



Our December 2025 Impact

Ready to Make Your Impact in MHC in 2026?

Community Impact Grants are how we invest local contributions from our **Annual Campaign** drive to fight for the education, financial security, health and basic needs of every person in Martinsville and Henry County.

Our **Community Investment Panel** will convene to interview potential grantees between February and March of this year. If you're interested in joining us as a volunteer, please email or call **Brandy Lawless**, 276-403-5961, x109 for more details by Monday, January 26.

MHC Partners for Children...

As our **MHC Partners for Children** concluded 2025, they were proud to reflect on their support in early childhood education throughout Martinsville and Henry County. The year was marked with meaningful growth, strengthened collaborations, and expanded opportunities for children, educators, and families in our community.



Over 100 early childhood educators participated in four in-person professional development sessions. We implemented 18 individualized Training On The Spot (TOTS) sessions in local early childcare programs. Childcare Quality

Improvement Coordinator, [Ruth Anne Collins](#), completed training on The Growing Brain curriculum which included 21 hours of in-person instruction to enhance provider knowledge. Additionally, in the spring of 2025, MHPCPC celebrated their 7th Annual Growing Together, Learning Together Early Childhood Conference, and team members [Sharon Cobbler](#) and [Erica James](#) completed a course on marketing strategies for nonprofits with the Dan River Nonprofit Network.

The MHPCPC team's commitment to early identification and family support remains strong, as is evident by 250 [ASQ developmental screenings](#) and 39 referrals for services. Family Navigator, [Diane Smith](#), received 95 childcare referrals, successfully placing 77 children into available early childcare programs; however, 18 children were added to waiting lists due to limited openings and availability of subsidies.

[Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#) continued to thrive, ending the year with 2,184 enrollments and 4,894 graduates compared to 1,960 enrollments and 4,366 graduates in 2024. The MHPCPC team also awarded eight Summer Learning Mini Grants to childcare sites and provided 12 additional sites with Kaplan gift cards as Quality Improvement Incentives.

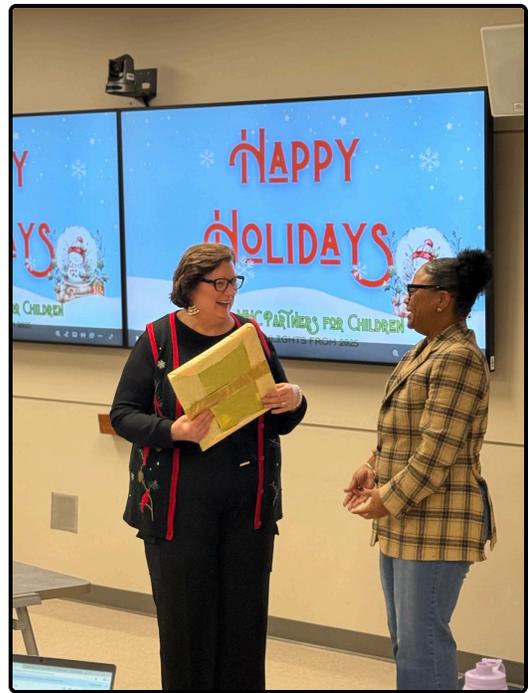
Other achievements of note: The MHPCPC's new Resource Lending Library offers more than 50 books, kits, and curricula for early childhood education providers. Three new childcare programs opened, with a potential fourth in development. A workforce pipeline student was hired at her training site and is continuing her education at [Patrick & Henry Community College](#). Seven early childhood sites, 12 classrooms, and more than 200 students completed assessments through both the [Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program](#) and (VKRP) and the [Virginia Language and Literacy Screening System](#) (VALLSS).

Finally, their year concluded with a Holiday Party at the Maplewood Housing Community on December 16, as children and their families created snowflakes and candy cane crafts while enjoying quality time together; and the annual Holiday Leadership Council celebration meeting with community partners on December 17, where Dr. Rachel Hodge delivered the "Living Our Mission" message to those in attendance.

To view the MHPCPC's 2025 highlights, please click [HERE](#).



Above, Dr. Rachel Hodges



Above, Melanie McLarty and Dr. Felicia Preston



Above, Melanie McLarty and Dr. Jan Harrison

Q4 Campaign 2025-26 Update...

Our 2025-25 [Campaign](#) is at 80% of its goal as of December 31. Contributing to this percentage, workplace employee giving saw an increase during 2025, as compared

to 2024. The following business had the largest upticks in contributions:

Carter Bank, 11%; Hanes Brands, 45%; the City of Martinsville, 59%; and Piedmont Community Services, 65%. **Thank you!**

Two individual donors also increased their gifts and were elevated to the **Tocqueville** level.

There's still time to donate! If you have questions on how you can support UWHCM, please reach out to **Rebecca Conter**, 276-638-3946, x 110. The 2025-26 Campaign deadline is February 27.



UNITED IS THE WAY™

Mobilizing the caring power of our community so all can thrive.

[DONATE](#)

Financial Security...

In 2025, evictions for 164 households were prevented, providing over \$255,000 in financial assistance. This funding is provided by the **Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot** program with funding from **Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development** (DHCD). This service also provides court navigation procedures, landlord and tenant negotiations, as well as referrals to other community services and organizations as needed.

Our **VITA office** will open for business on Tuesday, January 20! This is a **FREE** service offered to all households with incomes of \$67,000 or less.



FREE TAX PREPARATION

for Household Incomes of \$67,000 or Less

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

**Site Opens TUESDAY,
January 20, 2026!**

Operating Hours:

Tuesday - Friday

9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Saturday

8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Closed on Mondays

APPOINTMENT ONLY

Call 276-403-5976 for information or to schedule your appointment.

File FREE for yourself online at myfreetaxes.com.

Visit Us Online: UnitedWayofHCM.org/VITA



We Are Located At:
**10 Liberty Extension
Martinsville, VA 24112**
(below Lester Building Supply)



REQUIRED Tax Prep Material Checklist:

Please bring the following items with you to your appointment in order to receive **FREE** tax preparation services:

Your Photo ID

- Spouse's ID, if applicable



Social Security Card(s) & Birth Date(s)

- for you, spouse, and/or dependents



All Federal & State Income Forms

- including W-2, 1098, 1099, 1095

Direct Deposit Information

- bank routing number and your checking/savings account number



Important Notice

For married and joint filings, please note that both individuals must sign in person before we are able to file your tax return. We ask that both individuals plan to attend the scheduled appointment.

Questions? Call 276-403-5976

Volunteerism Climbs in 2025...

Our EngageHCM.org, a free volunteer platform for any individual, business, or organization, acquired 269 new users in 2025, bringing the site's total to 496, with 3,074 logged hours. Wow!

If you're interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities in 2026, you can follow EngageHCM on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), or contact [Brandy](#) at [276-638-3946](tel:276-638-3946), x109 for more information.



Our CHWs in the Community...



Members of the Healthy Heart Learning Collaborative, in partnership with UWHCM's Community Healthy Workers, organized a Christmas sing-a-long at Hairston Home for Adults, Inc. To celebrate the holiday season, members also purchased and distributed gifts to the residents. During this event, participants sang with

During the month of December, our CHWs were full of joy and helped to spread their holiday spirit by donating time packing boxes for children in our community at [Christmas Cheer of Martinsville & Henry County](#).



residents and engaged in meaningful discussions which focused on heart health and mental wellbeing, emphasizing the importance of caring for both physical and emotional health. Additionally, members ensured that candy was available to distribute to the Hairston Home staff as a gesture of appreciation.



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