



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF RICHMOND



****PRESS RELEASE****

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Forward Foundation receives \$30,000 impactful grant from Junior League of Richmond

Grant Enables Community Organization to Distribute Childcare Subsidies to Single Mothers

Richmond, VA, October 2023 – The Forward Foundation has received a generous grant from the Junior League of Richmond for \$30,000. This grant allows Forward Foundation VA to significantly increase the number of monthly childcare subsidies they offer to eligible families. Childcare costs are the second largest expense families face

and typically make up 34% of a single parent's total household income. This grant provides critical childcare support for working, single parents experiencing financial crisis. David W. Fuller, Board Chair of Forward Foundation VA stated "It is incumbent to understand that Forward Foundation exists to serve, to offer solutions for single parent families, to challenge disheartening moments, and create a beacon of care and engagement. More than nice words, these translate into action." With this support, the parents are able to gain a peace of mind knowing their children are able to be properly cared for. It also provides parents with some financial flexibility to either save, pay down debt, or possibly make any needed repairs. "The Junior League of Richmond is honored to support the work of the Forward Foundation. Helping to provide a hand up to working, single women and their children is a core value of JLR and a significant piece of our community focus of Women Helping Women. JLR is passionate about connecting women and their families to life-changing tools and resources, and the Forward Foundation is the perfect partner in that goal. In collaboration with the Forward Foundation, the Junior League of Richmond is excited to help Richmond-area women thrive!" expressed Junior League of Richmond Past President, Jenn Keegan.

Through the support of the Junior League of Richmond, twenty single parent households are now able to receive monthly subsidies to significantly lower their childcare costs. This support helps alleviate the heavy financial burden which comes from the excessive cost of quality childcare. These mothers are now able to focus on their careers, work on advanced degrees, and/or save money for the future. Andrea Starr, CEO of Forward Foundation VA stated, "Being able to collaborate with the Junior League of Richmond has been an immense blessing for our families. Having the opportunity to work with an organization of women committed to developing the potential of women aligns so beautifully with the mission of Forward Foundation's mission of "Empowering Action to Move Forward." The JLR's hands-on, intentional, and thoughtful manner in which they are contributing to the empowerment of our families is truly transformational.

About the Junior League of Richmond

Founded in 1926, the Junior League of Richmond is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. The Junior League of Richmond is an inclusive group of informed thought leaders intentionally serving and empowering women, youth, and families, striving for collective impact through collaboration and advocacy. We are part of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc., which is made up of 295 Junior Leagues in four countries. For more information, visit our website at www.jlrichmond.org.

About the Forward Foundation

Forward Foundation, established in 2020, empowers working single parents facing financial difficulties by offering childcare subsidies, education, and career development opportunities. Our services have seen a 700% increase in enrollment, reflecting the urgent need for support in the US, where one in four households are single-parent homes. These families often struggle with high childcare costs and increased health risks. We aim to alleviate these challenges by providing resources that many families wouldn't otherwise have access to, enabling them to achieve financial independence. As a 501c3 organization serving the Greater Richmond area, we've earned the Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar. For more information, visit www.forwardfoundationva.org or follow us on social media.

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