2026 Impact 100 RVA Executive Summary

Name of Organization: Beyond Boundaries

Overview of the Organization: For many people, an outdoor adventure begins with choosing where to go. For someone with a disability, it may begin with asking whether participation is possible at all. Founded in Richmond in 2015, Beyond Boundaries removes physical, cognitive, and financial barriers so people of all abilities can experience adventure alongside their community. What began with two rafting trips serving 15 participants has grown into an organization offering adaptive outdoor experiences through 50 nonprofit and community partnerships. Its programs serve people with disabilities, underserved youth, veterans, and individuals in substance recovery. In 2025, Beyond Boundaries delivered 342 programs and recorded 2,672 participant experiences, all at no cost or subsidized rates. Through rafting, climbing, hiking, skiing, and other activities, participants have opportunities to discover their abilities, build confidence, and form meaningful connections.

Overview of the Project: Beyond Boundaries seeks $100,000 to help transform an established partnership with the YMCA of Greater Richmond into a permanent, year-round home for accessible outdoor adventure at Camp Thunderbird in Chesterfield County. The partnership already provides access to the camp's lake, trails, climbing areas, and gathering spaces. Phase One will build on these resources with five universally accessible, four-season cabins, an accessible central bathhouse, and supporting site improvements. Beyond Boundaries has raised $1.3 million toward the $1.8 million Phase One budget. An Impact 100 Richmond grant would provide the final $100,000 needed to unlock an additional $400,000 in matching funds, fully funding Phase One. These facilities will transform how Beyond Boundaries uses the property, expanding successful day programs into overnight camps, family weekends, leadership retreats, and multi-day adventures. Children and families will have a local place where accessibility is built into the experience and opportunities extend throughout the year.

Expected Impact on the Community: This project builds on a decade of successful programming while creating opportunities Beyond Boundaries cannot currently offer at the same scale. A permanent overnight campus will allow the organization to reach more participants, offer longer and more varied experiences, and bring families and community partners together in new ways. Beyond Boundaries anticipates approximately 300 onsite participant experiences in its first full year, with initial overnight programming planned for summer 2027. Scholarships and subsidized programming will help preserve affordability. As programming grows, retreats, outdoor education, and partner gatherings will extend the campus's value to the broader Richmond community. Success will be measured through participation, overnight occupancy, partner use, and feedback on safety, confidence, independence, and belonging. By combining the YMCA's established camp resources with Beyond Boundaries' adaptive expertise, Richmond has an opportunity to demonstrate an approach to inclusive, year-round camping that could inform YMCA and accessible camp programs nationwide. Impact 100's investment would help turn an existing community asset into a place with more ways for children and families to participate, connect, and grow.