

2022-2023

REPORT TO THE
COMMUNITY



Improving our community...one gift at a time

BOARD MEMBERS 2022–2024

Harry Lee Cross, III, 2023–2024
President

Mary C. Haddad, 2021–2022
President (*retired in 2023*)

Sheri Anderson (*joined in 2024*)

Leroy Bennett

George Y. Birdsong

James (Jay) E. Butler, III

Thomas M. Chamberlain

Carl L. Farris, Jr.

Les Hall

O. Kermit Hobbs, Jr.

Wendy M. Hosick (*retired in 2023*)

David F. Host

S. Chris Jones

Chief Deputy Sheriff David Miles
(*joined in 2024*)

Jacqueline (Jackie) Overton

Timothy K. Palmer (*joined in 2024*)

Dr. Sharon A. Raghubar
(*joined in 2023*)

Deborah B. Russell

Whitney G. Saunders
(*retired in 2023*)

Dwight C. Schaubach

J. Wayne Scott

Betsy B. Totten (*joined in 2024*)

Vernon M. Towler

Joseph (Joby) N. Webb, Jr.

Margaret (Margie) N. Wiley

B.J. Willie

FOUNDATION STAFF

Lorelei Costa Morrow,
Executive Director

Brenda Chamberlain,
Bookkeeper and Office Manager

Kim Raines,
Special Projects Director

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

It's been two years since our last community report, and here at the Suffolk Foundation, we have much to celebrate and share.

This publication spans 2022 and 2023—including terms of two different board presidents: Harry Cross and Mary Haddad—and while our Foundation has evolved over these past two years, what's remained ever-constant is our stewardship of the funds faithfully entrusted to us for Suffolk and Western Tidewater.

It's astounding to see how much we've grown since our very first grants in 2008 after the April tornado. In 2022 and 2023, we gave out over \$1.4 million in grants and scholarships to 110 nonprofits and 29 local students. We were grateful to receive two wonderful planned gifts in 2022 and 2023, and establish six new charitable funds, including a new scholarship (see page 8).

Our Women's Impact Fund grew to 40 members, we hosted forums on AI in Education and Amedeo Obici, and we published the Suffolk Community Resource Guide, in partnership with Virginia Legal Aid, Obici Healthcare Foundation, the Suffolk Public Library, and many local fraternities and sororities.

The Community Resource Guide helps Suffolk residents find local sources of support for things like food, shelter, and employment, and it could not have come sooner. For many of our neighbors, 2022 and 2023 were difficult times of rising costs and housing challenges. It's times like these when the benefits of a community foundation are most keenly felt. During tough times, when other donors must reduce their giving, our endowment remains steady and strong, providing grants, scholarships, and other sources of support year after year.

In 2024, we've got even more planned—more grants, more scholarships, more ways of supporting our community, under the strong leadership of a wonderful board and staff. We are excited for what's to come, and we are honored to have your support and partnership.



Mary C. Haddad
2021–2022 Board President



Harry Lee Cross, III
2023–2024 Board President



SUFFOLK FOUNDATION CHARITABLE FUNDS

AS OF MARCH 8, 2024

Ann Godwin Moore Fund
 Brian and Caroline Martin Family Fund
 Charity for Needy Fund
 Charles B. III and Juanita Pond Fund
 Coach Ron Killmon PRLPT Fund
 Community Action Coalition of Virginia Fund
 Community Impact Fund
 Cross Family Fund
 David and Debbie Russell Family Fund
 Disaster Relief Fund
 DiStasio Family Fund
 Dottie Scott Elizabeth River Artists Fund
 Dwight and Jane Schaubach Fund
 Ella Freeman Rawls Endowment Fund
 George and Sue Birdsong Endowment Fund
 George T. Everett Memorial Fund
 Hall Family Fund
 Hampton Roads Partnership Fund
 Harrell Fund
 Harry and Lisa Cross Administrative Fund
 Heirs of Angus Henderson Hines Fund
 Host Family Fund
 Katherine S. Harrison Fund



The Suffolk Foundation's 2023 Fall Forum was a sold-out event, featuring a keynote address on AI in Education. From left to right: Board President Harry Cross, Keynote Speaker Tim Lee, Suffolk Public Schools Superintendent John Gordon, Board Secretary Leroy Bennett.

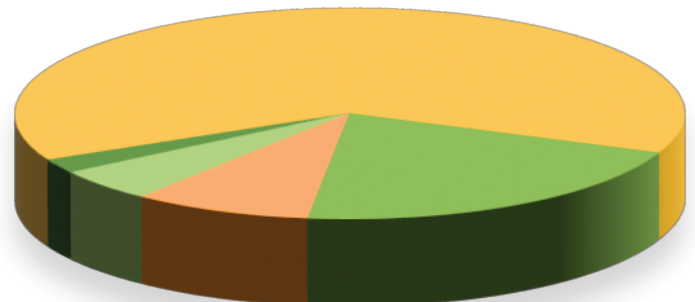
K&L Cross Fund
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael W. Wendel AVW Technologies Fund
 Next Step Operating Endowment Fund
 Operating Fund
 R. Curtis and Martha Godwin Saunders Memorial Fund
 Reynoldson Baptist Church Fund
 Richard F. III and Carolyn Barry Fund
 Robert F. Brinkley III Fund
 Samaritan Internship Fund
 Scott and Heather Carr Fund
 Suffolk Education Foundation Fund
 Suffolk Humane Society Fund
 Suffolk Recreational and Charitable Association Fund
 Suffolk Youth Athletic Association Fund
 Thomas H. III and Constance P. Birdsong Endowment Fund
 Tom and Jane Birdsong Endowment Fund
 Tri-County Longbeards Fund
 White Family Fund
 Women's Impact Fund

We also manage 16 scholarship funds! See page 9 for details.

GRANTS BY TYPE

2022 AND 2023

- **Donor-Advised Grants:**
\$895,737 to 75 nonprofits
- **Community Impact Grants:**
\$293,100 to 37 nonprofits
- **Scholarships:**
\$119,000 to 29 students
- **Agency Fund and Designated Grants:**
\$69,675 to 2 nonprofits
- **Women's Impact and Field-of-Interest Grants:**
\$30,650 to 8 nonprofits



TOTAL: \$1.4 million in grants and scholarships

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

2022–2023

Airfield 4-H Conference Center	\$1,000
Access College Foundation.....	\$8,500
American Red Cross of Coastal VA.....	\$9,500
Armed Services YMCA of Hampton Roads.....	\$1,000
Boys & Girls Club.....	\$7,000
BridgetheGap Outreach Center	\$1,000
Children’s Center.....	\$1,500
Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters.....	\$21,000
Coalition Against Poverty	\$12,000
Communities in Schools	\$4,000
Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia	\$10,000
ForKids	\$15,000
Genieve Shelter	\$5,000
Girl Scouts.....	\$8,500
Girls on the Run	\$1,000
Mariners’ Museum and Park.....	\$1,000
Meals on Wheels.....	\$18,000
Nansemond River Preservation Alliance.....	\$18,000
Nansemond-Suffolk Academy	\$4,000
Riddick’s Folly	\$3,000



Community Impact Grants from the Suffolk Foundation have helped sustain **Riddick’s Folly** and its historic preservation and interpretation programs. Photo courtesy of Suffolk Tourism.

Safe House Project.....	\$2,000
Salvation Army.....	\$16,500
Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia.....	\$8,000
Suffolk Art League	\$5,200
Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts.....	\$16,000
Suffolk Cheer Fund.....	\$5,000
Suffolk Education Foundation	\$2,900
Suffolk Family YMCA.....	\$10,000
Suffolk Nansemond Historical Society.....	\$5,000
Suffolk Parks and Trails Alliance.....	\$5,000
Tidewater Arts Outreach	\$750
Tidewater Friends of Foster Care	\$7,500
Up Center.....	\$8,000
Virginia Legal Aid Society	\$27,500
Virginia Symphony Orchestra.....	\$2,250
Western Tidewater Free Clinic.....	\$20,000
World Affairs Council.....	\$1,500



\$293,100
DOLLARS AWARDED



37 NUMBER OF
NONPROFITS SUPPORTED



97,000*
NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED

**Numbers provided by our grantees*



In a recent report by Project Hope, 228 students were identified as homeless in Suffolk and Western Tidewater public schools. Homelessness and housing instability profoundly impacts the educational progress for most children. With \$15,000 in support from the Suffolk Foundation in 2022–2023, **ForKids** helped those students catch up to their peers. Photo courtesy of ForKids.

How to Apply:

Our Community Impact Grants Program supports nonprofits serving Suffolk and Western Tidewater, focusing on arts and culture, education, the environment, health, and other human needs. These competitive grants are supported by our Community Impact Fund, as well as eight other undesignated and field-of-interest funds.

Applications for Community Impact Grants open online on September 1 each year, and are due October 15. Any nonprofit serving Suffolk and/or Western Tidewater is eligible to apply. To learn more, visit suffolkfoundation.org/grants, or call our staff at **757-923-9090**.

How to Help:

We are grateful to over 100 donors who have contributed generously to our Community Impact Fund over the years, ensuring that Suffolk and Western Tidewater have a perpetual endowment to support local charitable good for generations to come.

Anyone can contribute to our grants program, either with a gift to an existing fund, or by starting and naming a new fund. Some donors choose to start their fund during their lifetime, while others opt to give through a bequest, trust, or other planned gift. Donors can establish a fund for a favorite good cause (like children or the environment), or make a donation for general grant-making. To learn more, call us at **757-923-9090**, or read more at suffolkfoundation.org/funds.

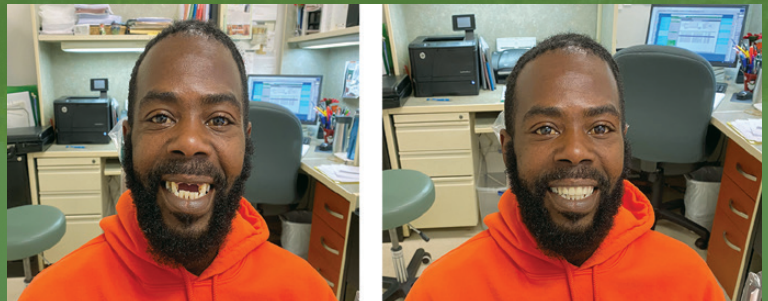
Bennett's Creek Parks & Marina, Suffolk, VA. Photo courtesy of Suffolk Tourism.



Grant funding from the Suffolk Foundation of \$18,000 in 2022–2023 helped the **Nansemond River Preservation Alliance** bring every seventh grader in the Suffolk Public School System on science-based adventures, into the wetlands and on boat trips of the Nansemond River. Students learn about oysters, water quality monitoring, and other river ecology lessons. Photo courtesy of NRPA.



Community Impact Grants of \$16,000 in 2022–2023 supported diverse art classes and performances at the **Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts**, including this interactive production of “Every Brilliant Thing,” in which audience members sat on stage to participate in the performance. Photo courtesy of SCCA.



Western Tidewater Free Clinic (WTFC) serves 630 dental patients each year, supported in part by \$20,000 in Community Impact funding from the Suffolk Foundation in 2022–2023. Improved oral health can prevent disease and significantly enhance a person’s overall health and quality of life. This gentleman’s beautiful smile is thanks to dentures provided by WTFC, which provides no-cost healthcare to Suffolk, Isle of Wight, Southampton, Franklin, Sussex, and Surry residents who could not otherwise afford care. Photo courtesy of WTFC.

OTHER GRANTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

From Donor-Advised, Designated, and Agency Funds

2022–2023

In 2022–2023, the Suffolk Foundation supported 80 nonprofit organizations with grants and distributions totaling \$983,411 from our donor-advised, designated, and agency funds.

Achievable Dream	\$2,500	NC Community Foundation.....	\$106,080
ADS Mission Give Back Foundation	\$750	Old Dominion University Athletic Foundation	\$20,500
All District Reads.....	\$5,000	Old Dominion University Museum	\$500
American Cancer Society	\$1,000	Plan Bee Academy.....	\$12,000
American Heart Association.....	\$1,000	Portsmouth Christian School.....	\$1,000
Backing the Thin Line	\$10,000	Portsmouth Museums Foundation.....	\$5,000
Beech Grove United Methodist Church	\$15,361	Portsmouth Service League.....	\$2,500
Cape Henry Collegiate	\$1,500	Rawls Museum Arts	\$34,600
CHAS Foundation	\$10,000	RBR Charitable Foundation	\$10,600
Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation	\$2,000	Riverside Health System Foundation	\$5,000
Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters.....	\$13,250	Roc Solid Foundation.....	\$56,500
Children’s Museum of Virginia.....	\$5,000	Ruff Road Pet Rescue	\$1,000
Deep Creek High School.....	\$3,000	Salisbury University Foundation	\$5,500
DiStasio Health Professions Scholarship (Suffolk Foundation).....	\$1,000	Salvation Army.....	\$29,000
Ebenezer United Methodist Church.....	\$24,500	Sleep in Heavenly Peace.....	\$1,000
EDMARC.....	\$2,500	Smithfield Youth Wrestling	\$7,000
Eggleston	\$10,000	St. Luke’s Church.....	\$5,000
Elizabeth River Project.....	\$2,500	St. Michaels Concours d’Elegance	\$10,000
EVMS Foundation	\$11,500	St. Paul Episcopal Church	\$5,250
Festevents	\$1,000	Suffolk Art League	\$5,500
ForKids	\$33,450	Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts.....	\$65,000
Get Suited.....	\$1,500	Suffolk Christian Academy.....	\$4,000
Global Action Platform.....	\$156,500	Suffolk Education Foundation	\$62,175
Guns and Hoses Hockey Association.....	\$2,500	Suffolk Family YMCA.....	\$1,000
Hampton Roads Classical	\$11,000	Suffolk Humane Society	\$7,500
Hampton Roads Workforce Foundation	\$25,000	Suffolk Meals on Wheels.....	\$500
Hero Kids Foundation.....	\$5,000	Suffolk Rotary Foundation.....	\$4,800
High Point University.....	\$2,000	Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society.....	\$1,000
Holland District Foundation.....	\$1,000	Taylor Bend Family YMCA	\$12,000
Isle of Wight Academy.....	\$500	TowneBank Foundation.....	\$31,000
Jimmye Laycock Charity Foundation.....	\$20,000	Tunnel to Tower Foundation	\$750
King’s Fork High School.....	\$4,000	Union Mission	\$15,000
Lakeland High School	\$4,000	United Way of South Hampton Roads.....	\$500
Lynell Baker Scholarship Fund.....	\$2,000	Valor Run	\$1,000
Mercy Drop Dream Center	\$500	Virginia Beach Travel Soccer.....	\$5,000
Messalonskee Lake Association	\$500	Virginia Living Museum.....	\$500
Nansemond-Suffolk Academy	\$5,500	Washington & Lee.....	\$6,346
Nansemond River Garden Club.....	\$1,000	Williamsburg Christian Academy.....	\$5,000
Nansemond River High School.....	\$3,500	Women’s Impact Fund (Suffolk Foundation).....	\$5,000
Nansemond River Preservation Alliance.....	\$21,000	Wor-Wic Community College Foundation.....	\$4,500
		YMCA of South Hampton Roads.....	\$3,500



*Above: Lake Drummond. Below: Great Dismal Swamp, Suffolk, VA.
Photos courtesy of Suffolk Tourism.*

What is a Donor-Advised Fund?

A donor-advised fund is a giving fund established by a family, business, or individual, who has ongoing involvement in how his/her fund is used. You recommend grants to nonprofit charities, and our staff handles all the paperwork, investment, accounting, and due diligence. We can offer you many flexible options, including timing/amount of grants, various investment and spending choices, and the ability to involve future generations of your family. Donor-advised funds are an easy, tax-advantaged, and inexpensive way to take your philanthropy to the next level.

What is a Designated Fund?

With a designated fund, you create an endowment to support your favorite nonprofit organization. It can be a service group, church, food pantry, park, school, or any other type of charity. The Suffolk Foundation handles the investment, and your chosen charity receives steady and reliable income each year.

What is an Agency Fund?

An agency fund is established by a nonprofit for its own organization. This is a great tool for nonprofits that don't have the investment capacity or expertise to manage their own endowment. Your organization can also use your fund at the Suffolk Foundation to enhance your capability to accept large, complex, and/or planned gifts.

To learn more about establishing a charitable fund, contact our staff at 757-923-9090, or go to suffolkfoundation.org/funds.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2022–2023

Amaya Allen (King's Fork High School, Class of 2022)
Lily Backus (Nansemond River High School, Class of 2023)
Avery Bowen (Southampton High School, Class of 2022)
Madison Bullock (Lakeland High School, Class of 2023)
Zoe Cacanindin (Nansemond River High School, Class of 2023)
Alisa Chandler (Nansemond River High School, Class of 2023)
Snow Chen (King's Fork High School, Class of 2022)
Abigail Conrod (Nansemond-Suffolk Academy, Class of 2022)
Emma Conrod (Nansemond-Suffolk Academy, Class of 2022)
Elizabeth DeFluri (Smithfield High School, Class of 2023)
Makai Gillis (King's Fork High School, Class of 2023)
Jayla Harris (Nansemond River High School, Class of 2023)
Brooke Howe (Lakeland High School, Class of 2022)
Lauren Howell (Isle of Wight Academy, Class of 2022)
Rachel Iman (Longwood University)
Noelle Ingram (King's Fork High School, Class of 2023)
Katelyn Johnson (Nansemond River High School, Class of 2022)
Laurel Jones (Home School, Class of 2022)
Octavia Jones (King's Fork High School, Class of 2022)
Olivia Jones (King's Fork High School, Class of 2022)
Emmanuella Lartey (King's Fork High School, Class of 2023)
Chloe Lawrence (King's Fork High School, Class of 2022)
Abigail Lockhart (Nansemond River High School, Class of 2022)
Maryam Mumuni (Norfolk State University)
Alexis Olsen (Nansemond River High School, Class of 2022)
Cale Roggie (University of Virginia)
Cassidy Spencer (Nansemond-Suffolk Academy, Class of 2023)
Sophia Verhaeghe (Smithfield High School, Class of 2022)
Jayla Wilson (Nansemond River High School, Class of 2023)

Life's most
persistent and
urgent question is:
What are you
doing for others?

Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 2022 and 2023, the Suffolk Foundation awarded **\$119,000** in college scholarship to **29** deserving local students. Our 2022–2023 scholars are now working toward their degrees at Norfolk State, James Madison, Tidewater Community College, UVA, Virginia Tech, Hampton, Princeton, Stanford, and beyond.

In 2024, we added two new scholarships: the Oliver K. Hobbs, Sr. STEM Scholarship, which focuses on students studying science, engineering, technology, or math, and the Obici Healthcare Foundation Scholarship, a renewable award that focuses on students who plan to pursue a career in healthcare and return home to Suffolk and/or Western Tidewater.

If you are interested in starting a scholarship, or if you'd like to partner with us on an existing scholarship, call us at 757-923-9090.



From left to right: Alisa Chandler, Laurel Jones, Cale Roggie, Snow Chen, Elizabeth DeFluri, Katelyn Johnson, Lauren Howell, and Maryam Mumuni.

CHUCKTUCK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Still Serving Their Community



Photo courtesy of Lynn Rose.

The Chucktuck Volunteer Fire Department (or CVFD) got its start in the 1950s by community members who understood that their neighborhood needed a nearby fire station. Money was raised, equipment was bought, volunteers were recruited, and a fire house was built. Over the decades that followed, dozens of selfless volunteers bravely served their neighbors as emergency responders, and countless community members supported them through fish fries, dances, and the Ladies Auxiliary's events.

As the community grew, eventually the all-volunteer squad was responding to 500 fire and medical calls a year—often in the middle of the night. Several men had been volunteering over 50 years. In time it was inevitable that a paid squad was needed, and by 2018 Suffolk Fire and Rescue assumed duty in Chucktuck.

Once emergency services were transitioned to the City, the question arose of how to support the local community with the volunteer group's remaining funds. And so, in 2021, CVFD partnered with the Suffolk Foundation to create a scholarship program. The CVFD Scholarship is earmarked for graduating high school seniors who live in the historic CVFD service area, as well as descendants of CVFD volunteers. The first scholarships were awarded in 2022 to Avery Bowen and Lauren Howell. Structured as an endowment, the CVFD Scholarship will continue to help local student for generations to come—a wonderful next chapter for the story of service in Chucktuck.

SUFFOLK FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Allfirst Memorial Scholarship
Amy Phelps Art Scholarship
Audrey B. Butler Memorial Scholarship
Chuckatuck Volunteer Fire Department Scholarship
Col. Fred V. Cherry Scholarship
DiStasio Health Professions Scholarship
Howard D. Mast Memorial Scholarship
James M. Blair Memorial Scholarship
Lewis F. Morris and William L. Whitley Scholarship

Louis and Mary Haddad Foundation Scholarship
Obici Healthcare Foundation Career Pathways Scholarship
(new in 2024!)
Oliver K. Hobbs, Sr. STEM Scholarship *(new in 2024!)*
Ossie S. and Thomas F. Blair Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Otha S. Rountree Scholarship
Suffolk Business Women Scholarship
William N. (Billy) Hill Scholarship

Bennett's Creek Parks & Marina, Suffolk, VA. Photo courtesy of Suffolk Tourism.



An aerial photograph of a city street intersection, likely in Suffolk or Western Tidewater, Virginia. The image shows several multi-story brick and stone buildings, a street with traffic lights and cars, and a large green semi-transparent overlay in the center containing white text. The background is filled with lush green trees and more buildings, suggesting a dense urban or suburban environment.

Together we can build
a better community,
one gift at a time.

You are the builders.
Your gifts enable us
to award grants and
scholarships that make
Suffolk and Western
Tidewater stronger.

Create a fund.
Add to an endowment.
Start a scholarship.
Support our work.

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

The Suffolk Foundation welcomes contributions of all sizes and types:

- Become a “Friend of the Foundation” with a gift towards our Operating Fund, which ensures that our work is supported and sustainable.
- Make a tribute gift to any fund in honor or in memory of a loved one.
- Join the Women’s Impact Fund—membership starts at \$500. Your gift to this endowment will be earmarked for local charities serving women and children.
- Start a fund of your own with a name and charitable purpose of your choosing. Most funds start at \$10,000, which can be contributed over multiple years.

Donations can be made:

- By check, mailed to Suffolk Foundation, 110 West Finney Avenue, Suite 100 using the reply envelope provided.
- Securely online at suffolkfoundation.org/donate.
- Through your individual retirement account (IRA) as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), helping to fulfill your required minimum distribution (RMD).
- As a gift of stock, real estate, or other property.
- By naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement fund or life insurance plan. You can also gift a fully-paid life insurance policy to the Foundation.
- Through a will, trust, or other estate gift. A charitable remainder trust, for example, can provide you with income for life—and an immediate tax benefit—with the remainder benefiting your community through the Foundation.

Contact us for more details about any of these options: 757-923-9090.



The Women’s Impact Fund of the Suffolk Foundation empowers the women and children of Suffolk and the surrounding area to lead healthy and fulfilled lives. As of 2023, the fund had 40 members and had awarded almost \$25,000 in grants to area nonprofits. Above, members of the Women’s Impact Fund gathered with grantees in December 2023 to celebrate the year. Photo by James W. Robinson, Suffolk News Herald.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Suffolk Foundation is to facilitate and develop local philanthropy to benefit Suffolk and Western Tidewater. Partnering with numerous individuals, families, businesses, nonprofits, and other organizations, we manage a host of charitable funds that award grants and scholarships each year to better our community. We are a 501(c)3 public charity, and we are growing each year with new funds, new grants, and new scholarships. We want to work with you to facilitate your philanthropy. Join us!

Front cover image: Sunflowers — Windsor Castle Park, Smithfield, Virginia.
Photo by "Watts," www.tinyurl.com/5f6m4p4v, Creative Commons License.
Horse in Suffolk pasture. Photo courtesy of Suffolk Tourism.



110 W. Finney Avenue, Suite 100, Suffolk, VA