2026 Impact 100 RVA Executive Summary

Name of Organization: The Friends of Foster Care

Overview of the Organization: The Friends of Foster Care (TFFC) is a charitable organization making a meaningful impact in the lives of foster children across Virginia. Founded by foster parents Richard Litton and Audra Bullock in June of 2016, TFFC serves approximately 2500 foster and at-risk children annually who are referred by social services departments throughout the Tidewater and Richmond areas, representing approximately 40% of the entire state's foster care population. TFFC is committed to helping the foster youth of our community overcome the burdens of their circumstances. Education is an area where foster youth struggle and, as a group, they have the poorest educational outcomes in the nation. Two-thirds of youth aging out of foster care end up homeless, incarcerated, on welfare, or deceased within four years of exiting the system. The educational barriers contribute to long-term economic instability, limiting access to employment and self-sufficiency. TFFC's mission is to create opportunities and environments through which foster youth and their families can thrive.

Overview of the Project: The tutoring program provides tutoring, free of charge, to foster youth through partnership with city Social Service Departments. TFFC's tutors are trauma-informed, professional educators, hired to provide individualized instruction, 1 to 4 hours per week in any area of academic need. The primary focus is helping students overcome educational gaps caused by family disruption, while working to get them to grade level and continuing to engage in school. Foster youth from Pre-K to High School (including GED) and through college are tutored in any subject area of need. One of the unique benefits of this program structure is that the tutors follow the child from placement to placement, continuing to advocate for and provide stability to the child, thus addressing the unfortunate impacts of foster children being moved from home to home.

Expected Impact on the Community: This grant will allow TFFC to provide 2,250 hours of academic tutoring to Richmond area youth. On average, this equates to providing 70 youth with tutoring for the year. Goals for the tutoring program in Richmond are to maintain academic outcomes for enrolled youth, while also increasing the number of youth served to be comparable to other social service agency partners. TFFC's anticipated outcomes for youth with four or more tutoring sessions is as follows:

- 95% promoted
- 88% passed all tutored classes
- 98% of seniors graduated on time or early

This program not only transforms the lives of the children who participate, but it also positively impacts their communities. The "foster care to despair pipeline" is real, with those who were in the foster care system likely to repeat cycles of generational trauma and rely on government support for survival. This program empowers foster youth to not only succeed academically, but to gain confidence, independence and the life skills necessary to achieve long-term success.