

THE CATALYST



John
Randolph
Foundation

25 Years

Healthy Communities.
Bright Futures.

RoadID
It's Who I Am

WINTER 2022



EVENT

THE
JOHN RANDOLPH
FOUNDATION

Passing the Torch: Announcing a Change in Leadership



Kevin Foster and Lisa Sharpe at the JRF Grant Ceremony in July.

Dear Friends,

With the change of the seasons, I feel grateful to reflect on the changes underway at the Foundation: a new strategic plan and a change in leadership.

At the end of 2022, we are closing a chapter of JRF history that contains pages and pages of success stories written in it over the last 25 years. Lisa Sharpe, our Executive Director for the last 17 years, will be retiring and begins the next chapter of her life. Lisa's vision, leadership, courage, and intellect have guided how we steward donors, how we place strategic emphasis on grants and scholarships, and how we serve unselfishly in our region to create Healthy Communities and Bright Futures. Lisa's holistic approaches to health and education challenged the Foundation to pioneer innovative programs to benefit the Tri-Cities region.

Today, the Foundation is stronger due to her vision and leadership, and her legacy will continue through her endowment (see inside article, Donors Teaming Up to

Help Homeless Cats). Her influence also remains with the Foundation's new strategic plan. Over the last 18 months, community members alongside JRF board and staff participated in stakeholder/ focus group meetings to craft a strategic plan. What we heard was reassuring: "Do more of what you're doing and do it better." We outlined four key outcomes: 1. Impact, 2. Workforce Development, 3. Visibility/Awareness, and 4. Investment in our people and technology. This new plan will guide our work over the next few years, and we pledge to keep you informed along the journey.

As the Foundation's Executive Director-Elect, I look forward to sharing more with you, our donors and partners, about my values and vision for our community. As a volunteer serving on the board from 2007 to 2015, and then joining the staff in 2016 as Director of Programs, I truly believe in the power of this community foundation. A power that relies on people like you to make a difference in the Tri-Cities region.

Thank you for helping us serve our communities, through donating, volunteering, and doing the hard work of creating a healthy community and bright future. Your time and financial commitment are crucial to making a greater impact in the coming years.

Kevin S. Foster
Director of Programs
Executive Director-Elect

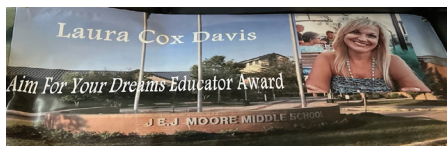
Honoring the Life & Career of a Beloved Educator

Laura Sheree Cox Davis was known by her friends and family for her uplifting free-spirit and her dreams to fulfill every one of her aspirations in life. She was confident and strong-willed and like her parents, Jack and Emily Cox, she dedicated her career to education. “Laura saw potential in every student that walked into her classroom and had a passion for seeing every child find success,” stated Chris, Laura’s husband. “She also sought the same for our two girls, Emma Kate and Anna Gail, and taught them to aim for their dreams, no matter how large.”



Laura and her husband, Chris Davis.

In April 2020, Laura passed away in a vehicle accident. Her family and friends are working together to establish a memorial fund that would honor her legacy and passion for education. The Laura Davis “AIM FOR YOUR DREAMS” Educator Award hopes to inspire educators to enhance their professional development, support their classrooms with instructional materials, and expose students to experiences they would not otherwise have by providing monetary support to fund activities, field trips, speakers, and professional development.



Teachers have great ideas for how to improve their classrooms, but they often have limited resources to bring those ideas to life. The Laura Davis “AIM FOR YOUR DREAMS” Educator Award will provide this opportunity. This award is available to educators teaching at J.E.J. Moore Middle School in Prince George, Virginia, and it will provide a cash stipend of \$1,000 to support an educator who is gifted at engaging young minds and nurturing the strengths of each student so that they may aim for their dreams!

For more information on how to support this award or to apply, please visit: JohnRandolphFoundation.org and click on Awards.

— Bonnie G. Falls,
Scholarship Program Officer



Laura with her daughters, Emma Kate and Anna Gail.

Donors Teaming Up to Help Homeless Cats



Violet came to the Hopewell Humane Society with a ruptured and infected eye. Thanks to the great care from Hopewell Humane Society, her eye was removed, and she's been adopted!

Helping animals is a new way that JRF makes a difference — all because of three caring women. As a community foundation, we support a variety of causes through donor-directed funds and bequests. We are excited to share that because of the generosity of Carol Betzler, Lisa Sharpe, and Beth Schulhof, we will alleviate the suffering of animals for years to come.

A retired Hopewell teacher, Carol Betzler has volunteered at the Hopewell Humane Society for many years, where she has adopted several lucky fur babies. When it came time to create her estate plan, her cats came to mind. Her bequest to the Foundation will support the Carol Betzler Endowment for Cats at the Foundation, to provide medical services at the Hopewell Humane Society. Lisa Sharpe, JRF Executive Director, established the Sharpe Family Community Fund in 2020. Lisa and her husband Derek care deeply about homeless cats who cannot care for themselves. They regularly assist with TNR (trap, neuter, and release) at cat colonies in Chester and Hopewell.

This past summer, Lisa teamed up with another cat lover and donor at the Foundation, Beth Schulhof. She established the Bird's Purse Endowment as a tribute to her beloved cat named Bird, whom she adopted from the Hopewell Humane Society.

In July 2022, John Randolph Foundation made its first grant to Hopewell Humane Society through the support of Bird's Purse and the Sharpe Family Community Fund. The grant enabled Hopewell Humane Society to provide medical care for five homeless cats in Hopewell. Funding was used for dental surgeries for three cats, and eye surgeries for two cats who each needed an eye removed. And since this summer, we are happy to share that three of the cats have been adopted!

If you would like to contribute to animal welfare, please donate to John Randolph Foundation, and direct your gift to the Bird's Purse Endowment Fund or the Carol Betzler Endowment for Cats.

Brighten a day, even save a life!



A story from Mary Anne and Mike Williams, Immediate Past President of the Foundation's Board.

Since retiring from full time employment in 2017, Mike and I have been volunteering as meal delivery drivers with Feed More's Meals on Wheels Program. Meals on Wheels provides healthy, made from scratch meals to our homebound senior and disabled neighbors who cannot easily shop or cook for themselves. The delivery also serves as a regular welfare check, and just some basic human contact as nearly all of our clients live alone.

Earlier this year, we were making a delivery to a homebound senior who had a little lap dog that usually greeted me at the door with a tail wag. I knocked on the door, and got no human response, but could hear the little dog barking vigorously inside. I knocked several more times, and still no response — except for the little dog barking urgently.

Something felt off here to me and nudged me to look in through several of the windows to see if perhaps the client had fallen (not totally uncommon — Mike rescued an elderly client several years ago who had fallen and been on the floor for six hours before our meal delivery).

After looking in the second window, I spotted the client lying unresponsive in a recliner. I contacted client services who called the client's emergency contact and summoned the rescue squad. The rescue squad came, and they were able to revive this person from their medical crisis. A couple of weeks later, we were delivering meals to this person again.

As Meals on Wheels drivers, we are grateful for the opportunity to brighten people's day each week, and we're in awe of having had the opportunity to save a life!

— Mary Anne and Mike Williams,
Feed More Volunteers

Volunteer Opportunities

A little time can make a big difference for the Foundation's grantees and partners. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact these organizations directly.

Big Brothers Big Sisters | (804) 261-4940 | hmartinez@bigbrobigsis.com

Become a Big. Spend an hour a week with your Little at their school during their lunch hour playing board games, creating art projects, or spending time outside on school grounds.

Boys to Men Mentoring Network of VA | (804) 615-7823 | info@btmva.org

Seeking men to mentor teen boys through group mentoring circles and community meetings. On-going mentor training provided.

Crater Community Hospice | (804) 526-4300 | tbrockwell@cratercommunityhospice.org

There are many ways to make a difference for people and families receiving hospice care. Become a Family Support Volunteer, Office Volunteer, Thrift Shop Volunteer, "We Honor Veterans" Volunteer, and more.

Feed More – Meals on Wheels | Feedmore.org/volunteer

Deliver fresh meals and a smile to homebound neighbors in need. Opportunities available Monday – Friday 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

FOLAR (Friends of the Lower Appomattox River) | eneuscheler@folar-va.org

Be a good river steward! Help remove invasive plants, clear walking paths and bike trails, and remove harmful trash from our shorelines.

Hopewell Food Pantry | (804) 530-3546

Help fight hunger by volunteering at the pantry, Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:30a.m. – 3:00p.m. or the Clothing Place, a thrift shop in Hopewell whose proceeds benefit the Hopewell Food Pantry, Monday – Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

project: HOMES | (804) 837-0796 | brad.burnum@projecthomes.org

Join the Renew Crew! Volunteers provide small-scale home repairs and accessibility modifications like porch, railing, and step repairs, and wheelchair ramps.

GIVE TODAY! HELP US CREATE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES & BRIGHT FUTURES.

Partner with us to support good health and bright futures
for our communities by donating today!

NAME

(as you wish it to appear in our annual report)

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF \$ _____

payable to John Randolph Foundation

- ☐ My employer will match my gift.
- ☐ Matching gift instructions are enclosed.

MY GIFT TODAY IS
IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF (circle one)

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LEGACY SOCIETY

- ☐ I have included John Randolph Foundation
in my estate plans.
- ☐ I would like information about including
John Randolph Foundation in my will.

BRIGHT FUTURES CLUB

- ☐ Please send me a monthly giving form.

To give via debit or credit card, please go to
www.johnrandolphfoundation.org/donate.

For a full list of ways to give, please visit
www.johnrandolphfoundation.org
or call us at (804) 458-2239.



25 Years

**Healthy Communities,
Bright Futures.**

**112 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 1606
Hopewell VA 23860**

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Join us to celebrate the retirement of Lisa Sharpe, JRF Executive Director, on December 8th, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

RSVP online at LisaSharpe.eventbrite.com or call (804) 458-2239.

In lieu of gifts, please consider donating Friskies cat food to help homeless cats. Drop off location: John Randolph Foundation 9 am–5 pm weekdays.

