



## Our April Impact

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### Financial Security

Our Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (VERP) is now a Program! After more than five years, [SB628](#) was signed into law and is now a permanent program within the [Department of Housing and Community Development](#) (DHCD). UWHCM has participated in the pilot since 2022.

Within the first quarter of 2026, VERP has paid over \$50,000 in rent and utilities to keep 37 families in their homes, with a total of 177 individual online applications thus far.

It is also important to note that through our work with tenants, courts, and landlords on eviction cases, we indirectly impacted, with no advocacy on our behalf, [HB593](#), which was championed by Delegate Shelly Simonds, requiring tenants receive information about their rights, available resources, and Eviction Diversion Program eligibility alongside their court summons before they enter the courtroom. This bill will go into effect on July 1, and under this new law, the information attached to a summons can be prepared by the Commonwealth, the locality, or a nonprofit organization serving the jurisdiction where the hearing is to be held. Nonprofit organizations like UWHCM are named as eligible sources, allowing our organization to include information about programs and what [VERP](#) provides to the community. This information is distributed with the court summons.

In addition, [HB15](#) goes into effect on July 1, extending Virginia's pay-or-quit notice period from 5 days to 14! This will allow tenants more time to gather funds and make up late payments before their court date. This bill will not remove any protections for the landlords. The same process will remain in place, but allow tenants enough time to receive a paycheck.

THRIVE is a new program offered by [Maria](#), our Financial Services Specialist. This is a partnership with PCS Residential that has 15 active participants who have received banking services, are currently saving money, and are participating in our Financial Security coaching program.

**CLASS BEGINS JUNE 9TH!**

Getting Ahead in a “Just-Gettin’-By” World is a 17-session workshop series providing people motivated for change the tools and support necessary to get ahead in today’s world.

**SIGN UP TODAY!**



The secret to



is getting started.

-Mark Twain

Our [Getting Ahead](#) program has a new cohort beginning on June 9! If you're interested in learning more or would like to sign up, please visit our website, or contact [Brandy](#) for more information.

## MHC Partners for Children

This spring, our MHC Partners for Children team had the wonderful opportunity to plan and support the "Growing Together for Early Learning Success" conference, sponsored by [HighScope](#) and [Henry County Public Schools](#). The event took place on April 25 at [New College Institute](#), bringing together 76 enthusiastic participants who were eager to enhance early learning. We were thrilled to feature two inspiring keynote sessions led by [Kenneth Sherman](#), Director of Global Initiatives at HighScope Educational Research Foundation.

The conference featured six engaging sessions that focused on infant and toddler development, literacy, and intentional instruction. Additionally, there were two creativity labs entitled "Play, Create, and Develop!" One of the labs was facilitated by the MHCP team's [Sharon Cobbler](#) and [Erica James](#), both of whom provided a fun range of recycled materials, sparking imaginative activities for children. We are grateful to the local and regional presenters and vendors for generously sharing their expertise, enriching our MHC early learning community with their valuable and diverse insights.

On top of the conference, our [MHC Partners for Children](#) remain committed to supporting childcare centers participating in the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) and the Virginia Language and Literacy Screening Systems (VALLSS). Their efforts are making a positive impact across seven sites, involving 14 classrooms, and approximately 150 children with spring 2026 assessments scheduled to be completed by May 15.





## Healthy Community

The [Healthy Hearts Learning Collaborative](#) hosted events at Maplewood during the month of April. One of the events, entitled "Let's Get Outside and Chill" with LaToya Preston, aimed to promote positive feelings and coping strategies. A second event, "Power Up with Smart Snacks" with LaDonna Hairston focused on teaching how healthy foods can fuel energy, enhance mood, and support movement. These events were designed for both children and their parents.



## Campaign Update

If you are interested in hosting a special event or summer fundraiser for UWHCM, please contact [Rebecca](#) for more information.

These businesses supported United Way of Henry County and Martinsville at \$10,000 or more during the 2025-2026 season.



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