



Ever notice how fall has a way of showing what was hiding in plain sight?

The leaves drop, the light changes, and suddenly you can see the shape of things. What's solid, what needs tending, and what was hidden in all that green.

That same kind of clarity is showing up in our work this month. We're partnering with the [Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center \(LIVE\)](#), an organization that provides a bridge from violence to safety for Latinos across the Commonwealth. Their team already serves as a trusted connection for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and for Spanish-speakers navigating systems that weren't built for them.

Now they're turning that same focus toward another form of visibility: how Latinos with disabilities experience safety, access, and belonging. [About 11% of Latinos in Virginia—roughly 71,000 people—live with a disability.](#)

It's not new work for LIVE; it builds on what they already do best: asking the right questions, cultivating the right partnerships, and refusing to let anyone fall through the cracks.

what we're noticing

Across our projects this season, from violence prevention to website design to strategic planning, the through-line is visibility. Who's in the data, who's in the room, who's part of the decision. The answers are rarely hidden, they're just waiting to be seen.

data dive: seeing the whole picture

We're data people, but not spreadsheet people. Data is only interesting when it helps you see something you didn't before such as a pattern, a possibility, or a person who's been missing from the frame.

Here are a few starting points we keep coming back to:

[GMU Nonprofit Employment Data Dashboard \(2017–2022\)](#)

Interactive Virginia-specific trends in nonprofit jobs and wages

[Latino Data Hub](#)

Community-level insights by issue area, including disability, health, and civic participation

[Virginia Open Data Portal](#)

The Commonwealth's central hub for public datasets across health, economy, and social indicators

[Candid Nonprofit Data Visualizations](#)

Grantmaking and funding trends you can sort by state or topic

[BLS Nonprofit Data Tables \(2013–2022\)](#)

Downloadable national and state-level data on nonprofit employment and wages

When we use data to see more clearly, we make sure people don't disappear into averages and categories.

🦑 what's in the net?

Not likely to show up in the data dashboard, but here's what's been keeping our October characteristically off balance:

Carter went birding with the Feminist Bird Club and is officially hooked, learning calls, tracking sightings, and recently spotting an Eastern Towhee at Hollywood Cemetery.

Quillin is reading (and already quoting) Brené Brown's new book *Strong Ground: The Lessons of Daring Leadership, the Tenacity of Paradox, and the Wisdom of the Human Spirit*.

Shelley is buried under a pile of wrapping paper and cupcake sprinkles. Her own birthday plus a gauntlet of kids' parties means October was one long celebration.

Laura is in full Halloween mode. Two costumes for herself, eight for her eight cats, and absolutely no regrets.



**We don't do detention but we do love a good group project.
Happy Halloween from The Breakfast Club!**

p.s. we're moving!

Blue Octopus HQ is on the move to [500 Libbie Avenue](#). Let's catch up at Grit, Stella's, or Palani Drive next time you're in the Libbie & Grove area!

Here's to seeing what's really there once the noise, the leaves, and the distractions fall away.