



Heartstrings

The Official Newsletter of Heart Havens

Fall 2024

So Much to Celebrate!

In September, Heart Havens celebrated 25 years of empowering adults with a developmental disability and Direct Service Professional (DSP) week with a company picnic. Residents, staff, family members and Heart Havens board members joined together for a picnic at Dorey Park in Henrico. Everyone enjoyed time together along with a delicious lunch spread and fun music. DSP of the year award winners were announced and we thanked all of our DSPs for demonstrating unwavering compassion, patience, and dedication in empowering individuals with developmental disabilities and creating an environment of warmth, encouragement, and respect, ensuring that each person feels valued and understood.





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From the CEO

A Testament to Exceptional Care.

Dear Friends of Heart Havens,
I recently had the privilege of reading a message from a resident's family that deeply moved me and reaffirmed the profound impact we're making in the lives of those we serve.

During a recent guardianship hearing, a court-appointed attorney, who has witnessed countless care facilities, visited one of our homes. His words upon visiting were nothing short of extraordinary: "I've served as a Guardian-ad-litem in many, many cases but I have never been to a nicer house or seen better staff than I saw during my visit." This heartfelt praise, coming from someone with such vast experience, is a testament to our team's dedication and compassion.

At Heart Havens, we believe that every individual, regardless of their abilities, deserves to live a life filled with dignity, respect, and joy. We strive to create a haven where residents feel not just cared for, but cherished. It's clear that this commitment shines through in everything we do.

I'm immensely proud of our staff, who go above and beyond each day to ensure our residents receive the highest quality of care. Their passion, empathy, and unwavering dedication are the heart and soul of Heart Havens. This experience serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of our mission. We're not just providing housing; we're fostering a community where individuals thrive and feel truly at home. It's an honor to witness the transformative power of love and compassion in action.

As we continue our journey, we remain committed to providing exceptional care and creating a world where everyone feels valued and supported. Thank you for being a part of our Heart Havens family and for your unwavering support of our mission. Your generosity allows us to continue making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Rebecca Huff



Thriving Thanks to You



Suzette and Melissa from the Macleigh-Holland home in Virginia Beach visited the Virginia Living museum.



Chris working out after the Mary Beth Graff guys received the Commonwealth Community Trust Grant for a gym membership.



Phil at the Lynchburg home painting a jack-o-lantern for a fall home decoration.



Elizabeth at the Bonnie home in Stuarts Draft got a manicure before her birthday.

From grants to family foundations and individual donations - Heart Havens residents thrive thanks to our community's support! Heart Havens residents enjoyed picnics at the park, local aquariums and zoos and also museums that focus on their areas of interest. Houses joined together to celebrate birthdays and holidays like the Fourth of July as a group. Suzette at the Macleigh-Holland Virginia Beach home checked a concert off her wishlist when she enjoyed an outing to the Virginia Beach Amphitheater to attend the Magic Summer Tour featuring DJ Jazzy Jeff, Paula Abdul, and New Kids on the Block.

Introducing NAP

Heart Havens is excited to announce that we are part of the Virginia Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP), a state tax credit program designed to encourage private donations to nonprofits like ours. By participating in this program, you have the incredible opportunity to increase your gift to Heart Havens and make a bigger difference in the lives of our residents but also receive benefits and credits for your generosity.



Donations of \$500 or greater will give you a state tax certificate for 50% of the value of your donation (\$500 donation is a \$250 state tax credit) Donations should not be restricted to a specific program, project or house. If donating online, please select Apply my Donation to "Operations." If donating by check, you may include a note that you wish to participate in NAP, but do not restrict the donation in the memo line of the check, please leave the memo line blank. Learn more about the NAP program by contacting sara.becker@hearthavens.org or scanning the QR code.



Meet Jason

Meet the newest resident at Heart Havens' Meadowbrook house - Jason. Jason is a very happy young man! His favorite foods include mac and cheese, noodles, Oreo cookies, shrimp and steak. In his spare time, he enjoys watching movies and YouTube. He likes SpongeBob and signing. He also enjoys taking walks and coloring.



Stay connected with us!

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



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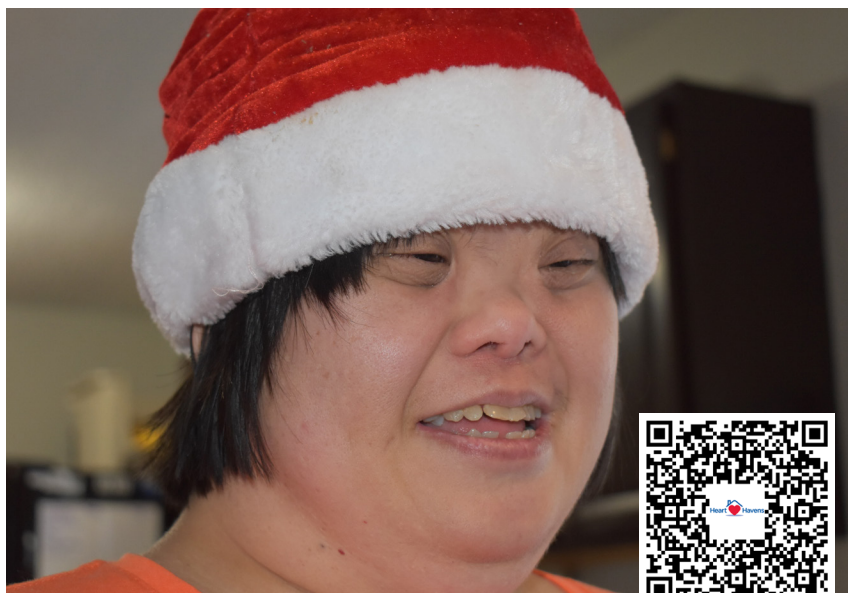
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Christmas Sponsors Needed!

Sponsor a resident for Christmas with a \$125 donation or sponsor one of our eight homes at \$500 per home. Please make donations by Dec. 1st by scanning the QR code above and selecting Apply my donation to "Resident Christmas gifts or by check, noting "Resident Christmas gifts in the memo.



Save the Date

Heart Havens will be participating in **Giving Tuesday** and we need your help! **Mark your calendars** for Tuesday, December 3rd, Giving Tuesday, an online day of giving to celebrate global generosity. **Give on Giving Tuesday** to help us reach our goal. **Share** about why you give on social media and with friends and family. Check our social media pages for more details as the date gets closer.