

# Behind every door is a story...

The Doorways gave Sissi a “home away from home” when facing cancer – twice. A devastating recurrence 10 years after her first remission brought Sissi back from Gloucester to our doors, a comforting sight in her eyes. “We felt welcomed and not like we were special just because I was sick. Everyone is there for a purpose – to get better. It helps the healing process when you are surrounded by others with the same goal.”



“ This amazing establishment is a blessing to everyone that graces its doors. ”



**Then:** Sissi first stayed with us back in 2009 (when we were still known as the Hospital Hospitality House). She recalls games of bingo fondly, and even got to enjoy low-cost movie tickets from a local theater! While she says The Doorways continues to make a “tremendous” effort to provide even more service, she stresses that she “would not change either experience.”

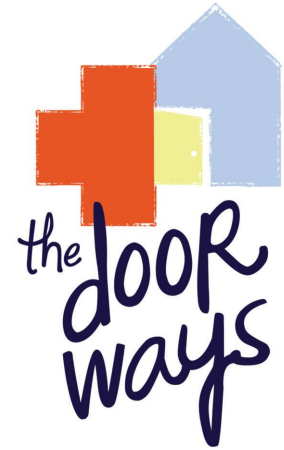
“ I terribly missed my cat at home but being cuddled by the therapy dogs just made my day so much better. ”

**Now:** Sissi stayed with us again for several weeks between 2022-2023. Sissi highlighted many examples of improvements that made her stay even more comfortable: more volunteer groups, an improved kitchen area, easy access to washers and dryers, our pantry partnership with FeedMore, and a more frequent shuttle! Her favorite addition though, were the therapy dog visits. “I terribly missed my cat at home but being cuddled by the dogs just made my day so much better.”



Scan here for more guest stories

FOUNDED IN 1983



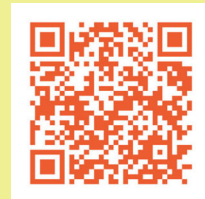
celebrating 40 years

BETWEEN HEALING & HOME

Thanks to our donors, our guests' lives are transformed and a lifelong community is formed.

The Doorways' mission is to provide lodging and support for patients and their loved ones who need to be close to the hospital but not far from the feeling of “home.”

Scan here to make a gift today



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Thank you!

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# April is Volunteer Appreciation Month!

**H**aving been in a serious car accident herself, volunteer extraordinaire Candy Cecil can relate to the struggles of our guests. She fortunately had family nearby but recognizes how much more challenging her recovery would have been if her loved ones had been unable to provide daily support, let alone afford the cost of a lengthy stay close to the hospital. "That's why I always do whatever I can because The Doorways bridges that gap." Any chance she gets, she'll share about our mission and the meaningful volunteer work she provides. She tells us "I've found that once I tell someone about The Doorways and the impact it has on our community, they want to help, too."

## Then and Now: Volunteer Candy Cecil

**Then:** Candy started volunteering in 2000 for a service project through her church and she hasn't stopped since! She recalls when Dolly's Garden used to be a former unusable pool and storage room, but is delighted by what it has become! While there have been "lots and lots of changes with new furniture and upgraded rooms," Candy remarks how The Doorways "still has that cozy feeling of home – the amazing staff (and volunteers!) make it so."



*The Cheerful Givers serving a meal to guests in 2007*



*Candy is always ready to serve up something in our kitchen!*

**Now:** Candy has been making meals every month for nearly 24 years so who better to attest to our kitchen improvements?! The kitchen upgrades - including a new breakfast fridge and a new system for sorting donated food - have made preparing meals for a full house (fun fact, we have 117 rooms!) possible. She also volunteers through NAWIC (National Association of Women in Construction) - a regular donor of kitchen staples!

“ I have a memorable moment with guests every time I volunteer. ”



# How can YOU get involved?

- 🏠 Make and serve a meal while visiting with our guests
- 🏠 Host a food collection for our pantry to keep quick meals in stock
- 🏠 Hold a Windex Party to give guests a welcoming view
- 🏠 Make care packages to provide guests with the comforts of home

We're proud to honor our volunteers during National Volunteer Appreciation Month. Our volunteers fulfill our mission in countless ways – making meals for guests, washing our (MANY!) windows, organizing donations, or simply providing a listening ear. They selflessly share their time and talents to ensure our guests have a place to call home when facing medical challenges. Our volunteers, like our guests, are our heroes.



1



2

3

4

1. Members of our Board of Directors - all volunteers! - at our 40th Anniversary Open House!
2. Guest Chef Timoria Davis utilizes ingredients donated by supporters!
3. Employees from Actalent sort donations
4. Junior League of Richmond provides meals and brings Rolling Rack - a mobile thrift boutique.

## Volunteers of the Year

What better time to announce our incredible

**Volunteer Group of the Year - CoStar Builds Richmond** - and our **Volunteer of the Year - Jim Price!** Their consistent volunteerism, endless support of our guests, and joyful presence makes The Doorways feel like home.



Hear from Jim (and Candy!) about why they volunteer with The Doorways.





# Then and Now: Longtime Supporter Leslie Stack

Leslie Stack has been a steadfast supporter of The Doorways for more than 20 years. In 2009, Leslie went above and beyond the call of a typical donor and created SAVOR in honor of the 25th Anniversary of The Doorways. As an icon in the hospitality industry, Leslie was able to connect with local chefs on the cutting edge who wanted to give back – and what could be a more appropriate mission than a hospital hospitality house? As Leslie puts it, SAVOR has “proven that Richmonders believe in The Doorways. The enthusiasm of the crowd says it all!”

**Then:** Leslie founded SAVOR to provide exceptional dining from world renowned chefs for a cause. Leslie tells us “seeing the chefs who are not Richmonders embrace our local event with pop-up auction donations has always been a highlight, including Chef Thierry Rautureau from Seattle who was our first honorary chair and took a lead role!”

**Now:** Leslie has stayed engaged with The Doorways all these years, from serving on the Board of Directors to providing financial support and being a prominent presence at countless events. This year, Leslie served on the SAVOR committee as we celebrated 15 years of SAVOR in conjunction with our 40th Anniversary. A worthy tribute to an unfailing advocate for our mission!



Leslie with her partner, Frank Rizzo

“...it is like staying at your home with everything you need or want during a very stressful time for the patient and their families. My family was astounded by the “give back/pay it forward” attitude to the community. We never felt that the money was going to an amorphous administration entity. We count ourselves lucky to find this a gold nugget.”

- Dan Kane, former guest

## SNEAK PEAK Follow along our social media pages in May for a flashback of past special events!



1. Fancy Hat Party - 2016 2. Men About Town - 1984 3. Dolly's Garden Party - 2019

### Connect with us:





## Celebrating 15 Years of SAVOR!



Painted and donated by one of our guests while staying at The Doorways!



Save the date:  
March 8, 2025



Scan here to see photos from SAVOR 2024





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TheDoorways.org

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“ The Doorways is full of caring people that go above and beyond to help families deal with overwhelming medical situations. ”

– Joey Loving, former guest

## Priority Wishlist:

Wishlist items allow us to provide touches of home for our guests and remove additional burdens during their stays. We accept new, unopened, and unexpired donations:



- Granola Bars
- Pasta
- Canned Soups
- Cereal
- Individually Packaged Snacks
- To-Go Containers
- Large Pots and Pans
- Air Filters (10x20x1 or 10x24x1)
- Gift Cards to Kroger, Target, Walmart, Amazon, or Visa

## THANK YOU!



## We are thankful for YOU! Your support makes our mission possible. Our fiscal year ends June 30th!

There are many ways that you can make a charitable gift to The Doorways that may also have tax benefits for you:



- **Go Online** to make a gift with your debit or credit card on our secure website
- **Mail** a check to: 612 E. Marshall Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219
- **Make a gift** from your donor-advised fund
- **Donate** appreciated stocks or securities
- **If you are over age 70½**, you may donate a qualified charitable distribution from an individual retirement account (IRA) and potentially receive tax benefits. Please speak with your financial advisor about supporting The Doorways in this beneficial way!
- **For more information on giving options, follow the QR code or call Sarah Melvin at (804) 828-6901 ext. 108.**  
TheDoorways.org/support



## SAVE THE DATE!

- April 2024 | Volunteer Appreciation Month
- June 30, 2024 | Fiscal Year End
- March 8, 2025 | SAVOR the Date!



Are you getting our emails? Reach out to [info@thedorways.org](mailto:info@thedorways.org) to ensure you're getting the latest information on our recent happenings!