

## **PRESS RELEASE**

August 18, 2017

### **Christmas Mother Named for 2017**

#### ***Campaign Kicks Off for the Coming Season***

The Goochland Christmas Mother Association has announced that Elizabeth “Beth” Ferguson has been selected to serve as Christmas Mother for the 2017 campaign. A graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, Beth has been an active Goochland resident for 23 years. She is passionate about working with the students in our community and has twice been recognized as Randolph Elementary School Teacher of the Year where she has taught for 13 of her 21 years in education.

Beth, a fourth grade teacher, is an enthusiastic supporter of educating and modeling our students and families in ways to give back to our community. She serves on several committees within the school district partnering to enhance the lives of all children. A lifetime member of the Goochland Fire-Rescue Department, she earned the 2009 ODEMSA Regional Award for Outstanding Pre-Hospital Educator. Beth and husband Eddie, live in the east end of Goochland with their three daughters, Campbell, Rachel, and Shannon. Eddie is Deputy Chief of EMS for the Goochland County Fire-Rescue Department, while Campbell is in her first year at VCU, Rachel attends Goochland High School and Shannon attends Goochland Middle School.

“I am honored to serve the families of Goochland County as this year’s Christmas Mother” Beth said in a recent interview. “Giving back to the community has been a focus in our lives, and Eddie and I have worked hard to instill this in our children. I am so excited to work together with our generous community to make this holiday season bright for our county’s families and their children.”

Beth encourages local businesses, schools, churches and organizations to become actively involved and join her in supporting The Christmas Mother Association which provides food, clothing and toys for children and families in need during holiday season. Cindie Valentine, association president, said “The board and I are delighted that Beth will represent our organization this year. We are looking forward to working with her as she raises awareness of the needs in our community.” The Goochland Christmas Mother program has been serving the community since 1963.

The Christmas Mother Association also announced key dates for the coming year. Applications for assistance will be taken on two Saturdays, October 21 and 28, 2017 from 9:00 am – 12 noon at the **Goochland High School Cafeteria, 3250 River Road West.**

Applicants should bring their VA driver’s license or other photo identification with proof of residency in Goochland County as well as recent pay stubs, WIC or SSI stubs to verify

household income. Applicants who qualify for Social Service assistance will likely qualify for Christmas Mother assistance.

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Volunteers are needed for Shopping Day which will take place on Tuesday, November 28. Shoppers are given wish lists and information needed to help select items for individuals and families. Shopping will start at 7:00 am at the Walmart in Short Pump and will end in the early afternoon. Shoppers can stay all morning or just a few hours. Wrapping of gift items will take place on Saturday, December 2 from 8:00 am until early afternoon at the Central High School Complex (formerly Old Goochland Middle School) at 2748 Dogtown Road. Adults and children are invited to help.

Families, churches, civic groups, and businesses that wish to do more can adopt a family. For more information on adoptions, please inquire by e-mail: [info@goochlandchristmasmother.org](mailto:info@goochlandchristmasmother.org) or call the Christmas Mother Hotline at 804-556-3411.

Check the Christmas Mother's Facebook page for up to date information about activities of the organization and to find helpful links for online contributions and other tools. Find us at [facebook.com/goochlandchristmasmother](https://facebook.com/goochlandchristmasmother).

Donations to the Christmas Mother fund can also be sent via check to: Goochland Christmas Mother, P.O. Box 322, Goochland, VA 23063 or through PayPal on the web site. Select the Goochland Christmas Mother and shop [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and a portion of all sales will be contributed to support the organization.

Go to [www.goochlandchristmasmother.org](http://www.goochlandchristmasmother.org) for more information about the Goochland Christmas Mother program.

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