

# Saving Our Youth



*Helping our youth make informed  
decisions about their future*

**College/Trade/Work Assistance**

**Mentoring**

**Advocacy**

**Community Service**

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# Who We Serve

In zip code 23222, incorporating Highland Park, nearly one out of every two youth (45%) is living below Richmond's poverty threshold, while just 5 miles away in zip code 23226 fewer than 9 of every 100 youth live in impoverished households. A child raised in 23222 is more likely to be raised in poverty, to live in a household where one or more adults is unemployed, and to attend a school where indicators show many students are lagging behind on literacy, attendance, and graduation. So, your assistance with these youth could create a new track for a whole family by helping a youth get ahead and changing the cycle of poverty for that family.

The opportunity gap between students from low-income communities and those from affluent areas is too high. The life circumstances for students in this area often determine their opportunities in life. Unfortunately, our inequitable school system doesn't provide the opportunities for all kids to thrive to their full potential so the students in this area don't have the same chance to achieve to the best of their potential. Their parents aren't doctors, lawyers and other high-income professions that people consider iconic, so, they turn to occupations that include music and sports to imitate their icons, occupations that rarely bear fruit.

These are the students we serve, and I want thank all our supporters who make this program possible for those students.



# How We Started

In 2008 Thomas Cox and Jo White decided to work together on a program. Thomas was already doing a lot of inspiration speaking when he met Jo by renting a room from her, Jo was the owner of a contracting company. Jo felt a tugging on her heart to do something to help the community and since Thomas was already doing that with his inspirational speeches, they decided to work together. They first considered working with the homeless people but after about a year of planning and working with homeless people and getting nowhere, they decided that wasn't the route they wanted to take. So, in 2009 they decided to work with the youth instead, and Saving Our Youth was born. Actually, we did the paperwork to call the organization Save the Children but we received a letter from an organization in California that said they patented the name, so they changed it to Saving Our Youth VA.



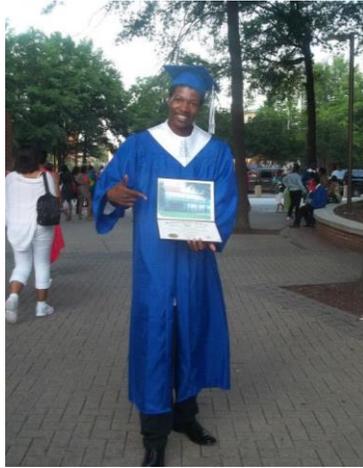
*Saving Our Youth's first Board of Directors*



*The youth accepting the \$125,000 promotional check*

Then in 2017, Saving Our Youth partnered with Storefront For Community Design and Groundwork RVA to win a \$125,000 grant to open a youth center in Highland Park they named Six Points Innovation Center also known as 6PIC, which is where they are today.

# PROGRAMS



## HIGHER EDUCATION

The future is in the hands of our youth! Saving Our Youth is focused on providing resources that help the underserved youth of our community achieve their goals and face the future with confidence and hope.

Unfortunately, we have discovered a major hurdle faced by the youth we serve but we help them navigate through those hurdles.

Low income students face unique financial challenges in college which can make higher education seem out of reach. However, many programs exist to help these students succeed and budget for their education.

But not everyone is college bound, not everyone wants to go to college, not everyone should go to college. So, higher education doesn't just mean college planning, that could mean trade school planning as well.

**"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." – Benjamin Franklin**



## LEADING OUR LADIES

The Leading Our Ladies Training and Development Program (LOL) is a six-month leadership experience for youth and young adult women of color aged 16-20 who want to grow socially and personally.

Leading Our Ladies features key sessions, including: Positive Self-Talk; Building Healthy Connections; Maintaining Emotional Stability; Lessons to Live By; and much more!



## CITY BUILDERS

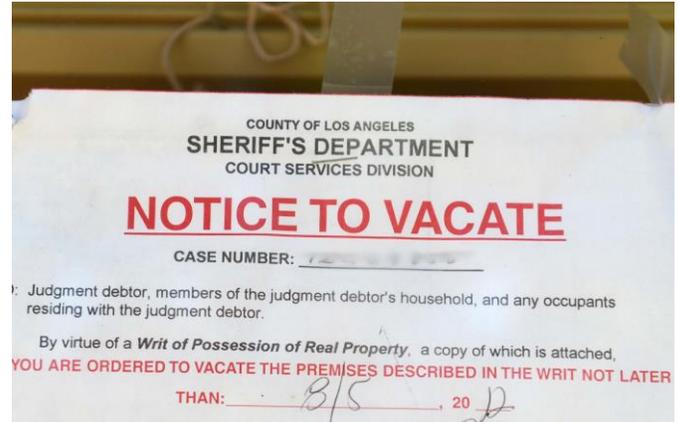
The vision of City Builders is to realize a mission of growing urban youth leaders and to address community trauma by healing structural, generational wounds of oppression in communities of color caused by oppressive city planning decisions. These decisions are seen as violent assaults that lay the foundation for adverse community experiences. City Builders advances civic power for Northside residents through place-making projects and community based skill building in program areas offered by 6PIC providers.

## RESURGENCE



Several of our youth participate in Resurgence with one of our past Members, Taylor Greene, with the St. Giles Presbyterian Youth Group. Resurgence is a discipleship class for youth grades 6-12. It 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 with activities such as youth retreats, scavenger hunts, rock climbing and more.

## EVICTION WORKSHOP



The focus is providing resources to help underserved youth achieve their goals and face the future with confidence and hope. Unfortunately, we have discovered a major hurdle faced by the youth we serve: the threat of eviction. Richmond, VA has the second highest eviction rate in the country: 11% annually from 2000 to 2016. This is three to four times the national average and has remained steady over the past 16 years. Since eviction is a leading cause of educational stability in the community we serve, this program teaches the youth the relationship between eviction (or threat of eviction), mental health challenges, and chance of committing violence.

## JOBS FOR LIFE



Saving Our Youth has joined forces with Boaz & Ruth and the Northside Outreach Center to provide Jobs for Life classes for adults and Empowered for Life classes for graduating youth ready for work.

We are excited to provide this unique job readiness training and support strategy that empowers students to be successful at work and at life. We aim to transform lives through meaningful relationships, the application of Biblical principles, and the acquisition of practical work readiness skills.

### Course Overview:

The courses are designed to be completed through a combination of classroom instruction and individual and group activities. The class contains key lesson points, reading assignments and interactive life application activities designed to reinforce and apply learning. We are joined by guest speakers, invited from local businesses and organizations, as well as access to available community resources to assist students in reaching their employment goals.

Classes include: Communication Exercises; Class and small Group Discussions; ;Role-Plays and Workplace scenarios; Career Assessments; Resume building; 60-Second Interview pitches; Individual and Class Reflection Exercises; Applying

# Returning Programs



*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. So how does today's world stack up against that and how can our youth handle the pressure.*

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## POSITIVE FREE THINKING WORKSHOP

We had a girls program this year called Leading Our Ladies. In 2023 we want to bring back the Free Thinking Workshop for our boys.

Our minds are our greatest assets. The Free Thinking Workshop will encourage youth to use their minds to make good decisions, not just follow the crowd. Your mind is your greatest asset. The subjects include: Making your own decisions; Determining your own opinion; How to recognize what you bring to the table; Recognize strengths & opportunities within yourself; Making the right decision for you, ignoring the “nay-sayers”; Surrounding yourself with a support system, and more.

# Community Service



## CLOTHES AND FOOD PANTRY

Saving Our Youth partners with Community 50/50 to help community members with clothes and food.

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## HONK FOR THE MISSING

Annually, Saving Our Youth joins with Guardian Angels Chapters across the United States to help people remember missing people from the Richmond Metropolitan Area.

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## RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

With all these senseless homicides in this city, such as the mother and daughter above, Executive Director Jo White joined with community Faith Leaders and the Richmond Police Department to find a way to help the community better through Relationship Building.

<https://www.teamforgod.com/relationship-bldg>



## WAYS YOU CAN VOLUNTEER

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

We are looking for people to join our Board of Directors. Our board is a governing board so the board members hold the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the organization serves its mission and for the overall welfare of the organization itself. If you have a commitment to seeing our youth grow into productive adults, and a commitment to the betterment of our community overall, I believe you could be a valuable part of our board.

### **YOUTH SHEPHARD**

As a Youth Shephard your job would be to nurture the youth you work with by encouraging their growth and development. On a one-on-one basis you would assist youth with higher education planning, help them make leadership development goals, help them identify their skill sets and more. We would try and match you with a youth with the same interests as you.

### **JOBS FOR LIFE**

We need volunteer coaches and instructors. Each student is teamed with a coach who walks through the class and the months following as they journey from unemployment to employment or from under employment to better employment. Our coaches are business leaders who interact closely with the students, providing practical job preparation training focused on character development, good work behavior, communications, and interview skills.



## WAYS TO GIVE

You don't have to wait for a special occasion or time of year to give to Saving Our Youth VA. Please help us to continue our work assisting youth to become productive adults. Saving Our Youth VA is a 501(c)(3) organization (EIN 27-1487537), and all monetary donations are tax deductible. See below for the many ways to give. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### **Monthly Giving**

By financially partnering with Saving Our Youth VA on a monthly basis, you create a steady revenue stream we can count on. This convenient option allows you to turn a small monthly donation into a larger annual one without straining your budget. Enroll using our secure online giving form and select "monthly" for donation frequency.

### **One Time Donations**

Your one-time donations are also very much appreciated. We can't include them in our budget because we don't know when they are coming but they certainly help us reach our budgeted goals when they come in.

### **Dinner or Cook Out**

Give us a chance to meet new potential donors. Invite your family, friends and co-workers over for food and fun and support our cause at the same time. Members of our Board of Directors will attend and will help with the food if you want.

### **Gifts of Securities/Stock Transfers**

We are now able to accept securities/Stock Transfers representing an entirely new funding source. Donating appreciated stocks directly to Saving Our Youth is a tax-savvy way of giving and supporting our mission. Name on the account - Saving Our Youth VA. Receiving Firm - Vanguard. DTC number - Deals with account transfers. 0062, Account number 70449717.



## MORE WAYS TO GIVE

### Sponsor a Youth

Your donation of \$150 per month will sponsor a youth directly. \$50 of that gift goes on a gift card for the youth at the end of the month for them to be able to purchase personal hygiene products. As a sponsor for a youth, you will have written permissions from their parents to review their grades and work with us on their progress and mentorship needs.

### Honor a loved one

Make a \$500 Memorial or Honorary donation. Celebrate the life of a beloved one with a memorial gift to Saving Our Youth or make a donation to Saving Our Youth in someone's name which is a unique way to honor an extraordinary person while they are still living. Then join us as the youth in our program plant a tree in their honor.

### Charitable Giving Through Your Estate

Incorporating charitable donations in your estate plan is a wonderful way to create your legacy and advance planning can help ensure that you achieve the most tax savings available while meeting your charitable goals. Options for including charitable giving within your estate plan are varied, and your attorney will help you determine which makes the most sense for you.

### Event and Program Sponsorships

Each year we offer sponsorships for our community events and programming. By sponsoring these annual events and programs, your organization, company, or foundation supports our work while you receive recognition for your generosity.

### CARS

Donating your car, truck, van, SUV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, RV, trailer or airplane has never been easier! Simply click on the link below to get started and a trained staff at CARS will guide you through the donation process. The vehicle will be picked up by a licensed tow company at no cost to you and will be taken to their sale location. You will be provided a Donation Receipt by the tow driver at the time of pick up.

<https://careasy.org/nonprofit/Saving-Our-Youth>

### Give today by

using our secure online giving form, mail checks to Saving Our Youth VA, 3001 Meadowbridge Rd., Richmond, VA 23222, or contact us to make arrangements.

<https://www.savingouryouthva.org/donate>

*Thank You!*



SCAN ME

The best way  
to predict  
the future is  
to create it.



*Thank you for  
helping to create  
positive futures  
for our youth!*