATION, Inc.

The Blocker  
FOUNDATION



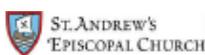
Virginia &  
John L. Sinclair  
FOUNDATION

Perry Family  
FOUNDATION



E. C. Wareheim  
Foundation







# Looking Ahead

As The Friends of Foster Care enters its next decade of service, we are focused not only on reaching more children, but on deepening services, strengthen pathways, and ensure foster youth, especially teens, have the support they need to thrive. With our expansion into Central Virginia, including Henrico, Richmond, and Petersburg, we are building a strong and sustainable presence that brings proven programs to communities where the need is great and demand for impactful programming is growing.

A central priority in this next phase is the expansion of the First Star Pathways Academy, a comprehensive college- and career-readiness program designed specifically for teen foster youth. As we extend this Pathways program, we will increase access to academic support, life-skills training, mentoring, and post-secondary planning to help young people build confidence, clarify goals, and envision a future beyond foster care.

In the year ahead, TFFC will continue to scale the Pathways programming through monthly Saturday Academies, immersive summer experiences, and partnerships with local colleges and universities. These efforts will complement our core services, including individualized tutoring, enrichment and extracurricular activities, and summer camp, creating a continuum of support that meets youth where they are and grows with them over time.

Equally important is our commitment to community partnership. In Henrico, Richmond, and Petersburg, we are collaborating with child welfare agencies, higher education institutions, and community-based organizations to ensure Pathways and other services are locally informed, accessible, and sustainable. By embedding programs within the fabric of each community, we aim to strengthen outcomes and expand opportunity for foster youth across the region.

Looking ahead, we will deepen our wraparound approach, ensuring youth have access not only to academic and enrichment supports, but also to mentoring, emergency assistance, and transitional services as they prepare for adulthood. Our goal is to build lasting pathways to independence and success, reducing barriers and expanding possibilities for every young person we serve.

With continued partnership and investment, The Friends of Foster Care will continue to grow its impact across Virginia, helping foster youth move forward with stability, purpose, and hope. Together, we are shaping a future where every foster child has the resources they need to heal and thrive and every teen in care has a clear pathway to adulthood with the support to walk their chosen path with confidence.

*“Pathways helped me believe college was possible for me. I learned how to set goals, ask for help, and plan for my future. Most importantly, I found a place where I belong.”*

## **Pathways Participant**

# Home, Even If Just For a While

I been carrying my life in trash bags  
since before I could spell the word belonging.  
Each one stuffed with "maybe this time."  
each one stitched with "don't get too comfortable."  
They say, home is where the heart is,  
but what if your heart has been asked to move out  
over and over again-  
never enough time to unpack the love,  
only the clothes.  
I've been a guest in borrowed bedrooms,  
laying my head on pillows that never whispered my name.  
Foster kid.  
That label follows me like a shadow,  
but let me tell you something-  
I am more than "temporary."  
I've learned how to say thank you for every plate of food,  
even when my stomach felt like an afterthought.  
I've learned how to smile in family photos  
where my face didn't quite fit the frame.  
I've learned that survival is a skill,  
but gratitude is a choice.  
And I choose it.  
Because even cardboard dinners mean I ate.  
Even short stays mean I was sheltered.  
Even strangers, for a little while,  
opened their doors and tried.

Still-  
loneliness is more than being alone.  
It's birthdays with no candles,  
just a caseworker with another file,  
another family, another room  
that ain't mine.  
It's asking the quiet questions:  
why didn't my mom hold on tighter?  
why didn't my dad fight harder?  
why do they call me strong  
when I never had the chance to be soft?

But listen-  
I don't stand here to ask for pity.  
I stand here to show you what survival  
looks like  
with sneakers worn down to threads,  
with poems scribbled on detention slips  
and folded into paper cranes.  
Not to escape-  
but to remind myself that wings  
can grow even in hard places.

I am not a charity case.  
I am not a statistic.  
I am not a sad story gift-wrapped for  
Sympathy.  
I am living proof  
that roots can grow in borrowed soil.  
That a child without a house  
can still build a home inside  
themselves,  
brick by brick,  
moment by moment,  
memory by memory.

So if you see me-really see me-  
don't look with pity.  
Look with respect.  
Look with the understanding that yes,  
I have mastered the art of surviving,  
but I am not stopping there.  
I dream of thriving.  
I dream of planting love so deep  
that no eviction notice can uproot it.  
I dream of opening my own front door  
one day,  
to a space that is not just mine-  
but one that remembers me,  
holds me,  
keeps me.

And when that day comes,  
I'll swing it open wide  
for every kid who ever  
carried their life in trash  
bags,  
every kid who thought they  
were only passing through.  
Because I know now:  
Home isn't just walls and  
windows.  
It's the courage to keep  
standing,  
the gratitude to keep  
hoping,  
the faith to keep building-  
even when the blueprint  
was torn from your hands.  
And me?  
I'm still here.  
Still building.  
Still rising.  
Not just surviving-  
thriving

"HOME, EVEN IF JUST FOR A WHILE" BY TALASHA



## WHO WE ARE...

The Friends of Foster Care (TFFC) is a charitable organization making a positive impact in the lives of foster and at-risk children in Virginia. Founded by foster parents Richard Litton and Audra Bullock in 2016, TFFC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, serving over 2500 children annually. Our services span homes throughout Virginia and even across state lines, with the goal of enriching the lives of as many children as possible. We partner with individuals, businesses and non-profits, and social service agencies to help facilitate access to resources that will improve outcomes for all of the foster and at-risk youth we serve.

### Enriching *the Lives of Foster Children in Need*

---

999 Waterside Dr.  
Suite 103  
Norfolk, VA 23510

757-227-4187  
[friendsoffostercare.org](http://friendsoffostercare.org)

 [@thefriendsoffostercare](https://www.instagram.com/thefriendsoffostercare)  
 [/thefriendsoffostercare](https://www.facebook.com/thefriendsoffostercare)