

THE VIRGINIA HOME CELEBRATES

STORIES OF

Courage
& Grace™

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MARCH 27, 2025

THE JEFFERSON HOTEL

TO BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF
THE VIRGINIA HOME,
WHO LIVE LIFE WITH THEIR OWN
SPECIAL COURAGE AND GRACE



Welcome



Welcome to Stories of Courage & Grace! This is our 13th year, and whether you've been with us since the beginning or are joining us for the first time, we're grateful for your support.

In 1894, one woman saw a need and took action. After a fall from her horse left her unable to walk, Mary Tinsley Greenhow had the resources to ensure her own care. But she worried about those who didn't—people with life-altering injuries and no financial or emotional support. From her vision, The Virginia Home was born

If only she could see us now!

Our ways of providing care have evolved in ways she never could have imagined. Today, our residents use iPads to communicate, travel to Disney World, and play adaptive golf—experiences once thought impossible.

Yet some things remain unchanged. The Virginia Home is still built on service, care, and community. Our dedicated staff provides not only exceptional medical care but also the social and emotional support that makes this place a true home. Volunteers give their time in meaningful ways—joining residents for games, helping at the Walk & Roll 5K, or even wrapping Christmas presents. And friends like you make a difference through donations, whether it's a handmade shawl or a ticket to this event.

Thank you for being part of our community. Enjoy the evening!

Laura Stewart
Chair, Board of Trustees

STORIES OF *Courage & Grace*

AN EVENING WITH JON DORENBOS

Welcome.....Laura Stewart

Video Presentation“The Virginia Home”

Introduction..... Jean Benson

Keynote Speaker..... Jon Dorenbos

Closing Remarks Doug Vaughan

Please join us for a Cocktail Reception in the Empire Room.
Book sales/signing on the Mezzanine.

A special thank you to Jean Benson and Trish McClendon,
Stories of Courage & Grace Co-Chairs.

Keynote Speaker



Former NFL Pro Bowler Jon Dorenbos isn't just an athlete—he's a master magician, a survivor of unthinkable tragedy, and a powerhouse motivational speaker. Best known for his 14-season career in the NFL, primarily with the Philadelphia Eagles, Jon made two Pro Bowl appearances before a routine trade to the New Orleans Saints in 2017 led to a life-changing discovery. Doctors diagnosed him with a life-threatening heart condition, forcing him into emergency open-heart surgery and an abrupt retirement from football.

But Jon's story of resilience began long before the NFL. At just 12 years old, his world shattered when his father committed an unspeakable crime, leaving him to navigate the foster system alone. Searching for an escape, he turned to magic and sports, channeling his pain into passion. In 2016, he stunned audiences on America's Got Talent, making it to the finals and placing third among tens of thousands of competitors. His mind-bending sleight-of-hand performances caught the attention of Ellen DeGeneres, who became one of his biggest supporters.

Jon's bestselling book, *Life Is Magic*, shares his extraordinary journey from heartbreak to hope, offering a roadmap for overcoming adversity and choosing happiness. With over a decade of experience as a keynote speaker, he inspires audiences with his raw honesty, humor, and insight. Whether through storytelling, magic, or life lessons, Jon proves that even in life's darkest moments, there is room for transformation—and a little bit of magic.

About Us



THE VIRGINIA HOME is a private, nonprofit 130-bed facility that provides residential nursing and therapeutic care to adult Virginians living with physical disabilities. It is the only facility of its kind in Virginia—a pioneer in providing residential care for adults with physical disabilities.

The Home is a place where professional nursing care and specialized therapies form the cornerstone of service. Here, residents have the security of a supportive, multi-faceted organization right within their own home.

This unique community balances the support each resident needs with the rewards of living an independent life. The Virginia Home lends a permanent hand to those whose lives call for strength, courage and grace.



Rashonda Rowe, C.N.A., with resident Thomas McDermott at our annual Fall Festival.

OUR MISSION is to provide compassionate, professional service and to ensure that the lifelong comfort and security of our residents will never be compromised, regardless of ability to pay for the care they receive.

THE HISTORY OF THE HOME begins with Mary Tinsley Greenhow. Born into a prominent Virginia family, Mary was a teenager when she fell from a horse in the mid-1800s, leaving her with a paralyzing back injury from which she would never fully recover.



Mary Tinsley Greenhow

Mary was fortunate to have a family able to provide long-term care for her. In the years following her accident, she became increasingly concerned for people less fortunate and more seriously disabled than herself. She envisioned a place where people with physical disabilities could receive the care and companionship they needed for the rest of their lives, and where their security and welfare would never be compromised.

Through her dedication and perseverance, The Virginia Home for Incurables was chartered and opened on March 1, 1894. Since then, The Virginia Home has grown and flourished through three changes of locale, several expansions and renovations, one name change and increased residential capacity.

THE VIRGINIA HOME IS GOVERNED by a volunteer Board of Trustees that works as a team with a professional staff to provide for the holistic well-being of each resident. The Junior Board also serves the residents in numerous meaningful ways throughout the year.

THE VIRGINIA HOME STAFF is a qualified, knowledgeable and caring group of men and women who seek to improve the physical, social and emotional



Our unstoppable Occupational Therapy Team!

Christmas presents and celebrating residents' birthdays are some of the ways our volunteers help each year. They are truly the heart of our Home!

lives of those living with severely disabling conditions and help them live active, meaningful lives. Nearly thirty percent of the employees have worked at The Home for 10 years or more. Personal attention and quality of care define our service.

OUR VOLUNTEERS dedicate countless hours to improve our residents' quality of life. They provide residents with entertainment and leisure activities that far exceed the capacity of the staff alone. Playing weekly bridge games, wrapping



Pals Ben and Mandy at our February Super Bowl social.

OUR RESIDENTS are individuals who require round-the-clock care and whose families, caretakers or other facilities are unable to provide the range of services they need.

The people who live here may have physical limitations, but you will find that our residents are some of the most inspiring individuals you will meet!

Some residents are able to work, while others volunteer to help make the world a better place. They encourage and support one another, and each year, their generosity extends to other charities and individuals in need through a variety of activities and fundraisers.

Their abilities and desire to take on new adventures are remarkable. Our residents create incredible art, participate in 5ks, ski, surf and communicate with the help of adaptive equipment. We encourage their activity-filled lives with unique programs like our Travel Scholarship program, Adventure Seekers and Summer Olympics, to name a few.

These are the residents of The Virginia Home—and each embraces life in a place that cares for them, removes barriers for them and bonds them as a family.

Courage and Grace

CELIA

Celia's warmth and positivity light up every room she enters. Born and raised in Richmond, she graduated from VA Tech and married her college sweetheart in 1979. She and her husband enjoyed two adventurous ski seasons in Vail, CO, before returning to Virginia, where she worked as a computer programmer for CVS.

A spirited middle child, Celia grew up between two sisters—five years younger than one and eight years older than the other. She has always had a love for sunshine, the beach, and exploring new places. Family has been at the heart of her life, and she treasures memories of lively Christmas celebrations with her extended family.

Life took an unexpected turn when a serious illness led to surgery, bringing challenges that reshaped her path. Though the journey wasn't easy, Celia's resilience and warm spirit never wavered. Now at The Virginia Home, she embraces life with gratitude, surrounded by caring staff and a community that feels like family. She enjoys cooking, parties, and working with Brenda Mizelle, Speech Therapist, who has been instrumental in helping her communicate in new ways.

Before Celia moved to The Home, her sister Susan was her unwavering support, caring for both Celia and their other sister, who was born with Down Syndrome. With both parents gone, Susan thought Celia would feel at home quickly—and thanks to a fun-filled trip to Nashville and the kindness of residents, she did. Moving to The Virginia Home has been a blessing for Celia and her family, bringing comfort, connection, and joy.



TOM

"I was born in Grafenwohr, Germany, where my dad was stationed in the Army. I grew up in Northern Virginia, near Mount Vernon, with my sisters, Kathy and Sharry.

"Some of my best memories are hunting and fishing with my dad and camping with my family at Sherando Lake. I was a Boy Scout and later joined Sigma Chi at UVA, where I studied engineering before my accident. One of my proudest moments was catching a 75-pound catfish in the James River—I even have a plaque to prove it!

"Today, I focus on speaking clearly and managing my health. I survived a traumatic brain injury 42 years ago, at age 21, and later worked for the Federal government for ten years. When my sister got the call that a spot at The Virginia Home had opened, I was cautiously excited. I was surprised by how much there is to do and that I can make my own schedule—especially in Physical Therapy, where I faithfully use the Intelliride bike! I enjoy many social activities on campus, visits from family and friends, and attending Mass. Last year, I went on a Travel Scholarship to Virginia Beach and cruised the James River—both unforgettable experiences."

Kathy and Sharry say Tom's smile, wit, and humor define him. His journey since his TBI in 1982 has been filled with challenges, but he remains resilient, patient, and grateful. A year after moving in, it's clear he has found his "forever home." His health has improved, and knowing TVH supports his well-being brings great peace of mind to his family.



Thank you

Twelve Incredible Stories of Courage & Grace Events!

Since its 2011 debut, **Stories of Courage & Grace** has raised \$3.5 million, helping to sustain many of the great programs and services that make The Virginia Home so unique.



MARCH 2011 **Mitch Albom**
Best-selling author of *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

MARCH 2012 **Marcus Luttrell**
Retired Navy SEAL and author of *Lone Survivor*.

MARCH 2013 **Rudy Giuliani**
107th Mayor of New York City, present at Ground Zero on September 11th.

MARCH 2014 **Lopez Lomong**
One of the Lost Boys of Sudan, who became a two-time U.S. Olympian.



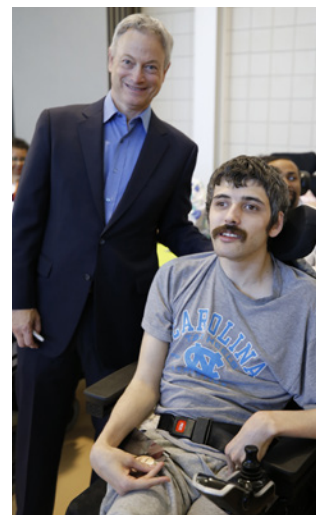
APRIL 2015 **Marlee Matlin & Henry Winkler**
Actor, author and director Henry Winkler and award-winning actress and activist Marlee Matlin.

MARCH 2016 **Christopher Gardner**
Best-selling author of the 2006 autobiography *The Pursuit of Happyness*.



MARCH 2017 **Captain Scott Kelly**
NASA astronaut who spent a historic, record-breaking year in space.

MARCH 2018 **Jenna Bush Hager and Barbara Pierce Bush**
Daughters of former president George W. Bush.



MARCH 2019 **Gary Sinise**
Actor, philanthropist and advocate for America's servicemen and women.

APRIL 2022 **David Feherty**
Professional golfer and golf analyst, author and television sports host.

MARCH 2023 **Jeff Henderson**
Former drug-dealer turned award-winning celebrity chef and best-selling author.

APRIL 2024 **Brooke Shields**
Actor, stage and screen, best-selling author and advocate for women in the arts.



Our speakers also visit with residents before the evening event, creating meaningful connections and sharing personal moments of inspiration. From top: (opposite page) Mitch Albom, Marcus Luttrell, Henry Winkler; (this page) Jenna Bush Hager and Barbara Pierce Bush, Gary Sinise, Brooke Shields and GeNienne Samuels.

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We're proud to support The Virginia Home.

Being a good citizen means doing more than simply complying with laws. It also means supporting causes that improve the community at large.

We value The Virginia Home and the difference it makes in the lives of their residents. Thank you for letting us be a small part in helping you provide such compassionate and professional care to those in need.


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For more information:
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We look forward to seeing you!

Learn more: scrippsOMA.org

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