



Heartstrings

The Official Newsletter of Heart Havens

Spring 2025

New Virginia Beach Home for Men

Heart Havens is embarking on an exciting expansion initiative in Virginia Beach, driven by a compelling need and a powerful vision of inclusive community

living. The Virginia Beach Men's Home Expansion, is a direct response to a heartfelt request from a local family whose son, deeply rooted in the Virginia Beach community, desires to live in a Heart Havens home.



Currently, our Virginia Beach residences exclusively support women. However, after learning about this individual's rich and fulfilling life—his active participation in employment, peer groups, Special Olympics, and his lifetime of meaningful connections—we recognized an extraordinary opportunity to extend our mission. He truly embodies the Heart Havens values of a life well-lived, deeply connected to community. It became clear that opening a new home to serve him, and others like him, was not just an option, but a necessity.

This expansion is more than just adding a residence; it's about amplifying the sense of belonging and empowerment that defines Heart Havens. We are now actively seeking partnerships to secure crucial funding for the down payment, essential home repairs, furnishings, and initial supplies. This collaborative effort will also include the necessary preparations for state licensing, ensuring the home meets our stringent standards of quality and care.

Our existing Virginia Beach homes currently have openings for female residents. This new initiative will create three much-needed openings for male residents in addition to the individual who inspired the expansion. Our preliminary timeline anticipates purchasing the home in July, followed by renovations and preparations, with the goal of welcoming residents by the end of 2025.

This project is a testament to Heart Havens' unwavering commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our community. By expanding our services in Virginia Beach, we are not only providing a home, but also fostering a vibrant, inclusive environment where individuals with developmental disabilities can thrive and realize their fullest potential. Join us as we build a brighter future, one home, and one community connection at a time!



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From the CEO

Navigating Uncertainty, Strengthening Our Haven

Dear Friends of Heart Havens,

Like many of you, I'm aware of the weight we all feel regarding the uncertainties surrounding Medicaid. Potential cuts from Washington, alongside the complexities of the new budget, cast a shadow over the lives of those we serve and their families. We understand deeply that Medicaid is more than just funding; it's a lifeline, a bridge to independence and community living for individuals with developmental disabilities, adding layers of stress to an already challenging system.

While the future of funding remains unclear, our commitment to our mission is unwavering. Since last fall, Heart Havens has been engaged in a comprehensive strategic planning process. We've taken a hard look at the challenges within the service system and within our own organization. This process is defining clear pathways forward in our operations, ensuring we are well-positioned to fulfill our mission and goals for the next three years.

We are building a more resilient and sustainable Heart Havens, one that can navigate these uncertain times and continue to provide exceptional care and support. We are leaning into innovation, seeking efficiencies, and fostering a community of collaboration. We are determined to ensure that Heart Havens remains a beacon of hope, a place where individuals with developmental disabilities can truly thrive.

In these times, we recognize the power of community. We need to lean on each other, support one another, and stand together. Your continued involvement and belief in our mission are more important than ever. Your generosity directly supports our ability to navigate these challenges and continue to provide the vital services our residents rely on.

Despite the uncertainties we face, I am filled with hope. I see the strength of our community, the dedication of our staff, and the resilience of the individuals we serve. Together, we will navigate these challenges and ensure that Heart Havens remains a place of belonging, support, and opportunity.

Thank you for being a part of our journey.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Rebecca Huff



Help with the Expansion

How can you help?

Heart Havens is looking for partnerships to secure crucial funding for the down payment, essential home repairs, furnishings and initial supplies for the new Virginia Beach home.

- Hold your own fundraiser - From bake sale to car wash or spaghetti dinner, we can plan to attend and provide you with Heart Havens information.
- Plan an event with us - Contact us if you are interested in hosting a golf tournament, fun run, auction or other event.
- Other ideas - Do you know a partnership that might be helpful or has this sparked another idea? Reach out and let us know.

VIRGINIA BEACH HOME INITIATIVE

PHASE 01 - DOWN PAYMENT
Down payment for a suitable home in the Virginia Beach area
Cost: \$150,000
Spring 2025

PHASE 02 - HOME PREPARATION
Renovation for accessibility, licensure standards, and health & safety needs
Cost: TBD
Summer 2025

PHASE 03 - FINISHING TOUCHES
Move-in preparations such as furniture, interior setup and styling
Cost: TBD
Fall/Winter 2025

✂ Costs and dates are estimates based on current data and subject to change.

Donate to the Virginia Beach Campaign Now



Heart Havens Month

Heart Havens Month 2025 was another great time to visit United Methodist churches and connect with Heart Havens supporters! Churches across Virginia shared Heart Havens' message of empowerment for adults with disabilities by sharing our story, video and resources. Thank you to all who invited us to spend time with you and invite us year round to be part of your church community.



Rebecca Huff, CEO accepting a donation from Pastor Chad Herndon and New Song UMC.



Michael at New Song UMC's spaghetti dinner.



Colin at New Song UMC's spaghetti dinner.



Jason at New Song UMC's spaghetti dinner.



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Join us on social media for year-round updates, photos, and videos!



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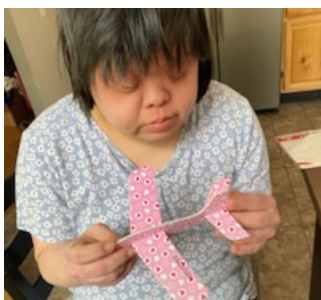
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Moments of Joy



Donate Online Now

Heart Havens residents have been busy making new friends, learning new things and having new experiences in their community! From crafts to bowling and prom to birthday celebrations, each of these moments are made possible by your donations. Medicaid funding pays for the most basic level of care - all the extras that bring joy in their life are thanks to you!



Jean at the Bonnie home in Stuarts Draft participated in paper crafts for Valentine's Day



Darlene at the Lynchburg home went bowling with her housemate Phillip



Thomas at a local Night to Shine prom event



Colin enjoyed opening gifts and eating cake for his birthday