

Saving Our Youth



SEPTEMBER 2026

NEWSLETTER

SAVING OUR YOUTH VA



*Our Youth
Our Future*

Through our creative projects, academic support, and career exploration, we're building the next generation of leaders one afternoon at a time!

Saving Our Youth is an after-school program empowering students in grades 8-12 from the Northside area of Richmond to explore their passions, pursue their goals, and unlock future career and education pathways.

2026 ANNUAL GALA

I am delighted to invite you to join us for the **Saving Our Youth VA Gala** on **Saturday, December 5, 2026**, at the Flo & Tony Guzman Community Center, 5200 Fitzhugh Ave., Richmond VA 23230. We will gather to celebrate our mission, honor our youth, and strengthen the work we do.

This year's Gala will feature an inspiring keynote address from **Daphne Maxwell Reid**, beloved actress, author, and trailblazer best known as Aunt Vivian from *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. Her voice, wisdom, and commitment to community promise to make this evening unforgettable.

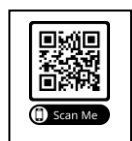


Throughout the night, guests will enjoy: • **Silent Auction** • **Live Auction** with high-value items and experiences that directly support our youth programs. • **Dinner, celebration, and community connection** as we lift up the brilliance and resilience of the young people we serve.

Your presence at the Gala is more than attendance, it is an act of support that helps us continue providing safe spaces, mentorship, meals, transportation, and life-changing opportunities for our youth.

We would be honored to have you with us. Ticket are \$50. [Get Ticket.](#)

Warmly, Jo Executive Director Saving Our Youth VA



BACK TO SCHOOL

Back to school means back to our regular programs, so let us take this time to share what our programs look like this year.

HIGHER EDUCATION

For students interested in college or trade school, our Higher Education program helps them pursue degrees, certifications, and the education needed to reach their career goals.

WRITING IS FUNDAMENTAL

The youth are writing a book called “My Mom, a Vigilante or a Murderer”. A mother was taking her 17-year-old daughter out for her birthday to a concert. On the way to a concert, an accident occurred where one of the drivers was killed. The Mom, who was driving, is being blaming for the accident, but she says she was only trying to help get a reckless driver off the road before he caused an accident.

FREE THINKING WORKSHOPS

Futures Without Violence. This is geared toward helping youth stay out of trouble so they have a future without violence in an area where violence is prevalent. Sessions include Mental Health Signs & Symptoms; Skillful Thinking, Finding Your Purpose; Building Healthy Relationships; and more.

RESURGENCE (Wednesdays at St. Giles)

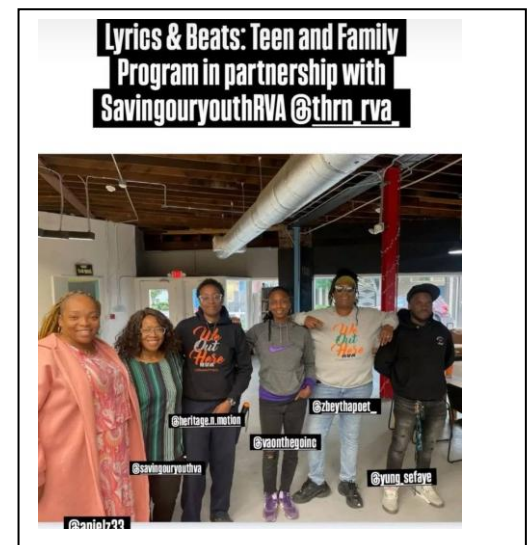
This is a discipleship class that teaches a diverse group of youth how to apply scriptural truth to life with studies to help prepare them for the issues they face each day. But it’s not all work, it’s a lot of fun as well.

HEALTHY MINDSET AND GAME NIGHT THURSDAYS

Thursdays are focused on:

-  Establishing healthy mindsets and support systems
-  Financial literacy & entrepreneurship skills
-  Mentorship & community connection
-  Cold Pressed Juice and Refreshments Weekly!

This program is in partnership with @savingouryouthva, Connection for Life Wellness LLC, Therapeutic Consultation Mentoring Services, @heritage.n.motion, @vaonthegoinc @chaoticdreams_rva, @justc_nonprofit.

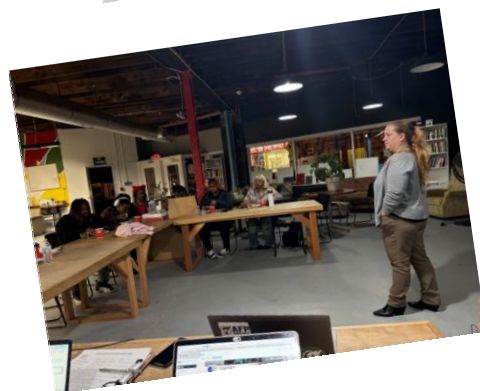
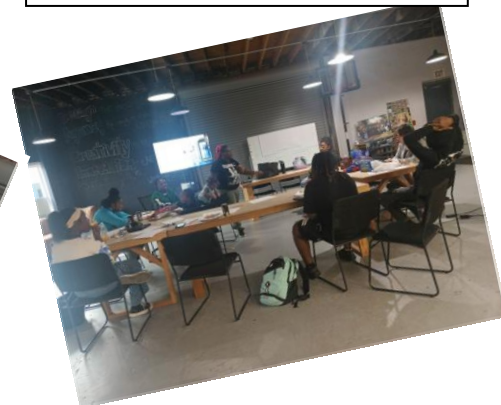
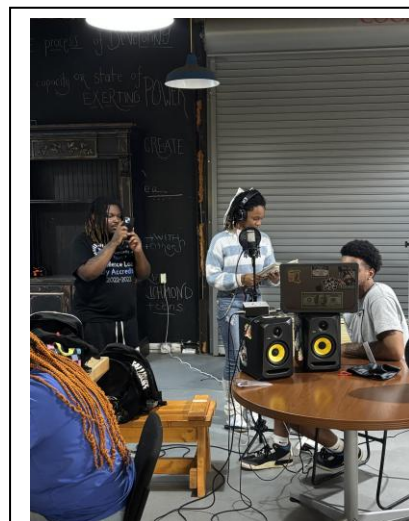


SEWING

We might dabble in a little sewing also. Last year one of our board members introduced sewing classes to the youth. If time permits, we may take on more sewing classes.

MUSIC

One of our youth who graduated from the program a couple of years ago, and who is a local artist, came back to teach our youth how to record music. We hope to continue offering music-recording opportunities as time permits.



Personal Message
from the
Executive Director



Happy September All!

With school now back in session, my message this month is a prayer, a covering for every person who makes our learning community whole.

I lift up our students, that their minds stay curious to learn and their paths stay protected. May they walk into each day with confidence, kindness, and the assurance that they are seen and valued.

I lift up our teachers, who pour out patience, creativity, and wisdom even on the hardest days. May they be strengthened, encouraged, and reminded that their work shapes futures.

I lift up our bus drivers, who begin and end each child's day with care. May every route be safe, every stop be peaceful, and every driver feel appreciated for the responsibility they carry.

And I lift up everyone whose name I may have missed, every aide, cafeteria worker, counselor, office worker, maintenance worker, security, volunteer, and partner who helps our schools thrive. May this year bring safety, joy, growth, and moments of grace for each of you.

May our entire community be covered with peace, protected with purpose, and surrounded by favor as we move through this new school year together.

Amen.

*This has been a personal message
Jo White - Executive Director*

In Memory of Our Board Member



With heavy hearts, we share the passing of our beloved board member, Reginald Brandon better known as Mario. His presence on our board was marked by generosity, wisdom, and a sincere commitment to the young people and families we serve. Even in quiet ways, Mario helped strengthen the mission that guides our work every day.

We honor his life, his leadership, and the compassion he brought to our organization. As we move forward, we carry his spirit with us, continuing the work he believed in and celebrating the legacy they leave behind.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. May we all find comfort in remembering the impact Mario made and the light he shared with our community.

Ways To Support Us

We truly thank everyone who supports us with financial donations and with your time! Please continue to believe in us. Every contribution makes a difference. Below are some meaningful ways you can stand with us and help strengthen our work.



Attend our Gala on December 5th, a gathering to celebrate our mission, honor our youth, and strengthen the work we do. Enjoy good food, silent and live auctions, with our keynote speaker Daphne Maxwell Reid from the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. [Get Tickets](#)



FINANCIAL DONATION: Your contribution, no matter the size, will make a meaningful impact and help us continue our vital work. Every dollar brings us closer to our goal and we deeply appreciate your generosity. Your donations are tax deductible. To donate go to: www.savingouryouthva.org/donate



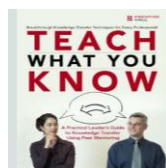
SPONSOR A YOUTH: Here's a meaningful new way to support our work while creating an even deeper impact for you. Ask us about setting up a donation to sponsor a youth directly. This can give you the satisfaction of seeing in action how your support is directly shaping a young person's future.



DINNERS: Our largest program expense is food. Because our youth come straight to us after school, we provide a full dinner at every session. One meaningful way you can support our work is by cooking a meal or ordering one to help feed the youth and mentors who gather with us each week. You can pledge now to bring a meal(s) for the 2026-27 session.



HOST: If you're someone who enjoys cooking, or hosting a cookout, we invite you to consider holding a dinner in our honor. Gather your family and friends, share a meal, and let them hear about the organization you're supporting. Our Executive Director and a Board Member will gladly join you to share our story and the impact your generosity makes possible.



TEACH WHAT YOU KNOW. Every one of us carries wisdom shaped by our experiences, our mistakes, and our victories. Is there something on your heart that you want to pass on to the youth - a lesson, a skill, or a truth that could help them grow, stay safe, or see their own potential more clearly?

