



Children's
Home Society
of West Virginia

BUILDING A
BRIGHT FUTURE
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

FINDING A
NEW HOME
TOGETHER

Southern West Virginia Exceptional Youth Emergency Shelter Capital Campaign

The Children's Home Society of West Virginia is a private non-profit child welfare organization founded in 1896. The Society is a participatory organization consisting of employees, foster families, adoptive families, volunteers, Board of Directors, Director Emeriti, advisory council members, donors, benefactors, supporters, and friends.

The Society is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that is representative of the communities we serve from around the state. We are licensed to provide child welfare and behavioral health services in West Virginia. We are fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for children and families.

We provide comprehensive services to children and their families from multiple locations throughout the State. Our statewide programs include adoption, foster care and emergency child shelter care. We also provide in-home and in-community family strengthening programs for children and families including care coordination, respite care, parent education training, prenatal and early childhood services, volunteer mentoring and reunification and comprehensive assessment services. Last year we provided services to 13,368 children and families. Children's Home Society is a leader in child welfare and advocates for improvements that benefit West Virginia's children.

Children's Home Society is deeply connected to the communities we serve. Our supporters are diverse, representing nearly all parts of the community. Individuals, civic groups, churches, organizations and businesses all join in caring for West Virginia's most vulnerable population, our children. Members of the Children's Home Society of West Virginia's Family include:

- Our staff members who are caring, mission-driven advocates for the children entrusted to them. Their dedication and commitment enable the agency to fulfill its mission.
- Our leaders, who step up to challenges, seek to fill critical gaps in serving children, and advocate for improvements. We lead and support networks among child welfare providers, actively participate in State initiatives, and mentor other agencies. We hold ourselves and our programs accountable to deliver results and to fulfill our mission.
- Community members including individuals, groups, churches and civic organizations who join us in serving children through their volunteer time, by mentoring and through donations.
- Community members join us through service on our Board of Directors, and Local Advisory Councils.
- Businesses that support our mission, provide donations, publicize opportunities and collaborate with us on projects.
- Our partners are other child welfare service providers. Together we create opportunities for permanency for children through better coordination, use of best practices, sharing experiences, and more effective advocacy.
- Our partners in West Virginia Government which include the Department of Health and Human Resources, the Department of Education, Legislators and other officials. Together we seek to continually improve outcomes for children at State and local levels.

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Present in Raleigh County community for 40 years

For 40 years, the Children's Home Society has been helping children in the Raleigh County community. The Cherry Hill Shelter opened in 1982 on C&O Dam Road in Daniels, WV, serving eight children ages 7 through 17. In 2004, the shelter became the Southern West Virginia Exceptional Youth Emergency Shelter (SWVEYES) with a 5 bed capacity. The shelter focused on meeting the needs of autistic children and children with developmental delays. At the time, it was the only shelter of its kind. SWVEYES continues to remain the only emergency child shelter in West Virginia that holds a criteria for children with exceptionalities which include; an IQ below 70, Axis II Diagnosis or Autism.

The SWVEYES staff help children learn communication skills, coping skills and how to become independent. During the last four years, the shelter has served forty-five youth for a total of 6,742 days of care.

Why there is a need!

“Bye Shelter”

There was little boy who came to SWVEYES destined for out-of-state placement. He had a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectually/ Developmentally Disabilities, nonverbal, and was wild! He loved big and showed big emotion when upset. He was admitted to SWVEYES on four occasions after a failed reunification, failed foster home placement, and a brief stay out-of-state (brief because his amazing Guardian ad Litem was adamant he return to WV as soon as possible). Each time he returns to the shelter he progressed more and more. Over the course of three years this little boy learned hygiene skills, self control, his speech increased, and he flourished with structure and picture timelines for the day. His team began to feel defeated when a family couldn't be found and he was placed on the list to move to residential placement facility. Then in 2019, weeks before he was set to leave, we received a call from his DHHR worker that she found a possible specialized family. The SWVEYES social workers and staff worked with the family weekly for two months to properly prepare and train them for this child's specific needs. He used to point at the shelter and say, "home". But when he left, as we were all saying good-byes at the car, he pointed to the shelter and said, "bye shelter". He taught us just as much as we taught him. Never underestimate the ability of a child with exceptionalities!

In 2020, this once wild little boy sat in a court room calmly rocking and smiling as his adoption was finalized with his forever family.

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“Finding his Forever Family”

A rambunctious little boy was admitted to SWVEYES in May 2018, just days after his sixth birthday. Upon admittance, his permanency plan was out-of-state placement in a residential facility. He presented with diagnoses of ADHD, Autism, Intellectual and Developmental Disability, and was described as “feral”. Just a little back story, he spent the first years of his life in and out of a make shift crate. At five and a half years old he was placed on the side of the road like a piece of trash before being put in a state vehicle. While at SWVEYES, he flourished with positivity, consistency, and stability that the shelter provided. To think, stability at a shelter! After much advocacy his placement plan was no longer to be sent to an out-of-state facility, and instead it was for foster care. He left the shelter 13 months after he arrived. The day he left he was smiling and communicating his excitement. You see, he was not the little boy that the paperwork described. He was a rambunctious seven-year-old that always had grass stains or a tear in his jeans. After school, he would run full speed into the shelter yelling with excitement to show off what he did at school. He never lost his spirit and desire for a family. Like all children, those with exceptionalities deserve exceptional families and not institutionalization. Today he is a thriving nine-year-old with a family who loves him as their own. In January 2021, he received their last name. We all have a story and I’m blessed that our agency is part of his. He is unbreakable and our dedicated shelter staff helped lay the solid foundation for him to grow upon.

“Never Give Up”

A youth diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder was admitted to SWVEYES as a teenager in 2010. He could not complete basic hygiene and had poor self-control. After 11 months and a lot of work, he could complete all hygiene independently and mastered the art of self control. He was highly intelligent with numbers and puzzles. He saw the world in colors and the shelter embraced his uniqueness. 11 months after he was admitted, he left SWVEYES to live with his paternal grandparents.

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What We Need

West Virginia has nearly 7,000 children in the foster care system. There is a daily need for additional shelter beds, more specifically, for exceptional children that have very special needs. The Children's Home Society is committed to expanding our Southern West Virginia Emergency Child Shelter to allow us to care for more of West Virginia's most vulnerable children.

Children's Home Society's emergency child shelters are homelike environments where displaced children can have the care and attention they need to thrive in a safe and healthy environment. Our shelter homes provide not only basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter, they also ensure that medical, educational, and psychiatric needs are met for each and every child. Emergency Child Shelters are often the first stepping stone to healing for children that have suffered trauma, abuse and neglect.

Shelter Needs:

- Furniture and room space for 10 bedrooms.
- Ample Office space for case managers, shift supervisors, and shelter supervisors.
- Conference room/training area for staff.
- File/Record Storage Room.
- Reception Area.
- Therapy Room.
- Life skills area where children can learn to be independent.
- Storage areas and additional closets.
- Large kitchen with pantry space.
- Large dining area to accommodate children and staff.
- Large Laundry Room to accommodate several machines.
- Large ADA bathrooms.
- Visitation area so children can visit family members and play with siblings.
- Education Room to include a library wall with computers/ipads to help our non-verbal children communicate.

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Continued Shelter Needs:

- Sensory Room - A place where children learn to regulate their senses during times of sensory overload.
- Recreation space for creative play, games, crafts and year around indoor activities.
- Community resource room so we can give back to our community and help those in need.
- Outdoor space for children to play, with the potential to have a therapeutic garden space.
- Ample Parking space for staff, providers, families and community members.

Another Reason Why!

A sunflower planted by a little girl who lived at the shelter for a period of time. She believed the sunflower smiled at her every day and gave her encouragement. You can be that sunflower for a child who needs a home.



Current Southern West Virginia Exceptional
Youth Emergency Shelter

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The Children's Home Society seeks your support to help us fulfill our mission to promote the well being of children. Our current efforts are directed at helping children find lifetime families, protecting and nurturing children, and helping to preserve and strengthen their families.

Legacy Gift - \$25,000 and above

Naming Opportunity (Room or Rooms)
Listing on Legacy Donor Wall
Recognition in Annual Report
Recognition during Grand Opening
Grand Opening Program Listing
Children's Home Society's Legacy Medal

Champion for Children Gift - \$10,000 - \$24,999

Naming Opportunity (See below)
Listing on Champion for Children Donor Wall
Champion for Children Medal
Recognition during Grand Opening
Grand Opening Program Listing
Recognition in Annual Report

Permanency for Children Gift - \$5,000 - \$9,999

Listing on Permanency For Children Donor Wall
Recognition during Grand Opening
Grand Opening Program Listing
Permanency For Children Medal
Recognition in Annual Report

Strengthen Families Gift - \$1,000 - \$4,999

Recognition on the Strengthening Families Donor Wall
Strengthening Families Medal
Recognition during the Grand Opening

Friends of Children Gift - Up to \$999.00

Recognition on the Friends of Children Donor Wall

Naming opportunities exist for those individuals or businesses who sponsor a room. We recognize that this is an opportunity to remember or honor loved ones, a way to show support by a business partner, or perhaps a way to acknowledge the work of an outstanding individual in child welfare.

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