

We envision a future where every child can read, every family is food secure, and every neighborhood in Portsmouth has the foundation to thrive.

PROGRAM & IMPACT SNAPSHOT

BACKGROUND

ChainBreakers was founded and received 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in 2004, with a mission to help Portsmouth families build stronger lives and access workforce opportunities.

In January 2025, the organization relaunched with a commitment to becoming Portsmouth's most trusted community partner for early literacy intervention and family food security.

PROGRAMS

DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY



Now Enrolling!

ChainBreakers is the Local Program Partner in Portsmouth for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a program that promotes early childhood reading by shipping free, inclusive, age-appropriate books monthly to children from birth to age 5.

DONATE OR ENROLL A CHILD NOW



DONATE

ENROLL

READING ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



The Reading Enrichment Program is phonics-based, science-backed program that helps Portsmouth's elementary school students develop or improve their reading skills. The 4-day, after school program is hosted in Portsmouth schools and concludes with a graduation and parent workshop.

SEE THE PROGRAM IN ACTION



NOURISH THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Nourish the Neighborhood partners with Mercy Chefs to provide hot meals for our Reading Enrichment Program and for our Community Dinners, which we host twice per month. This program also provides a monthly grocery distribution, in partnership with the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore.

SEE THE PROGRAM IN ACTION



4

During the 2025-26 school year, ChainBreakers hosted its Reading Enrichment Program at four Portsmouth elementary schools: Cradock (2x), Douglass Park, Westhaven and Waterview



125

During the 2025-26 school year, ChainBreakers worked with 125 students in our Reading Enrichment Program



100%

100% of the striving readers in our program showed improvement in their ability to decode words they didn't know



5

We hosted five Parent Workshops, which celebrated students and provided tools to continue reading support at home



850+

Since September 2025, our amazing volunteers have donated more than 850 hours to our reading and family food programs



A Favorite Moment
"Who learned to read new words this week?"

Our Mission

ChainBreakers strengthens families in Portsmouth through **three commitments**:

- putting **free books** in the homes of children from birth to age five
- delivering **phonics-based reading support** for striving readers in kindergarten through 6th grade
- and increasing **access to nutritious food** for children and families.

\$100,000

We've raised nearly \$100,000 for our organization and its programs since September 2025

SOME OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS

We are grateful for the support of more than 80 individual, corporate, and private donors, including:

\$20,000+

Friends of the Portsmouth Public Library
Portsmouth United/City of Portsmouth

Other generous donors:

Suffolk Foundation
Southeast Virginia Community Foundation
Towne Bank