

YEAR-END NEWSLETTER



From the CEO Desk:

As we close the 2023–2024 school year, I want to thank you all for the support and patience shown these past ten months. We've come through a year filled with both challenges and victories. It has been reassuring that despite this, we continued to ensure our students thrived educationally and learned new strategies and interventions to master their goals. Thank you for providing rich, engaging, well-rounded experiences for our students. Our success is built on the efforts of our employees, so thank you for your dedication and commitment to the families we serve, knowing that education is about wonder, fostering curiosity, and developing the social skills needed to succeed.

I take this opportunity to congratulate team members who have been with their students throughout their high school years and are now graduating. I know this is bittersweet for you. But, remember, you were a big part of why they are walking across that stage!! So be proud!!

I wish you all a pleasant, safe, and enjoyable summer. Please spend time with friends, family, and loved ones. I look forward to seeing you in August. Finally, to those leaving us for new opportunities, we wish you all the best!!

Marian Parker Branch

CHANGE
Agents

As we continue to grow, we will continue to inform and inspire one another so that we're able to provide the best possible support to our clients. With monthly convocations and behavior aide Q&A's, please make sure to join and show your dedication to furthering your knowledge.

Leads are currently finalizing evaluations, along with confirming summer cases for Richmond. Please keep in mind that summer cases are determined by both performance and attendance. If you have questions regarding summer assignments, please be sure to reach out to your lead.



REMINDERS

- Please make sure to sign your letters of intent for the next school year. All aides who intend to return next year, please keep an eye on your email during the summer, as individuals invited to return must attend Back to School Orientation.
- PLEASE RETURN YOUR BINDER TO THE MENDING FENCES OFFICE BY FRIDAY 05/31 by 4PM. Ms. Moore and Mr. Branch are visiting schools this week, and will stop by classrooms during free time and may be able to grab your binder for you. Please note that you are responsible for returning your binder to the office by Friday, and supervisors may pick them up as a courtesy, when able.
- If an ID was issued to you, you are more than welcome to return it, and we will reissue it next year. If you choose not to return the badge and it is lost, a new ID will be issued with a fee of 5.00.

MONTHLY TOPIC & CONVOCATION RECAPS

As the school year comes to a close, let's recap on some of our most impactful convocations, and the valuable conversations had. (convocation sheets to be emailed)



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



During October, staff wore pink ribbons proudly to celebrate and breast cancer survivors. Our encouragement and participation in raising awareness will continue each October, as we work to find ways to continue advocacy.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February's Black History Month Convocation discussed the statistic of our black and brown students, in which we found importance in finding ways that we could bridge the gap.

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

As many aides work with children with autism, our convocation left many staff with a solid knowledge on the autism spectrum. Multiple staff discussed the improvements had with their clients both verbal and non-verbal. We discussed the continued efforts that we will take to ensure our clients with autism are given all the tools needed to reach their greatest potential!

IMPORTANCE OF BEHAVIOR AIDE Q&A'S

Our behavior aide Q&A's are spaces where aides are able to come and ask questions, as well as offer advice and utilized interventions to newer & tenured staff who seek to make a difference with their client!

WELLNESS RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

As our company grows, we strive to link individuals in need to services provided within multiple counties. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need assistance, and take a look at the prepared wellness resources.



MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health America of Virginia
(warm line)
1-866-400-MHAV (6428)

NAMI Hotline
NAMI Central Virginia
1904 Byrd Ave Ste 207 Richmond, VA 23230
804 285 1749
NAMI Support Group Calendar
<https://namivirginia.org/events>
Navigating Mental Health Crisis (PDF)

Crisis Line (Petersburg)
Petersburg, VA 23803
804-732-1711

Central Virginia Crisis Lines
Richmond City: 804-819-4100 (RBHA)

Henrico County: 804-727-8484
804-727-8515 same-day access admission,
financial assistance and housing

HOUSING

Crisis Text line (Anywhere)
Text HOME to 741741 from anywhere in the
United States, anytime, about any type of
crisis.
Text Line allows you to speak to someone via
text about your situation immediately. Will be
provided with links to redirect you to "Find
Shelter" (as well as food, rental assistance,
and clinics). Text specialist is also available to
continue texting throughout your crisis or
provide more assistance at a later time.

Housing Resource Navigation Services
(Takes up to 5 business days to return calls.
Not a crisis line, but they will assist with
getting housing assistance)
804 - 422-5061
M-W 8:30-4:30
Th-F - outbound calls only

Homelessness Services (Richmond)
Dianne Wilmore
Homeless Services Liaison
804 -646-1196

Homeward Connection Line (Richmond) -
assists individuals who are experiencing
homelessness or are within 3 days of being
evicted.
804-972-0813
M-F 8-9, S-S 1-9

FOOD

Central Va Foodbank (Chesterfield,
Richmond, Petersburg)

info@feedmore.org
Online inquiry form (below) as well- doesn't
have to speak to anyone.

Food Pantries
Apply for Meals on Wheels
<https://feedmore.org/meals-on-wheels/>
Hunger Hotline at 804- 237- 8617 Monday-
Friday, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. to discuss available
resources with our team of navigators



AGENCY NETWORK OF FOOD PANTRIES TO BE EMAILED

FOOD CONT.

Church Hill Christian Wellness Center
(Richmond)
Food Pantry
2011 Fairmount Ave.
804-780-0053
Thursday 9:00am-10:00am
ID with 23223 zip code and proof of address
required

Chesterfield Foodbank (Chesterfield)
804-414-8885

2nd and 4th Monday
5p - until food gone
Journey Christian Church
3700 Price Club Blvd.
Midlothian, Va 23112

1st and 3rd Friday
4:30p - until food gone
12211 Iron Bridge Road
Chester, VA 23831

1st Saturday
10am- until food gone
Beulah Elementary

2nd Saturday
10a-until food gone
AM Davis Elementary

3rd Saturday (PETERSBURG)
VSU Multipurpose Center
20809 2nd Ave.
Petersburg, Va 23803

4th Saturday
J.A. Chalkley Elementary

Peter Paul Development Center
804-780-1195



CLOTHING

Mercy Mall
7519 Whitepine Road
North Chesterfield, VA 23237
804-728-2928

Offers: Clothing, Houseware, and Baby clothes

Please text your name and a description of your current crisis situation to 804-728-2928 . We check messages Mon - Fri and will respond within 3-4 business days, but usually sooner. We appreciate your patience. Mercy Mall currently offers curbside pick up appointments where we pack clients' orders based on the information they provide.

Church Hill Christian Wellness Center - Clothes Closet (All)

2011 Fairmount Ave.
804-780-0053

Hours: Monday 1:00pm-3:00pm

Offers: Clothing for all

Caring Clothes Closet
3900 W Broad St. Cottage 7
Richmond, VA 23230

Hours: M-F 8a-5p
804-533-2657

Offers: Clothing for all. Also provides "necessity" bags for those in crisis.

HEALTH SERVICES

Daily Planet Health Services
804-783-2505

Richmond and Henrico Health District Resource Centers

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/richmond-city/resource-centers/>

VCU Health Hub at 25th
Program Calendar

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=vcuhealthhub@vcu.edu&ctz=America/New_York&pli=1

(804) 628-6401

vcuhealthhub@vcu.edu

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Virginia Sexual and Domestic
Violence Action Alliance (ALL)**
1411 W. Main Street
Richmond, VA 23220
Hours: 24/7

**Text an ADVOCATE: 804-793-
9999**

Chat with an advocate:

<https://www.vadata.org/chat/>

Hotline 800-838-8238

Admin 804-377-0335

**Offers: Emergency Shelter and
services**

**Legal and Financial Assistance
Services**

Counseling Services

Housing Services

Support Services

Children's Services

**Community Educational
Services**

**YWCA of Richmond (Metro
Richmond & Chesterfield
County)**

6 N 5th Street

Richmond, VA 23219

Hours: M-F 9a-5p

S-S CLOSED

Hotline: 804-612-6126 (24/7)

Business: 804-643-6761

**Offers: Emergency Shelter and
services**

**Legal and Financial Assistance
Services**

Counseling Services

Housing Services

Support Services

Children's Services

**Community Educational
Services**

Safe Harbor
2006 Bremono Road Suite 201
Richmond, VA 23226
Hours: M-F 9a-5p
S-S: CLOSED

Hotline: 804-500-2755 (24/7)

Business: 804-249-9470

Offers: Emergency Shelter and services

Legal and Financial Assistance Services

Counseling Services

Housing Services

Support Services

Children's Services

Community Educational Services

Alabaster Advocacy Group

804-233-2097

Hours: M-F 8a-10p

Saturday 9a-8p

Sunday 12p-8p

Offers: Emergency Shelter and services

Legal and Financial Assistance Services

Counseling Services

Housing Services

Support Services

Children's Services

TRANSPORTATION

Community Staffing (free to low cost)

422 E Franklin Street Suite 102

Richmond, Va 23219

To apply for free to low-cost transportation:

<https://www.communitystaffing.work/transportation>

Church Hill Christian Wellness Center

2011 Fairmount Ave.

804-780-0053

Birth Certifications/DMV Identification. The Center covers the cost of obtaining a copy of a birth certificate and/or a DMV ID. Transportation to the DMV office is provided once a month.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People (CAPUP)
1021 Oliver Hill Way
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 788-0050
www.capup.org
info@capup.org
<https://capup.org/programs-and-services>

HELP1RVA (online based) – offers free or reduced-cost services for food, housing, and childcare. Enter “zipcode” and all resources available from assisting with buying a car to legal assistance <https://ymcarichmond.findhelp.com>

Chesterfield County
6801 Lucy Corr Blvd
Chesterfield County Govt Com
Same-day access
Emergency Custody Orders

PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

All Mending Fences staff has an active membership with the Metropolitan Business League (MBL)

MBL offers offer opportunities for personal and professional development through:

- Monthly Recharge Meetings
- Educational Networking Events
- Workforce Development Training
- Business Certification
- Mentoring, Business Coaching
- Legal Counseling
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Resources (Grants & Loans)
- Financial Coaching & Wealth Building and so much more

Richmond Office
1717 E Cary St Richmond Va 23223

Petersburg Office
City Point Resource Innovation Center (CIRC)
325 Brown Street #103
Petersburg, VA 23803

Please refer to their calendar of events and programs here- [sv](#)

**IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL
LEADS, PLEASE REACH OUT &
LEADERSHIP WILL ASSIST**

