



## *“I don’t know what I’d have done without CHIP...”*

Marina knew something was wrong as soon as she brought Onix home from the hospital. “Sometimes he’d cry all night,” she says. “I didn’t know what to do. I kept asking, what’s wrong with my baby? Nobody could tell me.”

Finally, when Onix was five months old, doctors diagnosed him with schizencephaly, a rare congenital condition. Marina’s baby had been born with abnormal slits in his brain.

The news devastated her. Onix’s father had abandoned them, and Marina cleans houses for a living. With two young sons to care for (Onix has an older brother, Christopher) she found herself overwhelmed.

Then she enrolled in CHIP of Arlington, part of the nonprofit CHIP of Virginia network, which works statewide to improve the health of young children in low-income families.

CHIP assigned a registered nurse and an outreach worker to help Marina.

“This woman was totally alone,” says Marina’s outreach worker, Lyzette Orr. “It was unimaginable.”

Step by step, Marina’s CHIP team began to get her the help she needed.

They supervised Onix and Christopher’s health, and linked both boys with a medical home, a doctor who knows their histories and is available for consultation around the clock. They helped sign Onix up for Supplemental Security Income. They made sure Marina had transportation to Onix’s medical appointments.

They also made sure Christopher’s needs were met. His immunizations are up to date, and CHIP helped find him a preschool where he is thriving.

Onix just turned three. He cannot sit up, walk, talk, or feed himself. He takes fourteen medicines a day and can only eat via a feeding tube attached to his stomach.

He’s also a big-eyed boy with a winning smile. “He doesn’t talk,” Marina concedes. “But if I talk to him, he smiles and laughs. And if I’m not there, he misses me and starts to cry.”

And so, Marina is there, for both of her sons. But she says CHIP makes it all possible.

“CHIP has helped me more than I can say,” she explains. “They’ve taught me how to care for my son. I don’t know what I would have done without CHIP.”





CHIP of Virginia

## Better Health for Virginia's Most Vulnerable Children

Every day throughout Virginia, low-income parents struggle to care for their children. They may lack homes, jobs, cars, or even telephones. Their children may have been born prematurely, suffer from chronic illness, or be struggling with developmental delays. But like most parents, they want the best possible care for their children.

and a medical home—a doctor who provides consistent, round-the-clock well- and sick-baby care.

Across the state, CHIP teams have one goal: to help parents raise healthy children. It's what CHIP has been doing for over a decade, and it works!



Onix and Christopher are among the nearly five thousand children CHIP of Virginia served last year. To read their story, turn to the other side of this page.

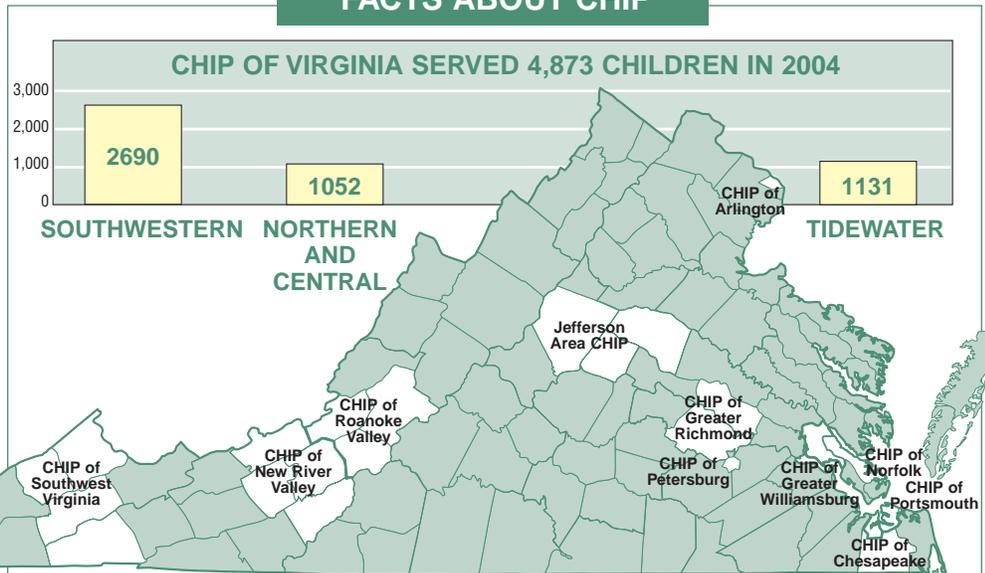
### That's where CHIP of Virginia steps in.

CHIP works in 30 communities around the state, serving the highest-need families in each community. CHIP's skilled teams of nurses and outreach workers help families keep their young children healthy.

Every family is different, so CHIP works with each family individually, visiting them at home to build on their strengths and meet their unique needs. That may mean parenting education so a young couple knows how to care for their newborn. It may mean helping a family manage its health care, find stable housing, or plan healthy menus.

For every family, CHIP monitors children's health and development so they can get help if they need it. CHIP also makes sure that every child has insurance

### FACTS ABOUT CHIP



#### CHIP CHILDREN FACE SPECIAL CHALLENGES...

**92%** of CHIP children live in poverty

**18%** of CHIP children have a chronic medical condition

**7%** of CHIP children have a diagnosed developmental delay

#### CHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN CHILDREN'S LIVES...

**86%** of CHIP children have health insurance after one year of CHIP services (compared to 73% at enrollment)

**96%** of CHIP children have a medical home after one year of CHIP services (compared to 87% at enrollment)

**89%** of CHIP children are up-to-date on immunizations after one year of CHIP services (compared to 72% at enrollment)

