Home Happenings

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THE VIRGINIA HOME

More than a Room

A Place to Call Home





From rendering to reality! The architectural rendering of a a new resident room (left) becomes a reality (above) in our mock-up room at The Virginia Home. Residents Sonny Miller and Trevor Burcham try it on for size.

There is something about fall that makes us think about home. The mornings turn cooler, the light begins to change, and familiar routines take on a comforting rhythm. We gather around tables, pull on sweaters, watch the seasons change outside our windows and appreciate the places that make us feel we belong.

At The Virginia Home, home has always meant much more than a place to live. It is where residents build friendships, pursue goals, celebrate milestones and live each day fully. And now, as construction continues on our new Home in Hanover County, we are creating something extraordinary: a place designed from the ground up around the lives of the people who will call it home.

More than a room. A home.

Step inside our completed mock-up room, and you get a glimpse of what is to come. Every detail has been thoughtfully considered around the people who will live there. The space is designed for comfort, accessibility, privacy and independence, while also providing something deeply personal: a place that can feel like your own.

There will be room for photographs of family and friends, favorite books and belongings, artwork and holiday decorations—the little things that tell a story about the person who lives there. Because a room is where someone sleeps. A home is where someone lives.

And this new home will offer so much more than beautiful private rooms. The 160 resident rooms will be part of a vibrant community designed to encourage connection, activity and belonging. Expanded spaces for physical, occupational and aquatic therapy, recreation and community engagement will create new opportunities for residents to pursue interests, develop skills, reach personal goals and participate in the world around them.

For residents of The Virginia Home, life extends far beyond their bedroom door. It might begin with a morning routine supported by a familiar caregiver and continue with therapy, activities, a visit from a volunteer or family member, or an afternoon out in the community. There are birthdays to celebrate, music to enjoy, games to play, holidays to anticipate and stories to share. There are quiet moments, too—a favorite television program, a conversation with a friend or simply enjoying the comfort of a familiar space. And that new space will now be large enough to accommodate more than one wheelchair!



A view from the hallway door shows the mock-up room's large windows. Once the Hanover campus is complete, they will overlook landscaped courtyards, ponds and natural surroundings. A semi-private bath will be located just inside the room to the left.

These are the moments that make a place feel like home.

For more than 130 years, The Virginia Home has been a place where adults with irreversible physical disabilities can live with the care, support and opportunities they deserve. The new Home will carry that mission forward while opening the door to possibilities we can only begin to imagine.

And while so much will be new, some of the most important things will remain exactly the same: the laughter between friends; the staff members who know a resident's favorite routine; the family members who stop by for a visit; the volunteer who becomes a familiar face; and the sense of community that turns a residence into a home.

The mock-up room is so special because it's more than just a preview of possible finishes, fixtures and furnishings. It allows us to step into the future and imagine the lives that will unfold there.

We invite you to step inside, too.

Come see the mock-up room. Join us for a tour in Hanover and watch our new Home take shape. Walk the grounds, imagine the possibilities and see firsthand what your support is helping make possible. Most of all, be part of this exciting chapter in The Virginia Home's story.

This fall, as the leaves change and another season begins, we are also looking ahead to a year of transition. The year 2027 will be our last at our current location—a place that has been home to generations of residents, families, staff and friends. It will be a year to celebrate the memories made here, the lives changed here and the extraordinary community that has grown within these walls, even as we look toward what comes next.

Whether you have been part of our family for decades or are just getting to know us, there is a place for you in this journey. Spend time with us. See where our residents live today, then join us in Hanover to imagine where they will live tomorrow.

We hope you'll be part of this remarkable transition — and see it for yourself. Belinda Falconer and Karen Kardian of our Advancement Team would be delighted to welcome you for a tour and share a firsthand look at what's taking shape for the future of The Virginia Home.

Call 804-359-4093 or email Karen.Kardian@thevirginiahome.org to schedule your visit!

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By Laura Stewart, Chair

Dear Friends:

When the building project began, a group of us spent week after week in a conference room at The Home planning hallways, moving doorways, considering windows—imagining how the residents and staff would live best in a new space. There were seemingly endless details to consider and sometimes, hotly debate. It was hard to imagine that we'd ever finish.



It's taking shape! Our new home is coming to life—and this photo, taken in mid-September, already shows how much progress is happening. With every passing day, we're one step closer to a place designed for the people who call The Virginia Home their home.

Last November, on a beautiful and chilly day, we broke ground on that new building. Some trees had been cleared and there was a lot of dirt, but it was basically an empty lot. However, it was exciting to think that we were moving closer to our dream.

If those first two years of planning felt slow, the last year of construction has been fast! Our weekly meetings have turned to every other week at the site, and the progress is remarkable and exhilarating. As of this writing, the main building has walls and a roof. The resident wings are enormous slabs of concrete, and there are pipes sticking out of the ground, representing plumbing in each room. I had the chance to walk through the main building and it's beautiful to me. The new campus is going to be such a blessing to our residents, staff and families.

I hope if you're reading this message, you'll reach out to me or to someone at The Home and come see the progress. It's an exciting time in the life of The Virginia Home, and we want to share that excitement with our community.

Wishing you a happy fall season, and hope to see you at The Home!

Make a Connection

Every great relationship begins with an introduction

The Virginia Home is fortunate to have strong partnerships with businesses and organizations in our community—and we'd love to build more. Our partners help us expand opportunities for the individuals we serve, strengthen our programs and connect us with people who share our commitment to making a difference.

We are looking to build new relationships with:

- Organizations interested in volunteering and engaging their teams in meaningful service opportunities.
- Businesses looking for meaningful community partnerships that align their employees and resources with a mission that matters, as well as those offering matching gift programs.
- Foundations interested in supporting our mission through grants and partnerships.

As we look toward an exciting new chapter, we are eager to expand our circle of partners and reach more people who want to make an impact.

Know a company, organization or foundation that might be a good fit? We'd love an introduction. You may be helping us begin a relationship that makes a lasting difference.



CarMax employees brought plenty of energy and kindness to The Home this summer! They joined residents for bowling, rolled up their sleeves to help with projects like our tote bag clean-out, and always brought a helping hand.

The Sandridges

A Family that Gives Together

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."
— Helen Keller

When it comes to volunteering, you can count on the Sandridge Family to bring the energy! **Whitney, Brian, Quinn, Owen**, and **Henry** have become such a special part of our TVH family, and they truly make the most of every opportunity to give back.



The Sandridge family brought some extra love to The Home on Valentine's Day, making Gail Wells their first stop!

The Sandridges have a knack for being wherever the fun is happening! At our **Annual Fishing Tournament**, they don't just help residents cast a line but dig up and bring the worms we use for bait! During Summer Sports season, they are all in, cheering on residents, bringing their own gloves, joining the games to help with whatever is needed. They also regularly help at our Junior Board events, including our **Ice Cream Socials**, where they take orders, socialize, and even show off their dance moves! At our **Clothes Closets**, they are always ready to lend a hand and spend time with their friends. Their generosity extends beyond their time, as they regularly donate in-kind items to help provide much needed supplies for our residents. But just wait for the holidays, they bring holidays spirit to a whole new level! Brian transforms into the jolliest Santa, while Whitney, Owen, Henry, and Quinn become his trusty little elves. Together, they fill the Home with smiles, laughter, and joy!

What makes the Sandridges so special is that they do it all together. Every member of the family finds a way to help, connect, and make a difference. Whitney started as an active member of our Jr. Board, but she quickly turned volunteering into a family outing, a new family tradition, summer plans, and we feel so lucky to be part of it!

Thank you, Sandridge family, for choosing to be part of this special family that we call The Virginia Home!

2026 USA Today Top Workplace

Earlier this year, The Virginia Home was recognized as a 2026 USA TODAY Top Workplace—an honor recognizing organizations that have created exceptional, people-first cultures.

This recognition is especially meaningful because it comes directly from our employees. Winners are selected based on confidential employee feedback gathered through a survey conducted by **Energage**. More than 42,000 organizations were invited to participate this year.

At The Virginia Home, our employees are at the heart of our mission. Being named a Top Workplace is a reflection of the people who make The Virginia Home special—not only in the care they provide, but in the way they support one another and embrace our shared mission.

"We are incredibly proud of this recognition," said CEO **Doug Vaughan**. "Our employees make The Virginia Home the caring, welcoming community it is, and we are grateful for the commitment they bring to our residents and to one another every day."

HOME TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Behind the Scenes

RECREATION THERAPY/COMMUNITY INTEGRATION: Recreation Therapy has had a busy summer! The **Summer Sports Program** wrapped up with **Boccia**, followed by our **Summer Concert Series** finale, **Jammin' in the Gym**, featuring **Vertigo**. Residents also enjoyed a **Travel Trip** to Northern Virginia, attending concerts by **Tim McGraw** and **Kesha**, along with dining and shopping at **Potomac Mills**.

In September, eight residents enjoyed two pontoon boat trips with **Beyond Boundaries**, taking in the river, spotting eagles and even watching sturgeon jump! **Community Integration** also celebrated **Ronda Jones**, Community Integration Coordinator, for 35 years of service and enjoyed several trips to **CarMax Park** to cheer on the **Flying Squirrels**, including their playoff games.

Looking ahead, fall brings a trip to the **State Fair of Virginia**, holiday outings and the new **Richmond on Broadway** season at the **Altria Theater**, which kicked off with **Dirty Dancing**. **Sara Stiltner** and J**ody Young** will also give a presentation about our **TVH Travel Trips** at the **Therapeutic Recreation Alumni Council Conference** on Sept. 24–25.

SOCIAL SERVICES: Social Services continues to support residents in many ways. This summer, residents attended **Camp Bruce McCoy**, **Camp Easterseals** and **SOAR365's Camp Baker**, with planning coordinated among residents, families, camp staff, funding sources and the TVH team

Throughout the year, Social Services provides emotional support, assists with Medicaid renewals and advance care planning, and helps residents stay connected and independent. **Monthly Residents' Rights Group** and **Cerebral Palsy University** sessions provide opportunities to explore topics such as communication, fatigue and genetics.



Resident Celia Ross (back left) celebrates with members of the Social Services team, past and present, at the Fall Festival's "Wheel of Kindness."

Looking ahead, we're preparing for our annual **Day at the Polls**, supporting residents in exercising their right to vote, and partnering with **VCU's Partnership for People with Disabilities on LEAP**, which focuses on healthy relationships, personal safety and abuse prevention. We're also looking forward to the **Fall Festival**'s beloved **Wheel of Kindness** and welcoming families after the **Family Council Meeting** before the **Boo House**.

SPEECH THERAPY: We always welcome family, friends and volunteers to The Home! A few simple changes can make communication with our residents easier and more meaningful:

- Reduce distractions. Turn down the TV or music and limit background noise.



Blue Blazes pride! Wes Ashberry and Victor Anderson proudly hoist the trophy, with a little help from volunteers from St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, during the height of our summer sports season at TVH.

- Face the person. Eye contact, facial expressions and gestures provide important cues.
- Give it time. Ask one clear question at a time and allow plenty of time to respond.
- Don't assume. If you're unsure, ask, "Did I understand you correctly?"

Small changes can help residents feel heard, respected and included while supporting their individual needs, choices and preferences.



The garden comes alive with music as Trey Bollinger and Music Therapist Amanda Romano enjoy a late-summer duet.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES: The Start of a New Season is here! We've enjoyed **Music with Pam**, front porch visits with **Caring Canines**, and a wonderful performance from our six-person **Bluegrass Group**. We were also treated to beautiful music from the **Saints Community String Ensemble**, a student-led group made up of students from **St. Christopher's** and **St. Catherine's**. There has been plenty of fun and entertainment, too! **Improv** with the **Weatherford Sisters** brought lots of laughs, while **Rosa's Lunch** gave residents the chance to enjoy a special meal, and **Fiction to Film** has kept us captivated. We've welcomed back **St. James** and the return of **Cathedral's weekly Holy Communion**.

As we officially say goodbye to our wonderful summer interns and volunteers, we were excited to have our high schoolers, **VCU**, **UR**, and **Bon Secours** students back as the new school year gets underway. We couldn't and wouldn't have nearly as much fun without all of our wonderful regular volunteers. We are so happy to have everyone back home!

There is lots more fun to be had and fall is all about giving thanks, giving back, and making the most of the season ahead. Plan to join us for one of our many fall events. Check out our website and we will see you around the Home soon!



A quiet moment, a little sunshine and time together: Jasmine enjoys a special moment with resident Johnny Holmes in The Virginia Home garden.

GROWING INTO LEADERSHIP

Jasmine Madison, R.N.

When Jasmine Madison first began caring for her grandmother, she never imagined the experience would shape her career. Her grandmother was aging, blind and diabetic, and Jasmine stepped in to help. Through that experience, she discovered something important: she wanted to care for others.

That realization led Jasmine to nursing and, in August 2012, to The Virginia Home as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

Over the next 14 years, Jasmine's career—and her commitment to the residents she serves—continued to grow. Working on the second-floor men's hall, she built lasting relationships with residents while gaining valuable experience providing compassionate, hands-on care.

But Jasmine wanted to do more.

"I always felt like I wanted more responsibility and to have more options in my career," she said.

With determination and the support of The Virginia Home, Jasmine continued her education while working full time. She earned her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) credential in 2020 and became a Registered Nurse (RN) in 2025.

Today, Jasmine serves as a Nursing Supervisor, overseeing staffing for nurses and CNAs, following up on acute resident care, placing orders and coordinating pharmacy needs.

"The Virginia Home is not just an ordinary nursing home. Residents get a good quality of life, and there is a partnership with families. We work as a team to coordinate care."

The Virginia Home supported Jasmine's professional growth through tuition reimbursement and flexible scheduling, allowing her to work while attending school. She earned her LPN from **St. Mary's School of Practical Nursing** and later attended **Galen School of Nursing** through HCA to earn her RN.

Her advice to others considering further education is simple: "Continue your education. It's hard, but doable."

Jasmine plans to continue growing in management and looks forward to what the future holds. Her personal motto may say it best: "Living the dream at The Virginia Home."

Outside of work, Jasmine is engaged to be married and is the proud mom of two teenagers. She enjoys traveling and spending time with friends.

After more than a decade at The Virginia Home, Jasmine's story is a wonderful reminder that sometimes a career begins with caring for someone you love—and grows into something more than you ever imagined.

Ongoing Support

Lasting Impact

Every day at The Virginia Home is filled with moments that matter—a favorite activity, a therapy session, a new connection, a shared laugh, or simply the comfort of knowing you are home.

You can help make those moments possible all year long with a monthly gift.

When you give each month, you are providing a steady source of support for the programs, services and opportunities that make life here meaningful. And because your gift continues throughout the year, its impact continues, too.



Carolyn Ivey and a young friend get ready to reel in a big one at The Virginia Home's Annual Fishing Tournament!

Whether you choose $25, $50, $100 or another amount that works for you, a gift each month can add up!

Our online giving form makes it easy to create a recurring gift—and you can choose the amount and frequency that are right for you.

Start your monthly gift at thevirginiahome.org/giving or scan our QR code



Pia Scott is ready for fall—and she's got the message to prove it! Wishing everyone a wonderful fall season from Pia and all of us at The Virginia Home!

Coming Attractions

Oct 9	Fall Festival
Oct 15	Junior Board Clothes Closet
Oct 16	A Day at the Polls/Voting
Oct 29	Halloween Boo House Social
Nov 25	Thanksgiving Worship Service
Dec 9	Junior Board Cupcake Party
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Open House
Dec 24	Christmas Worship Service
Jan 8	Second Annual 'Reindeer Roundup'

Please visit **thevirginiahome.org** for our weekly calendar and follow us on social for up-to-the-minute news.

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