



As a Virtual Hub for classes, we are able to assist 12 students. This not only provides assistance with their classes, but it also provides positive and appropriate socialization with peers and adults. Most of the students are from John Marshall High School

For COVID protection we have air purifiers in each section that cleans 99% of the air.



1st QUARTER – JAN-MAR 2021 EDITION

In 2020 we found ourselves stuck in seasons where we can't share times with our loved ones, enjoy those well -needed vacations, or being able to enjoy some of our most enjoyable summer, fall or winter holiday activities. Although we have had to change a lot about what we do, we have not been stopped by this catastrophic global pandemic.



Youth Empowerment thru Eviction Research (YEER)

On February 13th our YEER students presented their final project in a public zoom forum. Three teams of youth presented their research findings around eviction and housing instability in Richmond.

The team were formed through a partnership between the School of Social Work and the Wilder School's RVA Eviction Lab with three community organizations: Advocates for Richmond Youth, Saving Our Youth/6PIC and Virginia Community Voice.

The research question our group of youth had been working on all year is: what is the relationship between eviction, mental health challenges and the chance of committing a crime. They finished their surveys and community interviews and now they are working on analyzing their findings. This program is over at the end of this year but we hope to start another class this year,



Along with our regular bagged groceries, we started delivering hot meals to some of our youth's families in August and will continue through October 28th. We also received a grant from the City of Richmond to include items like milk, eggs, orange juice and fruit.



Graduating this year

We have 8 seniors in our regular programming this year, so we'll be really busy this school year with college/trade school planning for our college bound students and preparing others to enter the job field. Our Volunteer Higher Education Coordinators will turn the page on the college planning manuals to their 12th grade college planning activities.



Message from the Executive Director

As an African American growing up in the 60s, I have certain feelings when it comes to systematic racism and racial justice. But age plays a factor in young people's perceptions so how do the youth of today process what's going on right now with the removal of the statues, police brutality, and racial justice as a whole? How do they process a life where their parents have to sit them down and teach them how to be overly cautious so that they don't become victims of racial discrimination as they see it play out with others constantly, still today? And on top of that, how do they process the new normal of wearing masks and having virtual classes where the racial achievement gap could become even worse than it is now.

I'm sure you want me to give you the answers to those questions today, but I will not. I'm going to let the youth speak for themselves. In the next issue (December), there will be a link for you to click on and see what the youth themselves have to say.

In the meantime, from all of us here at Saving Our Youth VA, **SHARE**.

Be **Safe**;

Be **Happy**;

Appreciate what God has given you;

Remember those in need;

Ensure that your actions speak louder than your words

Jo White
Executive Director

Please complete this short survey. Estimate time is 2 minutes:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/95XNGFZ>

THE YOUTH WE SERVE

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. Your donation can give a youth with these circumstances a better chance for a better future.

To donate to Saving Our Youth VA, go to www.savingouryouthva.org/donate or scan the barcode below.



*Thank you for helping to give a youth
a fighting chance.*

*Saving Our Youth VA
3001 Meadowbridge Rd. Richmond, VA 23222
(804) 321-2789 Office
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Some of our youth participated in a focus group sponsored by the Friends of Prevention Coalition of Richmond. The purpose of the focus group was to have youth and young adults groups provide further insights into services, initiatives and opportunities that may or may not exist in Richmond City and surrounding areas, and offer strategic suggestions. These types of opportunities assist our youth in being voices for change.

2020 could not have been anticipated or imagined – a global pandemic, market volatility, civil and political unrest. We're please to share that Saving Our Youth not only weathered the storms, but we managed the business well and made strides towards our goals.

Invest in transformation

As the slow winter days slowly begin to grow longer, I've found myself grateful for the extra minutes of light at the end of every day. It's still cold but somehow adding those few minutes before the sun goes down in the evening makes me hopeful for the next day, and the next and the next, before we know it, we'll be celebrating long summer days. Time for gardens to grow... It helps to create discipline around preparing to accomplish your short and long term goals. What are our plans in the future.

COVID 19 has changed many things in people's day-to-day lives in the past year, but it hasn't been able to slow the determination of SOY to help those in need.

We are all in this together.

Blueprint for success.