

## How Faith & Family Shape Communities

A WORD FROM TERENCE CHATMON,  
PRESIDENT OF VICTORIOUS FAMILY

**I**n the whirlwind of our fast-paced world, the foundational role of the home often gets overshadowed by countless obligations and distractions. Yet it's within these walls that the seeds of our society's future are sown, where the fabric of character and faith is woven.

The pivotal role of the family in instilling values and faith cannot be overstated. Home is where children learn not just *what* to think but *how* to think, developing the core principles that will guide their lives. As this white paper reveals, strong family bonds and active faith practices directly contribute to community well-being, creating ripple effects that extend far beyond individual households.

To nurture these vital connections, parents need practical tools and guidance to navigate the complexities of faith formation within their homes. This isn't an isolated journey, but rather a collective endeavor where communities, institutions and individuals unite to help families flourish.

The Church plays an essential role in this mission, not only by fostering spiritual growth among its members but by actively partnering with and empowering families to become centers of character building and meaningful connection. These initiatives transcend simply preaching—they provide parents with concrete strategies to instill enduring values in their children.

Today's world bears the visible strain of moral decline and growing divisions, evident in our fragmented communities and strained relationships. This erosion of key social foundations isn't just a cautionary tale—it's an urgent call to action that demands our engagement.

We invite you to join in strengthening families and fostering environments where timeless values can take root and flourish. By supporting local families, we can create lasting pathways to societal renewal in our ever-changing world.

# Supporting Faith Formation in Hampton Roads

**A WORD FROM DR. DEBRA L. HAGGINS, DEAN OF HAMPTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF RELIGION & DR. BRIAN J. WELLS, PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

**T**hrough our partnership with Barna Group and Victorious Family, Hampton University School of Religion has gained crucial insights into how families and communities flourish in Hampton Roads. This research has helped shape our response to a vital need in the community: supporting parents and caregivers in sharing their faith and values with their children.

As Hampton University School of Religion launches its *Roots and Wings for Living and Loving* program, we are mindful that strong families form the foundation of flourishing communities. Supported by the Lilly Endowment's Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative, this effort is designed to produce a cadre of Christian educators who will mentor, educate, resource and enrich the lives of area residents in Christian faith formation and sharing.

Our initiative prioritizes advancing the endowment's objectives of:

- Supporting congregations and other Christian organizations by developing and providing resources, programs and educational opportunities that will create and strengthen ministries to help parents and caregivers share their Christian faith and values with their children
- Supporting Christian parents and caregivers by developing and providing resources and programs to help them learn, adapt and embrace time-honored practices to share their Christian faith and values with their children

This program—and this research—comes at a crucial time when many families are seeking deeper connection and guidance. Through university-based community interactions and resources, our hope is that parents, caregivers, congregations and organizations will be equipped with tools for fostering authentic faith formation.

As you explore this report, we invite you to consider how you might make a difference in supporting families' spiritual and overall well-being. We look forward to coming alongside cities, human services organizations and motivated partners across Hampton Roads for this crucial work.