



Maintaining Our Heritage

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The Baptist Center of Virginia, Inc.

formerly

The Childrens Home of Virginia Baptists, Inc.

6900 Hickory Road

South Chesterfield, Virginia 23803

Greetings:

In preparation for the 77th Annual Founders Day celebration, The Baptist Center of Virginia, Inc. (BCV), formerly The Children's Home of Virginia Baptist, Inc., invites you to support our mission of empowering African American lives and enriching our communities. We aim to raise \$100,000 for our impactful initiatives, and your generous donation can help us achieve this goal.

Since 1947, The Children's Home of Virginia Baptists (CHVB), founded by Dr. and Mrs. Charles S. Dodd, has cared for underserved African American children, fostering their growth into productive citizens. Although no longer serving as an orphanage, today, BCV continues this legacy through strategic partnerships that deliver significant, sustainable impact.

One such partnership is with The Black Family Land Trust (BFLT) to create a 217-acre Urban Demonstration Forest on our 251-acre campus. This collaboration with the Virginia Department of Forestry and Southside Virginia Community College will serve as a hands-on learning lab for K-12 and college students, promoting environmental education and training the next generation of environmentally conscious Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) professionals.

To help address the housing crisis experienced at many of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), we are finalizing efforts to partner with Virginia State University (VSU) to provide off-campus housing for over 30 VSU students. We have been working diligently to complete renovations to our Johnson and Mack cottages to welcome students for the 2024-2025 academic year.

In addition to serving our community, we've been strategically planning to become an asset to our affiliate churches that have contributed financially over the years. Achieving our vision, we aim to create a retreat center to expand access to supporting churches and organizations through membership. Our retreat center will transform our Ritchie Multipurpose Center, outdoor grounds, and campus cottages into a serene haven for hosting conferences, special events, and retreats, offering accommodations to foster recreation, spiritual reflection, reconnection, renewal, and relaxation.

Your support is crucial in making these initiatives a reality. Our 251-acre campus boasts several structures that are over 75 years old. As you are aware, older buildings often present significant challenges such as structural deterioration, life safety and building code compliance, changing tenant/owner expectations, physical wear, and hazardous materials like lead paint and asbestos. Many of our buildings require HVAC repairs, electrical upgrades, small renovations, and general maintenance. These improvements are essential to fulfilling our vision of being a community resource and

By donating to BCV, you directly contribute to the establishment of the Urban Forest, provision of student housing, preservation of our historic legacy, upgrade of our facilities, and realization of our retreat center. Join us in this transformative journey. Please consider making a donation today to help us reach our \$100,000 goal. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for your support and commitment to our mission.

Sincerely,

Erna G. Robinson

Erna G. Robinson
The Baptist Center of Virginia, Inc.
Executive Director