

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERISM: HOPE HOUSE COMMUNITY IN ACTION

At Hope House Foundation, the spirit of giving back is alive and well. Every month, individuals supported by Hope House embrace opportunities to make a positive impact in their communities. From preparing meals for families to providing comfort to animals, their dedication and kindness are truly inspiring.

ASHLEY'S HEARTFELT HOSPITALITY

Ashley takes the lead in bringing comfort and care to the families at the Ronald McDonald House. With a quick phone call, she secures a date for the next visit, setting the wheels in motion for a special day of giving back. Next comes the fun part — assembling a team of volunteers who are ready to roll up their sleeves and cook a delicious, homemade meal. Ashley picks stuff like her favorites, fried chicken and baked spaghetti, sharing her love of comfort foods!



SHANNON SAYS:

“WE ARE STRONG.”

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHANNON POCIASK



Hope House Foundation

was established in 1964 by a courageous group of parents who were looking for alternatives to the limited services offered to families with an adult child with disabilities. Their vision

ignited a powerful movement that continues to inspire us

today. Since then, Hope House Foundation has remained focused on overcoming barriers and finding solutions so people, regardless of their disability, can live successfully in a home of their own. The path from then to now has not been a road well paved, maintained or traveled. Hope House Foundation remains as unique as each person we support and yet we succeed, we move on and continue to mark the trail for others.

Today, the legislative policy discussions seem to threaten the very foundation of services for adults with disabilities. We Are Strong. The strength of our mission, history and commitment to creativity to overcome will ensure our success in the potentially tumultuous Medicaid changes ahead. Hope House Foundation remains vigilant and engaged in legislative conversations, advocating tirelessly for individuals with disabilities. Our Voices, a self-advocate group supported by Hope House Foundation, is unwavering in their determination to ensure voices are heard to support Medicaid and Home and Community Based Services so all Virginians with a developmental disability have the right supports to live successfully in their own homes.

Adults with developmental disabilities and their families today seek the same fundamental support and opportunities that were envisioned in the 1960s. Throughout our agency's history, we have faced threats to funding and periods of uncertainty yet Hope House Foundation was not deterred. We find strength in our commitment to our mission.

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERISM

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RYAN'S SNOOT AND ABOUT ADVENTURES

Saturdays are extra special for Ryan, thanks to the Snout and About program with Chesapeake Animal Services. With leash in hand and a smile on his face, he heads to the shelter, ready to give a deserving dog a day of fun and freedom. Ryan's favorite spots for these tail-wagging adventures? Oak Grove Lake Park and Mt. Trashmore. The pups love the fresh air, wide-open spaces, and the joy of exploring nature by his side. With each step, you can see tails wagging and spirits soaring — a simple walk turning into a treasured memory.

LINDSEY'S FELINE FRIENDSHIPS

Lindsey finds comfort and joy in the company of feline friends at the Norfolk SPCA. Her visits bring warmth and companionship to the shelter's cats, offering them some much-needed social time. Whether it's offering gentle chin scratches, engaging in playful games, or simply sitting nearby, Lindsey's presence makes a difference. For the cats awaiting their forever homes, a little extra love goes a long way.



LUANNE'S HORSE HAVEN

At Circle A Home for Horses, Luanne has realized her dream of connecting with horses. Her dedication goes beyond her regular visits. She lovingly prepares homemade treats for her four-legged friends, ensuring they enjoy every bite. But it's not just about the treats. Luanne cherishes every moment spent brushing the horses, running her fingers gently through their manes, and whispering words of encouragement.

These stories are just a glimpse of the impact the volunteer efforts of those we serve at Hope House make every day. Through their kindness, they uplift their communities and remind us all of the joy that comes from giving back.

HOPE HOUSE
COMMUNITY

IN ACTION

41ST ANNUAL STOCKLEY GARDENS SPRING ARTS FESTIVAL

Join us for a weekend of art, music, and community at the **41st Stockley Gardens Spring Arts Festival!** Presented by **TowneBank** and hosted by **Hope House Foundation**, this free two-day event features over **130 talented artists** from across the country. Stroll through beautiful Stockley Gardens Park in Norfolk, enjoy live performances by local musicians, indulge in delicious bites from food vendors, and fun activities for kids.

Sat., May 17th | 10 AM - 5 PM

Sun., May 18th | Noon - 5 PM

Stockley Gardens Park

(Corner of Stockley Gardens & Olney Road, Norfolk)

After Hours Artist Awards Party

Keep the celebration going! After the festival wraps up on Saturday, join us for the **After Hours Artist Awards Party** from **5 PM - 7 PM**. It's free and open to the public, featuring a special awards presentation and live music by **The James Henry Morgan Gang**. Enjoy the sounds, sip on drinks from the cash bar, and cheer on the artists!

Come celebrate creativity and community — we can't wait to see you there!

For entertainment schedule

please visit

<https://hope-house.org/events/stockley-gardens-arts-festival/>



From the heart of the 7Cities that span Coastal Virginia and Northeast North Carolina, **The James Henry Morgan Gang (JHMG)** rides the sonic waves of Blues, R&B, and Jazz — with detours into Psychedelic Investigations of the 4th Kind — all grounded on a solid Rock and Roll foundation.

Festival Judge: Jack Rasmussen

Seattle native Jack Rasmussen left college to pursue life as an artist, musician, and fisherman in Alaska before earning his Art degree from Whitman College. He went on to complete multiple degrees at American University, including an MFA in Painting and a PhD in Anthropology. Jack has held leadership roles at the National Gallery of Art, Washington Project for the Arts, and Maryland Art Place. Since 2005, he's served as Director and Curator of the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center.



**JOIN US IN
CONGRATULATING
JAMES "GREY"
PERSONS ON AN
INCREDIBLE
ACHIEVEMENT!**

Hope House Foundation is proud to celebrate Grey for receiving ANCOR's 2024 Excellence in Public Policy Award! Grey was one of four outstanding professionals in the I/DD services field who were honored, alongside two members of Congress who have made significant contributions to improving the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Grey was presented with the prestigious Bonnie-Jean Brooks Rising Star Award, named in honor of a trailblazing advocate who continues to make a lasting impact on the field. This award recognizes emerging leaders who are shaping the future of community-based disability services.



Poster Artist: Liz Doody

Originally from Lewiston, NY, Liz Doody spent years exploring the landscapes of upstate New York before settling in Columbus, Ohio, to raise her two sons. In 2013, she embraced a new adventure in St. Thomas, where the island's beauty inspired her abstract cold wax and oil paintings. Though Hurricane Irma led to her departure, the vibrant blues and textures of the ocean remain central to her work. Now based in New Kent, VA, Liz continues to exhibit her award-winning art across Virginia, Florida, and beyond.

OUR VOICES

2025 TRIP TO RICHMOND

In January, **Our Voices**, a group of self-advocates, and DSPs joined The Arc of Virginia and took a powerful trip to Richmond, making their voices heard at the General Assembly! In just two hours, they met with 10 representatives to share their stories and advocate!



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MAKING THE MOST OF THE WINTER STORM!

Our incredible Direct Support Professionals and the people they support made the most of the winter wonderland! From crafting snow ducks and working together to clear pathways to enjoying playful snowball fights, everyone came together to celebrate the beauty of the day.



EXCITING NEWS!

The Hope House Thrift Shop is hitting the road! Catch us at the Norfolk Flea Market at Waterside on the **first Sunday of every month** through November.

What's in Store?

Discover a handpicked selection of cool, quirky, and one-of-a-kind treasures at our tent. From vintage gems to stylish finds, you never know what surprises await!

Mark Your Calendars!

Come shop, say hello, and support a great cause. We can't wait to see you there!





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Hope House is a certified
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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 17&18 41st Annual Stockley Gardens Spring Arts Festival

June 26

**47th Annual Hope House
Foundation Annual Dinner**

Purchase tickets **here:** →



Sept 13

757 Battle of the Beers
www.757battleofthebeers.com

Sept 20

Rockin' on the River with Lucky757

Purchase tickets **here:** →



For more information please contact Laura DeVore
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