

VHIBG

VIRGINIA HOME FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

8716 West Broad St.
Henrico, VA
804.270.6566
vhbg.org

WINTER
2013/2014



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elementary equations

In September, VHIBG opened our new elementary school. John G. Wood School now offers quality alternative education to the full K-12 spectrum. Expanding our reach to serve more kids in our community, the school works with young students who are struggling to succeed in their public school. The school provides a therapeutic environment and small class sizes to help kids with emotional or behavioral challenges.

With a holistic approach, the new program was developed after Richmond area public schools expressed a significant need for an elementary school offering early intervention and educational support. Filling a void in the Richmond-metro area, this alternative education program addresses aggression and teaches social skills with the primary goal of returning students to a public school with stronger social, emotional, and coping skills.

A building that formerly served as a group home on the VHIBG campus was renovated to serve as the elementary school. The building already had many of

~continued page 3



teaching parents

Erin Lawrence and Monika Mitchell have both worked with youth in our group homes for several years. Both are alternate teaching parents, staff who work with our kids when our full-time teaching parent couples have time off or in times of transition with staff. These staff members are all-purpose players—tasked with bringing enthusiasm and consistent stability to the kids in all our group homes.

Erin and Monika have given their all to the girls in House 11 assisting them through the transition from one set of Teaching Parents to a new couple who came on board November 1. Through this time of change, Erin and Monika have kept things running smoothly and have helped their girls ready themselves for this new relationship.

When asked what it is that keeps them doing what they do, the answers were easy for them.

“Moment by moment is challenging, but to give someone that seed for success they can use in the future is why we’re here.” —Monika

“Taking every day one at a time (and) having good co-workers and support makes all the difference” according to Erin.

Erin and Monika are both supremely dedicated, going to great lengths to ensure all the girls’ needs are met and fun is had. Their backgrounds are different—Monika coming from a background in juvenile justice and education, and Erin straight from college at Virginia State University—but they have pulled together as a well-coordinated team to run the house in a time of change, including excellent record keeping and supervision of the daily upkeep of the home. Change is always challenging for our children, but Erin and Monika have prevailed over any adversity and brought their group through the transition even stronger than before. “There are lots of rewarding moments,” assures Erin.

Erin and Monika are representative of all the Teaching Parents at VHBM who live, work and play with our children. Excellence is what VHBM strives for each day and these two are quiet examples for the whole team. So quiet, in fact, that Erin never even mentioned during this interview that she was just recognized at the National Teaching Family Association’s Annual Meeting as Practitioner of the Year! This is a huge honor and VHBM is proud to call her one of our own.

MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

CLINICAL & COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

Virginia Home for Boys and Girls is expanding its reach to serve more kids throughout our community in addition to those living on our campus and attending our alternative school. Our Clinical and Community-Based Services are some of the fastest growing programs at VHBG, helping kids in many different situations learn to cope with the challenges they face, grow emotionally, and become successful young adults. These services use evidence-based practices and the Teaching Family Model. We use Trauma-Informed Care principles to guide our approach to helping these children and families.

OUTPATIENT COUNSELING

Individual and family counseling provided to youth and families in the community or in out-of-home placements to help facilitate the development of healthy social, emotional, and behavioral functioning. VHBG outpatient mental health services employ a range of licensed and credentialed professionals to meet the specific and individual treatment needs of our clients.

INTENSIVE IN-HOME COUNSELING

A community-based and therapeutic treatment service designed to support youth identified as needing clinical interventions to prevent an out-of-home placement, or proactively assist with the successful transition of a youth returning to a community-based or family placement.

HOME-BASED COUNSELING

A community-based support service to youth and families experiencing challenges that place the child at risk for out-of-home placement or needing support services to successfully transition back to a community-based or family environment.

MENTORING

A community-based support service to meet the individual needs of a youth in the community who is experiencing social, emotional, behavioral, academic or other life skills struggles that are inhibiting or decreasing their likelihood of success in the community. This service is guided by principles of the Teaching Family Model to assist in the development, integration and transfer of skills that advance the youth's opportunity for success.



~ continued from cover elementary equations

the necessary features: a large gathering space, smaller rooms for small group work, and space outside for a playground. Thanks to the hard work of dedicated volunteers, the school opened as a cheery welcoming space with a library full of books, and shelves stocked with school supplies.

A special thank you to Altria, Rotary Club of Innsbrook, Lowes, Twin Hickory Elementary PTA, Ginny Clark, and HandsOn Greater Richmond for their donation of time, expertise, and supplies to create a functional and friendly space for our youngest students.

band together



BAND TOGETHER HOST COMMITTEE:

Kelly and Tiff Armstrong, Taryn and Matt White, Austin and Karen Brockenbrough IV, Maria and John Reed

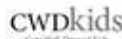
BENEFIT COMMITTEE:

Vaughan and Rusty Aaronson, Lisa and Chris Brennan, Meg and John Bristow, Amanda and Chip Duggins, Megan and Bryan Durand, Beth and John Fallon, Shannon and Buddy Garbett, Kelly and Jeff Hamm, Jill and Steve Hunter, Chandler and Leighton Klevana, Sarah Ann and Whit Knier, Elizabeth and Bill McMullen, Carter and Steve Miller, Charlotte and Ryan Nelson, Frannie and Houghton Phillips, Gaylen and Robert Reynolds, Julee and Drew Spitzer, Dudley and John Sutro, Rebecca and Ben Winters



A crowd of more than 450 attended the fifth annual VHBG Band Together fundraiser on Sept. 13th, hosted by Tiff and Kelly Armstrong. This sold-out event raised more than \$90,000 to support the programs serving kids at VHBG. This memorable event was made possible by the hard work of the benefit committee under the leadership of Kelly Armstrong and Taryn White. The Blue Dogs, from Charleston, South Carolina entertained the guests with great music and everyone enjoyed coming together in a beautiful venue to support a great cause. We are already looking forward to a wonderful event again next year!

SPONSORS:





24TH ANNUAL

GOLF CLASSIC

VHBG's 24th Annual Golf Classic was held on September 16th at the Federal Club. This sold-out event was the largest in the event's history. This year's golfers helped to raise \$37,000 to support programs at VHBG, an increase of 30% over last year! A special thank you to the planning committee for making this event such a great success.

GOLF PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Hatcher Crenshaw, Lem Doss, Jamie Mason, Rob Rosebro, Randy Sledd, Tony Suber, Brent Winn, John Wyatt, Russell Wyatt

SPONSORS:



People at the Center of Change

Hands On Greater Richmond volunteers came out in the rain for the 6th Annual Hands On Day on October 19. A group of about 15 adults and young people helped spruce up the new John G. Wood Elementary School by moving furniture, building tables, organizing library books and making festive bulletin boards for every upcoming season and holiday. Hands On Day sends 1,000 volunteers into the community each year, providing local nonprofit organizations with invaluable support and recognition. Without these good friends, VHBG would not be able to serve our youngest children in the warm and welcoming environment they deserve. Thanks Hands On! You certainly are "People at the Center of Change!"



wish list



During this holiday season, be creative and involve your school, neighborhood, business, or civic group in donating much needed items to the children and programs at VHBG. We rely on wish list item donations during the holidays and throughout the year. We are always grateful to accept the following much needed items during this season of giving:

School

School Supplies
Headphones
Non-perishable Snacks
Athletic/Fitness Equipment
Tennis Ball Machine (adult)
Tennis Rackets
10 Mountain Bikes &
Helmets
Bike Locks
Yoga Mats
5 Full-Sized, Soft Soccer Balls
Bocce Set
Corn Hole Boards and
Bean Bags
Cricket Set
10 Lacrosse Sticks
Sound System for the Gym
New Basketball Uniforms
and Warm Up Suits

Home Furnishings

Twin Sheets Sets
Twin Mattresses
Bedspreads/Blankets
Large Dining Tables and
Chairs (to seat 10-12)
Home Décor
Lamps
New/Gently Used Furniture
Bar Stools
Plants
Holiday Decorations
Vacuum Cleaners
Waste Baskets
Towels and Bath Mats
Shower Curtains
Iron & Ironing Board
Hangers and Hampers
Pots, Pans, Utensils
Tupperware

Personal Items

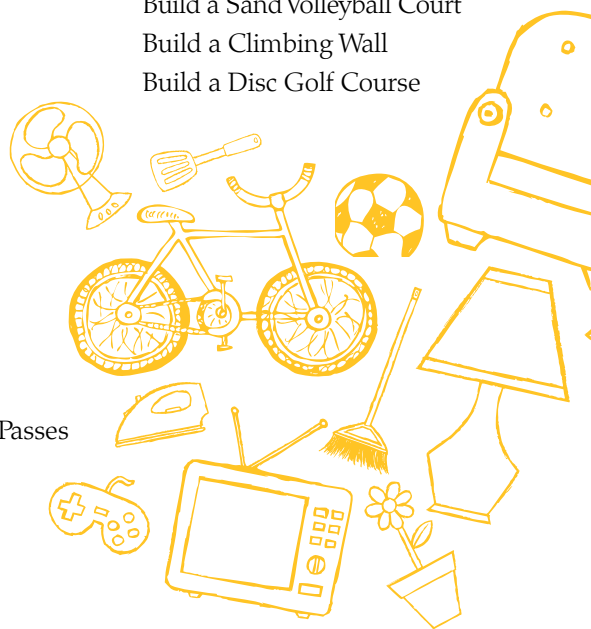
Hair Supplies
Flat Irons
Deodorant
Blow Dryers
Luggage

Entertainment

Gift Cards
Movie Tickets
Wii Games
DVDs
Art/Craft Projects
Busch Gardens or
Kings Dominion Passes
Game Systems
TV
DVD Player

Services

Volunteer for Office Work
Periodic Carpet Cleaning
Build a Sand Volleyball Court
Build a Climbing Wall
Build a Disc Golf Course



Visit Mr. Christmas



Each holiday season, Frank Hudak, also known as “Mr. Christmas” lights up his home in Richmond’s West End. As a part of his holiday display, Mr. Christmas raises funds to support the kids at VHBG. In his 40th year, Mr. Christmas has raised over \$82,600 to support the kids we serve. Be sure to stop by his home at 2300 Wistar Court and see his great display during this holiday season.

philanthropy

ANNUAL FUND

The philanthropic support from our community makes Virginia Home for Boys and Girls not just a good place for kids, but an *exceptional* place for kids. Donated funds supplement our programs to provide the kids we serve with everything they deserve, including:

- ▶ A welcoming home with two teaching parents to support them,
- ▶ Expert therapists to help them cope and heal from the difficult circumstances they've faced
- ▶ Materials, supplies, and technology to help them succeed in the classroom
- ▶ A campus and neighborhood that helps them live like typical children

This year, the overall fundraising goal has grown, with a goal of \$1,000,000. *Please consider a gift to the Annual Fund. If you have supported our Annual Fund in the past, would you consider increasing that gift to help support the increasing needs of the children we serve?*



DONOR DINNER

VHBG held its 39th Annual Donor Appreciation Dinner this past October. This event, at the Country Club of Virginia, was hosted by Hank and Cindy Wilton. Donors from the Wilton, Webb, Amelia & Meadow, Carneal, and Wood Societies (\$500 +) had the opportunity to hear from Esther Butler, one of the first girls accepted to VHBG when the first girl's home opened in 2003. Esther and her former teaching parent, VHBG staff member, Cory Richardson-Lauve recalled their experience in their group home nearly 10 years ago, and how it shaped their futures.

Esther has grown to be a successful wife and mother, and she still lives and works near the VHBG campus. She is also an active student at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College studying graphic design. You may recognize Esther from the September issue of Richmond Magazine, where she and fellow VHBG alumnae Tykara Evans shared their stories of immense difficulty and how they found hope for the future at VHBG.

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I would like to make a gift to VHBG's Annual Fund during this holiday season

NAME: _____
(As you would like to be listed in our Annual Report.)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

COMPANY: _____

(If you/your spouse work for a matching gift company, please include the company's form.)

Gifts to the Annual Fund this holiday season will support our youngest students at the John G. Wood Elementary School. Gifts will provide:

- ▶ *School Supplies*
- ▶ *Classroom technology*
- ▶ *Support from experienced and caring behavioral support staff*
- ▶ *Therapeutic support from our expert licensed therapists*

thank you



CHECK:
 Please make checks payable to VHBG.

CREDIT CARD:
 Please charge my credit card the full amount of \$ _____
 Charge my credit card in _____ monthly installments of \$ _____
Card # _____
Expiration date: _____ Security code: _____

PLEDGE:
I pledge the sum of \$ _____
I understand that I will receive pledge reminders and agree to pay in full by Sept 30th.

ONLINE: www.vhbg.org/giving

STOCK:
 I intend to make a stock gift, please contact me.

PLANNED GIFT:
 I have included VHBG in my will or estate plan.
 I'd like information about making a planned or life income gift.

HONOR/MEMORIAL:
 My gift is in honor memory of _____
Please acknowledge to: _____
Address: _____