



**2023**

# Community Impact Report

Together we're making a difference.





Introduction

Robert Duvall



Together we're making a difference.

As one of Virginia’s oldest corporations we aspire to “be a citizen wherever we live, work and serve.” At Virginia Natural Gas, our values, which include Safety First, Intentional Inclusion, Acting with Integrity and Superior Performance, are reflected in how we lead, engage, collaborate and perform as a team. In living these values, together we can make a difference in our communities through Virginia Natural Gas Foundation grants, charitable giving, community engagement and employee volunteerism.

Our corporate impact and charitable giving focus reflect our company values. They also reflect the values of our employees who show their commitment to our community through participation in company events, and giving freely of their time, talent and resources to organizations throughout our service territory. Through use of non-ratepayer dollars and grants from our Foundation, we are investing in partner organizations that are making a big difference in the lives of our customers, neighbors and the communities we call home.

I am proud and inspired by the contributions we made in the areas of Children and Education, Environmental Stewardship, Military and Veterans, and Community Enrichment this year. By combining our corporate and employee resources, we can make an even greater impact.

As a company, we will continue to invest in partnerships and organizations that fuel our communities for generations to come.

Robert Duvall  
President & CEO, Virginia Natural Gas

Table of Contents

Making an Impact ..... 3

Charitable Giving Highlights ..... 5

Community Impact Awards ..... 7

Children & Education ..... 9

Community Enrichment ..... 11

Military & Veterans ..... 13

Environmental Stewardship ..... 15

Our Employees in the Community ..... 17

Economic Development ..... 19



Every year, we give millions of dollars in grants to organizations that promote our values and passionately work to improve the lives of the communities we serve. As an independent, non-profit philanthropic foundation, our Charitable Foundation is funded solely by our parent company, Southern Company Gas, through shareholder dollars to support people and communities focused on the areas of social justice, economic mobility, environmental stewardship and community enrichment.

Serena Levy  
Vice President, Corporate Responsibility, Southern Company Gas and  
President, Southern Company Gas Foundation



# Fueling Our Communities for a Brighter Future

In December of 2022, Virginia Natural Gas (VNG) donated \$250,000 to assist ForKids in helping low-to-moderate income families secure financial stability through ongoing initiatives to provide shelter, financial fitness workshops and coaching to put people on the path to self-sufficiency in their greatest time of need.

In 2023, ForKids used our charitable gift to open two Financial Opportunity Centers (FOC) in Chesapeake and Suffolk that will help low-income families build effective money habits and achieve their career, financial and personal goals. Following a ceremonial ribbon cutting in May, ForKids hired four coaches for these FOCs and plans to assist 100 people a year.

ForKids is one of the largest providers of services to families experiencing homelessness and poverty in Virginia. The ForKids Housing Crisis Hotline, which serves 14 cities and counties in Hampton Roads, is the central point of contact for all persons experiencing a housing crisis throughout Southeastern Virginia. On any given day, ForKids' in-depth programs assist approximately 290 families, including 870 children, and provide critical services to more than 70,000 individuals each year.

## ForKids

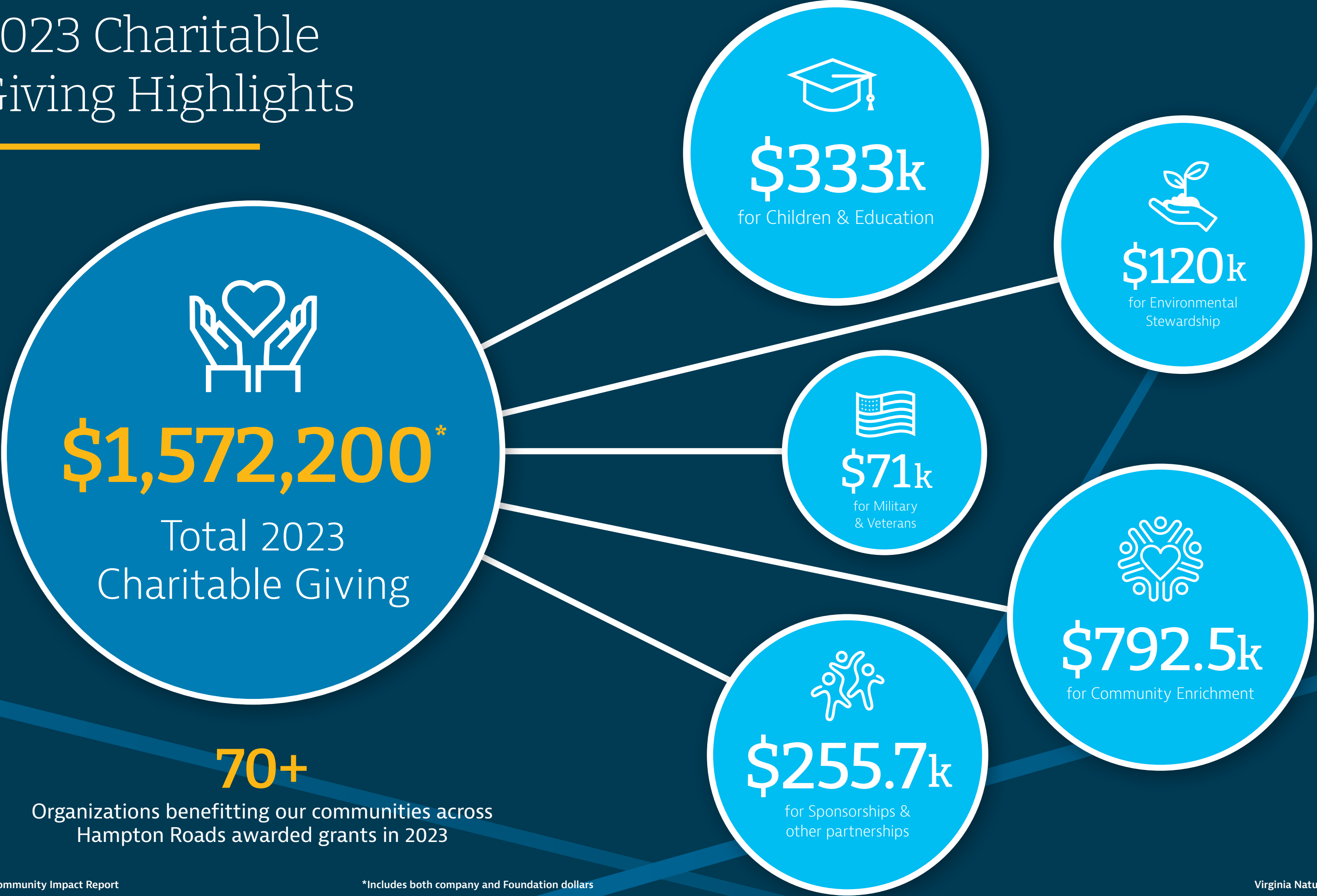
“ ForKids’ mission is breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty. For too long all our resources have gone to addressing homelessness. The opening of the Financial Opportunity Centers in Chesapeake and Suffolk will allow us to teach meaningful tools to help lift families out of poverty. We are grateful to Virginia Natural Gas for believing in our work and investing in this community.”

Thaler McCormick  
ForKids CEO





# 2023 Charitable Giving Highlights



70+

Organizations benefitting our communities across Hampton Roads awarded grants in 2023

\*Includes both company and Foundation dollars



# Community Impact Awards

Virginia Natural Gas (VNG) was awarded the **Civic 50 Award** by Volunteer Hampton Roads for prioritizing volunteerism, civic engagement and making a positive impact on our community. The Civic 50 is a national initiative established by Points of Light that honors community-minded companies. The Civic 50 Hampton Roads program sets the standard for civic engagement and creates a roadmap for companies committed to using their time, talent and resources to serve others and improve their communities. Companies are selected based on four dimensions: investment of resources, integration across business functions, institutionalization through policies and systems and impact measurement. VNG is proud to be selected as part of the inaugural class of Civic 50 Hampton Roads.

VNG was recognized with the Salvation Army Hampton Roads Area Command’s **Volunteer Group of the Year Award** for our assistance with the H.O.P.E. Village rose garden, our EnergyShare program and our annual involvement with the Angel Tree program and the Christmas Depot.

Virginia Natural Gas received the Hampton Roads **Top Workplaces Award** from *Inside Business* for going above and beyond to create a positive working environment for our employees by providing a motivational workplace that makes our employees’ lives easier, allows time for fun and supports community involvement and work-life balance. This is the third time VNG has received this honor.







# Children & Education

## Demonstrating a Brighter Future in the Virginia Natural Gas Foundation Community Kitchen

Finding solutions to the complex issues associated with food insecurity is just one of the Children’s Health Investment Program’s (CHIP) ultimate goals. Through the VNG Foundation’s support with a \$60,000 grant, CHIP will be able to begin construction of the Virginia Natural Gas Foundation Community Kitchen that will serve as one of the cornerstones of the new The Sankofa Family Center. This demonstration kitchen will be the heartbeat of multiple programs to engage and educate the community.

The kitchen will provide a meaningful way to engage the community in the essence of The Sankofa family, honoring culture and tradition while looking forward to a brighter future for the next generation. VNG looks forward to the completion of The Sankofa Family Center in 2024 and seeing its impact on the South Norfolk community.

“We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to continue our partnership with the Virginia Natural Gas Foundation,” said CHIP of South Hampton Roads President and CEO Trish O’Brien. “The Foundation’s generous contribution to establish a demonstration kitchen within The Sankofa Family Center will undoubtedly support CHIP’s vision that healthy communities begin with healthy children. Just as the kitchen is the ‘heart of the home,’ I am sure that this kitchen will become the heart of not only The Sankofa Family Center, but also the South Norfolk Community.”





# Community Enrichment

## Virginia Natural Gas Partners with the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project

Through a partnership with The National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project, Virginia Natural Gas (VNG) hosted a workshop in November 2023 to provide teachers with free resources to help them educate the next generation of clean energy advocates. More than 30 teachers gathered at the VNG headquarters in Virginia Beach for a fun day of educational activities. The teachers were provided with experiences and lesson plans aligned with state guidelines to empower students to explore opportunities in STEM fields and gain exposure to the energy industry.

Virginia Natural Gas takes great pride in investing in programs that enrich our communities for future generations. We believe in this partnership and are focused on growing it to foster greater understanding of the importance of an all-of-the-above energy strategy and natural gas’s role in the clean energy future.

This event preceded a student workshop that took place in February 2024, which provided hands-on STEM activities and access to unique STEM experiences at the Virginia Natural Gas office. This Virginia Energy Workshop was offered to sixth through eighth grade students allowing them to get hands-on energy exploration through some different and fun activities.

With a \$50,000 gift from Virginia Natural Gas, we will reach more than 30 teachers and over 3,000 students in one year.







# Military & Veterans

## Fueling Programs That Support Those Who Have Served

At Virginia Natural Gas, we are committed to giving back to the more than 350,000 active duty, reservists, retirees and military family members who call Hampton Roads home. As part of our 2023 charitable giving, we were able to support the Armed Services of YMCA with their out-of-school programs, including Operation Hero, Five Star Kids Academy School Age Care (before and after) and Summer Camps.

We also supported the American Red Cross with their efforts to assist military members as they return home, to secure and support rehabilitation therapy and morale-building activities and material assistance vital to the comfort, recovery and health care of service members and veterans.

Other organizations we supported through charitable giving were Equi-Kids (Equi-Vets program), The Honor Foundation (workforce development for transitioning military), and Dream Catchers with their Mount-Up program offering individual and group mental health services and other ground-based activities to benefit emotional, physical, cognitive and social well-being.

In addition, volunteers from VetNet, one of our employee resource groups, honored fallen soldiers and those who served our country by preparing the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Cemetery for the laying of wreaths for the holidays and collected toiletries and clothing items for homeless veterans at the Hampton VA Medical Center. They also chose to present Operation Vets with Nets with a \$5,000 donation from the Virginia Natural Gas Foundation to aid in their mission to assist with the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military, retired service personnel and disabled veterans through the joys of fishing.





**ELIZABETH RIVER**  
**P R O J E C T**

# Environmental Stewardship

## Conserving Our Region’s Resources

The Elizabeth River is a vital part of the Hampton Roads community that adds value to our lives through business, trade and recreation, which is why continued monitoring and restoration of the health of this river is so important.

At Virginia Natural Gas, it is imperative to us to support projects that increase conservation or improve the sustainability of our region. This year, the Virginia Natural Gas Foundation donated \$75,000 to the Elizabeth River Project, becoming a major sponsor of the Ryan Resilience Series, an ambitious eco-conscious project in the Hampton Roads Area. The Elizabeth River Project is a non-profit organization with a 30-year track record that aims to restore the eco-system in the Elizabeth River, an urban river in southeast Virginia.

The donation is focused on the Ryan Resilience Series, a project organized and executed by the newly constructed Ryan Resilience Lab. This

6,400 sq. ft., three-story facility is on Norfolk’s bustling Colley Avenue and offers an ambitious mix of interactive programs aiming to educate the public, especially marginalized communities, on the importance of preserving the eco-system in the Elizabeth River.

“With special thanks to the Virginia Natural Gas Foundation, we launched the Ryan Resilience Series in November 2023 with some of the freshest programming on sea level resilience anywhere”, said Luísa Black Ellis, Resilience Manager for the Elizabeth River Project.





# Our Employees in the Community

### Polar Plunge

Since 1999, Virginia Natural Gas (VNG) employees have volunteered to take the icy dip into the Atlantic Ocean and raise funds for Special Olympics athletes of Virginia through the Polar Plunge campaign. Since starting our partnership with Special Olympics Virginia, VNG and our employees have donated over \$500,000 to support training, competitions, leadership opportunities and health services to our local athletes. In addition, we have provided employee volunteers to assist with Polar Plunge activities before, during and after plunge events.

Virginia Natural Gas and our employees committed to “Turning Up the Heat” and “Going All In” at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront for the Polar Plunge in 2023, raising more than \$35,760 in donations – in addition to \$15,000 in corporate donations. VNG also provided 250 volunteer hours to help set up for the fundraiser, assist Special Olympics staff with event details the day of the Plunge and clean up after the event.

### Energy to Serve

One of our main volunteer events each year is our spring ‘Energy to Serve’ campaign. During this year’s campaign, we were back in action with nearly 70 VNG employees providing over 180 volunteer hours to support the following Hampton Roads nonprofits, schools and other charitable organizations:

- **Newtown Elementary School** – harvested and planted vegetables for their garden alongside students.
- **Salvation Army H.O.P.E. Village** – landscaped and beautified the grounds of the rose garden.
- **Jamestown 4-H Educational Center** – spent time painting and sprucing up storage units.
- **Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery** – prepared the cemetery for Memorial Day flag placement.

### United Way Day of Caring

Virginia Natural Gas (VNG) employees roll up their sleeves annually for United Way’s Day of Caring. This year, dozens of employees participated in volunteer activities at Seatack Elementary – An Achievable Dream Academy, ForKids and Habitat for Humanity Restore in Williamsburg. Volunteer efforts ranged from welcoming and reading to young students to helping these charitable organizations clean and organize their facilities.

The United Way has served our community with dedicated service for well over a century and its partnership with VNG has created a transformative change in our communities. This change would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment to volunteerism by our esteemed employees.



United Way  
of South Hampton Roads



### Energy to Give

During our annual holiday ‘Energy to Give’ campaign, we partner with charitable organizations across our service territory to show our commitment to giving back to those in need. This year, VNG employees provided donations and volunteer hours to support these local area charities and nonprofits:

- **Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore/Virginia Peninsula Foodbank** – hosted food drive collections as part of the Mayflower Marathon.
- **Salvation Army Angel Tree Program** – supported 70 families with clothing and toy donations.
- **Hanover Safe Place** – provided a memorable Christmas for a family in need.
- **Wreaths Across America** – helped to prepare a local veterans cemetery for holiday wreath placement.
- **Salvation Army Christmas Depot** – over 20 employees helped organize the warehouse by stocking shelves and preparing Angel Tree items for distribution to the community.



In 2023, VNG employees served our communities with approximately **950** volunteer hours in support of **21** company-sponsored events.





# Economic Development

Virginia Natural Gas commits to the community every year through active participation in local and state chambers and business organizations. We believe it is important to integrate our business into the many different organizations across our service territory to be a dependable resource and a driver of economic development.

Through active engagement with the following local and state economic development organizations, we can work together to locate, recruit and enhance business relationships within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

- Civic Organizations**
  - Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable
  - Virginia Gas Operators Association
  - Virginia Maritime Association
  - Virginia Manufacturers Association
  - Central Business District
  - Virginia Oil and Gas Association
  - Hampton Roads Alliance
  - Hampton Roads Workforce Council
- Chamber Memberships**
  - Virginia Chamber
  - Hampton Roads Chamber
  - Virginia Peninsula Chamber
  - Hanover Chamber
  - Greater Williamsburg Chamber
  - New Kent Chamber
  - Virginia Asian Chamber





“We are honored to call Virginia Natural Gas a community partner who continually collaborates with us to nourish our neighbors in need across the greater Peninsula...We are proud to work together with them to provide a sense of comfort and hope to our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.”

**Craig Gallaer**  
Grants and Direct Marketing Manager  
Virginia Peninsula Foodbank



“The YMCA of South Hampton Roads is grateful for the continued support by Virginia Natural Gas of our Teen Leaders Program. Funding from VNG will support Teen Leaders to attend Blue Ridge Leaders School, where they will learn with teens throughout the region and continue their growth and leadership development.”

**Jean Alder Stean**  
Senior Director of Donor Impact  
YMCA of South Hampton Roads







For grant applications please visit our website at  
**[virginiannaturalgas.com/charitablegiving](https://virginiannaturalgas.com/charitablegiving)**.



**[virginiannaturalgas.com](https://virginiannaturalgas.com)**