

RVA Hope Center

Aaron & Vangie Hendrickson

RVA Hope Center is a Christ-centered 501c3 ministry, whose mission is to transform hearts and lives through the love and power of Jesus Christ. We exist to bring glory to God and expand His kingdom, to love and serve the most at-risk and vulnerable so that they can experience abundant life in Christ, to accelerate the faith of our volunteers by serving on mission, and activate and unify the body of Christ to transform Greater RVA. The work we do is aligned by 3 initiatives. First is Just Love, which is about serving children and their families in vulnerable communities in Richmond's East End. Second is Freedom, which is focused on serving trafficked and exploited women and children on the streets, online, and in clubs. Third is Encounter, which is foundational to the other two, and refers to serving our volunteers by providing missions outreach experiences to grow their faith.

Opportunities to Serve:

Just Love:

Saturday morning Shine mini-block parties typically take place on the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of each month. We gather at 9am and finish by 12:30pm. Volunteers serve 'Just Love' kids and families by doing crafts, playing games and sports, serving food, reading the Bible, helping to deliver the faith message, participating in small groups, and praying.

Hope Kids:

Tuesday evening Hope Kids takes place 3 Tuesdays a month from 4-6pm. Because of work schedules, it's totally fine for volunteers to arrive later than 4pm. Volunteers serve as buddies and mentors for our Elementary kids as they learn about Jesus through Bible stories each week. There are also opportunities to help with the food, security, and kid pick-up.

Impact Youth:

Wednesday evening Impact Youth takes place 3 Wednesdays a month from 4:30-7:30pm. Similar to Hope Kids, it's totally fine for volunteers to arrive later than 4:30pm. Volunteers serve as buddies and mentors for our Middle and High School kids as they hear a faith message, eat dinner, and play games and sports. There are also opportunities to help with the food, security, and kid pick-up.

Operation Autumn:

Operation Autumn is advocacy, awareness, and searching for missing children at the motels lining the interstates of Greater Richmond. It takes place one Saturday morning a month from 9am-1pm.

Princess Night:

Street outreach to women on the streets takes place 3 Thursdays a month from 5:45-9:30pm. Due to the sensitive nature of this outreach, we recommend high

school age and up, and for a parent to attend training with their child to ensure that this outreach is a good match. Opportunities also exist to pack the bags and write the prayer notes we give out on Princess Night.

Contact Information:

- Co-Founders and Co-Directors: Aaron and Vangie Hendrickson
 - Aaron: aaron@rvahopecenter.org, 804-837-3806
 - Vangie: vangie@rvahopecenter.org, 804-218-4352
- Website: rvahopecenter.org
- Mailing Address: RVA Hope Center, PO Box 132, Mechanicsville, VA 23111
- Ministry House Address: 2302 Creighton Road, Richmond, VA 23223

Shood

Robin Telfian, Sara Sitkiewicz & Suzanne Sprouse

Mission:

To provide well-fitted, high-quality running shoes to underserved communities with dignity—fostering physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

Overview:

Founded in 2017, Shood (Shoes for Good) is a Richmond-based nonprofit that has distributed more than 30,000 pairs of shoes valued at \$1.5 million to individuals in need across the region. Operated entirely by volunteers, Shood continues to serve with an annual budget of less than \$30,000.

In 2024, Shood achieved a 58% increase in shoe distribution and doubled Title 1 student-athlete participation, reflecting the growing need and impact of our programs. At the heart of everything we do is dignity—ensuring every recipient experiences care, respect, and connection regardless of income, housing, or background.

Programs:

Shood Shares:

Our original and largest program, Shood Shares has distributed over 15,000 pairs of shoes (valued at \$1 million) to individuals experiencing homelessness or in recovery programs through more than 40 local agency partnerships. Monthly “Shood Shares” take place at soup kitchens and food pantries across Richmond, including:

- GoochlandCares
- The LighthouseRVA
- CARITAS
- Red Door Ministries (Grace and Holy Trinity Soup Kitchen)
- St. Peter’s Catholic Soup Kitchen
- St. Thomas Episcopal Food Pantry
- Neighborhood Resource Center
- STEP (Strategies to Elevate People) in Gilpin Court

Each Shood Share is set up like a mini-shoe store—with hundreds of clean, colorful athletic shoes displayed by size. Guests are professionally sized and assisted by Shood volunteers to find the perfect fit. Every guest also receives Bombas socks and a foot-care bag containing nail clippers, foot powder, and other essentials.

Shooting Stars:

Our most resource-intensive initiative, Shooting Stars provides running shoes and track spikes to area Title 1 high school and middle school student-athletes and youth in movement-based programs such as Girls on the Run, Kids on the Move, Live

Red Foundation, and AAU. Since 2019, this program has distributed more than 2,000 pairs of shoes (valued at \$230,000)—doubling participation in cross-country and track programs at the schools we serve.

Outreach Nonprofit Support:

Shood also supplies shoes to over 40 Richmond-area nonprofits, including Blessing Warriors, Mercy Mall, Moments of Hope, OAR, and Broken Men Foundation. To date, these partnerships have resulted in the distribution of 13,000+ pairs (valued at \$650,000), amplifying the impact of local service organizations.

Sustainability:

Through a growing shoe recycling initiative, Shood operates collection bins across Richmond to ensure gently used shoes are diverted from landfills and given new life—extending the mission of care, dignity, and community stewardship.

Opportunities to Serve:

Young people are the heartbeat of Shood! Whether you're part of a youth group, school club, sports team, or serving individually, your energy helps bring dignity and joy to every shoe we share.

Prepping for Upcoming Shood Giveaways:

- Task: Organize, tag, and prepare shoes for upcoming giveaways. Volunteers help sort shoes by size, match pairs, and make sure every shoe looks clean and ready for its new owner.
- Location: Shood HQ (inside Chesterfield Towne Center)
- Schedule: Flexible! Groups can schedule a 2-hour shift during the week or weekend.
- Perfect for team-building or service-hour projects.

Key Chain Project:

- Task: Create reflective keychains that we give to our giveaway guests. These keychains symbolize safety, hope, and connection—small gifts that make a big difference.
- Location: Work can be done outside Shood HQ or off-site at schools, youth groups, or team meetings.
- Schedule: This is an ongoing project—perfect for groups wanting a creative, hands-on way to help.

Volunteer at a Shood Giveaway:

- Task: Be part of the action at one of our monthly shoe giveaways! Help sign in guests, assist them as they shop and try on shoes, or pass out Bombas socks and foot-care bags. Every role makes a meaningful impact.
- Location: Various sites across Richmond, VA (including local soup kitchens, food pantries, and community centers)
- Schedule: Monthly opportunities available year-round.

Why Volunteer with Shood?

Volunteering with Shood isn't just service—it's movement, community, and compassion in action. You'll meet incredible people, see the direct impact of your work, and walk away knowing you helped someone take a confident step forward.

Contact Information:

- Founder: Robin Telfian
- Email: robin@shood.org
- Phone: 804-651-9032

Start 1 Spark

Amber Lancaster

Start 1 Spark believes every student should have access to the extracurricular programs at school so they can discover their passions, become leaders, improve communication skills, explore creative outlets, and be a part of their school community. Currently in our fifth year, we partner with four middle schools in Henrico and Chesterfield counties to provide the resources necessary for quality sports, music, arts, and clubs programs. Through the generosity of community members' time, talent, and treasure, Start 1 Spark has provided 1,446 pieces of equipment, gear, and instruments and 18,196 snack kits to 3,734 middle school students. By increasing access to enriching extracurriculars, Start 1 Spark ignites student potential and transforms their future.

Contact Information:

- Amber Lancaster
- Phone: (571) 239-2462 (c)
- Email: Amber@start1spark.org
- Address: 8942 Quioccasin Road Henrico, VA 23229

Elijah House Academy

Elizabeth Kell

For almost 15 years it has been an honor to see Elijah House Academy and HOPE families serve together as the "hands and feet" of the local Church in Richmond! At EHA we are passionate about cultivating children to Love God, Love Neighbor, and Love Learning. Our mission is to provide a Christ-centered and accessible choice in education that cultivates the hearts, minds and bodies of our city's children for God's glory and Richmond's flourishing. It's a joy to do kingdom work with hundreds of HOPE congregants and see the strong missional, Gospel alignment. Youth service opportunities abound: prayer walks, landscaping and classroom cleaning, serving families at events, and working with the children through sports, etc.

Contact Information:

- Elizabeth Kell - eckell@elijahhouseacademy.org (staff),
- Patricia Walton - pmwalton9@gmail.com (HOPE volunteer), (804) 755-7051 ext. 224
- Address: 6627 Jahnke Road RVA 23225.

The Lighthouse RVA

Emily Dubose

We shine LIGHT with women in recovery!

- Link to Resources
- Ignite Hope
- Gather Women
- Heal through Connection
- Thrive for Life

Mission:

To create a community where women in recovery find hope and healing through connection to relationships and resources.

About:

- Founded in 2021
- 500 women join our activities each year
- Serving women from 40 recovery residences across Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield, and nearby areas
- 120 active volunteers

What We Do:

Weekly Gatherings:

- 30-40 women gather weekly for shared lunch and uplifting activities

Monthly Events:

- Gatherings with Art for the Journey, Safe Harbor and The Healing Place for Women/CARITAS

The Sunshine Shop:

- 400 free shopping visits annually to provide clothing, toiletries, towels, feminine hygiene items, and bedding
- 3000 items distributed at no cost
- 1100 feminine hygiene kits distributed

Resources:

- Comprehensive Community Resource Guide for referrals to housing, food, healthcare, employment, legal aid, and more

Partnerships:

- 40 community partner relationships
- Our space is open to mission-aligned organizations for community events, meetings and collaborations

Compassionate Education:

- Recovery Ally Trainings and Trauma Trainings offered annually to reduce stigma and build a compassionate, informed community

Impact Giving Levels:

Help us come alongside women in recovery by contributing to these vital areas:

- \$10,000 — Sunshine Shop inventory for 1 year
- \$5,000 — Five Gatherings (meals + activities)
- \$2,000 — Annual Yoga Series
- \$1,000 — Four Events at The Healing Place
- \$500 — One Compassionate Education Class
- \$250 — Five Love Bags with essential items

Every contribution makes a difference.

Your donation is tax deductible.

EIN: 88-1228928

Give by mail:

The LightHouseRVA

P.O. Box 29051

Henrico, VA 23242

To donate stock or inquire about gifts:

- Email: edubose@thelighthouseva.org
- Physical address: 4112 Fitzhugh Avenue, Richmond, VA
- P.O. Box: The LightHouseRVA, P.O. Box 29051, Henrico, VA 23242
- Sunshine Shop: Donations & Shopping Appointment referrals: shop@thelighthouseva.org
- Volunteers: volunteer@thelighthouseva.org
- General Information/Join our Community: info@thelighthouseva.org

Social media:

Facebook- The LightHouseRVA

Instagram- @thelighthouseva