

## Meet Guests Jennifer and Christopher

**W**hen Christopher learned his heart was functioning at only 1%, he and his mom, Jennifer, were told there was only one place for his lifesaving surgery: VCU Health, two hours from their home in Greenbackville, VA. After traveling in the middle of a snowy night, they arrived just in time. Once Christopher was settled at the hospital, Jennifer – a nurse herself – was told about The Doorways. She recalls her arrival saying “I sat at a table by myself, eating chicken noodle soup. And then I laid my head to rest here, knowing he was right next door. And that’s when the nurse came out of me and the mom came back.”

**“That was the moment I knew we were where we should be.”** After a successful surgery, Christopher was eventually discharged to stay at The Doorways with his mom while he completed his remaining treatments. Tragically, a fire took their home shortly before Christopher’s surgery, The Doorways was the first place they felt at ease since the fire. As they dealt with their medical crisis, they truly came to consider The Doorways their home away from home. Having made friends with fellow guests, staff, and volunteers alike, Jennifer and Christopher frequently return for appointments and can regularly be found organizing the guest pantry, playing the piano, and enjoying a delicious meal with their new friends. Even through their challenges, they tell us that they “have a lot of joyous moments at The Doorways” – and that’s all thanks to our supporters making it possible. **Thank you.**



**“ The Doorways means being able to heal without the worry of being so far away from the hospital. It’s comfort, it’s tears of joy here. ”**



**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 the QR code to make a gift today**







**Visit [thedorways.org/support](https://thedorways.org/support)  
Thank you!**



**Scan the QR code for more guest stories**

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## Meet Jannequin!

The endlessly talented Chef Jannequin Bennett is one of the founding chefs of our annual gala, SAVOR! Jannequin continues to prepare delicious meals at the event while also overseeing the chef committee and serving as our primary contact with the culinary talents. But did you know that Jannequin has also provided cooking lessons and made meals at The Doorways herself? **We welcome volunteers of all cooking expertise - from professional chefs to at-home cooks. Our guests appreciate it all!**



## Meet Caroline!

No task is too large or too small for the incredible Caroline Morton, another superstar volunteer! From hosting receptions at her own home to supporting events, Caroline has invested in our mission from the ground up. Her favorite task though is coming to The Doorways each week to write thank you notes with her beautiful penmanship! **Do you have a unique talent that could benefit our mission?** Let us know!

This past year, **450 volunteers** provided **6,000 hours** of volunteer service!



Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond



Purple Hearts Care



Apple REIT



Genworth



VCU Student Volunteers



Sentara

## How can YOU get involved?



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



## A record-breaking 19th Annual Gilbane Restaurant Walk!



**Thank you** to Gilbane Building Company and our sponsors for our most successful Gilbane Restaurant Walk yet! We introduced hundreds of new supporters to The Doorways while dining on delicious catering from ZZQ Texas Craft Barbecue, and beverages and enjoying music from our volunteer Rick Vanderploeg and his band, Needs Nothing. Special thanks to the Gilbane Project Engineers Peer Group who organized the event, and to Main Line Brewery for hosting!

Fundraising with community partners like Gilbane makes our mission possible! Would your company like to host a similar event? Connect with us at [events@thedorways.org](mailto:events@thedorways.org) to learn more.

### What's up Next



### SAVOR 2025!

Fly away with us as we take SAVOR to new heights! Get involved through ticket purchases, sponsorships, auction item donations, or volunteer opportunities.

**Saturday, March 8, 2025**  
**HeloAir**

Richmond International Airport



Scan the QR code to learn more on our website!



### Did you know?

- **\$15** is the suggested per night donation for guests to contribute!
- **53%** of guests cannot donate to the cost of their stay, but **no guest is ever turned away for their inability to contribute.**



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TheDoorways.org



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## 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** – Gluten Free is great!
- **Pasta** – including Gluten Free!
- **Cereal**
- **Hand Soap**
- **Hearty Soups and Stews**
- **Individually Packaged Snacks**
- **To-Go/Carry-Out Containers**
- **Air Filters**  
(10x20x1 or 10x24x1)
- **Gift Cards** to Kroger, Target, Walmart, Amazon, or Visa

**THANK YOU!**



Scan the QR code to view our Wishlist

## A season of giving, a year of caring

There are many ways to give and make a lasting impact upon the families staying at The Doorways. **We hope you will please include The Doorways in your holiday gift list.**



- **Go online** to make a gift with your debit or credit card at [www.thedorways.org](http://www.thedorways.org)
- **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 be eligible to 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!

## Where there's a WILL, there's a way!

**You can demonstrate your compassion**, create your personal legacy, and set an example for others by remembering The Doorways in your will, trust, or other planned gift. No gift has a more lasting impact!

**A planned gift** may also offer many potential tax advantages including the reduction of capital gain taxes and possibly federal and state estate tax savings.

For more information on giving options, scan the QR code to support our mission or call our Director of Development at (804) 828-6901 ext. 150



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