The Hampton Roads Community Foundation is southeastern Virginia’s largest grant and scholarship provider. Created in 2010 from a merger of The Norfolk Foundation (founded in 1950) and The Virginia Beach Foundation (1987), the Foundation was built by donors from all walks of life. Their charitable gifts translate into Grants and scholarships that help us change lives in our region.

Highlights over the decades:

1950s
- A $100,000 grant helps build a new downtown Norfolk library.

1960s
- Helps start Eastern Virginia Medical School and Virginia Wesleyan College.
- Assists in preserving the historic Willoughby-Baylor House.
- Buys a building for the Southside Boys & Girls Club.

1970s
- Helps Old Dominion University expand its oceanography program.
- Supports an expansion of Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters.

1980s
- Helps build the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, expand the Chrysler Museum of Art, renovate the Wells Theater and establish the Business Consortium for Arts Support.
- Provides funding to expand WHRO’s TV and radio studios.
- Equips the first laboratories at the Leonard R. Strelitz Diabetes Center at Eastern Virginia Medical School.
- Helps create the ACCESS College Foundation to help students attend college.
- Supports the start of Tidewater Community College’s Norfolk campus.
- Helps start ForKids Inc. to help homeless families.

1990s
- Helps build the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center and NAUTICUS, renovate the Harrison Opera House, expand the Children’s Museum of Virginia and Norfolk Botanical Garden, open the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum and support the new Virginia Arts Festival.
- Provides the United Way of South Hampton Roads a $1.2 million grant to improve the buildings housing 15 area nonprofits.
- Provides funds to expand the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia, to improve the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Hampton Roads and to build a headquarters for the Girl Scout Council of the Colonial Coast.
- Helps expand Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, Eastern Virginia Medical School and Virginia Wesleyan College.
- Starts awarding grants from the E.K. Sloane Fund to provide pianos for area nonprofits.

In addition to our grants to nonprofits, since 1950 our scholarships have helped more than 4,500 people receive college educations.
2000s

- Creates the Academy for Nonprofit Excellence with Tidewater Community College.
- Expands the ACCESS College Foundation program.
- Builds or expands early education centers in Franklin, Norfolk, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and the Eastern Shore.
- Helps restore the Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, build St. Mary’s Home, renovate The Endependence Center and expand the Beach Health Clinic and Sugar Plum Bakery.
- Creates ArtsMatch to help arts groups overcome critical state budget cuts.
- Expands child and family programs at the YMCA of South Hampton Roads and helps build the Reba and Sam Sandler Family Campus of the Tidewater Jewish Federation.
- Helps expand the Virginia Aquarium, Virginia Zoo, Children’s Museum of Virginia and the Chrysler Museum of Art.
- Buys instruments and equipment for Virginia Symphony, Governor’s School for the Arts and Symphonicity.
- Helps build the Sandler Center for Performing Arts and the African American History Museum and creates multi-media classrooms at Tidewater Community College campuses in Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Norfolk and Virginia Beach.
- Incubates Smart Beginnings South Hampton Roads to give all area children a good start in life.
- Helps build Virginia Supportive Housing apartments for formerly homeless people and the Elizabeth River Project’s Learning Barge.
- Awards disaster grants to the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and area chapters of the American Red Cross and Salvation Army after Hurricane Isabel.
- Helps start an affiliate community foundation on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and supports the founding of the Suffolk Foundation.
- Awards $1.3 million in Charters Basic Needs Relief Grants to help 22 human service nonprofits seeing increased demand for services during the recession.

2010s

- Helps Eastern Virginia Medical School expand to meet a national physician shortage.
- Helps build the Brock Environmental Center, Slover Library JT’s Camp Grom for disabled people and Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center.
- Helps expand the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia, Beach Health Clinic, Chesapeake Care, Oasis Commission on Social Ministry, Eggleston Services, Western Tidewater Free Clinic and St. Mary’s Home.
- Helps build headquarters for Virginia Arts Festival and the Governor’s School for the Arts.
- Helps expand the Chrysler Museum of Art, Virginia Zoo and The Hurrah Players.
- Awards Alfred L. Nicholson grants to expand Chesapeake Humane Society and Norfolk and Virginia Beach SPCAs and start Happy Paws Animal Training Center.
- Assists Elizabeth River Project in creating Paradise Creek Nature Park.
- Uses Sue Cook Winfrey Funds to help four Domestic violence shelters start a regional hotline and coordinated response program.
- Incubates Reinvent Hampton Roads and an early care and education initiative.

Visit hamptonroadscf.org to learn about our latest grants and scholarships.