

# A Note from Nancy & Bruce





Hello, Unwavering Champions!

Welcome to the Shineforth Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2025. We're excited to share this publication, and we're so grateful to each and every one of you for your ongoing support.

John Wesley once said, "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as ever you can."

Not only is it a lovely sentiment, but John Wesley's words resonate especially deeply in this moment. We're turning the page on our 125th anniversary and beginning a new chapter in our storied legacy with a new name. And as we move forward as Shineforth — the fifth name in our organization's history — it feels as if we're renewing our commitment to doing all the good we can, in all the ways we can, for as long as we can.

Speaking of shining forth, we invite you to jump over to Page 4 to spend a little time getting to know Alaina and Alyssa, who met while they were living at the Child & Family Healing Center on Shineforth's Richmond campus and impacted the Shineforth community in multiple ways.

From working with community partners and Shineforth staff to launch a small business to creating 200 candles for our Legacy of Light Gala that we hosted in Richmond on October 9, Alaina and Alyssa's story is a prime example of the Shineforth name in action. We don't want to spoil the surprise, but we think you'll be inspired by how these two young ladies sparked the light within each other.

Thank you for trusting us to do the important work of supporting young people like Alaina and Alyssa. We're grateful for your encouragement as we move our 125-year legacy forward under the Shineforth name. Because of you, we shine on.

With gratitude,

Doscano

NANCY TOSCANO, PHD, LCSW President & CEO

Ruce

BRUCE WHITEHURST Board Chair

## We are Shineforth.

**MISSION** 

To be the unwavering champions that every child deserves.

VISION

Strengthening Humanity, one child a time

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# Alyssa & Alaina Light the Way

## "It's always been about more than melting wax and setting wicks."

Solace of the senses. That's what friends Alaina and Alyssa experience when they're immersed in the candle-making process for their small business, Light the Way.

What began as a casual respite activity quickly sparked a light inside the teens, both of whom are residents at the Child & Family Healing Center (CFHC) on Shineforth's historic Richmond campus.

"Making candles is a coping skill that helps us get our minds off everything," Alyssa said, citing the joy she and Alaina share when they're collaborating to create color combinations or discussing which scents they like best.

"Strawberry coconut, that's my favorite," Alaina said.

"I think it's raspberry eucalyptus for me," replied Alyssa after wafting a few different candles under her nose.

The banter is but a small sampling of the conversations that occur regularly in the room from where the two teens practice their craft. Thanks to the creative vision of Alyssa and Alaina and support from CFHC staff, what once was a simple meeting room in the CFHC building now doubles as a cozy candle-making studio. The teens say its tall ceiling, open floor plan, and bands of natural light streaming in from a large west-facing exterior window make it the perfect space for a small-business workshop.

But perhaps the feature Alaina and Alyssa covet most is that

the room offers brief respite from the hard work they do each day in treatment, in classes at Shineforth's Charterhouse School, and in group activities with their CFHC suitemates.

"Staff sit over there," Alyssa said, motioning to the far side of the room. "That's where they do their paperwork while we make candles. Me and Alaina turn on the TV, put on 90's music, and get the rhythm going."

While both girls enjoy the physical act of making candles, they certainly don't bemoan the added benefit of independence and time away from their younger peers. Alaina and Alyssa, after all, each have significant lived experience in the foster care system and both trend on the older side of the 45 children and teens currently residing at CFHC.

Alaina said she's eager to complete her program at CFHC and is working hard to accomplish her treatment goals. "I'm trusting the process and looking forward to being independent," she said.

For Alyssa, on the other hand, her time at CFHC is rapidly coming to a close. The pace at which young people progress through the program is contingent on their own individualized treatment plan.

And while length of stay varies from child to child, each young person experiences sustained generosity from donors and volunteers, as well as ongoing encouragement and patience from CFHC staff.

The future for Alaina and Alyssa is bright, to be sure, although there's one looming detail that's less than ideal: Light the Way may look different when they complete treatment at CFHC.

But regardless of what comes next for their candle-making endeavor, both young ladies agree it's going to be OK and what they've gleaned from their time at Shineforth and their experience as smallbusiness owners has far surpassed what they ever could have hoped for.

"Light the Way has always been about more than melting wax and setting wicks," Alaina said. "Making candles teaches resilience. It's taught us about growth, responsibility, and maturity."

"We learned that even when we spill wax on the ground, we have to continue," Alyssa said.
"You just have to keep going."

"Light the Way conveys a message of guidance and a brighter path ahead. To me, being in foster care, you have to have resilience, and you have to look for that brighter path."

-ALYSSA, LIGHT THE WAY CO-FOUNDER

Learn more about Light the Way at **lighttheway-candles.com/about**.

## Multiplying Impact Through Cross-Program Collaboration

Shineforth offers more than a dozen programs and services at eight locations across the commonwealth. The thought and care Alyssa and Alaina invested into Light the Way is not only inspiring, it's far-reaching. The young entrepreneurs brought tremendous energy to the Shineforth community and shined their light across several programs, services, and partnerships.

#### **WORTHDAYS & GENEROSITY COLLECTIVE**

Shineforth partners with other nonprofits through its Generosity Collective, sharing office space and resources with the goal of multiplying impact. Included in the Generosity Collective is Worthdays, whose mission is to "mobilize our community to ensure that those impacted by the foster care system know that they are important, worthy and celebrated."

Worthdays teamed up with Project LIFE to create the CEO Program (Connections, Entrepreneurship, Opportunities), which empowers young people to dream big and provides resources to get their businesses off the ground. Alaina and Alyssa had their vision for Light the Way during their enrollment in the CEO Program. They credit Caroline "Ms. Caroline" Neal from Worthdays and Tina "Ms. T" Murphy from Project LIFE with getting Light the Way up and running.

#### PROJECT LIFE

Project LIFE at Shineforth is a partnership with DSS that's tailored to youth who will soon age out of foster care. Alyssa and Alaina said Project LIFE has been an invaluable resource, and each cited Ms. T (left) as a major supporter and creative catalyst. "Ms. T saw potential in us to be business owners," said Alyssa.

#### **CHILD & FAMILY HEALING CENTER**

Alyssa and Alaina met at the Child & Family Healing Center, Shineforth's residential program for youth. Alyssa and Alaina, like many CFHC residents, are older youth in foster care who have been referred to Shineforth by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

#### **CHARTERHOUSE SCHOOL**

Shineforth offers specialized education for students in K-12 at two **Charterhouse School** locations (Richmond and Edinburg). Young people in **CFHC** also attend classes at **CHS Richmond**.

### WENDY'S WONDERFUL KIDS

One of the young candle-makers also received services from Wendy's Wonderful Kids, an initiative made possible by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, who partners with Shineforth to hire dedicated adoption recruiters.

#### SHINEFORTH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

When **Kate Ockerman**, Director of Philanthropy, heard about **Alaina and Alyssa's** candle-making business, she immediately commissioned Light the Way's largest order: 200 candles to be placed on tables at **Shineforth's Legacy of Light 125th Anniversary Gala**.

## **Our Impact**

We're pleased to report the following outcomes for Fiscal Year 2025.



In Fiscal Year 2025, Shineforth touched the lives of 10,279 children and families in 225 communities. **GENEROSITY COLLECTIVE** 

**13** 

Mission-aligned partners comprise Shineforth's Generosity Collective

**CHARTERHOUSE SCHOOL** 

87%

Of students self-reported being satisfied with their experience at Charterhouse School

CHARTERHOUSE SCHOOL

20

Students returned to a public school setting

**CHARTERHOUSE SCHOOL** 

238

Students were served on our Richmond and Edinburg campuses





**ADOPTION SERVICES** 

47

Adoptions were finalized through our ATCP and WWK programs

**ADOPTION SERVICES** 

**273** 

Families were served through our RPACS program

CAMINOS® HOME STUDY & POST-RELEASE SERVICES PROGRAM

564

Youth served

CHILD & FAMILY HEALING CENTER

87%

Of youth self-reported feeling satisfied with their in-care treatment.

**CHILD & FAMILY HEALING CENTER** 

80

Youth served

**CHILD & FAMILY HEALING CENTER** 

**75%** 

Of youth stepped down to a lower level of care after discharge

TREATMENT FOSTER CARE

141

Youth served

**PROJECT LIFE** 

347

Youth served

TREATMENT FOSTER CARE

82%

Of youth self-reported being satisfied with treatment

INTENSIVE CARE COORDINATION

63

Youth served

## **Champions Among Us**

We are incredibly grateful to the **1,398 dedicated volunteers** who donated **5,986 hours** of their time over the course of the year. Our gift-in-kind donors contributed over **\$75,323 worth of goods** to support the children, families, and staff at Shineforth. We are humbled by your unwavering commitment to our mission of helping every child shine!

### **UMC Partners**

Our incredible church partners at New Life, New Song, Reveille, Shady Grove, Trinity, and Woodlake UMC have continued to shine their light on our families and staff for years — with donations including goodie bags for our teachers,

therapists, and youth, as well as holiday gift sponsorships, campus beautification activities, and appreciation events for our parents, teachers, and social workers.



## Independent School Partners

Independent school partners like St.
Catherine's and Trinity
Episcopal School continue to show up for Shineforth. Juniors & Seniors from St. Cat's visited

us for the second year in a row to deck the halls in the CFHC building, putting together and trimming a grand Christmas tree, adding tinsel and garland throughout the entrance of the building, and decorating the CHS cafeteria. Trinity continues to support us with foster parent, teacher, and social work appreciations and with help throughout the holiday season.



## Heights Church

Heights Church coordinated their annual Serve Week, providing us with motivated volunteers who purchased and assembled furniture for us

and spent the entire week on campus cleaning, remodeling, and staging offices for our dynamic therapeutic staff in the CFHC and CHS buildings.

## Capital One

Capital One has been a champion of our work, with four separate groups engaging in events on and off campus this year. These included breakfast and sensory kit assemblies and organized book

drives for our CHS and CFHC
youth. They also organized
our recreational storage
closet at CFHC,
purchasing new
helmets, fixing broken
bikes, and installing a
new bike rack to hang
and store helmets and

safety equipment.





## Auxiliary

Our amazing Auxiliary celebrated staff with treats throughout the year and put on their annual Fun Friday event with an ice cream sundae bar and bingo for CFHC residents.





## Mayoral Day of Service

We're grateful to have been a destination for the Inaugural Mayoral Day of Service! Mayor Danny Avula was welcomed by many of our community volunteers, who all worked together to give back to Shineforth by

beautifying spaces at Charterhouse School and Child & Family Healing Center.

## **Backpack Buddies**

Backpack Buddies supplied our Charterhouse Schools in Richmond and Edinburg, CAMINOS, and Community Based Services youth and families with

backpacks — providing a total of 240 backpacks for the '24-'25 school year!



### CFHC Mentors

Our CFHC mentors had a powerful impact on many of our kids. They show up weekly, offering consistent support, building trust, and modeling healthy

relationships - proving that one caring adult can make all the difference.



# What we're **Building Together**

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we've met our \$400,000 fundraising challenge, unlocking the full match amount and bringing our total raised dollars for the Richmond Campus Recreational Center project to \$833,000!

We're deeply grateful to Bill and Molly Lynch for generously giving the challenge gift and to every donor who helped us reach this milestone. Your support is already making a difference.

The renovated Rec Center will provide so much more than a place to play. It will support gym classes, recreational therapy, family visitation, and structured activities that help young people heal, grow, and shine.

With these funds, we will be able to complete major upgrades, but additional gifts are needed to complete the transformation and create a space that truly reflects the strength and potential of the youth we serve.

To learn more or make a gift to the project, contact Associate Director of Development Julia Bell at jbowlingbell@shineforth.org or 804.533.2947.

# A Legacy that Lasts

The 1900 Society was established in 2004 to recognize and honor those who have made a lasting commitment to our mission by including Shineforth in their estate plans. Whether through a bequest, retirement plan designation, or life insurance policy, these thoughtful planned gifts ensure that the life-changing programs we offer to children and families will be available for generations to come.

Members of the 1900 Society are visionaries and individuals who believe deeply in creating a future where all children, regardless of circumstance, have the opportunity to thrive. Their legacy sustains our work, fuels innovation, and provides hope long into the future.



As we move forward with a new name, please note that our EIN (54-0505969) remains the same. Your current or future plans to support us will remain fully intact under our existing legal name and tax ID number.

If you've already included us in your estate plans, we'd love to hear from you and welcome you into the 1900 Society. If you're considering a planned gift or would like to learn more about the impact your legacy could have, please contact Associate Director of Development Julia Bell at jbowlingbell@shineforth.org or 804.533.2947.



this to life by hosting innovative, inspiring individuals who spark conversations that matter. These events aren't just about listening; they're about learning, connecting, and growing together. We aim to attract new supporters, engage our existing donors, and deepen relationships with our community partners and staff.

It's about sharing our mission in a way that sticks; this isn't just a speaker series — it's a call to reflect, illuminate, and radiate.

The goal of the Speaker Series is to create a platform for learning and connection that reflects our mission of supporting children and families. We envision Shineforth as a recognized destination for thoughtful dialogue and community engagement — a place where people come together to inspire and be inspired, contributing to positive change both within and beyond our walls.

#### YOU'RE INVITED

We invite you to join us on a journey of illumination — through stories, insights, and voices that shine.



## FY25 Featured Speakers



**JEN PSAKI** MSNBC Anchor Former White House Press Secretary



**CARLY FIORINA** Former CEO of Hewlett-Packard 2016 Presidential Candidate



**NOAH SCALIN** Nationally recognized artist and expert in creativity and innovation

## Fiscal Year 2025 Financials

## AT A GLANCE

Shineforth is proud to report another year of strong support from our incredible donors, volunteers, churches, community partners, and employees. Thank you. Your generosity makes a huge impact on the lives of vulnerable children, teens, and families. We are committed to being good stewards of the donations that have been entrusted to us. Shineforth exercises efficiency and transparency in all financial endeavors. As we envision serving more youth and families, we remain committed to financial prudence and investing into the future to ensure the sustainability of the organization's high-quality programs.

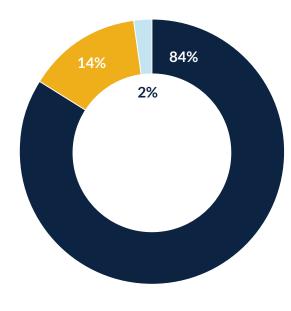
REVENUE	FY 2025
Fee for Service	\$28,919,878
Gain on Sale of Assets	-
Investments and other income	\$4,086,113
Contributions	\$2,729,398
	\$35,735,389

#### **EXPENSES**

Programs

Fiograms	
Residential Programs	\$8,700,853
Treatment Foster Care	\$5,768,155
Charterhouse School	\$8,917,735
Adoption Services	\$897,605
Other Services	\$3,061,059
Total Programs	\$27,345,407
Administrative	\$4,517,433
Fundraising	\$529,762
Total Expenses	\$32,392,602

TOTAL END OF YEAR NET ASSETS \$58,543,944



Thanks to your Generosity

THANK YOU! Shineforth gratefully acknowledges the generous support of individuals, churches, faith-based groups, foundations, corporations, civic groups, and others who partnered with us and invested in the lives of vulnerable children and families across Virginia. This honor roll acknowledges gifts made in the 2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025).

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