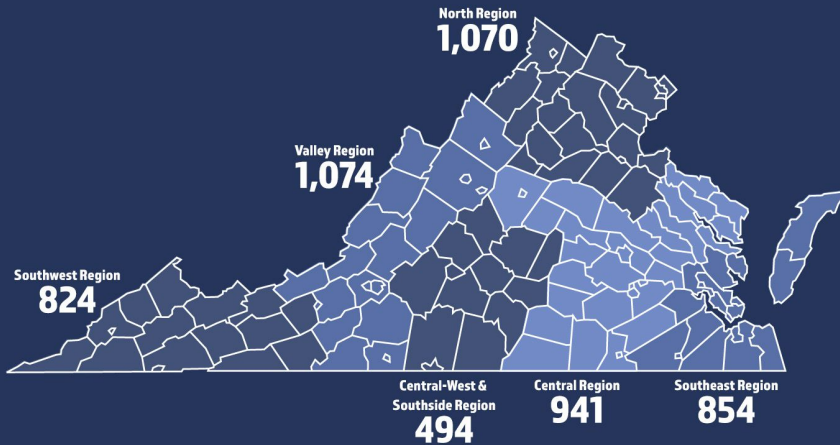
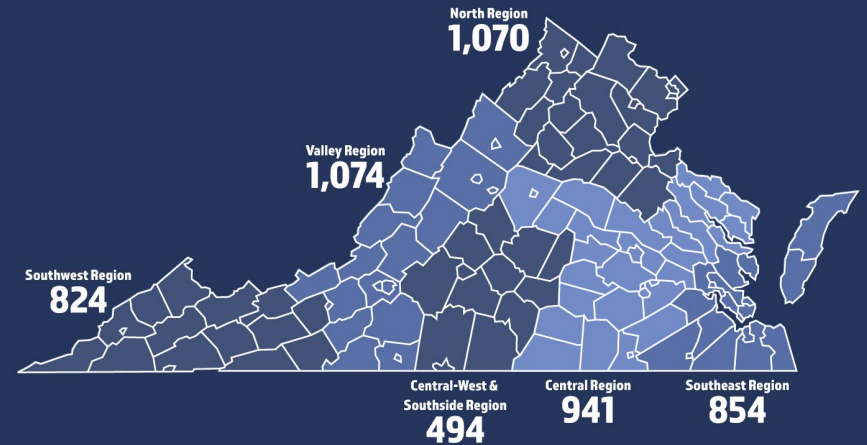


Foster Care in Virginia



- About 50% of foster care children are teenagers (13–18).
- Current average time in care is almost 20 months.
- Over 1,500 children (close to 40%) have the goal of adoption.
- More than 600 children are currently waiting to be adopted.
- Over 400 children are in a congregate care setting, group home, or residential facility rather than a family.
- Average length of stay in a facility is 24 months. Most only need to stay for 3 months max, but there are no homes for them.

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Chanty's Story

There are over 5,000 children in the foster care system in Virginia. Every one of these children has a story. And every one of these children needs hope.

Chanty is a thriving young adult studying at the University of Virginia with a 3.8 GPA. She graduated high school with a 4.2 GPA. But Chanty's story was not always a story with a clear hope and a clear future. She was on a hopeless path, a path that statistics say would find her homeless, imprisoned, or lost to human trafficking. Chanty was on a path of abuse that would lead to violence and pain and hopelessness.

When she entered the foster care system as a young teen, Chanty packed up all of her belongings into a garbage bag and left her family's run-down, dangerous home to enter respite care. A month later she joined her foster family, the Canipes. It was there that she got her first hint of hope. "When I went in, they were like, 'This is your bed. These are your blankets. This is all your body care.' I hadn't seen someone be so kind in so long. For me, that was hope that things were going to get better. . . I felt so much warmth, so much love. I felt the power of Jesus that there was hope."

The Canipes introduced Chanty and her sister Paulina to normal life, reclaiming much of the childhood that they lost. Bobby Canipe said, "We were able to lead both of them to Christ, to baptize both of them. Just to see them go from poverty, to sadness, to sexual abuse. . . to flourishing. They have hope."

Every child in the foster care system has a story. How will you and your church help change hopeless stories into stories of hope?

Find out how your church can join in the foster care journey through Family Advocacy Ministry, a church-based approach to caring for foster children, foster families and social workers that coaches your church to use the gifts and resources of the Kingdom of God to bring real hope into hopelessness.

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