Liza Bruce – An Indomitable Spirit

For many, losing eyesight is an insurmountable challenge. For Liza Bruce, HR Training Specialist at VCU Health, it became a personal challenge leading to fulfillment and social reinvention through Virginia Voice.

Diagnosed with diabetes at age 17, Liza’s vision began to fail and she lost her vision completely at 31. First came denial. But when driving became impossible, she realized the challenges were only beginning. Before long Liza was battling kidney failure as a complication of her disease. This left her trying to heal and survive without vision.

“I was at home, feeling lost and alone. I would keep the TV on, just to know the time of day,” said Liza. Then some relatives gave her a Virginia Voice radio.

“At first, I’d turn on the radio and as I heard the news, it reminded me of the control I had lost and I felt even sadder. But you either deal with it or you don’t. I soon realized that every morning there were strangers taking their time to read. There was a commitment on the part of these volunteers to include me in something special. Their voices became a source of information, and a source of comfort.”

Over time Liza came to know Virginia Voice and its people. She joined its Board of Directors and served as Chairperson. Through this experience, Liza was able to reach out to others facing challenges similar to her own. Liza became that comforting voice that had helped her in her time of need.

Now, Liza continues to support Virginia Voice and is an enthusiastic booster of its new Live Audio Description program. “Every day, I realize the kindness of people and the good they do. Virginia Voice exemplifies this and I know people going through their own challenges will one day be our new Virginia Voice champions!”

Liza participates in the tactile tour of Virginia Repertory Theater’s Mary Poppins.
When most people consider the Americans With Disabilities Act, the first thing they think of is ramps and railings. As well they should. Accessibility to buildings and the people and services contained within is so important to individuals with disabilities. But access to buildings is just the start of a larger conversation.

What business is Virginia Voice in? As you know, Virginia Voice provides a closed-circuit, 24/7/365 radio broadcast created by over 100 weekly volunteers who read from local and national newspapers and magazines. So, I could certainly say that we are in the radio business. We provide Live Audio Description for Theater, which uses wireless technology to allow “audio describers” to provide descriptions of the visual elements of live theater in between the actors’ dialogue. Therefore, I could reply that we are in the performing arts business. But neither answer would be complete.

More accurately, Virginia Voice is in the equitable access business and has been for 40 years. While we also care about access to buildings, we provide accessibility of a different kind. Virginia Voice gives access to ideas, information, community engagement and shared cultural experiences. We strive to replace social isolation with connectivity.

At Virginia Voice we believe inclusion and equitable access is not a privilege—it is a right. We are honored to have the opportunity to help create an inclusive community we are proud to call home. But we can only do our part with your support. That is why we periodically ask you to financially support the mission of Virginia Voice. Please consider using the enclosed envelope or visit us online at www.virginiavoce.org to make a donation.

On behalf of the individuals we serve, thank you for 40 wonderful years!

Jim Wark, CEO

Do you know anyone who may qualify for Virginia Voice’s radio service due to vision loss or other disability?

Connect by listening!
Contact Kenneth Wene at 804-266-2477
Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers!

Keri Abbott
David Aldridge
Butch Ball
Les Bares
Avis Bennett
Leah Blachman
Ann Boelzner
* Kathryn Boepple
Lloyd Bostian
Ros Bowers
* Steve Boykin
Les Brown
Liza Bruce
* Don Burnette
* Susie Burtch
* Steve Bush
George Calvert
* Jan Campbell
Sandy Cherry
Jane Clark
Liz Cleal
Sam Clement
Stuart Clough
Harriet Coalter
Joe Coalter
Fern Cohen
Frank Connelly
Sue Conway
** Alan Corbett
Al Cormier
Crystal Crawley
Anne Culley
Kalyani Daita
** Fred Danz
Lou Dean
* University of Richmond Delta Gamma Sorority
Pat Deutsch
Susan Early
Tina Egge
* Thomas Eichler
* Gaye Elliott

Becky Emmett
Lynne Eppes
Robin Farmer
* Wayne Farrar
Wendy Gayle
** Frank Gilmore
Anneliese Grant
Donald Green
John Gusich
Harold Harris
Mike Harris
Jack Harsh
Robert Heare
Debra Hill
Renee Hill
Robin Hoerber
Sally Holzgrefe
Sam Hopper
Steve Hovjacky
Dave Howard
Sandy Howells
Deborah Hubbs
Catie Huenekeens
Catherine Ibarra
Pam James
** Renee Jenkins
Maggie Johnson
Fran Jones
* J. Michael Kastner
Jane Kauder
Duane Keiser
Brian Keller
** Simon Kelly
Erma Kelly
* Tori Kennedy
Suzanne Kim
Barbara Kipps
Donna Knicely
Andy Koebler
David Latham
* Peter Legato
Wendy Levy
Bonna Lewis
Greg Lockhart
* Hans Matanovic
Anson Matthews
Diane McGovern
** Robert McIver
Ginny Meeks
Ellen Menard
* Bob Moore
* Deborahjane
Morrell
Jimmy Morris
Marshall Morton
Hannah Murphy
Wes Ortgiesen
Paula Otto
Mia Park
Tamara Perez
Erinn Perry
Bob Phillips
Melissa Phillips
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Andrew Price
John Purcell
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* Vicki Roberts
Katie Rosenbaum
* John Rowe
* Lindsay Ryland
Rick Schofield
Woody Scott
* John Selman
Kenneth Semple
Tim Sexton
Catherine Shankles
Randy Shavis
Thomas Shumate
Rebecca Spriggs
Jeff Stapleton
John Stohr
Donna Strauss
Kathleen Stull
* Alice Supple
Katy Tessieri
* Darrell Tetterton
Brent Thomas
Celie Thomas
Jan Thomas
Dave Thompson
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Birck Turnbull
* Suzanne Uzzell
Jose Valderas
Susheela Varky
Paul Vecchione
* Don Virgin
* Dennis Waldron
Robert Waldruff
* Sallie Wanchisn
Jim Wark
Mary Wark
Bill Washburn
Jessica Waugh
Ann Weinberg
Roger Weinberg
Kenneth Wene
John West
Scott Wichmann
Alex Wiles
Glenn Wilkinson
Fritz Will
Mary Will
Charles Winnagle
Dave Winter
* Teresa Wray
Tripp Wray
Bruce Wright
Ken Wright

** 100 hours +
* 50 to 99 hours
# Foundation, Corporation and Club Financial Supporters

## OVER $100,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation/Company</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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## $50,000 – $99,999

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<td>Richmond Kiwanis Foundation</td>
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## $1,000 – $4,999

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<td>Blue Heron Construction, Inc.</td>
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<td>Friends of Chesterfield County Public Library Midlothian Branch</td>
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<td>Rotary Club of Brandermill</td>
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<td>LaDiff</td>
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<td>Paulson Charitable Foundation, Inc.</td>
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<td>Richmond James River Lions Club Memorial Trust Fund of the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond</td>
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<td>TowneBank Richmond Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>UPS Freight</td>
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## $500 – $999

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<td>Bon Air United Methodist Men</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bon Air-Manchester-Midlothian Lions Club</td>
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<td>Brandermill-Midlothian-Woodlake Lions Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Delaney Bay Fund, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Robert Coleman Longan Jr., M.D. Fund of the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richmond West Breakfast Lions Club</td>
<td>$500 – $999</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Volunteer Reader Fun Facts

**Q:** Which Virginia Voice reader appeared in a 1996 TV film with Academy Award-winner George C. Scott?

**A:** Sallie Wanchisn
$100 – $499
Brookville-Timberlake Lions Club
Central Virginia University of Kentucky Alumni Club
Chase City Lions Club
Chester Lions Club
Chesterfield Prevent Blindness Morning Lions Club in memory of Lions Allen Randall Moore, Christine Rightmyer and Ed Wade
Clarksville Lions Club
Colonial Heights Lions Club
Crewe-Burkeville Lions Club
Flashpoint Fund
Glen Allen Short Pump Lions Club
Goochland County Lions Club
Charles L. and Florine H. Harowitz Donor Advised Fund of The Richmond Jewish Foundation
Kroger Company
Lawrenceville Lions Club
Petersburg Lions Club
Providence Baptist Church, Aylett
Richmond Battlefield Park Lions Club
South Hill Lions Club
Kathryn and W. Harry Schwarzschild Fund
Virginia Retired Teachers Assoc., Inc.

$1 – $99
Manchester Chapter No. 53, OES in memory of Jean Barnes
Rockspring Baptist Church, Manquin in memory of Walter E. Jones

VOLUNTEER READER FUN FACTS
Q: Which Virginia Voice reader plays George Washington in the St. John’s Church Liberty or Death reenactments?
A: Clint Ray

In-Kind Donors
Liz Cleal
Cricket Media, Inc.
Fred Danz
glave kocen gallery, llc
Rhonda Parsons
Richmond Times-Dispatch
Steve Stinton
ThinkFast
WCVE-FM
Roger Weinberg

United Way Donors
To all United Way donors, thank you for your support. Due to changes in United Way gift reporting, it is possible that your name might not appear in our Annual Report in recognition of your contribution. If your name has been omitted, please accept our apologies and gratitude for your support.
Virginia Voice’s Live Audio Description program provides equitable access to our area’s vibrant theater scene. It uses wireless technology to allow “audio describers” (positioned in the back of the theater) to provide descriptions of the visual elements of live performances in between the actors’ dialogue. The goal is to enable everyone, regardless of vision impairment, to be part of something special.

Once we completed our pilot phase with our partner, VA Rep, it was vital we find a leader who knew theater and was passionate about the mission. Enter Sassy, stage right!

Sassy Rychalski starting acting when she was 3 years old; her first starring role was in day care. From then on, the world was her stage, performing in over 30 productions through her high school career at the Center of the Arts in Henrico High School. While at VCU studying production, Sassy realized she’d rather be behind the stage than on it.

“I wanted to bring the elements of theatre together, to make it all happen,” said Sassy. Her desire to orchestrate productions led Sassy to merge her artistic endeavors with practical applications. Then she saw Virginia Voice needed help.

“I knew right away. I went to school across the street from the Virginia Center for the Blind and Visually impaired and now I had the opportunity to help expand access to live performances.”

Thanks to Sassy, the Live Audio Description program is growing. Sassy is collaborating with new theaters, managing the training for audio describers, and promoting the program. Her program patrons love her enthusiasm, energy and caring nature. It’s clear Sassy loves her work!

Sassy said, “Once our own theater community is as inclusive as possible, I want to share this program across the state and the country!” To this, Virginia Voice says “Bravo!”
2018-2019 Schedule of RVA Performing Arts & Community Events Offering Live Audio Description

Virginia Repertory Theatre
2018-2019 Signature and Children’s Theater Series

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
Sunday, September 30

Mr. Poppers Penguins
Sunday, November 4
(Children’s Theater)

Mr. Poppers Penguins
Saturday, December 8
(Children’s Theater)

Sister Act
Sunday, November 25

Sister Act
Friday, December 14

Huck & Tom & the Mighty Mississippi
Sunday, February 3
(Children’s Theater)

Once
Sunday, February 17

Pinocchio
Sunday, April 7 (Children’s Theater)

Pinocchio
TBD – Second Performance
(Children’s Theater)

Atlantis
Sunday, April 28

The Wiz
Sunday, June 30

The Wiz
Friday, July 19

Polkadots
Sunday, August 4 (Children’s Theater)

Science Museum of Virginia
Children’s Programming

Minds Of All Kinds
Live Science Lab, Demo and Dome Show
Thursday, October 29

For information on how to participate, call Sassy Rychalski at (804)266-2477.
### Individual Financial Supporters

#### SPONSOR CIRCLE ($5,000 – $9,999)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous Donor</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Kane Plant Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond</td>
<td>Mr. Thomas E. Shumate in support of the Live Audio Description Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. James P. Wark</td>
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#### PARTNER CIRCLE ($1,000 – $4,999)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Christine S. Baum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Scott Bellemann in support of the Virginia Sargeant Reynolds Challenge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Brenda C. Blackard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liza Bruce and David Hines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam and Dolores Clement Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Susan Conway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Crystal Crawley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Fred W. Danz</td>
<td>The Morton Family Fund of the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Merritt W. Foster III in memory of Mary Nolde Foster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Elaine M. Hill</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Frank M. Rohrback Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. David A. Howard</td>
<td>Tim and Betty Rose Sexton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Otto W. Konrad</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Thomas Silvestri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greg and Deborah Lockhart</td>
<td>Ms. Janet Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Douglas M. Messimer in memory of PDG Lion Carolyn Messimer</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. David Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Michael E. Moore</td>
<td>The Barbara B. and James E. Ukrop Fund</td>
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<td>Mr. Andrew P. Woltman</td>
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#### PATRON CIRCLE ($500 – $999)

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<td>Anonymous Donors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark and Kimberlee Ames</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Leah Rishona Blachman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary Ann Boyd</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Brockenbrough Family Fund of the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond</td>
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<td>The O. Clinton Ray Charitable Fund</td>
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<td>Ms. Patricia C. Cosler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Susan Early</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Tina Egge in support of the Virginia Sargeant Reynolds Challenge</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Alan Gayle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Robert Alfred Gouldin</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Darrell Tetterton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Lila H. Irby</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert S. Ukrop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. W. O. Jones III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Suzanne Kim, O.D.</td>
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<td>The Loupassi Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Paul E. Massie</td>
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<td>Mr. John B. Purcell Jr.</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Zachary Reid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. John Prescott Rowe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edmund A. Saunders, Janie Q. Saunders and Jane Quinn Saunders Endowment of the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. McRae O. Selph</td>
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#### VOLUNTEER READER FUN FACTS

**Q:** Which Virginia Voice reader is not just a Certified Hypnotherapist, but a Master Hypnotherapist?  
**A:** Celie Thomas
# Benefactor Circle ($100 – $499)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Jonathan Arnold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Molly C. Ashby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Ronald W. Axselle in memory of William C. Garrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Sally T. Bagley in honor of Jim Wark and Marshall Morton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary G. Baker in memory of Louise C. Gray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Nancy J. Barnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. David F. Bauer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet and Alan Bauman in memory of Ercell Cary Bowery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Jerome Becker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Lloyd W. Bostian Jr.</td>
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<td>Ms. Nan Forbes Bradley</td>
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<td>Ms. Lisa Branner</td>
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<td>Dr. Loretta M. Braxton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alverda W. Brill Testamentary Share a Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Richard A. Bristow in memory of David W. Crowder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Keane H. Britton in memory of Tom Boe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Patricia W. Brooks in honor of Pam and Rick Cole and in memory of Gladys and Lee Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Richard O. Bunce Jr. in memory of Edwin F. Bunce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Stephen J. Bush</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. John B. H. Caldwell</td>
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<td>Mrs. Gail Murphey Carr in memory of Harriet Jane Murphey</td>
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<td>Ms. Amy C. Chenoweth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Mo Kan Choi</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Eddie Clark III</td>
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<td>Mr. Ken A. Clayton</td>
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<td>Ms. Liz Cleal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Stuart C. Clough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. James K. Cluverius in honor of Jan Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Constance A. Cook in memory of Lester and Edith Cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Nancy Davis in honor of Liza Bruce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Karen S. DiBenedetto in memory of her mother, Winale DiBenedetto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Pamela C. Diemer in memory of David M. Hubbard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Thomas R. Dietsche</td>
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<td>Mr. Jason Dillon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Michael C. Donovan in memory of Mrs. Carolyn Jane Huntley</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. James C. Dorschel Jr. in memory of E. Victor Armstrong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Kimberly S. Edwards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Norman L. Edwards Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. George D. Ellis in memory of Sharon Ellis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Rebecca P. Emmett in honor of the Virginia Voice volunteers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. J. B. Eppes III in memory of Viola Pritchard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Stephen T. Ervin in memory of Sue Richard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Simone Flournoy in memory of Charles Tanner</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Morehead Foard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary N. Foster in memory of Merritt W. Foster Jr., M.D.</td>
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<td>Gethsemane Baptist Church Friends of Virginia Voice in memory of Walter E. Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert B. Giles in memory of Jane S. Giles</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Frank Gilmore</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Larry M. Girvin</td>
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<td>Ms. K. Diane Guild</td>
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<td>Sandy and Bill Harrington in honor of Betty Harrington</td>
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<td>Ms. Barbara G. Harris</td>
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<td>Mr. Harold E. Harris Jr.</td>
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<td>Ms. Susan M. Harris in honor of Glen Allen Church of Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Jack P. Harsh</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. David C. Hart</td>
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<td>Ms. Mary Jane Hogue</td>
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<td>Mrs. Rachel M. Holmes</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert E. Holmes</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Joe Hooker</td>
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<td>Mr. Steven J. Hovjacky</td>
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<td>Mr. William S. Hubbard Jr.</td>
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<td>Mrs. Vivian F. Hupp in memory of Mr. Dale S. Hupp, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Gable Jackson Hupp and Mr. &amp; Mrs. Nickey Flammia</td>
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<td>Mrs. Shirley F. Ivie</td>
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<td>Mr. Miles F. Johnson in support of the Live Audio Description Program</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. W. Reed Johnson</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Francis P. Jones in memory of William C. Garrett</td>
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<td>Ms. Patricia J. Karthaus</td>
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<td>J. Michael Kastner and Mindy Fast</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Simon N. Kelly</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Daniel Kendall</td>
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<td>Ms. Tori P. Kennedy</td>
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<td>Mrs. Kathryn M. Kent in memory of Dorris and Irvine Marilla</td>
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<td>Mrs. Hope S. Kestle</td>
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<td>Ms. Claudia T. King</td>
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<td>Mr. Melvin B. Knight in memory of Twyla D. Mott</td>
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<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Warren W. Koontz Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Karen S. La Forge in honor of Jim Wark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lou and Marianne Lawrence Jr. in memory of Mary A. Lewis</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Peter Legato</td>
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<tr>
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<th>FRIEND CIRCLE ($50 – $99) continued</th>
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Mrs. Nancy Young

Q: Which Virginia Voice reader is an award-winning journalist who served as the local anchor for NPR’s Morning Edition from 1997-2015?

A: Wayne Farrar
Behind every radio program we broadcast stand the special people who are the lifeblood of Virginia Voice: our wonderful volunteer readers. March, 2018 marked the four-decade anniversary of their remarkable dedication to our mission, and it’s staggering to think how far we have come together!

“I will always remember the cramped quarters off the gym and that little recording studio. Our work area was made of two-by-fours with a plywood top and the broadcast was recorded on tape. Oh, how we’ve grown.” said Fred Danz, a 30-year live reader who shares fresh strawberries and other goodies with his Virginia Voice colleagues each week.

“Our volunteers bring the gift of reading to thousands of people every single day. Without them, Virginia Voice would not exist,” said Program and Volunteer Director Hannah Murphy. “We cherish every long-time volunteer. Their legacy will inspire new volunteers for decades to come. Our readers keep coming back because they care!”

“I always wanted to do something to help the community. It makes me happy to share the gift of reading through Virginia Voice” added Barbara Kipps, reader of 34 years.

“I love reading for The Voice. When I get to the studio and when I leave, I feel proud to be part of such an important endeavor,” said Roger Weinberg, who began reading in 1980.

Virginia Voice has transformed over the decades with every new show, studio upgrade and technological advance. But the motivation that keeps our dedicated volunteers coming back for decades has not changed. Helping others is simply in their nature.

**Eyes for those who cannot see. Hands for those who cannot turn the pages.**
Financial Snapshot for FY 2018

* Operating Revenue FY 2018 - $401,288

- United Way - $8,432
- Corporations - $37,328
- Individuals - $64,314
- Foundations - $187,349
- Service Clubs - $9,575
- Religious Org. - $125
- Special Event - $8,000
- Government - $36,499
- Transfer from Endowment - $49,666

* Additional funds were received, restricted to endowment and specific programs

Operating Expenses FY 2018 - $330,957

- Programming - Local News - $93,942
- Programming - Resources/Education - $61,733
- Programming - Entertainment - $88,574
- Programming - Lifestyle/Health - $24,157
- Support Services - Fundraising - $26,477
- Support Services - Administrative - $36,074

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88.9 WCVE News | MEDARVA
93.1/107.3 WCVE Music | MEDARVA
Richmond Times-Dispatch
Virginia Voice live audio describers in action.

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