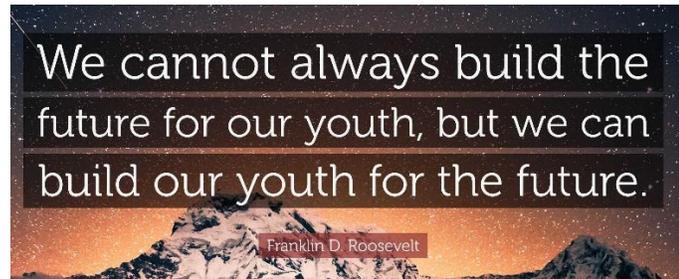
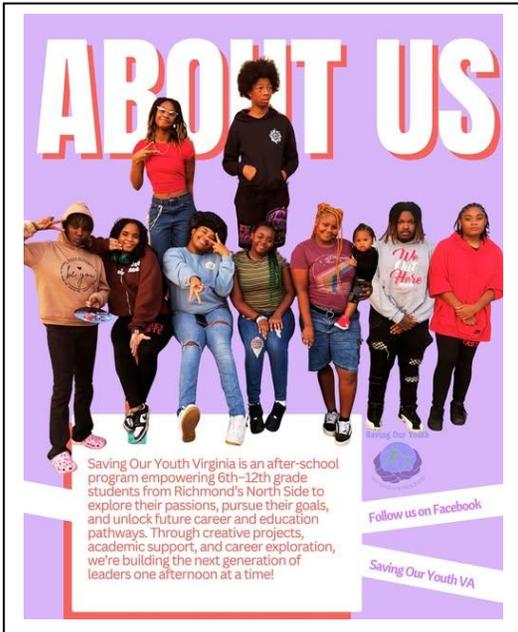


# Saving Our Youth



## October 2025 News Brief

### After School Programs Community Service Employment Assistance



Saving Our Youth is an after-school program empowering 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade students from Richmond's northside to explore their passion, pursue their goals, and unlock future career and education pathways. Through creative projects, academic support, and career exploration, we're building the next generation

of leaders one afternoon at a time!

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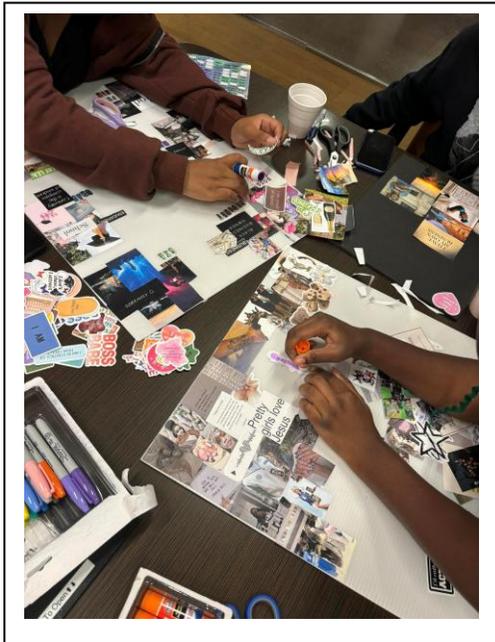
Special shoutout to **Tarrant's West** for donating dinner to our kids last month! The kids LOVED the chicken and ziti! Thank you Tarrant's!



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# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## Vision Boards

We set up class in Libbie Mill library today to work on vision boards, an activity to help the kids envision and set goals for the coming year and beyond.

Creating a vision board forces people to think deeply about what they truly want — their dreams, values, and priorities — instead of just vague wishes, and it strengthens your focus. By seeing your goals daily, your mind stays centered on them, helping you make choices that move you closer to your vision. It also boosts motivation and positivity. Images and words that inspire you can lift your mood and

remind you why you're working toward something, especially on tough days.

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## SAFETY

Full-circle moment! Last week, our very own Amber—once a student, now a youth leader and liaison—led a powerful lesson on safety and situational awareness. She's now pursuing her psychology degree and will soon be counseling our students and mentors. We're so proud to see her giving back and leading the way!





## *Personal Message from the Executive Director*



### Blacks Killing Blacks.

I had written a different message for this month but after looking at the news this morning, seeing yet another black person dead at the hands of another, I thought I'd share this instead. I know people shake their heads wondering why this happens so often in this area and in other big, largely populated black areas. Black people white people and everyone in between wonder that. So I thought I'd share my feeling on this.

I knew the percentage of crimes is higher in low-income areas, but I didn't realize how high it was, so I looked it up for Richmond VA. The numbers I received are: Richmond city reports that the four council districts with the highest poverty rates "witnessed 74% of all homicides and 64% of reported assaults." A recent study by Virginia Commonwealth University found that 86% of the city's youth violent-injury "hot spots" are located in neighborhoods that had been historically red-lined (which tend to be lower income).

From those numbers I can tell that most of the city's violent crime is concentrated in the poorest areas. So, why is this? The best answer I can think of is that those areas are the most economically disadvantaged areas. Violence in low-income areas isn't caused by poverty itself, it's caused by what poverty represents, isolation, neglect, lack of opportunities, and unhealed trauma. When jobs are scarce, wages are low, and education or training opportunities are limited, people have fewer legal ways to build stability. Not having enough money for housing, food, or healthcare increases tension and hopelessness, leads to conflicts and crime.

I'm sure when I mentioned unhealed trauma, some of you reading this was shaking your head saying, here we go again, slavery is over, why don't black people just get over it and stop blaming slavery. Let me explain why I continue to blame slavery as part of the issue, and I'll make it simple since this could be a really long conversation.

During slavery, enslaved Africans were forced to build the nation's wealth while being denied any pay, property, or opportunity to build wealth of their own. When slavery ended, white families had land, businesses, and generational assets, while black families started with nothing. That gap has never been repaired. After slavery ended in 1865, there were another 100 years of legalized segregation and discrimination, Jim Crow laws, redlining, employment discrimination, and voter suppression. Black people were locked out of home ownership, good jobs, and quality schools well into the 1960s and beyond. Generational wealth takes time to build. While we are still trying to dig our way out, the government comes along and gets rid of the DEI protections that were helping us. I'll just finish with this - Ecclesiastes 7:8 "patience is better than pride."



# *We Need Your Support*

## *Please Join Us at Our December Gala*

***We want to take this time to thank everyone who has supported us through the years and we to invite you to our December Gala.***

I am delighted to invite you to join us for our December Gala, an evening of celebration, connection, and support for Saving Our Youth VA.

Date: December 13th

Time: 3:30 Cocktail/Meet & Greet

Location: Guzman Community Center at the Faison Center  
500 Fitzhugh Ave. Richmond, VA 23230

This special event will feature cocktail/meet & greet hour, silent auction, dinner, entertainment, and our keynote speaker information is attached. Your presence would mean a great deal to us.

Kindly RSVP by December 1<sup>st</sup> using the link below. You may purchase tickets on that link or just let us know you are coming and pay when you get there. We look forward to sharing this memorable evening with you.

[Join Us | Savingouryouth](#)

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

