

A Thanksgiving message from Virginia Supportive Housing

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at Virginia Supportive Housing! While the holidays this year will look different as we work to keep ourselves and our communities safe and healthy, our gratitude for your support is stronger than ever. Over the past year, we all have faced challenges we could not have foreseen. **Yet we have also witnessed a surge of resilience and compassion that demonstrates just how special the VSH community is.**

- Our **Real Estate Development** team has pushed forward on major development projects, including our recently announced affordable housing collaboration in Charlottesville.
- Our **Mission Advancement** team has worked to secure additional funding in the face of disruptions to usual revenue streams.
- Our **Supportive Services** and **Property Management** teams have come together to ensure residents and program participants continue to receive uninterrupted care and support of the highest quality.

All of this work could not have been possible without you. Despite the uncertainty surrounding us, your unwavering support for our mission and our work throughout the past year has been constant. We may not know what awaits us in 2021, but this year has demonstrated the depth of our capabilities — and I am certain of our capacity to adapt to new challenges and continue to navigate those already facing us.

Best wishes,

Allison

COVID-19 Update

VSH has continued to adapt our work to align with recommended best practices. Our headquarters at Discovery Drive will remain closed through at least December, with many of our teams continuing to work remotely. Teammates working directly with residents and program participants continue to maintain social distancing and wear appropriate PPE.

Our August all-team meeting featured a Q&A with representatives from the VA Department of Health to go over COVID-19 safety and prevention strategies, to ensure all teammates have access to the most accurate information.

And our efforts have worked! While several team members over the past eight months have tested positive for COVID-19, all have recovered well and are back to work.

There have been zero cases via
staff to staff transmission!



Above: Maintenance Supervisor Angelo Pascale installs a protective screen at the front desk at South Richmond Studios.
Left: Andrea Thomas, Desk Clerk at Studios.



ICYMI: Check out #DidYouKnowvember!

At VSH, we are always striving to learn more about the experience of homelessness and how to solve it. To share more of what we know, every week this November we are featuring an infographic on our social media as part of our #DidYouKnowvember campaign. So far, it has covered Continuums of

Care - an essential part of community-wide efforts to end homelessness - and a look at veteran homelessness. **Check back next week to see the final installment of 2020's #DidYouKnowvember!**



[Link to VSH Facebook](#)



[Link to VSH Instagram](#)



[Link to VSH Twitter](#)

This December: Thrift for a Cause!

All December long, shopping at the Thrifty Quaker benefits Virginia Supportive Housing!

The Thrifty Quaker is a thrift store in Midlothian owned and operated by Midlothian Friends Meeting. Every month, the congregation chooses a nonprofit to whom **all the profits from that month are donated**. For December 2020, they have chosen VSH!

To support, shop at or donate to the Thrifty Quaker during the month of December! They accept any items that you would sell at a yard sale, such as furniture, household items, clothing, books, electronics, and appliances.



To learn more about the Thrifty Quaker, visit their website.

www.thriftyquaker.com

Special Feature: 2020 in Review!

February 2020

VSH begins internal process improvement work with Edgehill.

Early this year, we began a long-term partnership with Edgehill Consulting to improve many of our internal processes. So far, our Grants Management, Mission Advancement, Finance, and leadership teams have all worked to make their processes more efficient.

June 2020

Juneteenth is made an organization-wide paid holiday.

Fall 2020

VSH partners in administering the Rent and Mortgage Relief Program.

The RMRP is designed to support and ensure housing stability across the Commonwealth during COVID-19. VSH has partnered with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to help distribute federal funds that offer financial assistance for rent and mortgage payments for eligible households.

November 2020

Our Annual Report is now an Impact Report! Coming soon to mailboxes and our website.

March 2020

The majority of VSH teammates transition to remote work for the first time.

August 2020

Compass Cohorts begin.

Coming out of all-team survey feedback earlier in the year, these sessions were created to give space for teammates to discuss the challenges facing us today, from racial injustice to COVID-19. They've met biweekly for the past four months.

October 2020

VSH partners on the Red Carpet Inn project in Charlottesville.

[Read more here!](#)

Ongoing: Cool Lane

Cool Lane remains on-time and on-budget.

We are planning to begin construction in June 2021 and are currently working on architectural drawings and raising the remaining funds

needed. We recently received an award of \$500,000 from Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta.

Teammate shout-outs!

Mission Advancement Summer Intern 2020



Reflecting on a VSH Internship

This summer, the Mission Advancement team welcomed a full-time intern, Elle Porfilio! Elle completed her internship with us as part of her degree in Leadership Studies from the Jepson School at the University of Richmond, which requires students to use what they've learned in the classroom to reflect on and analyze their internship experiences. Elle shared one of her reflections with us, now posted on our website blog.

[Click here to read her blog post!](#)

And thank you again, Elle, for all your invaluable work this summer - we were lucky to have you!

Celebrating anniversaries!

11 years

- **Karen Gorum**, Assistant Property Manager II - Church Street Station
- **Janice Spellman**, Desk Clerk - Cloverleaf

12 years

- **Julie Anderson**, Director of Housing Development
- **Andre Gorum**, Maintenance Supervisor - Hampton Roads
- **Pauline Latty**, Night Monitor - South Richmond Studios
- **Sandra Webb**, Night Monitor - Bliley Manor

14 years

- **Shaniqua Brooks**, Regional Property Manager - Hampton Roads

15 years

- **Stephanie Arnold**, Program Manager - PSH

17 years

- **Allison Bogdanovic**, Executive Director



20 YEARS!

Please congratulate VSH's longest-serving teammate, **Cynthia Sok!** She has been a desk clerk in Richmond since **June 2000!**

[Donate Now!](#)

Virginia Supportive Housing | 804-788-6825 | www.virginiasupportivehousing.org

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