

# Saving Our Youth



*Higher Education  
Community Service  
Employment Assistance*

*June 2023 Newsletter*

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## *City Builders SPRING FINALE May 18, 2023*

In past newsletters, you've read about what the youth were doing in the City Builders Design Workshop. The last class was on May 18th. The students had their final projects and process work posted, and they presented their ideas, received their certificates and gift cards for participating in the program.

The City Builders Design Workshops convene project-based learning opportunities that focus on real-world issues in the built environment and encourage youth and young adults to discover and design solutions that create effective change in their lives and communities.



*City Builders Design Workshops*

It was inspiring to see this group of students and watch them become intentional designers, equity-driven thinkers, and amazing and creative innovators! This semester the students re-imagined the City's Center (Downtown Richmond) with a group focused on Transportation, Housing, and Commercial designs. They had an opportunity to engage with an urban planner from the City of Richmond's planning department and learn more about the Richmond 300 which is the master plan for the city.



## 6PIC RVA Community Refrigerator

The fridge is a free resource for the community and Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> was the Grand Stocking and Opening Day! Folks were encouraged to come by and learn about the resource as well as bring items to stock the fridge for neighbors in need.

Ways to support mutual aid means that we each give from our own abundance. RVA Community Fridges is about more than free food. It's neighbors helping neighbors. It's sharing our abundance and receiving what we need. It's creating/taking back space - for the people, by the people. It's about building a more resilient community.



Click picture for video and pictures



## Message From The Executive Director

This newsletter is being completed the day after the shooting in Monroe Park, where a student from Huguenot High School and his father were killed just after graduation, so I want to use my space this month to pray for the people affected by this tragedy. No youth from our program graduated from Huguenot High School but we have a student that was supposed to be graduating from John Marshall today, now graduating next week because all the remaining high school graduations have been pushed back to next week.

### *Let Us Pray*

Lord, let these shootings end! Our hearts are broken with pain at the senseless deaths caused by gun violence. With our shock and confusion, we come to you. Families mourn and children live in fear. Please wrap your arms around those families and around our whole city to give us light in this darkness. As we lean on you, please show us how to lean on each other, working together to bring peace and love out of this chaos. I also pray for the young man who did this shooting as well as others who have taken the lives through shooting. I ask that You give him a Damascus Road experience, an extraordinarily dramatic conversion like your apostle Paul on the road to Damascus. Although he should suffer consequences from what he did, may we all forgive him as you have forgiven us. All this I pray in Jesus name.

*Amen*

*Thanking our current and future donors and volunteers for your generosity and your consideration for our cause.*

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