



### This month reminded us that kindness is infrastructure.

What happens when we operationalize kindness? When it's measurable, scalable, built into systems? Meral Alizada coined the phrase Kindness as Infrastructure™, and this month we saw exactly what those results look like.

It's the volunteers who show up year after year at CCHASM to distribute thousands of Thanksgiving meals. The advocates at Wild Virginia protecting clean water that makes food security possible. The coalition builders connecting nonprofits across Virginia so we're stronger together.

Kindness isn't just nice, it's essential.

## helper highlight: CCHASM

CCHASM's Thanksgiving program is one of Virginia's quiet powerhouses. This month, 3,100 families in Chesterfield received full Thanksgiving meals because of a volunteer system that works like clockwork. It's rooted in trust, and consistency by the people who keep coming back.

**The BOC team was proud to be on the ground with them this weekend helping distribute meals.**



What makes it work? A clear mission keeps logistics manageable. Volunteers are trusted with real responsibility. And the loyalty built long before any crisis means people show up when it matters most.

**CCHASM** lives this rhythm year round and turns it up every November during their Thanksgiving program. **CAPUP** does too, through steady food access, senior support, and the community listening sessions that shape their programs from the ground up.

**This is kindness at scale. This is infrastructure.**

## helper highlight: wild virginia

### Environmental Kindness: The Foundation Underneath Everything

We've been supporting **Wild Virginia's** communications around wildlife crossings and water quality. Work that might seem removed from this month's food insecurity headlines. But here's the connection: without clean water and healthy ecosystems, food security doesn't exist.



The land, water, and wildlife corridors that Wild Virginia protects are environmental infrastructure. The foundation underneath everything, including the food systems communities depend on. It's another kind of kindness worth noticing.

## five helpers you might be missing

Sometimes the most essential infrastructure is invisible. Here are five helpers every nonprofit has but doesn't always spotlight:

**The Connector:** The person who knows everyone and quietly widens your reach with one introduction.

**The Systems Person:** Notices the broken intake form or messy workflow and fixes it without fanfare.

**The Lurker Supporter:** Never comments. Rarely attends. But reads everything, donates quietly, and shows up exactly when needed.

**The Skill-Sharer:** Doesn't want a board seat but will edit your grant, troubleshoot tech, or teach your team Canva in an hour.

**The Cheerleader:** Shows up at every event, shares every post, talks you up to everyone they know. They're not on staff or the board, but they believe in your work and make sure everyone else knows about it too.

**These helpers are infrastructure too. Who are yours and how do you let them know they matter?**

## resource of the month

### Building a Stronger Nonprofit Network in Virginia

If we want a Virginia nonprofit sector with real power and influence, we need to strengthen the connective tissue between organizations.

#### [Independent Sector's Nonprofit Coalition Connection Tool](#)

It helps nonprofits map partners, identify collaborators, and build stronger coalitions across the state.

If you are a Virginia nonprofit, add your name! A more unified nonprofit community starts with knowing who's out there and connecting intentionally.

## 🦄 what's in the net?

Here's what's influencing our November:

**Laura** has Yacht Rock on repeat (apologies to recent clients) capped off with Air Supply in concert.

**Shelley** is wallpapering her bathroom (and maybe the rest of the house) with horse-themed wallpaper. It's a whole mood.

**Carter** just started the new season of the In the Dark podcast and is already hooked.

**Quillin** is counting down to see Wicked For Good next week! Ready for crying, laughing, and good company.

## p.s. something worth sharing...



We are all about recognizing the helpers who hold communities together. For **Giving Tuesday**, we want to support them too.

Tell us who needs a boost and we will donate \$10,000 in pro bono strategic support to a nonprofit making a difference in RVA.

[nominate a nonprofit](#)

**Waving all eight arms in appreciation of pie, football, naps, and the helpers all around us.**

