

PROGRAM UPDATE: CLOTHES CLOSET

“Working at the GoochlandCares Clothes Closet has been one of the great joys of my life. It’s not just a job, it’s a mission!”

– Rhonda Weaver, Clothes Closet Manager

The Clothes Closet is a vital program for our clients. Clients are able to obtain clothing and basic household items with credits that we provide to them. When a client has a need, we work to help them meet that need. We are also open to members of the general public, who can find great prices. Any revenue generated from sales to the public go back into the organization to help fund the twelve programs that are on offer at GoochlandCares.

We can do this important work because of the generosity of our community and the donations of clothes and household items they provide to us. Donations of clothing and household items can be dropped off at the Clothes Closet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings and our five bins located at the YMCA parking lot, Centerville Fire and Rescue, Randolph Elementary and both convenience centers.

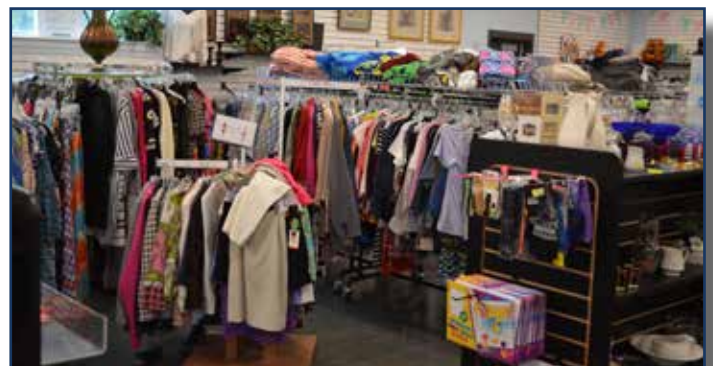
It is not only the generosity of our donors who make the Clothes Closet possible. Due to the sheer volume of donations, we depend heavily on volunteers to help us process large amounts of new or gently used items. Volunteers also pick up donations from our bins. In addition to individuals seeking volunteer opportunities — whether to give back or to make connections in our

community — corporate, civic, and church groups also volunteer to collect, sort, price, tag, and manage our inventory. Our volunteers are a diverse group of people of all ages and different backgrounds. It is wonderful to watch the interaction of our volunteers with each other, staff, and clients.

Volunteers play a critical role in connecting with customers and donors and help the Clothes Closet achieve its mission of helping our clients to meet their basic needs with respect and dignity.

The Clothes Closet is much more than a place where our clients can meet their basic needs for clothing and household items. The Clothes Closet has a heartbeat! It is a place of belonging. It is a place that fosters a sense of community. It is a place where people are seen and cared for. There is always the sound of laughter, people connecting, and bustling activity.

Come to the Clothes Closet and feel our heartbeat! And while you’re here, search for a treasure, meet some new friends, or volunteer with us. Be sure to say hello to our wonderful staff who work tirelessly each day to meet the needs of our community. We would love to meet you.



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EMERGENCY HOUSING

Since its inception in 2018, the GoochlandCares on-site Emergency House has been a beacon of hope for our community. It functions as a safe haven for those in dire circumstances, such as victims of sexual and domestic violence, those grappling with evictions, those who have suffered the misfortune of a house fire, and the homeless among us in Goochland. Your contributions have been pivotal in maintaining the Emergency House, a sanctuary that delivers quality, temporary accommodation during a person's housing crisis.

This shelter is more than just a stopgap solution; it's a nurturing environment where residents can rebuild their lives. We work hand in hand with each occupant, engaging with a case manager weekly to set and accomplish various objectives. The time taken for these transitions varies based on individual circumstances, and we honor that by not setting a rigid exit timeline. We focus more on ensuring that our residents are making consistent progress toward their goals.



The Emergency House, designed to accommodate up to sixteen people, is equipped with essential amenities like a kitchen, washer/dryer, and bathroom across all floors - comforts of home that our residents greatly value. In 2022, we provided 3,191 nights of shelter to 60 individuals, including 37 children. This year, with the escalating housing crisis, the demand for our services has increased dramatically. The Emergency House continues to be a lifeline for those needing a temporary home as they regain stability.

Here are some highlights demonstrating the impact of your generous donations:

- Several of the clients we sheltered last year have transitioned to stable housing of their own.
- We anticipated 25 clients in 2023. In the first quarter alone, we exceeded that expectation and served 24 clients.
- We're assisting a mother and her two children by helping her secure protective orders, file for custody and support, and transition to safe housing. The children, now in a safe environment, have shown academic improvement and are no longer battling depression. The mother, after enduring an abusive relationship for over a decade, is finally embracing empowerment and learning to set boundaries for the sake of her children.



The soul of the Emergency House is our Coordinator, Thavoeun Fulmer, who ensures smooth operations. She cherishes the moments of joy when a new family arrives - the children's smiles and the excitement in their eyes as they choose their rooms.

Volunteers contribute significantly to the upkeep of the Emergency House, and we deeply appreciate their dedication.

Your support for the Emergency House fulfills one of the most fundamental human needs - shelter. One poignant testimonial comes from a former resident who reported that her youngest son, who witnessed considerable violence before their stay, still refers to our facility as 'home' and speaks fondly of the advocates. Your contributions have created this safe space where our residents can heal and grow.

Thank you for standing with us in our mission to provide for those most vulnerable in our community. Every day, your donations make a profound difference.

DID YOU KNOW?: Emergency Housing provided 60 individuals shelter for 3,191 nights in 2022

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - PATTY CHADWICK

Patty began volunteering at the Clothes Closet in 2017 after retiring from a corporate position. She is happy to be meeting people of all ages while sorting and pricing donations as well as straightening and displaying items out on the sales floor. She has also become the lead volunteer for the Clothes Closet at Jingle Bell Bazaar held each year in early December.

Gardening and cooking are some of Patty's favorite pastimes. Avid travelers, she and her husband have been to 19 of the 63 U.S. National Parks. They also love classic rock music and have heard the Rolling Stones and Paul McCartney in concert. Patty is an avid reader and frequently buys books at the Clothes Closet.



Patty says that volunteering in the Clothes Closet makes her happy. She hopes that the future will see more space for the shop to provide greater selection of items for our many customers.

ORIENTATION

VOLUNTEER VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS

November 21, 5-6pm

December 5, 1-2pm

December 19, 5-6pm

contact Dominic Alexander
at 804-556-0400 or
dalexander@goochlandcares.org

CELEBRATING - DR. RICHARDSON

GoochlandCares Celebrates Dr. Pam Richardson's Legacy of Healing and Compassion

GoochlandCares is proud to honor Dr. Pamela Richardson, a beacon of dedication and compassion, as she embraces retirement following 17 remarkable years serving at the GoochlandCares Medical Clinic.

Dr. Richardson's journey has been both inspiring and humbling. After facing her own medical challenges in 1998, which saw her courageously combating breast cancer, she took a hiatus from her bustling private practice. The challenges tested her spirit but did not dampen her passion for medicine and service.

By Summer 2006, Dr. Richardson felt the urge to reconnect with her purpose. Serendipitously, a church friend introduced her to the Goochland Free Clinic (now a part of GoochlandCares). During her visit, she met the Executive Director, Sally Graham, which rekindled her love for medicine. After a brief stint as a volunteer, Dr. Richardson took the helm as the primary care provider, a position she held with grace and dedication until her recent retirement announcement.

Sally Graham captures the essence of Dr. Richardson, stating, "She is a unique blend of exceptional medical acumen and a heart that overflows with kindness." Numerous testimonials attest to Dr. Richardson's transformative impact on patients, treating not just ailments, but nurturing the soul.

In Dr. Richardson's words, "Every interaction in the exam room is sacred. Beyond the physical, I've always believed in nurturing every facet of my patients. My time here has perhaps been the most fulfilling of my life."

In recognition of her years of remarkable service to this community, the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics named Dr. Richardson a Champion of Health Care award winner for 2023. VAFCC states, "This award is an opportunity to honor and recognize individuals that have made a real difference in Virginia's health safety net".

She leaves behind a legacy that will be upheld by esteemed colleagues, Dr. Robert Bennett and Dr. James Cisek. The GoochlandCares family remains committed to continuing her vision of holistic care. As she looks ahead to retirement, Dr. Richardson eagerly anticipates cherished moments with her family, hymn-filled church choirs, and nature's tranquility. In her parting words, Dr. Richardson shares, "GoochlandCares stands as a testament to community spirit. This collective goodwill drives individuals to volunteer, donate, and contribute. It's the heart of our community that makes this magic happen."



2999 River Road West
Goochland, VA 23063

Main Phone: 804-556-6260
Clothes Closet: 804-556-0202

DONATE TODAY
securely online at
GoochlandCares.org

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #264
Richmond, VA

OUR SERVICES

- Food Pantry
- Medical Care
- Dental Care
- Mental Health Care
- Emergency Housing
- Critical Home Repair
- Clothes Closet
- Sexual and Domestic Violence Services
- Case Management
- Transportation
- GED/ESL Education
- Financial Assistance/
Tax Preparation

SAVE THE DATES:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Richmond Country Club
presents
Jingle Bell Bazaar
benefiting GoochlandCares

Tuesday, December 5, 2023
10:00am - 8:00pm

at Richmond Country Club, 12950 Patterson Avenue, just off 288

Free admission - Free Parking - 50/50 Raffle
Cash Bar from 5:30-8:00pm

Luncheon and Fashion Show - 11:30-12:30pm or 1:00-2:00pm
\$30 per person - reservations required
GoochlandCares.org/events or call 804-556-0205

BETHLEHEM WALK - Salem Baptist Church,
November 29 - December 3
- Bring canned goods

Visit GoochlandCares.org/events for more information

GoochlandCares is looking for volunteers to sort and stock donations in the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet. We also need volunteers with home repair skills. If you are a licensed medical or dental provider, we have opportunities in the Clinic as well.

Volunteering at GoochlandCares is a great way to give back to the community and make a difference in the lives of others. Volunteers can choose to work either weekly or occasionally, and there are flexible scheduling options available.

Benefits of Volunteering

- Gain new skills and experience
- Meet new people and make friends
- Feel good about helping others

To volunteer at GoochlandCares, you can either call Dominic Alexander at (804) 556-0400 or visit the website at www.GoochlandCares.org.

MISSION: The mission of GoochlandCares is to provide basic human services and health care to our Goochland neighbors in need.