

# GREAT EXPECTATIONS

## Fostering Powerful Change

GREAT EXPECTATIONS MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE  
[CLICK HERE TO DOUBLE YOUR DONATION](#)



*Great Expectations and caring coaches are making these students' dreams a reality.*

## THE GREAT EXPECTATIONS PROGRAM IS CHANGING LIVES.

The Great Expectations program is a statewide initiative of the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). The program's goal is to help Virginia's young people with experience in foster care develop skills and training to become more independent and successful adults living and working in the Commonwealth.

Great Expectations offers a variety of resources to help foster youth complete high school and gain access to higher education, workforce preparation, and employment opportunities. These resources include life skills and financial literacy training, career education, mentoring, and tutoring.

### AN AMBITIOUS CAMPAIGN TO TRANSFORM VIRGINIA'S FOSTER YOUTH

THE GREAT EXPECTATIONS PROGRAM SERVES MORE THAN

# 30%

OF ALL ELIGIBLE AGED-OUT FOSTER YOUTH

THE GREAT EXPECTATIONS PROGRAM SAVES

# \$5.4 MILLION

ANNUALLY IN ESTIMATED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COSTS

GREAT EXPECTATIONS GRADUATION RATES HAVE INCREASED BY

# 188%

COMPARED TO 8% OF OTHER FOSTER YOUTH NATIONALLY

## VIRGINIA INCURS AN ESTIMATED \$45,886 PER YEAR IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COSTS FOR EACH YOUNG PERSON WHO AGES OUT OF VIRGINIA'S FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.

Young people with "lived experience" in the foster care system are more likely to drop out of high school, and

even those who start college are less likely to finish. In addition, this often-overlooked population is less likely to have health care and is more susceptible to homelessness, unemployment, and severe mental health disorders. As a result of these educational inequities, the gap in earnings is alarming: mean earnings for those who have experienced foster care is \$14,328 compared to \$24,168 for their peers. Great Expectations seeks to narrow these education and employment gaps by providing proactive mentoring and advising from coaches who are specially trained in addressing the unique challenges that foster youth face.

Great Expectations coaches have the potential to reach the approximately 5,000 college-age young people who

have experienced foster care. The Great Expectations program serves more than 1,400 students at 21 participating community colleges across Virginia, representing a 30 percent reach rate.

In 2020, Great Expectations' students earned 65 credentials at a time when many students were derailed by the pandemic. Since the program began in 2008, almost 1,000 degrees, diplomas, or certifications have been earned. Investing in this underserved population changes the trajectory of these students' lives. By helping students obtain a degree or certification, supporters of the Great Expectations program are closing the achievement gap between foster care youth and their peers in terms of economic and social outcomes.



## ZOE LINDSEY IS A GREAT EXPECTATIONS STUDENT IN THE VET TECH PROGRAM.

Zoe Lindsey is a Great Expectations student at Blue Ridge Community College. She was accepted into the distance education Veterinary Technology program and began her first class in May 2021. According to Zoe, she has wanted to be a Veterinary Technician since she was twelve years old. Zoe credits animals for helping her emotionally cope with being adopted. She has volunteered for Making Strides of Virginia, an equine program for children with physical and emotional disabilities.

While working on her pre-requisite classes, Zoe attended John Tyler Community College and was an active participant in the JTCC Great Expectations program. She received support from JTCC's Student Empowerment Stipend, which assisted her with food, housing, and transportation

costs generously funded by the Joe & Linda Daniel Student Success Fund. Zoe was accepted into the Great Expectations Student Leadership program in Spring 2021.

As a GE student at BRCC, Zoe received a new laptop, case, and technology stipend through the Laptops for Success program funded by the Daniel Fund. Her laptop will help her access course materials, complete her coursework, and join Zoom meetings. Zoe's love of animals, support network, and participation in the Great Expectations program have guided her on the path toward acceptance into the VET Tech program, and these very things will continue guiding her on her journey toward becoming a Veterinary Technician.



*“Everyone needs hope and help. Great Expectations delivers both to young men and women who are often in an unfair and cruel system. Through education, mentoring, and scholarship, Great Expectations can change a life.”*

*—Leah Fried Sedwick*

**HELP SUPPORT VIRGINIA'S FOSTER YOUTH WITH A GIFT TO THE GREAT EXPECTATIONS MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE. [CLICK HERE](#) TO DOUBLE YOUR DONATION**

*Today, through the generosity of a donor, we can now match (double) your donations up to \$100k to raise money for the Great Expectations Program. All donations will go toward emergency funds, housing, and supplies and change a life for good. The Great Expectations Program is solely focused on helping foster youth and providing funds where they are needed most.*

**TO SUPPORT OR TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:**

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Great Expectations

POSTERING POWERFUL CHANGE  
THE VIRGINIA FOUNDATION *for*  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION