LGBT Life Center

“It was really, really nice to see our freezers really full.”

Born during the HIV crisis, the LGBT Life Center in Norfolk found itself adapting this year to help lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people through another crisis.

“There are a few of us around who still remember all that, how to create emergency services for people quickly and recognizing needs in a crisis,” says CEO Stacie Walls. “We do that well.”

Originally focused on treating people with HIV, the nonprofit evolved into an LGBT community center that provides services such as housing, a pharmacy and senior support as well as HIV specialty care.

In the time of COVID-19, the organization has had to amp up its emergency services. Two COVID-19 grants enabled the center to feed clients in need and serve people needing mental health support, Walls says.

The first, a joint grant from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation and United Way of South Hampton Roads for $18,000, funded meals to help people facing food insecurity. The second from the Foundation supported mental health counseling for clients.

“The grant also helped purchase an additional freezer and pay mileage reimbursement for drivers delivering meals to people who were unable to pick them up,” says Client Services Manager Doris McNeill, who manages the medical case management program for HIV-positive clients.

Food insecurity is a constant struggle but is magnified now because pandemic-related job losses have created difficult financial situations, McNeill says. “The food went out almost as quickly as it came in, she says.

COVID-19 Support

When crisis strikes, the Hampton Roads Community Foundation steps in to help respond to community needs and to support nonprofits helping on the front line. The Foundation has provided two rounds of funding.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the community foundation collaborated with the United Way of South Hampton Roads to quickly deploy resources to help charitable organizations assisting people with food, shelter, essential resources, mental health counseling and other critical needs.

Throughout the pandemic, the community foundation continued providing support to stabilize nonprofits whose operations and finances were negatively impacted by COVID-19.

To date, the community foundation has provided more than $1.25 million to nonprofits in our two-phase COVID-19 Response in 2020.

RAPID RELIEF PHASE
• 47 nonprofits providing essential services $497,258

RECOVERY PHASE
• $428,742 to 67 nonprofits providing a variety of services
• $175,000 to community anchor arts nonprofits
• $150,000 to small and mid-sized nonprofits

To learn more about our response, visit hamptonroadscf.org/COVID19
$1.5 million awarded in 2020-21 scholarships

36% are first generation college students, meaning neither of their parents has a 4-year college degree

446 students helped this academic year

• 406 undergraduates
• 15 graduate students
• 25 medical students

Where are they going?
Students are attending 84 colleges and universities.

What degrees are they seeking?

Math, Science & Technology

31%

Health & Medicine

18%

Public & Social Services

23%

Social Sciences & Liberal Arts

3%

Trades
<1%

Undecided
2%

Learn about the 90+ scholarships at the Foundation at hamptonroadscf.org/scholarships
**Scholarship Spotlight**

**Surry County student and author teaches girls about “Self Love”**

**Name:** Brécha Byrd  
**Hometown:** Surry County, Virginia  
**High School:** Surry County High  
**Scholarship Type:** $1,000 one-time award from The Surry Fund at the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, established in 1999 to promote racial harmony and lessen the negative impact of racism in Surry County  
**College:** St. Augustine’s University in Raleigh, North Carolina  
**Academic Major:** Business Administration  
**College activities:** Playing guard for the women’s basketball team

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**A CONVERSATION WITH BRÉCHA BYRD**

**What’s it like going to college during the COVID-19 pandemic?** It is different, but I am making the most of it, staying safe and taking care. I don’t think anybody imagined 2020 to be the way it is, but you just have to stay positive and make the most out of it.

**What do you hope to learn in your first year of college?** My goal right now is to learn as much as I can in regard to the business aspect of things. But I would like to become a corporate attorney.

**You’re a published author of the book “Self Love... LOVESELF” for girls. What led you to write this book?** When I was in middle school I went through a lot in terms of finding myself and loving myself. My purpose in life is that I live to inspire. Loving yourself is so important, so I wrote about it. It’s a book that’s dedicated to girls all over the world. It’s a book that teaches them how to love themselves.

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**What has helped you succeed in school and life?** God and my family have been my ultimate support system through everything.

**You just started college, but have you thought about what you might do once you graduate?** I want to make a difference in the world. I don’t have a problem with traveling and meeting new people. But, I also plan to come back and give to my hometown. I will always have love for Surry County.

**How did you feel about earning the scholarship?** The scholarship was an absolute blessing. When I was notified, I wanted to cry. College is expensive and every dollar counts. I am just really grateful for this opportunity. It gives peace of mind knowing I have the financial assistance to assist in my growth.
COVID-19 Grant Recipient: Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia:

Senior needs skyrocket during pandemic

Norma Spruill can easily list all the ways Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia helps her and Lynn, her husband of more than 30 years.

There’s Meals on Wheels, which delivers food three times a week to their Cavalier Manor home in Portsmouth. Before the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the agency’s companion program provided an aide to stay with 88-year-old Lynn, who has dementia, so that Norma had a break to take walks or do other tasks.

Then there’s the structural work underneath her floor—repaired by Senior Services.

“I couldn’t afford to have it done on my own,” said Norma, 77. The retired clerical worker now undergoes cancer treatment. Her husband is a retired public utilities employee.

The agency got a financial boost because of special grants that the Hampton Roads Community Foundation provided this year, following the start of the COVID-19 outbreak. Senior Services is one of dozens of nonprofits in the region thankful for the help.

First, the community foundation and the United Way of South Hampton Roads jointly awarded $15,000 to Senior Services to help older adults with food and other essential items. Later, the foundation provided an additional $5,000 for the same tasks.

In a statement, community foundation President and CEO Deborah DiCroce called the region’s nonprofits “the proverbial front line for triaging COVID-19’s immediate impact and for rebuilding lives and communities over the long haul.”

Steve Zollos, chief executive officer at the Norfolk-based Senior Services, said the grant funding has been vital in helping seniors, who make up nearly 14 percent of the regional population, according to the latest U.S. Census data.

“The food was the primary thing,” he said. “The demand for the services skyrocketed.”

“A COVID-19 grant funded meals to seniors in need.

In 2019, the organization delivered 100,000 meals to people in its 2,000-square mile coverage area in the region. Zollos said the nonprofit will likely triple the number of meals this year.

Drivers also have delivered personal protective equipment, paper goods and other essential items. To keep seniors engaged socially, staffers sent out 1,000 activity kits.

Without the additional funding from the foundation, Senior Services would have been forced to make tough decisions on how to stretch the dollars it had. Zollos said the special grant money “empowered our organization and the community to rally around our older adults.”

Spruill, the Portsmouth retiree, said the help to seniors sustains people like her and her husband. The agency and its staffers are a blessing, checking in and providing assistance.

“They are a very excellent organization,” she said, adding, “they’re very nice to me.”

“Nonprofits are the proverbial front line for triaging COVID-19’s immediate impact and for rebuilding lives and communities over the long haul.”

— Dr. Deborah DiCroce
Hampton Roads Community Foundation President and CEO

According to the Greater Hampton Roads Diaper Bank, one in three families can’t afford an adequate supply of diapers. The local diaper bank recognized this need and has been working since 2012 to change the lives of babies, children with disabilities, and seniors in the region.

COVID-19 Rapid Response grants from United Way of South Hampton Roads and the Hampton Roads Community Foundation helped strengthen those efforts during the pandemic.

Herb Erb, Coordinator of the Greater Hampton Roads Diaper Bank explained their efforts:

• The diaper bank serves 800 families per month.
• The diaper bank has a network of 35 partner agencies.
• It distributes 36,000 diapers every month to partner agencies.
• The diaper bank provides 430,000 diapers each year.

Go to hamptonroadscf.org/COVID19 to watch the video story about the Greater Hampton Roads Diaper Bank.

Ever heard of a diaper bank?

Herb Erb, Coordinator of the Greater Hampton Roads Diaper Bank and Kerry Winter, Volunteer

Photos by Irene Davis

Courtesy photo
A year ago, the Hampton Roads Community Foundation adopted a Racial Equity statement to affirm our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Our initial focus is on racial equity. And, as a part of our ongoing commitment, the community foundation continues to engage diverse communities in philanthropy, including the Visionaries for Change giving circle.

The group, established by Black business and civic leaders in 2019, has grown to 72 members and is working toward its goal of creating a $500,000 endowment. Here are photos from its annual reception before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout 2020, the community foundation hosted community conversations on race, launched a grant program focused on race and the history of race in collaboration with Virginia Humanities, and commissioned a study on Black philanthropy trends.

Learn more about the community foundation’s ongoing efforts in diversity, equity, and inclusion at hamptonroadscf.org/DEI
The Hampton Roads Community Foundation recently awarded competitive grants to these nonprofits. Funding comes from generous donors’ unrestricted and field-of-interest funds.

Grant Category: Health & Wellness and Economic Stability

ForKids, Inc., $46,750
New Vision Youth Services, $45,000
Neighborhood, $103,000
VB Home Now, $150,000
The Up Center, $161,242

Grant Category: Cultural Vitality and Educational Success

Armed Services YMCA of Hampton Roads, $30,000
d’Art Center, $17,000
Teens with a Purpose, $90,000
The Literacy Lab, $30,000
Virginia Air and Space Center, $40,000
Virginia Stage Company, $5,000

Grant Category: Special Initiatives

CHKD Mental Health Hospital, $1 million
RVA 757 Connects, $300,000
Tidewater Community College Educational Foundation, $158,014

Find more details about the grants and programs at hamptonroadscf.org/recentgrants

New Board Members

A distinguished board has always led us. In June 2020, the Board added these new members.

Dawn S. Glynn
President, Retail and Private Banking at TowneBank

Cynthia C. Romero, M.D.
Director, M. Foscue Brock Institute for Community and Global Health at Eastern Virginia Medical School

Frank Batten Jr.
Chairman at Landmark Media Enterprises LLC

Howard P. Kern
President and CEO at Sentara Healthcare

Lemuel E. Lewis
Retired Executive at Landmark Media

Rony Thomas
President and CEO at LifeNet Health Inc.
5 Ways the Community Foundation helps you create a charitable legacy

Generous people like you want to make a lasting impact in Hampton Roads, and the community foundation can help you do just that. Throughout the year – and especially precarious times like these – charitably-inclined people connect with the community foundation to support causes they care about.

Give the way that works for you. Here are 5 ideas:

1. Establish an endowment fund and give it a name and a purpose that suits you. Minimum opening amount is $25,000.

2. Arrange now to fund a charitable bequest after your lifetime. You can go ahead and select the fund name and its purpose (i.e. a scholarship or a specific community cause). Minimum amount for a named fund is $25,000.

3. Want to donate less than $25,000? Our six Community Funds are a great option. They cover a broad range of causes – from education to civic leadership to arts and culture. Make any size donation, and put it to work helping nonprofits in our region.

4. Join one our giving circles. We have two:

   — **Community Leadership Partners**, an active philanthropy group whose members pool resources to tackle specific causes in our region. Annual donation amount to join is $2,100 a year (or $500 if you are age 39 or younger).

   — **Visionaries for Change**, a passionate group founded by Black business and civic leaders who donate money to a pooled fund and leverage their donations to support charitable causes in the Black community in Hampton Roads. Members donate $5,000 annually to serve at the leadership level. Annual general membership donations are $1,500 for couples and $1,000 for individuals.

5. Honor or remember a special person with a gift of any size to any existing fund.

Questions? Contact Kay Stine, Vice President for Development, at (757) 622-7951 or kstine@hamptonroadscf.org.

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**5 Ways the Community Foundation helps you create a charitable legacy**

### 1. Establish an endowment fund

- Give it a name and purpose that suits you.
- Minimum opening amount is $25,000.

### 2. Fund a charitable bequest after your lifetime

- Select fund name and purpose (e.g., scholarship or community cause).
- Minimum amount for named fund is $25,000.

### 3. Donate less than $25,000

- Six Community Funds cover various causes.
- Make any size donation.

### 4. Join a giving circle

- **Community Leadership Partners**: Pool resources to tackle causes.
- Annual donation to join: $2,100 (or $500 for age 39 or younger).

- **Visionaries for Change**: Donate to a pooled fund.
- Members donate $5,000 annually for leadership level.
- Annual general membership: $1,500 for couples, $1,000 for individuals.

### 5. Honor or remember a special person

- Give any size gift to any existing fund.

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**Questions?** Contact Kay Stine, Vice President for Development, at (757) 622-7951 or kstine@hamptonroadscf.org.

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**LGBT Life Center**

In total, with help from funding from other sources, the center distributed 9,308 meals within six months.

The community foundation also awarded the LGBT Life Center a second grant for $3,500 to provide professional mental health care for uninsured clients. Since the pandemic began, the counseling sessions increased 116 percent per month as more people experienced greater stress, Walls says.

The organization switched from in-person to remote counseling, an option it intends to keep based on feedback from clients. The center also now offers expanded hours.

The center has been a lifesaver for Michael and Jeremy Martin, who needed help with food and resources during the pandemic.

“We didn't know really anyone,” says Jeremy Martin, who moved to Hampton Roads from southwest Virginia. “We were having a lot of difficulties. We had lost our home, everything. I fell into a very deep depression.”

“Without that, we would have nothing,” Jeremy says.

“It truly is a miracle,” adds Michael.

“There is hope.”

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**FROM P.1**

**LGBT Life Center**

The LGBT Life Center brought them meals. “Without that, we would have nothing,” Jeremy says.

“It truly is a miracle,” adds Michael.

“There is hope.”

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**Questions?** Contact Kay Stine, Vice President for Development, at (757) 622-7951 or kstine@hamptonroadscf.org.
Tony Brothers, a longtime Norfolk resident and NBA referee, uses philanthropy to advance equity and promote social justice—ultimately helping to reshape the narrative of People of Color in Hampton Roads and beyond.

In 2019, Brothers became a founding member of the Visionaries for Change giving circle at the Hampton Roads Community Foundation. His annual gift is helping the group reach its $500,000 endowment goal. The group was founded by Black business and civic leaders to provide support for charitable causes in the Black community. Membership is open to all.

“As a Black man, it is incumbent upon me to use my resources to uplift others in my community and help create pathways to success,” he said. “By joining a giving circle, I am connected to like-minded people who are purposeful and passionate about addressing disparities in the African American community and share my interest in making meaningful contributions that will lead to better educational and economic outcomes.”

Brothers graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Norfolk and later earned a business degree from Old Dominion University. He also holds an honorary doctorate from Norfolk State University. Brothers and his sister were raised by a single mother Dorothy B. Brothers, a corporate executive for Bank of America. She passed away unexpectedly in 2002, and her service to others inspired him to do more for the community.

As a referee in the NBA, Brothers has a national platform. But he puts his talent and passion to work in the Hampton Roads region. A longtime philanthropist, Brothers serves on a number of charitable boards, and in 2015 started Men for Hope Inc., which helps young men as well as single mothers raising young men. As a tribute to his mom, he started an endowment in 2018 at Norfolk State University for children of single parents. Under the school’s naming opportunities program, that donation allowed the naming of the Dorothy B. Brothers Auditorium on campus. Through the Visionaries giving circle, he hopes his involvement will amplify the importance of racial equity and social justice, as well as encourage others to seek opportunities to lend support.

“I have seen firsthand how philanthropy fills the inequitable gaps in the community,” he said. “By working with the community foundation and Visionaries, together we can accomplish more for our neighbors in need.”

Watch a video of Tony Brothers discuss his commitment to philanthropy at hamptonroadscf.org/giveback