



Figure 1. STEP VA in 2024

# STEP VA, Inc. Celebrates 2024: A Year in Review

## WE ARE STEP VA...

STEP VA's mission is to empower people with disabilities and their families through creative expression and sensory exploration. We lead with values and beliefs that encourage all people with disabilities to develop their full potential and engage in a just, equitable community. Through the arts, all people's voices can be heard regardless of perceived barriers.

Watch us thrive in 2025!

### PEOPLE STEP VA SERVED THROUGH PROGRAMS (2024 compared to 2023)

CLASS SESSION	# OF OPPORTUNITIES in 2024 (2023 #s)	SLOTS FILLED in 2024 (2023 #s)	NUMBERS of INDIVIDUALS SERVED in 2024 (2023 #s)	% RETURNING*
SPRING	5 classes/workshops (4)	64 (44)	61 (38)	84%
MUSICAL	1 staged musical (1)	52 (38)	43 (38)	95%
SUMMER	4 camps (4) 18 classes/workshops (0)	57 (56) 103 (0)	45 (34)	79%
FALL	13 classes (10)	113 (78)	45 (41)	90%
TOTALS	41 (19)	389 (216)	49 individuals served on average per semester (38)	87% average (81% in 2023)

\* Percentages calculated by number of participants who enrolled in the 2023 session and who also returned for the 2024 session.

# MUSICAL EXPERIENCE 2021-2025

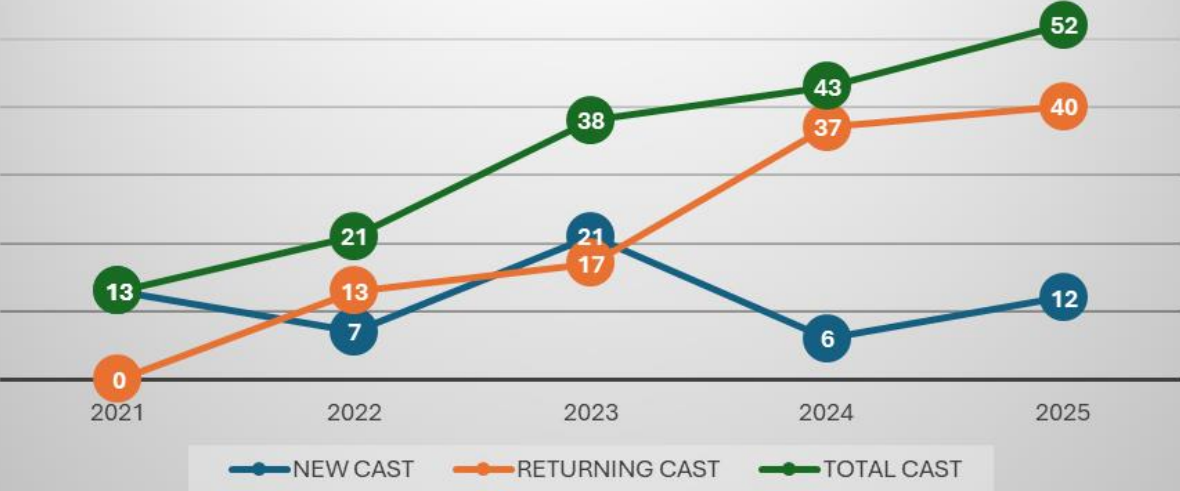


Figure 2. STEP VA's Seussical, Jr.



**AUDIENCE MEMBERS WHO WERE IMPACTED BY STEP VA**

<b>50 +</b>	<i>Seussical, Jr.</i> Sneak peek performance at Spotsylvania Towne Center Mall Stage
<b>725 +</b>	2-day audience total for <i>Seussical, Jr.</i> musical
<b>250 +</b>	4 summer camp showcases
<b>4100 +</b>	All-Abilities Choir performance of the National Anthem at Fredericksburg Nationals game
<b>175 +</b>	All-Abilities Choir gala performance
<b>50 + in person plus Live Stream and Facebook Audiences</b>	All-Abilities Ensemble (subset of All-Abilities Choir) at Ava Laurenne Bridal Christmas Benefit Concert
<b>100 +</b>	All-Abilities Choir guest performance at the Spotsylvanians Christmas Concert



Figure 3. *Seussical, Jr.* cast performed for the board of the Virginia Commission for the Arts



*Figure 4 STEP VA intern points to a rainbow over our studio*

## **VOLUNTEERS**

- 39** Teens and adults volunteered at summer camps
- 7** Transition volunteers (see note)
  - **4** served as camp buddies
  - **3** served as class support
  - 57% increase from 2023
- 4** Training sessions (virtual and in-person)
- 2** Transition volunteer in-person training sessions

Note: A transition volunteer is a participant who is now serving in a volunteer capacity at summer camp.

## STEP VA CONNECTS

### *Teen and Adult Connect Groups*

#### **67+ Virtual Connect Group Meetings**

Combined Teen/Adult Connect (12-15 members each week)

#### **3 Connect Club in-person workshops**

Average of 30 attendees *New Events*

#### **1 Participant-led, in-person Adult Connect outing**

Family holiday party with 36 attendees

### *Parent Connect*

#### **93 Members of our private, moderated Facebook group, STEP VA Parents & Guardians**

Parent Connect members support a safe information/resource-sharing platform

**a 35% increase from 2023**

#### **1 Parent Paint Night with 4 families attending *New Event***

#### **2 Parent Connect-coordinated parties**

Cast party for more than **50 guests**

Holiday party for **122 guests**

## STEP VA IN THE COMMUNITY

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Family community service project | 34 volunteered at the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank   |
| 3 Community events                 | Via Colori Street Art in Stafford<br>Family Night at Fred Nats Stadium<br>The Spotsylvanians Holiday Christmas Concert  |
| 3 Open mic karaoke/dance nights    | Arbor Haven Weddings (2)<br>Riverside First Church of God   |
| 4 STEP VA presentations            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Roanoke College Disabilities Studies Class (Spring and Fall)</li><li>• Chamber's Network of Enterprising Women (C NEW) Small Business &amp; Non-Profit Fair Co-Keynote Speaker</li><li>• C NEW follow up: Chamber of Commerce Podcast</li></ul> |
| 1 Performance invitation           | Special performance for the commissioners of the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA), VCA staff, and Fredericksburg City officials   |





*Figure 5. Scenes from the STEP VA Gala 2024*

## **STEP VA SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS**

- Received over \$9,000 in grants to support our programs and operations.
- Raised more than \$95,000 in donations through our musical and gala matching campaigns.<sup>1</sup>
- Received significant donations from local businesses, including Atlantic Builders, Movement Mortgage, and the McNichols Family Foundation.
- Hosted our annual fundraising gala for 175 guests, raising over \$60,000 with 50% of guests new to STEP VA.
- Expanded our board of directors with the addition of Khalid Bitar, Sara Dowd, and Jeff Henry to advise and support our growing organization.
- Thank you, Brigid O’Leary, for your years of board service while you transition fully to a volunteer.

---

<sup>1</sup> Please see correction issued February 27, 2025 at end of the report.

- Integrated 2 college interns: a spring intern from Germanna Community College's Paraprofessional Program and a summer intern from Northwestern University through the Bomback Internship Program.



*Figure 6. The STEP VA All-Abilities Choir performing at the Gala*

**STEP invited to be beneficiary of 2 community events:**

- Greater Fredericksburg Area Jack and Jill Club of America's "Shades of You in Pink and Blue" Gala
- Ava Laurene Bride's First Annual 2024 Christmas Decor Unveiling and Christmas Charity Concert

**[STEP VA IRS Form 990 \(2023\)](#)**

**Correction (issued February 27, 2025):** Under STEP VA Highlights, the second bullet "Raised more than \$95,000 in donations through our musical and gala matching campaigns" should read: "Raised more than \$95,000 in donations through our musical and gala matching campaigns and through program fees." We discovered an error in how our revenue was categorized; the amount is accurate but includes revenue from program fees in addition to donations.