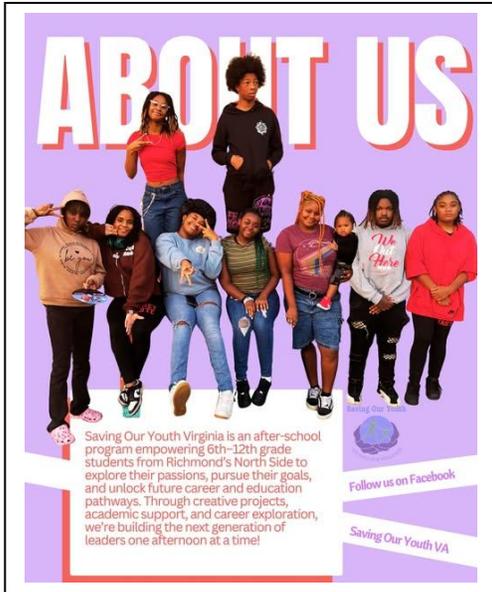


Saving Our Youth



February 2026
News Brief

After School Programs
Community Service
Employment Assistance



In the heart
of every young
person
lies the potential for
greatness.

Saving Our Youth is an after-school program empowering 6-12th grade students from the northside area of Richmond to explore their passion, pursue their goals, and unlock future career and education pathways.

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



Special shoutouts to:

Charnelle Terry for catering the Gala.
Lisa for the beautiful décor for the gala.
Mario Brandon for the music at the gala.
Dinners for After School Program: Sarah Hill,
Ida Fleming, Maya Weekes, and Bryan Knop.
And thanks to a host of other volunteers at
the gala and in the programs.





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Writing is Fundamental

The youth are working hard to make sure that the book they've been writing for several months is published by the time we have our 2026 gala. "My Mom, A Vigilante or a Murderer", is now at the point where the court case is about to start. After learning the identity of the person killed in the accident, the mother realized she knew him well. Unfortunately, their involvement had been openly hostile, which now leaves room for the prosecution to argue the crash was intentional.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

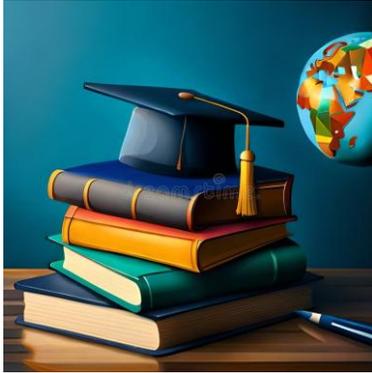
Here's an update on where the youth are with their online store. They voted on a name. The winning name was Jack of All Tradez. Next we need to make sure that name is available, register the name and complete the paperwork for the State Corporation Commission.

Each person has named the role they'll play in the store, and together they'll need to decide on a fair compensation structure.

Saving Our Youth Board of Directors will be their Advisory Board.



Doing, not learning to do, is the essence of entrepreneurship.



HIGHER EDUCATION

We currently have no seniors in the program, however, our mentors will use SMART goals to keep our college-bound high school students focused and on track.

SMART goals are a simple but powerful framework that helps students (and adults) set goals they can actually achieve. Each letter stands for a quality that makes a goal stronger and more effective: S — Specific, M — Measurable, A — Achievable, R — Relevant, T — Time-Bound. SMART Goals help to turn big dreams into manageable steps, help

students stay focused and accountable, build confidence as students see real progress, and give mentors a clear way to support and track growth.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Reflections & Growth with Sam

Sewing with Lisa

Cooking with Mario

Art with Brittany



Personal Message from the Executive Director



My heart is heavy. The ICE attacks on immigrants and community members standing up for them is outrageous. When people who are simply trying to live, work, and protect one another are met with violence, it shakes the soul. And when community members who stand in solidarity are attacked too, it feels like an assault on the very idea of neighborliness and moral courage. Moments like this expose a deep fracture. People seeking safety are treated like threats, and those who defend them are punished for their compassion. It's not just policy, it's a wound to our shared humanity. What we are witnessing isn't just enforcement actions, it's an assault on dignity, on family, and on the sacred right of people to seek safety and belonging. These raids tear at the fabric of

our communities, sowing fear where there should be trust and punishing courage where there should be gratitude. When those who stand up for their neighbors are targeted alongside the vulnerable, it reveals a system more committed to intimidation than justice. And yet, even in this darkness, our collective outrage is a sign that conscience is still alive, that we have not surrendered our humanity, and that we will not be silent in the face of cruelty. Make a stand where and when you can. Stand up for humanity, for dignity..... for American Values.



Join us for a Paint & Sip!

March 21, 2026

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Join us for an evening to unwind, create, and connect—all while supporting our organization with your \$35 donation. No experience needed. Bring your joy, your curiosity, and your favorite beverage. We'll provide the supplies, the guidance, and the good vibes. Come paint something beautiful and enjoy good company.

See the attached flyer.

Other Ways To Support Us

We truly need your support—and every contribution makes a difference. Below are some meaningful ways you can stand with us and help strengthen our work.



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



DINNER: 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.



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.

