

SEPTEMBER 2021



THE FOCUS

Something For Everyone.

No Turning Back

A mother's Hope turns to a Hope Initiative

TO HAVE A DREAM
AND LIVE IT

MORE INSIGHT FROM
HOPE'S CORNER

**FREEDOM
IN MUSIC
A PORTAL OF
WEALTH**

HOPE FOR TOMORROW

A New Vision for Historic Gainsboro!

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
JUSTICE BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM CENTER

FROM THE STAR CITY TO THE WORLD.
CULTURE | BUSINESS | ORIGINATORS

FAIR

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Hiring DSP's

Needed Immediately

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11 SEPTEMBER 2021

10am-2pm

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Roanoke VA 24017

TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND EXPERIENCE

Direct Support Professionals must have a minimum of a high school diploma, a general education diploma, and some experience supporting individuals with developmental disabilities or an equivalent combination of training/education and/or experience required.

Contact for more Info:

Jessenia (240)272-3076

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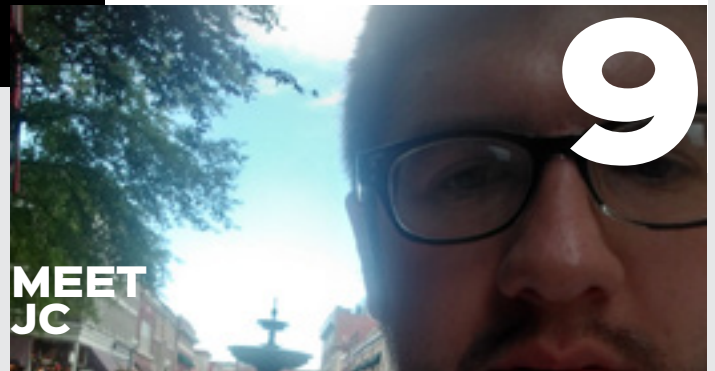
J.J. Mayo (540)494-4873



WHAT'S INSIDE



DOWNLOAD NOW FROM GOOGLE PLAY OR IOS APP STORES



GIZZY'S HUMAN ADVICE



LIVING THE DREAM



HOPE IN THE MUSIC

editor



Hello Good Peoples!!

For those of you catching your first issue of The Focus Magazine let me welcome to the World of NFX. The Focus Magazine are real stories from real people in the community we service. Though some are academics, some are just people expressing how they feel about their environment and goals for life. Therefore, if you are a scholar, we'd love for you to read with that presupposition and enjoy the trueness of the writers from the lenses they look through.

For everyone else, this is our first issue in a while. Just keeping it a stack, we just been trying to figure out just what the hell has been going on here in the world. COVID-19 is still the dark storm cloud hendering normalcy and engagement with our family.

Well we are back! 8 years later we are still the source for Culture, Business, and Originators coming out of the Star-City so thanks again for checking in on us and let's get ready to start "Living a Purposeful Life through Acting Faith"

TomA Page-Rose







Enjoy Your Stay in Roanoke, VA at Our Hotel

Nestled in the heart of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, the Holiday Inn® Tanglewood - Roanoke has a picturesque location in Roanoke's upscale south side. We are located off Route 220/I-581 and close to I-81. This central and safe location makes us attractive to guests working in and visiting Downtown Roanoke and Historic Grandin. The Salem Civic Center, Moyer Sports Complex, Berglund Center and Carilion Hospital are all within minutes of our hotel making local travel a breeze. Discovery awaits as we are just two miles from the Blue Ridge Parkway, minutes away from shopping, breweries and a plethora of local dining favorites. For those looking to further explore, the Taubman Museum, Mill Mountain Star, Zoo and the famous Blackdog Salvage are worth a visit! Guests can travel a short distance to the D-Day Memorial, Explore Park, Virginia Tech University, VMI, Washington and Lee, Liberty and Ferrum and Martinsville Speedway! Our hotel's warm and welcoming team will make any traveler feel right at home. Guests enjoy complimentary use of our fitness and business centers and seasonal, outdoor heated pool! Our sleeping rooms greet you with plush amenities, mini fridge, microwave and Keurig, along with free WiFi and well-lit parking. When the day has wended down, don't forget to stop by our on-site restaurant, Elephant Walk, for daily specials!

What are you waiting for?!

See you soon!



As the CEO of SERCAP,
Hope Cupit knows how
to address issues and
find solutions

Hope's Corner



Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERCAP), a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization, is currently assisting the Town of Monterey by providing a small grant of \$1,172.00 to the Town, from the agency's fundraising efforts via a popcorn fundraiser. SERCAP's Regional Department received a request from the Town of Monterey for assistance in relieving some of the negative financial impact to the Town's water system from \$4,148.82 in delinquent water bills from 11 customer accounts. The Town only has a population of 125 residents, 19.2% of whom live in poverty, with a typical household income of only \$29,375.00 per year. Given the Town's rural status and poverty level, SERCAP was happy to grant funds to offset a portion (approximately 28%) of the currently delinquent water bills. COVID 19 has caused small rural water utilities to suffer financially from unpaid water bills by customers.

SERCAP's mission is to improve the quality of life for low-income individuals by promoting affordable water and wastewater facilities, community development, environmental health, and economic self-sufficiency.

SERCAP works towards accomplishing its mission by providing training, technical, and financial assistance to communities and low-to-moderate income (LMI) individuals for water, wastewater, housing, and community development projects.

Even during the difficulties of 2020 and 2021, SERCAP's dedicated staff members have continued to support Community Water/Wastewater Systems, Water/Wastewater Operators, and LMI individuals struggling to maintain access to clean, safe drinking water and environmentally sound wastewater facilities. In conjunction with World Water Day in March of 2021, SERCAP raised \$586.00 through a small

popcorn pop-up shop fundraiser. The proceeds of that fundraiser, along with a dollar for dollar match from SERCAP's Water Is Life! Fund, are the funds designated to assist the Town of Monterey and its water utility.

Small donations to SERCAP's Water Is Life! Fund: <https://sercap.org/donate-now> , can have a big impact on communities and LMI individuals, like those living in the Town of Monterey, VA.

For more information about SERCAP and the agency's programs and services, visit SERCAP's website: www.sercap.org. You can also like SERCAP on Facebook @SERCAPWater , follow @SERCAPWater on Twitter, and Subscribe to SERCAP's YouTube Channel: SERCAPWater , to stay informed on the latest news, updates, and impacts from SERCAP.



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PAGE 8 | THE FOCUS MAGAZINE

Revitalized in Roanoke

"FOR THE ERA OF DEFIANCE IS BEHIND US"

Holton Plaza, Downtown Roanoke
Taken by J.C.

My name is J.C.

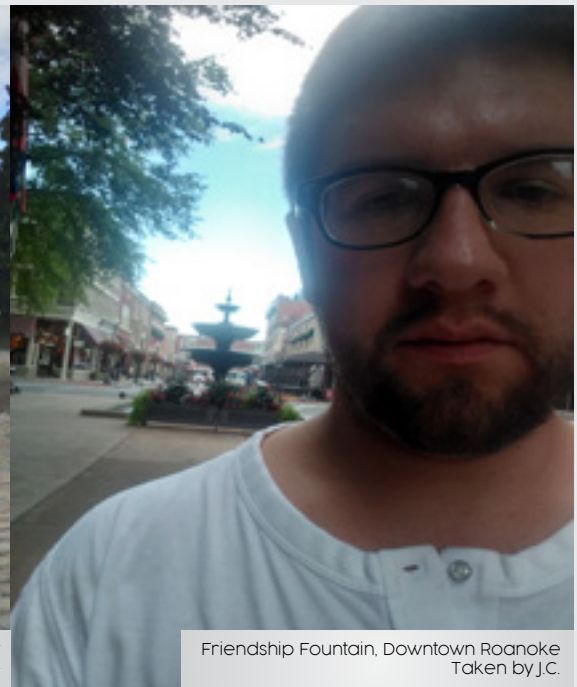
I recently moved back to Roanoke after a long stay elsewhere,
and found a home



Fountain at the Berglund Center, Roanoke
Taken by J.C.



Entranceway Park Fountain, Next to Hotel Roanoke
Taken by J.C.



Friendship Fountain, Downtown Roanoke
Taken by J.C.

instantly. All thanks goes to my adopted family and new business partners NuFocusedX (NFX).

This is how my first day back in the Star City went. As my mentor gave me a tour of the facility, the CEO of NuFocusedX told me of all the upcoming opportunities that would be flooding my path. Afterwards I arranged my room as I saw fit folding my clothes and making my bed. Then on to what would take up a majority of my day, a self-guided tour of my old stomping grounds. I walked from 130 Whitten Ave(A pivotal piece of NFX) along the beautiful Roanoke Greenway towards downtown. On the way, I

tossed a penny into the Berglund Center Fountain for good luck, and stopped by McDonalds on Williamson Rd. for a delicious soft serve cone. Before I knew it, I was walking past Hotel Roanoke and Center In The Square. During my stroll through Elmwood park, I paused to marvel at the Roanoke Amphitheater as water shot up out of the multicolored fountains, in front of center stage.

As I continued on my path the sidewalk consisted of old brick sidewalks in Historic Southwest, as I trekked along Elm ave towards Wasena Bridge. As I crossed the bridge, I looked out at the winding Roanoke River, curling through the woods. Under the bridge I went to one of my favorite spots in all of Roanoke, Wasena Skate park, where some of my fondest memories occurred.



Roanoke Amphitheater at Elmwood Park Taken by J.C.



Fountains at Elmwood Park, Downtown Roanoke Taken by J.C.



Roanoke River, Wasena Bridge Taken by J.C.



Wasena Skatepark, Roanoke
Taken by J.C.



Wasena Park Greenway Bridge, Roanoke
Taken by J.C.

I spent some time there, before strolling on down the Greenway towards Black Dog Salvage, taking in nature as it was intended. Rippling river water and tree branches swaying in the warm summer wind could be seen for miles around. As I came upon Memorial bridge, I saw a couple ducks swimming down the Roanoke river.

After crossing Memorial bridge and making my way to Grandin Rd, I finished out my day by hanging out on Grandin in front of the Grandin Theatre. I appreciate the opportunity given to me today by The Focus Magazine for letting me share a nostalgic moment with the community.



A sculpture at Vic Thomas, Roanoke Taken by J.C.

ARE YOU READY TO START

ABOUT SERCAP

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERCAP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides training, technical, and financial assistance to both low-to-moderate income (LMI) individuals and rural communities to address water, wastewater, housing, and community development needs. Initially founded in Virginia, the organization has expanded to serve seven southeastern states, including: Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

SERCAP'S MISSION

SERCAP'S Mission is to improve the quality of life for low-income individuals by promoting affordable water and wastewater facilities, community development, environmental health, and economic self-sufficiency.

SERCAP'S IMPACT

Since the agency's founding in 1969, SERCAP's programs and services have positively impacted rural communities and LMI individuals through the provision of adequate access to clean, safe drinking water, environmentally sound wastewater facilities, improved community infrastructure, and affordable housing that is warm, safe, and dry.

**When accessing SERCAP's services if you need assistance due to language barriers, mobility impairments, visual or hearing impairments, or other disabilities please let SERCAP staff know, so the agency can provide necessary accommodations.*

***SERCAP is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**GET ASSISTANCE.
VOLUNTEER.
DONATE.**

SOUTHEAST RURAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC.

347 Campbell Ave., SW
Roanoke, VA 24016
Phone: 540-345-1184
Fax: 540-342-2932

www.sercap.org



Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.

Water. Life. Community.™

Water/Wastewater Operator and Stormwater Management Training

- A World of Career Opportunities!



CAREERS IN WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATIONS AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

State-certified Water/Wastewater Operators and Stormwater Managers, run community water/wastewater systems so that residents and businesses have reliable access to clean, safe drinking water, environmentally sound wastewater facilities, and well managed local infrastructure.

Water/Wastewater and Stormwater Professionals:

- Water Operators treat water, making it safe to drink.
- Wastewater Operators remove harmful pollutants from domestic and industrial liquid waste so it is safe to return to the environment.
- Water/Wastewater Operators manage a system of machines, often through a system of control boards, to transfer and/or treat water and/or wastewater.
- Stormwater Managers control the use of stormwater runoff in a community through: planning for runoff; maintaining stormwater systems; and regulating the collection, storage, and movement of stormwater.

TRAIN TO BE A WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATOR OR STORMWATER MANAGER

SERCAP has partnered with Mountain Empire Community College to provide a comprehensive Water/Wastewater Operator Training Program. SERCAP will help interested individuals to prepare for the program, register for classes, apply for financial assistance, study for the certification exam, and find an internship/apprenticeship with a water/wastewater treatment facility. The Program is designed to provide participants with the tools, resources, and support needed, to get them trained and into the workforce.

- Program classes are delivered Online, followed by a 6-month in-person internship at a water/wastewater treatment plant.
- SERCAP places participants in an internship and assists in making connections in this new career
- After 6 months working in a water/wastewater facility, participants will be eligible to sit for the state licensing exam.

SERCAP's Water/Wastewater Operator and Stormwater Management Training Program will help participants to succeed by providing:

Pre-Training Assistance

- Support to complete GED, if needed
- Application Assistance for Financial Aid
- Registration Assistance for Classes
- Supplies, including a Laptop Computer

Training Assistance

- Placement Services to assist Participants in securing an Internship/Apprenticeship at a Water/Wastewater Treatment Facility

Post-Training Assistance

- State Certification Exam Preparation/ Tutoring Assistance
- Financial Assistance to cover State Exam Fee
- Networking and Job Placement Services



***SERCAP Water/Wastewater Operator and Stormwater Management Training Program is made possible by Training from Mountain Empire Community College.**



BENEFITS OF BEING A WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATIONS OR STORMWATER PROFESSIONAL

Water/Wastewater operators are the first line of defense in public health. They deliver safe, plentiful drinking water to their customers and ensure that fire hydrants have enough water to fight fires. Being a water operator is a very meaningful career choice—you make a huge, positive difference in the health of your community.

Water/wastewater operators have an average nationwide salary of \$40,000 per year, but experienced operators can earn around \$80,000 per year in large communities—more in supervisory positions. Many utilities offer excellent benefits and opportunities for career advancement.

Many water operators are retiring, and there is expected to be an operator shortage in the near future. It's a great time to enter this industry, whether you're just starting your career or looking for a career change!

For more information or to apply to participate in the program, contact SERCAP at 540-345-1184, or visit the agency on-line at www.sercap.org.

A WHOLE NEW THING?



***SERCAP's Water/Wastewater Operator and Stormwater Management Training Program is made possible by Funding from Spring Point Partners.**

www.sercap.org

HOPE IS ALL WE HAVE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Last year, Christine Wright of Bradley Free Clinic's Hope Initiative sat down with TomA to discuss the many advantages of Bradley Free's much needed service. It was then that he found out the Christine's story of her role there was just the beginning, the journey adds way more depth to her drive to see people overcome addiction through the Hope Initiative. We caught up with her again to get more about her story

TA: Well Christine like I said, I was so inspired by our conversation, that we had two months ago. When we were talking about the Hope Initiative. Of course, the role that you do there, but more importantly you have a real story. You yourself have overcome things and not only been able to stay strong through that but provide that same hope for someone for so many other things and that's such a motherly quality, you know, and it being Mother's Day. We're celebrating, but I've always wanted to have an opportunity for someone to just speak to me, candidly of coming out on the other side of that and what that trial is as a mother. I don't have any formatted questions, like I said I just wanted to kinda get your story tell me a little bit about you.

CW: Absolutely the timings pretty ironic right now. 2016 was the last time I was arrested and that was the weekend prior to mothers day. So I was pregnant at the time with the youngest of my 2 children, one was

3 and the other a year old. The timing of all of this was pretty convenient, coming up on 5 years of recovery, this weekend. I definitely appreciate you reaching out and being interested in my story. Like I said I found out when I was incarcerated, that I was pregnant with my youngest child, and I was actively using. My middle child, my son, was born addicted, and that was a soul shattering experience to have to watch. My innocent child having to suffer the consequences of my actions,

was a really hard thing for me to deal with. So having been through that and then finding out that I was pregnant again. For the first time ever, I decided that it was the best thing for me to have an abortion. I didn't want another child to suffer the consequences of my actions and my addiction.

I got out of jail on a Monday, Tuesday I called and made an appointment to have the procedure done that Saturday. As fate would have it, that Friday I was rearrested for that last time. That saved

not only my daughters life also my life. I was sentenced to the Alpha program within the jail for 6 months.

TA: Five years on the other side of that, thanks



for sharing that with me, I know it's not easy to bring that kind of stuff back up. I appreciate your courage not only to be able to recognize that but still be in a position to encourage others to stick with it. Has that helped? Is it tough? Just tell me a little bit about that experience, now that I'm sure there are other mothers that come through there with similar situations?

CW: To be in the position I'm in now, where I can help light the way for the next person to find their way out of active addiction. It gives it all a purpose, a reason for happening and it doesn't feel like it all just sort of happened in vain, it was clearly for a reason. Being able to come out and share those experiences with other people, particularly mothers, is in itself a powerful thing to be able to do. I do encounter women through the Hope Initiative who are pregnant, recently been pregnant, or that have children at home, while they're trying to pursue treatment, or dealing with legal obligations. Being able to say to them, "I've been there", or "I know what that's like" and try and help them find the strength in themselves. Instead of feeling defeated, and dealing with all of the guilt and shame that goes along with that, as a mother.

The hardest part for me was, the being able to share some of what I've learned in my 5 brief years of recovery. To be able to say, "I know it's hard, and I know it hurts, but here's a different perspective to look at that, to be able to work on yourself, and become the best version of

you for yourself." So that your children can reap the benefits in the long run. Just being able to say that I can relate to that experience, that I've been there, provides the greatest hope and bond between the participants.

TA: 'm sure it adds to your purpose, and let me just go ahead and say, that anyone who can stay diligent and productive for 5 years. That is not a short time, that is a long time, a lot of things happen in 5 years. We've had 2 new Presidents of the United States in the last 5 years, so it's definitely something to be proud of.

I probably should've asked this before hand, but do you have a relationship with your children now? Are things getting better now?

CW: Absolutely, I have regained custody of all 3 of my children, and we all live together in our home. Just the 3 of them and me spent all weekend going hiking and

to horse stables, and out in nature. Things are incredible, it took a long time to build a relationship with my youngest because I was not around for the first 6 months of her life, due to being incarcerated and in treatment.

So it took time to build that connection and rebuild the relationship and trust with my other 2 children, it has definitely been hard work, but it is more than worth it. I feel as though they have forgiven me. They're still really young and its a lot for them to understand, but I try and be very honest and open with them. So that they understand addiction and if the time were to



come around for them to go through those same struggles to know that they're not alone and understand how it works. Not just be some taboo topic, that you don't talk about, so I'm definitely very open and honest with them.

TA: That's great, the fact that they're back with you. I have adult children and they're hard to figure out anyway. What does that say about the organization you work for, knowing that they



know of your history?

CW: They have been beyond supportive, it's really interesting how it all sort of came to be. I did treatment through drug court and since I graduated the treatment and was released from jail. I still had requirements of 100 hours of community service to complete. After reaching out to my p.o. and wanting to give back to the cause around addiction, he connected me with the Hope Initiative. Again the timing was really interesting, the Hope Initiative first formed August of 2016, and I completed treatment just 2 short months later, October 2016. I got out and began volunteering with the Hope Initiative for my drug court hours and as the universe would have it 4 days after graduating drug court. I was offered the first full-time position at the Hope Initiative as an employee.

It was originally volunteer ran, so that they knew everything about me? This is such a loaded question, the answer to something like this is huge. Jeanine and Rue have been incredible mentors for me, in the world of professionalism and employment. This has definitely been an incredible opportunity given to me that I do not take for granted.

Learn more about the Hope Initiative at Bradley Free Clinic www.bradleyfreeclinic.com



Get Your Style at...





Families Expecting Deliverance Using Prayer

Seeing A Vision Manifest

BUILDING A NEW GAINSBORO

VIEW FROM 1ST STREET NW CUL-DE-SAC



The Gainsborough Community

August 18, 2021 *by Jamie Robinson*

The Gainsborough community in my opinion in 1984 was a thriving community with very little vacant properties and some businesses within the neighborhood. Over the years that has changed. Now there are no black owned businesses in the neighborhood very few in the Roanoke if I am speaking truthfully.

The homes are run down, many vacant slipping further and further into disrepair, getting condemned or demolished leaving a vacant lot flourishing with overgrown weeds and littered with trash. I remember as a kid there was so much to do. There were events held for children at the neighborhood library where they would read to us, teach us different arts and crafts like making a Christmas tree from a book or painting ceramics, they also showed us how to make our own healthy snacks like celery with peanut butter and raisins or with cream cheese .

The PAC Office that would take us to the apple orchard, the skating rink or to the Harrison Museum to learn about our black culture. I also have some memory of going into Dr. Claytor's dental office. It was a good experience everyone there was very friendly. I couldn't wait to go back but unfortunately they closed down before I had the opportunity.



There was a YMCA across the street from Gainsborough library that we would go into and play a arcade game, shoot pool, attempt to punch on the speed bag and watch one of the men from the neighborhood teach boxing. There was also a store open on Henry Street that sold candy by the brown paper bag full for a few quarters which I even then found hard to believe. I thought the elders made that kind of stuff up until I experienced it for myself.

VIEW FROM PATTON AVE NW



I also remember the curiosity of what happened to some of the residents from Henry street. At one time before they tore down the houses I remember walking right into one because the front door had been open for days if not weeks only to find that once I got inside that everything was still there including one woman's purse with her identification card, birth certificate and social security card still inside as well as cash. I couldn't understand it...even now every now and then I wonder where they all went in such a



hurry and why. What was so important to just vanish from your home and personal belongings? I remember the days of The Henry Street Heritage Festival actually being on Henry Street with plenty of black vendors selling items that they themselves made, having good music performed by black entertainers some famous some local but it was always a good time to be had. Those were the good days.

Now that I am an adult and have taken in all the information that has been given to me through my own eyes, I inspired to see that there may be a whole new life coming to Gainsboro. The group of creators I have been working with lately has showed me plans for whole whole New Gainsboro Business Corridor that will not only bring new life to the community, it is targeted at bringing black business and home ownership back to those who have been doing their best to survive the residual effects of life after urban Renewal. It's exciting to see plans for a new Claytor Clinic, renovated Lawson Building, and maybe even The Historic Dumas Hotel.

I'm keeping the Hope!!!

Gizzy's Human Advice

Sometimes it is hard to get a true understanding of what's happening in you "Humans" life and why you should do what you do. I get it, I and all of my kind have been studying you guys long enough to be able to help you out... Gizzy

Gizzy Cat's experiences have made the most of his moment by educating himself in the traits and characteristics of humans. This month Gizzy gives us advice on how to not go crazy from staying the house during COVID!!

HEY EVERYBODY. I KNOW IT'S BEEN A MOMENT SINCE YOU HEARD FROM ME AND MY COUSIN GAGE. WE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT JUST WHAT IN THE HELL IS GOING ON WITH ALL OF YOU HUMANS BEING HERE ALL DAY? I MEAN IT WAS COOL AT FIRST, HOWEVER YOU GUYS ARE REALLY STARTING TO GET RIDICULOUS. I BEEN WATCHIN GTHE NEWS SO I SEE WE ARE STILL DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC MAKING IT CONFUCISING FOR ALL, HOWEVER DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU FROM TAKING US OUTSIDE FOR FRESH AIR. BEING IN WITH YOU PEOPLE NON-STOP WITH OUT AN ACTUAL WALK IN THE PARK, JOG ON THE GREENWAY, OR JUST MOVING ABOUT MORE UP AND DOWN THE STEPS.

UNLIKE ME AND MY BEAUTIFUL FUR THAT HIDES WHEN I'M EATING MORE BECAUSE IM NOT GOING OUTSIDE AS MUCH, SAD TO SAY YOU HUMAN FOLKS DO NOT SHARE IN THAT SAME LUXURY. SO BEFORE THIS THING CONTINUES TO GET TO-

TALLY OUT OF HAND, LET ME SHOW YOU SOME PHOTOS OF ME AND M Y FOLKS OUT HERE DOING THINGS OUTSIDE BEFORE WE BECAME LOCKED IN WITH YOU ALL.

REMEMBER, WE LOVE YOU REGARDLESS, JUST YOU GETTING MORE AGGRAVATED AT THE TV FOR NOT HAVING SOMETHING NEW AFTER YOU BINGED FOR THREE WEEKENDS STRAIGHT IS NOT MY FAULT.

EITHER WAY, GAGE AND I ARE HOPING EVERYONE IS STAYING SAFE AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO EVERYONE BEING CRAZY OUT IN PUBLIC INSTEAD US HAVING TO ABSORB IT ALL IN OUR HAVENS OF PEACE.

JUST MY TWO CENTS.
CATCH YOU NEXT MONTH

AND REMEMBER,
NOT ALL CATS ARE FRISKY!

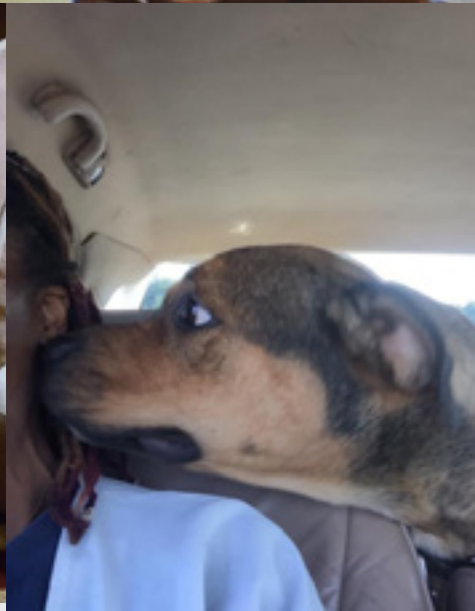
Unlike most pets, Gizzy was not sent to learn from humans, Gizzy has been given a special quality to analyze and actually teach humans.



GIZZY



Cousin Gage



Did you know

THE BRADLEY "FREE" CLINIC OFFERS

The road to recovery
is just ahead

Volunteers will assist **YOU** in finding resources
for the treatment and recovery of addiction.

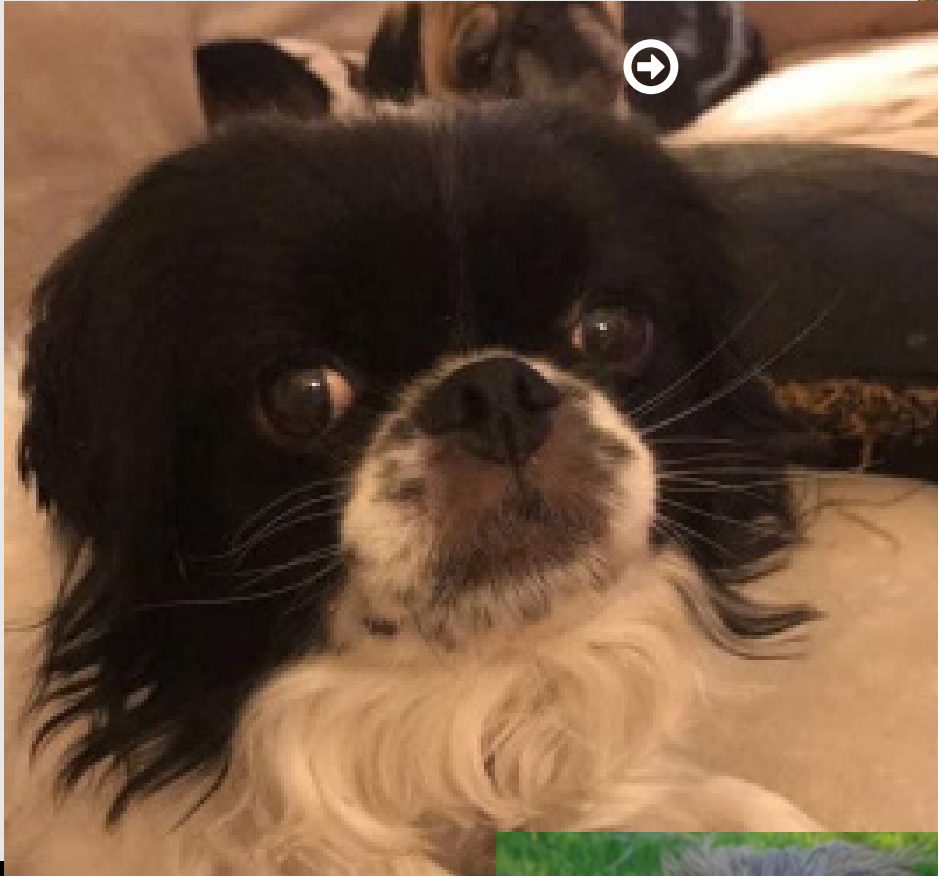
Roanoke Valley
H★PE

Call the HOPE Line: 540-339-9010

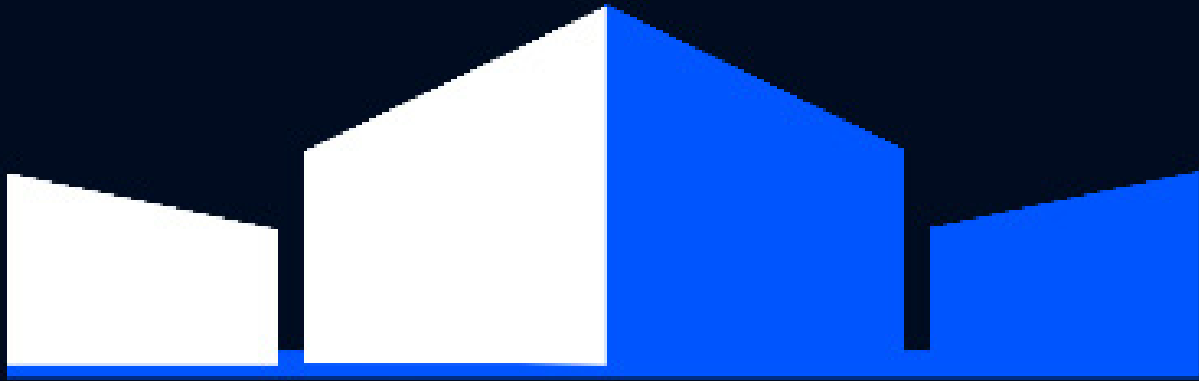
The Roanoke Valley HOPE Initiative (RVHI) "with Angels" is designed to provide a gateway to professional resources for persons suffering from SUDs (Substance Use Disorders), in any form (opiates, meth, marijuana, alcohol), within the greater Roanoke area, specifically but not limited to Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem, Vinton, Botetourt and Craig, who ask to enter the HOPE program. This program is also designed to inform the community at-large as to the severity of the Opioid epidemic confronting this community

Learn more at www.bradleyfreeclinic.com









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HAVING A DREAM & LIVING IT

November 30th, it will be 27 years since my mother gave us our residence. For more than 15 years my mother told me to become an American citizen. It was until May of this year, (2019) my first mother's day with my mom in heaven that I decided to become



PHOTO :
COURTESY OF FOCUS FASHION



naturalized to honor my mother. Thanks to my best friend that made a call in order for me to do the paperwork that I did! This moment is a moment that I had been waiting for years and it took only 5 months. Mami, este logro es para ti. Te amo y sé que desde el cielo estuviste ahí conmigo esta tarde en la corte al hacer mi juramento junto con mis otros difuntos (Abuelitos Aurora y Gabriel y mi adorada Dolores Padilla) —Facebook November 2019 in Roanoke, Virginia.

Within the Roanoke & Southwestern Virginia area there are socioeconomically disadvantaged families. These families have a higher probability of being minority, non-English speaking, & immigrant populations. Due to systemic issues within many facets, these families find themselves in financial struggles often. Our program is established to help address a few of the basic human needs of these families.

Description:

An open closet of donated items made available to socioeconomically disadvantaged families. Families that systemic issues lead to them falling through gaps. A place they feel safe to come for assistance without judgment, but definitely with compassion.

Purposed solution:

As a budding solution for this gap in our humanity, it will take people & time. We are currently small but mighty with open doors, donations, and open hearts. We are excited to see where our journey in helping others with compassion and empathy takes us to next.

Action plan & Benefits to the community:

This is a program that can build upon its own success. As it is implemented it can provide additional opportunities for those within the community to learn job skills, social skills, have valuable access to resources that may have been previously unavailable. This isn't a program you can fully equate to a fixed dollar amount. This is a program of human needs and passion for mankind. We partner with other non profits in our area to bring as many resources at the same time together as we can. We are within the community to help it fight past systemic issues faced each day.



Dentro del área de Roanoke y el suroeste de Virginia hay familias en desventaja socioeconómica. Estas familias tienen una mayor probabilidad de ser poblaciones minoritarias, no angloparlantes e inmigrantes. Debido a problemas sistemáticos, estas familias se encuentran a menudo en luchas financieras. Nuestro programa se estableció para ayudar a abordar algunas de las necesidades humanas básicas de estas familias.

Descripción:

Un armario abierto de artículos donados puestos a disposición de familias en desventaja socioeconómica. Familias que los problemas sistemáticos les llevan a caer en brechas. Un lugar al que se sienten seguros para acudir en busca de ayuda sin juzgar, pero definitivamente con compasión.

Solución propuesta:

Como solución incipiente para esta brecha en nuestra humanidad, se necesitarán personas y tiempo. Actualmente somos pequeños pero poderosos con puertas abiertas, donaciones y corazones abiertos. Estamos emocionados de ver a dónde nos lleva nuestro viaje para ayudar a otros con compasión y empatía.

Plan de acción y beneficios para la comunidad:

Este es un programa que puede basarse en su propio éxito. A medida que se implementa, puede brindar oportunidades adicionales para que aquellos dentro de la comunidad aprendan habilidades laborales, habilidades sociales y tengan un acceso valioso a recursos que antes no estaban disponibles. Este no es un programa que pueda equiparar completamente a una cantidad fija en dólares. Este es un programa de necesidades humanas y pasión por la humanidad. Nos asociamos con otras organizaciones sin fines de lucro en nuestra área para reunir tantos recursos y al mismo tiempo como podamos. Estamos dentro de la comunidad para ayudarla a combatir los problemas sistémicos del pasado que enfrentamos todos los días. I have a dream that my four little

children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character I, I have a dream ... MLK Jr. August 28th, 1963.





I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation, where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.
I have a dream ... MLK Jr. August 28th, 1963.

“When he talked about the beloved community, he talked about everyone bringing their gifts, their talents, their cultural experiences” Bernice King.

“I don’t think we can ignore race, but what my father is asking is to create the climate where every American can realize his or her dreams”. Martin Luther King III. (Pictured above with Zuheil Álvarez Cortes.

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MUSIC TURNED MOVEMENT

By K. Science

Focused Radio Correspondent, Khemistry Science recently started her own segment on Focused Radio where she sits down with #ExclusiveIndie artists on the scene to chop it up and see what is spinning in their world!

Yo, it's Royale SWRV from the beach. I think I started music probably about 07 - 08 as an artist named D Royale with Infinite Rain. I linked up with the SWRV probably around the same time. Kind of crafted our own sound over the past eight to ten years and just made a couple of albums. Working on a new project now, no title yet, but I'm going to think of a title soon. First project solo was the "Kush Jam EP". That's when I kind of found my lane. But



COMMUNITY LOVE WITH ROYALE SWERV

then I dropped the album "Breaking Bud" in 2016. That's probably my favorite project that I've done and my second album., "Neptune City Night". Got the most streams. I don't think it's better than "Breaking Bud" personally and now with my newer project it's coming full circle with all the sounds that we experimented with over ten years. So it's going to be like the ultimate SWRV album going to be my magnum opus something. This is Royale's recording number two. Yo, that was my latest single "Burn it Down" Royale SWRV on Spotify, TIDAL, Apple music. I did that probably last November. Yeah, the last October and November wanted to start off my newest project with like a different sound. Like a punk sound so that once again was "Burn It Down" getting into some of my older music from "Breaking Bud". I think I was more focused on making a complete sound, a complete album, like a whole story. So this next one is kind of like something like that.

Yo, and that was "No Filter" from my first project "Breaking Bud". That was featuring my homegirl Eleanor from Georgia. I haven't talked to her in a while, but shout out to Eleanor. She helped me a lot like on two projects. She came

through and sung like two or three songs I think. So, shout out to her. Going forward, 2020 I wrote a song called black paint. It was like right after Pop Smoke had passed away. I was like really sick at the time. I noticed my voice had like a low tone cuz I couldn't really talk all that well at the time cuz I was sick. I liked the tone so much I actually borrowed that for the song So this next song black paint is kind of like paying homage to Pop Smoke I wrote it right after he passed away and then recorded it probably right after I got sick so "Black Paint".

Hold on. Hold on. Hold on. Before I get back into it, I got to shout out my man Marley G. I completely forgot that you gave me the idea for that hook. 2021 I got a whole bunch of new records out.

I got the Community Love Store in Norfolk. We got one open it up in National Harbor 4/20 so shout out the community love shout out to my team. And what we're doing is to me impactful into the hands of Rose Community because ain't nothing like this. It's a community. It's like a creative hub for a community like you can come in here with an idea and just work with us. We can help you create your idea. So you got an idea, then pull up on this man 1521 Garden Road, Norfolk, Virginia. We're going to be out here for some time man getting into more of the music. I'm working on a new project. Like I said, this record right here. I got a single deal Prime record on the radio right now, but if you hear me then tag me @ Royale_SWERV. This next record "Faith" is on 103 Jams through Thursday.



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