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Board Notes

Dec 2025 - Jan 2026

Program activities shown in this publication reflect the Bay Aging strategic plan and indicate staff is meeting their program's strategic goals.

In the spirit of advocacy, please share Board Notes with Boards of Supervisors, the community, civic groups, and others who are interested in community affairs.

Kathy E. Vesley
President & CEO



December 31 closed out another successful year-end fundraising campaign.

With your incredible support, we surpassed our \$7,000 goal in qualified online donations and unlocked 7:1 matching funds from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund!

See page 15 for more information.

Rawley Park Brings Affordable Workforce Housing to Middlesex County



Bay Aging proudly announces significant progress on The Residences at Rawley Park, a new development designed to strengthen Middlesex County's essential workforce. Featuring 24 two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartments, Rawley Park will offer affordable housing options for teachers, municipal employees, and other critical workers. Located close to public service and educational centers, Rawley Park will help reduce commutes making it easier for residents to balance work and personal life. *(Read more about Multifamily Housing Development on page 3.)*

VICAP Breaks Records During Medicare Open Enrollment



VICAP Team (pictured from left): Jean Duggan, Lisa Walker, and Lynette Thurston

Bay Aging's VICAP (Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program) team and volunteers made it through an extremely busy Medicare Annual Enrollment period! This last fall, there were several Medicare Advantage and Part D drug plans that did not renew for 2026 - contributing greatly to the already busy annual enrollment. *(Read more from VICAP on page 4.)*

Multifamily Housing

Mid-Atlantic Affordable Housing Management Association Conference

Bay Aging Apartments Property Management, Resident Service Coordination, and Finance staff attended the three-day annual Mid-Atlantic Affordable Housing Management Association conference in Richmond on November 18-20. Topics included:

- **Policy & Compliance:** Federal affordable housing updates; HOTMA (Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016) impacts; Virginia Housing LIHTC (Low Income Housing Tax Credit) and HUD (Housing & Urban Development) Section 202 compliance
- **Standards & Regulations:** HUD NSPIRE (National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate) physical inspection standards replacing the HUD REAC (Real Estate Assessment Center) guidelines
- **Ethics & Communication:** Confidentiality, legal and fair housing issues; strategies for effective communication with residents and staff
- **Innovation:** Artificial Intelligence impacts on affordable housing

Holiday Wishes Abound

Tameka Bromley, Resident Service Coordinator for Bay Aging's Northern Neck apartment communities, worked diligently with local organizations and civic groups to deliver an abundance of Holiday Cheer to residents.

- Volunteers with the Bob Fox Foundation (top right photo) delivered Christmas dinners to residents of Mill Pond Village, Parker Run, The Meadows, and Tartan Village I & II.
- Members from Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority (bottom right photo) purchased, signed, and delivered Christmas cards to every resident at Mill Pond Village, Parker Run, and The Meadows.



Single Family Housing

- October and November funding for the **Essential Home and Accessibility Program (EHARP)** and the **Weatherization Program (WX)** assisted families in Essex, King & Queen, Middlesex, and Richmond Counties, supporting contract work, home repairs, and other household needs.

EHARP		Weatherization (WX)	
\$5,300	2 Households 4 People	3 Households 5 People	\$31,985

Multifamily Housing - Development

- Bay Aging is advancing two major housing projects: Rawley Park, a 24-unit workforce housing community in Middlesex County; and Forest Heights, a 50-unit age- and income-restricted LIHTC (Low Income Housing Tax Credit) community in James City County.
- Together, these developments will add 74 affordable apartments to the region - further expanding Bay Aging's ability to support the diverse needs of individuals throughout the region. In December, Bay Aging secured **\$1.51 million in grant funding**, a significant milestone that accelerates progress on both projects.

Rawley Park

- \$200,000 - Mary Morton Parsons Foundation
- \$860,000 - Virginia Workforce Housing Investment Program (WHIP)

Positions Rawley Park as financially competitive and ready for next-phase development activities.

Forest Heights

- \$450,000 - Williamsburg Health Foundation

Supports predevelopment and early infrastructure costs as we begin the formal review process and move toward acquisition and LIHTC preparation.

VAAACares® - Care Management

Unique member referrals received statewide in 2025



12,500

Statewide Impact

- VAAACares® Expands Services: Through a DMAS-approved opportunity, staff are now completing Level of Care Review Instrument (LOCERI) assessments to determine continued eligibility for in-home services versus nursing facility placement.

Partnership with VCU Health on the Horizon in 2026

- VAAACares® will collaborate with VCU Health to deliver intensive Care Coordination for Multi-Visit Patients (MVPs), reducing hospital readmissions and emergency visits with the goal of achieving an optimal level of health and well-being while living in their preferred setting.
- Transitional Care Support: A 30-day program will help patients and caregivers build skills and confidence for post-hospital recovery.
- Coverage: All three VCU hospitals—Richmond, Tappahannock, and South Hill—are expected to participate.

Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP)

VICAP Breaks Records During Medicare Open Enrollment

- **Record Activity:** VICAP staff and volunteers answered questions, compared plans, and helped with Medicare and Medicaid issues during one of the busiest enrollment periods ever.
- **Community Outreach:** The team presented Medicare and related insurance information at 20 sites across the region.
- **Get Involved:** Anyone can help expand outreach by inviting VICAP presentations. Contact Jean Duggan at 804.694.9623 or jduggan@bayaging.org to schedule.

During Medicare Open Enrollment from Oct 15 - Dec 7, the VICAP team completed:

1,163 Client Contacts

283 Plan Comparisons

VAAACares® - GUIDE Model

CMS GUIDE Model Officially Launched December 8

- Offered by Bay Health Solutions, a partnership of Bay Aging and Peninsula Agency on Aging.
- The GUIDE Model program combines clinical and social interventions to promote the wellbeing of individuals living with dementia as well as their caregivers, and to receive reimbursement for services through Medicare Part B.
- Care Navigators are accepting referrals and completing assessments throughout Virginia's Peninsula, Middle Peninsula, and Northern Neck.
- Bay Aging has partnered with Embrace to provide the GUIDE Model program across the state of Virginia. The development for this statewide initiative is in the early stages with a goal to begin services in the first quarter of 2026.

Aligned Patients
as of January 7



How the GUIDE Model is Making a Difference

The new GUIDE Model program is already having a profound impact on families and caregivers in our community. Mary Arthur, Lead Options Counselor, recently shared a powerful story that illustrates how this approach goes beyond surface-level questions to uncover the emotions and challenges of aging and caregiving. Mary's experience:

“

While completing the GUIDE assessment with a family I have been supporting for 2 years (a mother who is cared for by her son), I asked the client questions about irritability and anxiety. She said, "Yes, I'm irritated." Her son piped in and asked, "With me?" She took a long pause and said, "No, with my old age. I can't get out. I can't get up and go like I used to. I can't see or remember enough to figure it out. It's very frustrating." He got emotional.

When completing the caregiver stress screening, I asked him the question, "Do you feel like you could do more for your loved one?" He became emotional again and said, "When it is asked that way, yes, I want to do more, but I uprooted my life for my mom. I stopped working, I moved back home, and I have figured it out. It has been the toughest transition of my life. I had to get chickens to keep me busy because I became accustomed to the city life. These questions have made me aware of my own struggles when I thought I was okay." We discussed ways for him to get out more and things to do for himself using the respite funds provided through the GUIDE Model.

”

Veteran Directed Care (VDC)

VDC Financial Management Services (FMS)

- Welcome New Enrollment Team Members
 - Nyasia Spriggs - Enrollment Specialist
 - Janice Reed - Criminal Background Specialist
- Lauren Murray is joining the FMS Team in mid-January as Assistant Director
- Congratulations Brianna Noel on her new title of Enrollment and Data Services Manager. Brianna played an integral role in the transition to electronic employer and employee packets in Cumulus. All packet creations, review, and approvals are now completed in Cumulus.
- Congratulations to Katherine Angove for her promotion to BIT Specialist.

1,700

Number of Veterans receiving Financial Management Services through VDC

1,900

Number of Employees Processing Through Bi-Weekly Payroll

Serving Veterans in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

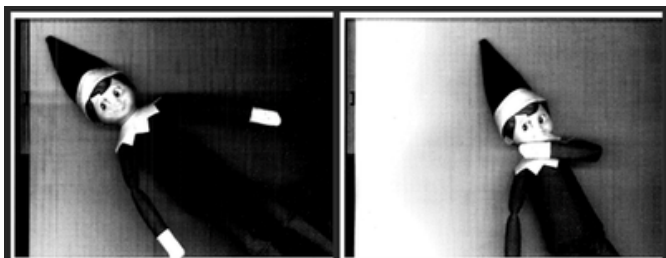


Community Outreach

Melissa Blake, Program Director (FMS) will be speaking about the Veteran Directed Care program with the Piankatank Ruritan Club in Mathews on January 20.

Elf on the Shelf Brings Holiday Fun to VDC

- The VDC Financial Management Services team (pictured below) celebrated the season with a festive Elf on the Shelf challenge! Staff answered daily trivia questions hidden by “Elf Shirley,” and Brooke Davis took home the grand prize. Special thanks to Tamara Wright for organizing this fun event. Shirley even got in on the fun - getting herself tangled up in rubber bands.



Veteran Directed Care (VDC)

Options Counselors

- Welcome New Options Counselors
 - Aileen Perez-Ramirez - Puerto Rico
 - Rache Woolard

Referrals Received for VDC
Enrollment in Nov & Dec

200

VDC Options Counselor
Team consists of:

32 Full Time
Options Counselors

7 Administrative Team
Members

Home Care / Care Coordination (NCQA)

Home Care

- The Home Care Department held its annual aide training and appreciation luncheon on December 11. Several Home Care team members were recognized with Aide of the Month awards for their outstanding performance and dedication to the clients they serve. Congratulations to:
 - Chantag Basye, November's Aide of the Month
 - Dawn Smith, December's Aide of the Month
- Home Care Aide staff in Westmoreland and Richmond Counties distributed gifts provided by St. Paul's Church to clients living in those areas.



Pictured: Chantag Basye,
November Aide of the Month



Pictured: Dawn Smith,
December Aide of the Month

Gloucester Adult Day Center

GADC Earns Three-Year License Renewal

We are thrilled to share that the Gloucester Adult Day Center received a three-year license renewal from the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) following an outstanding inspection. This distinction is reserved for facilities that routinely and substantially exceed minimum standards in activities, services, and management—underscoring our commitment to exceptional care and quality for every participant.

Homeless Solutions

A Place to Call Home This Holiday



The Emergency Services and Homeless Solutions team participated in the “A Place to Call Home This Holiday” initiative, serving 10 households and 17 individuals with temporary housing and much needed essentials including blankets, winter weather gear, food, and toiletries.

Pictured (from left to right): Shontay Smith, Housing Case Manager; Teresa Jones, Housing Case Manager; Suzanne Shepherd, Housing Support Specialist; Rebekah Smith, Community Action and Housing Case Manager; and Takeia Jones, Coordinated Entry Specialist.

Keeping Family Together

For Marian Brown and her daughter, Haley, the holidays brought unexpected upheaval. After reporting major plumbing issues in their rental home, Marian was evicted instead of receiving repairs.

Forced to seek emergency shelter outside their home county, Marian faced another challenge: Haley, who has special needs, lost access to transportation that allowed her to attend school in Richmond. The disruption threatened both housing stability and Haley’s education.

Thanks to Bay Aging’s “A Place to Call Home This Holiday” initiative, Haley was able to resume school, and both mother and daughter remained safe and warm.

Marian shared: *“Bay Aging helped us through one of the hardest moments of our lives. They didn’t just find us shelter—they kept us together and ensured Haley could continue her education.”*

The Brown family is now working with Homeless Solutions staff and community partners to secure permanent housing through the Rapid Rehousing Program.



Pictured above: Marian Brown and daughter Haley.

Homeless Solutions (cont. from page 8)

Finding Stability After Loss

Middlesex County resident Eugene W. experienced the devastating loss of his home due to a fire. After the initial emergency support from the Red Cross ended, Mr. W faced the very real possibility of homelessness during the holiday season. Bay Aging's "A Place to Call Home This Holiday," in collaboration with Linking Hope with Help (The LINK), stepped in at a critical moment. Together, we were able to secure additional temporary housing, ensuring Eugene had a safe, warm place to stay through the holidays.

"Knowing I had a roof over my head during the holidays meant everything," Eugene shared. "It gave me hope when I didn't know what was coming next."

Eugene has since been placed on the homeless preference waitlist for Bay Aging's older adult apartments and is working with Homeless Solutions staff and community partners to find stable housing.

Tai Chi Brings Wellness to Daffodil Gardens

The Tai Chi group at Daffodil Gardens has become a popular wellness program, drawing 10–15 participants every Friday afternoon. Tai Chi's slow, controlled movements help improve balance, flexibility, and reduce stress.

Led by Master Rodney Batiste, a martial arts instructor with over 30 years of experience, the program was launched with his generous volunteer support. To ensure its sustainability, Bay Aging secured a \$5,000 donation from the Kimsey Foundation, funding the class through 2026. This support allows the program to continue promoting health, mindfulness, and community connection.



Transportation

Bay Transit Express Launches in Tappahannock

Bay Transit replaced the Rivah Ride bus service with its microtransit program, Bay Transit Express, on December 1. The service offers safe, affordable rides within Tappahannock and parts of Essex County for just \$1 per trip. Riders can book and pay easily through the free BT4U app or call the Ride Line and pay with exact cash on board.

To promote awareness of the BT4U app, Bay Transit ran a promotion during December offering new users 5 FREE rides for downloading, scheduling, and paying for their first Bay Transit Express – Rivah Ride using the BT4U app.

December Bay Transit Express - Rivah Ride

387 Rides

38 People

51% Used the BT4U app

9 Used FREE ride promo

Celebrating 18 Years of Service: Mathews ALC Honors Polly Morgan

Friday, December 19 was not only a festive holiday party at our Mathews Active Lifestyle Center—it was a heartfelt celebration of Ms. Ella (Polly) Morgan’s incredible 18 years of service! After retirement, Polly will continue to volunteer her time at the center.

Words of Appreciation



“Polly has been the most amazing individual to work with. Her wisdom, kindness, compassion, and love have touched everyone who walked through our doors.”

-Laura Matthews,
Mathews ALC Manager

Pictured above: Polly Morgan and Laura Matthews.



(left) Polly pictured with Carol Swartz and Marjorie Hayes at the Holiday Party on December 19.

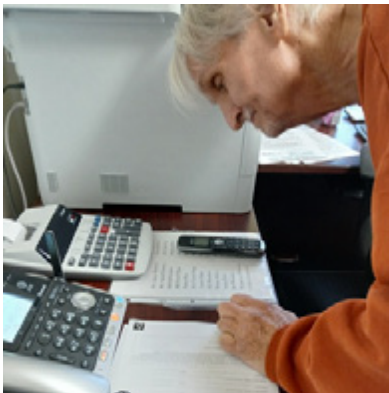


(right) Cindy Maultsby and Polly Morgan toasting to retirement.

Community Action Program

- During **October and November**, Bay Aging's Community Action Program (CAP) provided assistance in Essex, Gloucester, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Richmond, Northumberland, and Westmoreland Counties supporting utility assistance, past-due rent, car repairs, and temporary housing through Community Services Block Grants (CSBG) for Emergency Service (ES) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- **CSBG-ES** funding provided \$5,391.77 in assistance to 21 households with 30 people.
- **CSBG-TANF** funding assisted 10 households with 38 people totaling \$3,088.84.

Success Story: Restoring Stability Through Teamwork



Pictured above: Parker Run resident giving consent for Tameka Bromley, Resident Service Coordinator to be involved in the call. Below: Parker Run resident thanking community member who donated household essentials.



After moving into Parker Run through our Homeless Solutions program, a new resident lost both his state ID and benefits card, leaving him at risk of missing rent payments and going without food. Through the coordinated efforts of our Resident Services team, Homeless Solutions staff, and community partners, we successfully stabilized his situation.

Support included enrolling him in Meals on Wheels, providing emergency food supplies, and securing rent assistance with help from Bay Aging's Housing Support Specialist. Our team also guided him through obtaining a new state ID and worked persistently with customer service to replace his benefits card. Community organizations stepped in to provide essential household items, ensuring he remained safe and supported during this transition.

Today, he has regained access to his benefits and is on the path to stability—an outcome made possible by teamwork and a shared commitment to helping residents rebuild independence and dignity.

Community Chaplain

- On December 10, Chaplain Mary spoke with providers and staff at Bay Internists in Kilmarnock about the role of the chaplain and the availability of professional spiritual care for both patients and staff. She also provided an overview of the GUIDE Model. Following the presentation, Chaplain Mary was pleased to receive a referral from a Bay Internists physician for a patient in need of emotional and spiritual support, demonstrating the value of community engagement.
- On Thanksgiving Day, Chaplain Mary and her husband Scott helped deliver Thanksgiving dinners to residents of Lancaster County. (See photos below.) Sponsored by Campbell Memorial Presbyterian, Living Waters Lutheran, Saint Andrew's Presbyterian, and White Stone Baptist Church, in total, 228 Thanksgiving meals were made and delivered. The Ligons were grateful to be a part of this meaningful and fun community initiative.
- On November 19, Chaplain Mary provided an in-service training on "Person Centered Communication Techniques" to Lancashire Nursing Home staff.



Pictured: (left) Chaplain Mary connecting with a happy recipient of a Thanksgiving dinner. (right) Chaplain Mary and her husband Scott with their car packed full of meals.

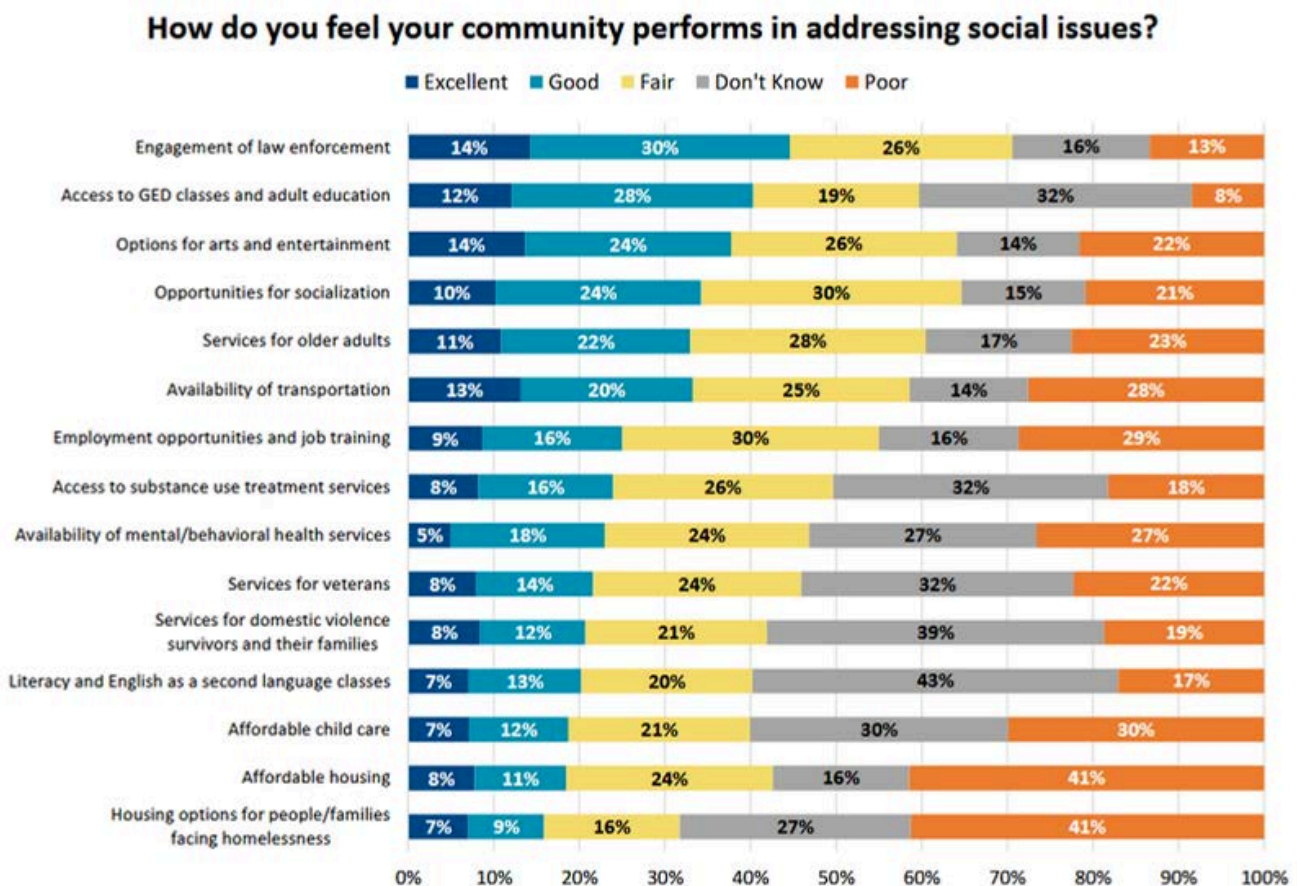


Finance

- We are now fully moved into the new space in Building D, with offices for VDC Options Counselors and the VDC Tax Team.
- We welcomed a new team member in December, Christopher Betts. He is taking over the Finance Manager-Transit position from McKenzie Byrd, who has moved out of the area.

Statistics

- In recognition of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, commemorated annually on January 9, Bay Aging celebrates our local law enforcement officers by sharing a graph (see below) from our 2025 Community Needs Assessment demonstrating our community's positive view of law enforcement.
- Survey respondents, 97% of whom reside in the Middle Peninsula or Northern Neck, were asked how they feel their community performs in addressing various social issues. "Engagement of law enforcement" garnered the most Excellent and Good responses, followed by "Access to GED classes and adult education."
- The categories with the fewest Excellent and Good responses were "Housing options for people/families facing homelessness," "Affordable housing," and "Affordable child care." The full report is available online at <https://bayaging.org/board-of-directors/>.



Human Resources

Recruitment

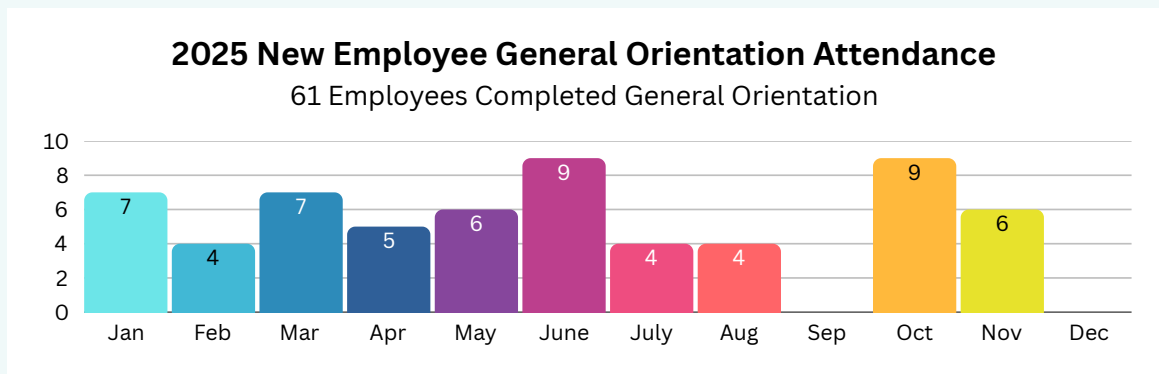
- Recruitment is continuous as we add new talent to the workforce. We are currently recruiting for 10 positions across the organization.



Department Information Sharing Sessions

- The Health Services Division, Human Resources, and Single-Family Housing departments presented information on December 19 sharing about their programs and services.
 - From Health Services, we learned about the Active Lifestyle Centers, Adult Day Center Services, Caregiver Support Program, Home Health, Care Coordination, The GUIDE Model, VAAACares® Transitional Care Support, and more.
 - From Single-Family Housing, we learned about its Specialty Programs, Weatherization, Community Action Program, and more.
 - Human Resources, and more.

New Employee Orientation Attendance



Leadership Institute 2.0

- Leadership Institute 2.0 kicks off in January with 14 participants. This six-month program is designed for supervisors to strengthen management skills and refresh key policies and responsibilities.
- Focus: Practical tools and strategies to enhance leadership effectiveness and support professional growth.

Human Resources (cont. from page 11)

Performance Review Process Begins

- Annual Performance Reviews began January 6. All active staff hired before October 1, must complete reviews by March 15 using the Paycom Performance Management module.
- Support Resources Available: Email instructions, video tutorials, and Zoom training sessions will assist staff and managers throughout the process.

Community Care Hub

The Community Care Innovations Collaborative, led by Bay Aging, now includes 300 members from healthcare, government, and community-based organizations across Virginia. Group leaders are exploring ways to expand services through VAAACares® and partnerships, especially as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) launches a new initiative to strengthen rural health services.

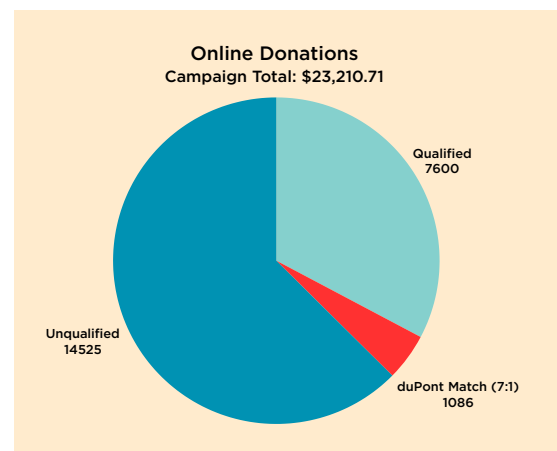
Virginia's Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) was recently awarded \$190 million for its Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program, aimed at:

- Bringing More Care Within Reach
- Strengthening the Rural Clinical Workforce
- Modernizing Rural Health Infrastructure and Technology
- Driving Structural Efficiency & Empowering Community Providers
- Advancing Innovative Care Models and payment Reform

Bay Aging's Virginia Community Care Hub will closely follow DMAS plans, offering technical assistance and service delivery options to help address barriers to care for Virginia's 1.5 million rural residents.

Jessie Ball duPont Campaign Results

- **Total Online Donations:** \$22,125 raised during the campaign period (November 1–December 31).
- **Qualified Donations:** \$7,600 met the criteria for matching, unlocking additional funds.
- **Matching Funds Secured:** \$1,085.71 from Jessie Ball duPont Fund through the 7:1 match.
- **Overall Impact:** Combined campaign total reached \$23,210.71.
- **Key Achievement:** Surpassed the \$7,000 threshold required to activate matching funds, maximizing donor contributions.



Development

Leadership Institute 2026 - Applications Now Open!

The Leadership Institute is designed to sharpen professional skills and strengthen our organization from within. All employees are eligible to apply.

Program Overview

- **Curriculum:** Based on The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader by John Maxwell.
- **Format:** A dynamic mix of videos, guest speakers, panels, group discussions, a public speaking/marketing project, and a field trip.
- **Schedule:** Classes meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. (approx. 1–1.5 hours).
- **Location:** Primarily via Zoom, with select in-person sessions for collaboration.

The first session kicks off on February 18, concluding on August 5 with a graduation ceremony. The course is limited to 20 participants, and consistent attendance is essential for success. All graduates will receive a certificate of completion.

Santa Program

Spreading Warmth and Joy

- Thanks to your generosity, 75 older adults across the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck received holiday gifts. Gifts included word puzzles and activity books, cold-weather essentials, and personal care items – fulfilling the needs of older adults while brightening the season for those who need it most.



Tameka Bromley, Resident Service Coordinator



Pictured above: Santa Program recipients from Mathews (left) and Westmoreland (right) Active Lifestyle Centers, and "Santa's Sleigh" overflowing with holiday cheer.

Community Impact

Swift Action in a Critical Moment



When a Gloucester County resident with dementia went missing, Kelsie Houston, Bay Aging's Options Counselor, quickly stepped in to assist local law enforcement. After seeing a social media post, Kelsie contacted non-emergency services and was asked by Sheriff Darrell Warren to provide dementia expertise and guidance to police and EMS during the rescue.

Thanks to her knowledge and familiarity with the area, the individual was located safely and reunited with EMS. Sheriff Warren later expressed his gratitude for Bay Aging's resources and emphasized interest in future partnerships to strengthen community support for vulnerable populations.

Caregiver Testimonial

Finding Strength Through Connection

"The caregiving journey for a loved one with dementia or Alzheimer's can be incredibly challenging, especially when you are the primary caregiver as I am for my mother."

Susan Christiansen shared how Bay Aging's programs have transformed her family's experience:

"With the support of Ms. Kelsie Houston—and through the Memory Café and monthly support groups—our knowledge, confidence, and caregiving methods have grown significantly. We've also benefited from caregiver luncheons, the Woodville Park walking club, and new monthly dinner meetups. What began as an isolated and overwhelming experience has become a shared journey surrounded by understanding, encouragement, and community. We are deeply grateful for the guidance and connection these programs have brought into our lives."



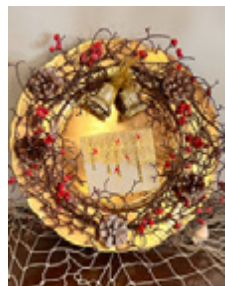
Caregiver Resources

- Memory Cafe
- Support Groups
- Caregiver Conversations Luncheons
- GUIDE Model Program

The Parker View Annual Christmas Party was a huge success with 25 residents in attendance. The residents worked together to raise money for the event by selling raffle tickets. These proceeds were able to cover the catered dinner and all the beautiful decorations. Musical entertainment for the event was sponsored by Tidewater Arts Outreach.



Westmoreland Active Lifestyle Center recently hosted its “not so” Ugly Sweater Holiday Party – celebrating with lunch, laughter, and fellowship, each taking home a beautiful poinsettia to brighten their holiday spaces.



Gloucester Active Lifestyle Participants had an amazing time celebrating the season with Arts & Crafts during a Holiday Workshop, Reindeer Games, Bingo, and exciting door prizes during their Holiday Party, and a Fellowship Day Party with Gloucester Adult Day Center!



 **HAPPY** 
 **HOLIDAYS** 



Caregiver Connections

Caregiver Luncheon at Bangkok Noi

Bangkok Noi graciously hosted a FREE buffet lunch for caregivers on Tuesday, November 18 in Gloucester. This special event offered caregivers a chance to relax, connect, and share experiences with others on similar journeys.



Holiday Memory Cafe

Our recent Memory Café in Lancaster was filled with warmth and joy as caregivers participated in a Holiday Party. These moments remind us that the holidays aren't about gifts—they're about feeling valued and supported.

Healthy Living for the New Year

On December 10, the Essex Public Library hosted our Healthy Living program, featuring Lori Lenz (right), a former caregiver and Alzheimer's Association volunteer. Lori shared insights on the brain-body connection and lifestyle choices that promote healthy aging.



Community Luncheon

Crystal Hickman (pictured on the left) represented Bay Aging at the Community Lunch in Northumberland County. Attendees enjoyed free prizes and a wonderful meal during this annual event.