

Saving Our Youth



JUNE 2026

NEWSLETTER

SAVING OUR YOUTH VA



Our Youth Our Future

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:



Thanks to Brian, Darren, Atira, Emmy, Justin, for supplying meals in April and May for our after school program.

Thanks to Sam, Loje, Arianna, Sophia, Brianna, Darren and Jeff with your mentoring and other support.

Thanks to everyone who donated at our 2025-26 Session Graduation, thank you for your generous donations. And thank you for everyone who generously shared their time, resources and financial support throughout the year.

Thank you



Writing is Fundamental

The youth continue to work hard to make sure 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 court is in session.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Here's an update on where the youth are with their online store. They are now making the items they will sell. Beautiful crochette blankets, artwork, bracelets and more. Each person plays a role in the store.

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



HIGHER EDUCATION

I'm happy to say, all the youth did well in school this year and are moving on to the next grade. I know some of you are asking, why is that such a big deal. I'll tell you why. A student moving on to the next grade in a school with high dropout rates is a big deal because it represents so much more than just finishing another year, it's a victory against the odds. Despite the challenges around them, they showed up, pushed through, and kept choosing their future.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Reflections & Growth with Sam
Sewing with Lisa
Cooking with Mario
Art with Brittany
2025-26 SESSION GRADUATION



In the 2026-27 Year, we look forward to getting back into sewing, continuing with music lessons being taught by one of our graduates and possibly starting a debating team such as we had in the past. We have opening for 4 new youth in September, 6-12 grades in Richmond's northside and Henrico High School areas.

Graduation

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate our 2025-26 Program Graduation. Your presence meant so much to our young people and to all of us who walk alongside them. Here are a few pictures from the event.



Message from the
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



Hello All,

It's hard to believe we have approached the end of another academic year. Thank you to everyone who planned, mentored, taught, fed, encouraged, and supported our youth and our program in so many ways. This year has been truly special.

Our students have stepped into entrepreneurship, they are about 75% finished writing a book that will be published before our December Gala, they've grown confident with improv, they've been learning to write songs from one of our graduates, and best of all, they have all done exceptionally well academically. These accomplishments reflect the strength and commitment of our Saving Our Youth partners.

As we move into the summer months, we are preparing for our summer activities. While we won't be taking a major trip like last year's visit to New York, we will be creating meaningful experiences closer to home, enjoying cookouts, pool time, and rowboats at Pocahontas Park; visiting local museums; spending time at Top Golf; and more. Our goal is to ensure the youth have a summer filled with joy, exploration, and continued learning.

We ask for your continued support through your time, your talents, and your monetary donations. Thank you for being such an important part of the lives of the youth we serve. We wish you a safe and peaceful summer, and we look forward to welcoming additional youth in September with your help.

With gratitude.

Jo White, Executive Director, Saving Our Youth VA



Almost every person in the United States has been affected by cancer in some way. Please join us for a Time-To-Live Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on Sunday, June 7th, 11:00am – 2:00pm. Meet at Six Points Innovation Center, 3001 Meadowbridge Rd., Richmond, VA 23222.

This is not a 5–10K walk and it is not a fundraiser. It is a door to door awareness walk focused on distributing cancer-survival information and encouraging our neighbors to understand that early detection saves lives. Call or text (804) 937-6836 to let me know you are coming or see the link below:

<https://www.savingouryouthva.org/join-the-walk>

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



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.

