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News Release

The Hughes Center - Danville, VA Announces Groundbreaking for New Replacement Facility

Residential Center of Excellence for Children/Adolescents with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities

Danville, VA - April 19, 2022 - The Hughes Center is pleased to announce initial work has begun on a replacement facility serving children and adolescents with a groundbreaking scheduled for June 2022. All members of the media are welcome to attend this event scheduled for May 31, 2022 at 1:00p.m. EST. The Hughes Center has been a part of the Danville and Pittsylvania County community for almost 100 years, originally serving as an orphanage. The facility has been providing residential mental health treatment to children and adolescents with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities since 2006. While providing essential treatment to youth in Virginia and from across the U.S., the facility partners with the local community and develops strong relationships with local organizations.

The 96-bed replacement facility will include an additional 32 beds. “This expansion is key to addressing the mental health continuum of care challenges Virginia has faced in recent years,” said Mark Howard, Chief Executive Officer of The Hughes Center. “Our mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities so they can achieve their fullest potential. It is essential our residents have the facilities, resources, and support to become independent and reach that potential. The replacement facility is a key step in meeting those needs. The services we offer are extremely unique, and the new facility will allow us to accommodate the specific needs of our residents.”

The facility is expected to be completed in March 2024. The new building will be located on the current site off of Franklin Turnpike. While construction of the new replacement facility occurs our current services, education, and standards of care will continue without interruption. The

state-of-the-art facility will feature educational space and sensory tools to address the special needs of children with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities.

“We are looking forward to the expansion of our facility,” said Cindy Pruitt-Rhodes, Director of Clinical Services for The Hughes Center. “This will allow us to provide more services to the residents in our setting and to meet the needs of the community.”

We look forward to the continued growth within the Danville community. We have many reciprocal partnerships that are an immense support system to the children we serve. We look forward to continual engagement in our community and fostering additional relationships as we expand.

The Hughes Center serves children with autism spectrum disorder or an intellectual disability that also have a co-occurring psychiatric diagnosis. On average our residents stay with us for one year. During their time at The Hughes Center they advance in their specialized education, better comprehend coping mechanisms through therapeutic intervention, improve independence in activities of daily living, and develop integration projects within the local community. We are blessed to have the opportunity to assist them in their growth, development, and future success.