Strategic Expansion of Mission: Introducing Sponsored Residential Services at Heart Havens

To Our Heart Havens Family,

I am delighted to announce a significant milestone in the enhancement to our service offerings at Heart Havens. In alignment with our enduring mission to empower adults with developmental disabilities to live and thrive within their communities, we have established sponsored residential services under our license issued by The Department of Behavioral Health Services, effective from the beginning of March. This advancement is a testament to our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for the individuals we serve and represents a significant leap forward in our mission's execution.

Sponsored residential services mark a pivotal extension of our existing programs, designed to provide adults with developmental disabilities an alternative to conventional group homes. This model facilitates a living environment that is deeply rooted in the concepts of family, community, and personal growth. By partnering with families, couples, or individuals willing to open their homes and hearts, we create spaces that are not just residences but homes that radiate warmth, acceptance, and personal care.

Why This Expansion Matters: This expansion is more than an addition of services—it's a reflection of our commitment to diversify and enrich the ways in which we support our community. The sponsored residential model aligns perfectly with our mission, offering a more individualized and empowering approach to care. In homes accommodating no more than two individuals receiving services, residents benefit from a highly personalized living experience that emphasizes their dignity, independence, and integration into the wider community. As we pilot this program in the Richmond area, our aim is to cultivate an network of care that not only meets the physical and emotional needs of our residents but also champions their right to a fulfilling, engaged life within their community.

Becoming a Sponsored Residential Provider: A Call to Action: We are actively seeking compassionate individuals and families in the Richmond area interested in becoming sponsored residential providers. This role is critical to the successful implementation of our expanded mission. It offers a unique opportunity to make a direct, meaningful impact on the lives of adults with developmental disabilities. Heart Havens provides comprehensive support and guidance throughout the licensing process, ensuring that each home meets our standards of care, safety, and wellness.

Invitation to Participate: As we embark on this exciting phase of growth, we invite our network of donors, stakeholders, and community members to join us. Your support, whether through advocacy, sponsorship, or sharing our vision, is invaluable. Together, we can extend the reach of our mission, creating more inclusive, supportive communities where every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission. We look forward to sharing further developments and successes as we advance with this significant addition to our services.

Kind Regards,

Rebecca Huff

Rebecca Huff
CEO, Heart Havens

For inquiries or interest in the sponsored residential program, please visit hearthavens.org/services/sponsored-residential-services/ or reach out to us at 804-463-1584 or via email at sponsored@hearthavens.org.



Stay connected with us!

Join us on social media for year-round updates, photos, and videos!

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Heart Havens is growing! If you are interested in becoming a sponsored provider, please contact us or visit https://hearthavens.org/services/sponsored-residential-services/ to learn more

Meet our new CEO, Rebecca Huff.
Scan the QR code above to see a special introduction video from Rebecca Huff.

Heartstrings

The Official Newsletter of Heart Havens

Spring 2024

It's Our Birthday!

This year, Heart Havens is celebrating 25 years of empowering adults with a developmental disability. The first Heart Havens home, Macleigh-Holland, in Virginia Beach was the first to begin operation. Today, Heart Havens operates eight homes and is expanding into sponsored residential services. While we reflect on the accomplishments, many faces and great memories of the past, we look forward to the great things to come as Heart Havens continues to make a difference in the disability community.









25 Heart Havens 1999 – 2024

ENRICHING LIVES FOR 25 years

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Animal Shelter Visit





Darlene loves cats! Since she does not have a pet of her own, Darlene periodically visits the local shelters to visit with the cats. Volunteering to spend time with the cats helps acclimate them to human interaction and make them more adoptable. Along with the enjoyment she gets from cats, being around animals has been shown to lower stress and blood pressure while boosting serotonin and dopamine which helps people feel more relaxed and happy.

Resource: https://blog.ochsner.org/articles/10-reasons-to-volunteer-at-an-animal-shelter

Meet Sean



Sean lives at the Tate home in Ashland. His exuberant personality is contagious, and he confidently expresses his needs and wants. He finds joy in listening to various music genres and enthusiastically cheers himself on with clapping and words of encouragement by stating, "Go, Sean!" Sean also delights in coloring and arts & crafts. Sean is a shining example of kindness and compassion, touching hearts with his warm greetings in the morning.

He loves to watch classic TV shows like I Love Lucy and Andy Griffin Show. With tenderness and care, Sean embraces his beloved stuffed animals while exploring the magic of books via button-activated storytelling. Who doesn't love shoes? Sean adores his shoes and will complement other people's shoes.

Grommet Island Beach Park





With the warmer spring weather, Dorothea and Page visited Grommet Island, an inclusive park at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. The ladies talked with the locals along the boardwalk and liked watching the boats, jet skiers, fishermen, parasailers and roller skaters. Dorothea commented, "It's nice to watch boats... " When Paige saw the statue with two surfers she began to point. Then Heart Havens team members asked if she'd like to take a picture next to it and she began clapping her hands, smiling and laughing then stated, "Yeah!"

Let's Go Bowling!





A favorite activitiy of some of our residents is bowling. Recently both the Mary Beth Graff guys in Varina and the Lynchburg residents both went bowling in their local areas. Many other homes enjoy bowling too. With staff support and some adaptive equipment when necessary, it makes for a great community outing.

More Pictures over the Years



Heart Havens board meeting (1996)



Francis Burke & Art Wolz (date unknown)



Heart Havens resident (1999)



Residents exiting a Heart Havens van (2004)



Resident at waterfall (2005)



Resident at Camp Rainbow (2006)



Residents at Enon Steak Dinner (2007)



Bonnie residents (2012)