



Peter Paul eNews - February 2020

February has been jam-packed, and we're excited to share some of the highlights with you, from celebrating **Black History Month**, a new initiative with our **senior citizens**, a **family paint night**, and so much more! We're also sharing some bittersweet news from one of our long-term Peter Paul staff members about his transition to a wonderful new role. Please see below for all these updates, and make to stay connected on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) to stay up-to-date.

As always, thank you for your passion for Peter Paul, and for helping us fulfill our purpose to Educate the Child, Engage the Family, and Empower the Community.



Donate Now

Congratulations, Michael Parsons!



Please join us in wishing **Michael Parsons, Information Coordinator**, well on his new adventure! The news is bittersweet for Peter Paul as we will miss him deeply, but we are happy to share that Michael is moving on to an exciting next step as he transitions to the Director of Programs with the [Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth \(VFHY\)](#) after **six dedicated years at Peter Paul**. VFHY empowers Virginia's youth to make healthy choices by reducing and preventing youth substance use and childhood obesity. We are deeply grateful for all that Michael has contributed to Peter Paul over the years – his dedicated service to our partners and our community has left a tremendous impact. He has

contributed viability and credibility to our collective efforts and shown us how to utilize data quantitatively, but more importantly, qualitatively. In his new role, Michael plans to take the

things he's learned in the East End and use them to support youth all across our state. **Please join us in celebrating and thanking Michael!**

If you have any questions about the Community Action Network (CAN), please contact Kim Young at kyoung@peterpaulva.org.

Black History Month Celebrations

Peter Paul students have been celebrating **Black History Month** all month long! Every week, each Promise Center has prepared and presented a program, "**Me in Black History: A Tribute to African American Artists and Fashion.**" Performances included song, music, dance, film, fashion, and so much more! This series of programs was an amazing showcase of the talent, creativity, and passion of our students and teachers, and was a wonderful celebration of Black History Month!

A special experience our students had this Black History Month is in partnership with Chef Jason Muckle and the [American Heart Association](#). Each week, Chef Jason worked with a group of students on learning about and preparing traditional dishes from different regions to honor Black History month. Yum!



Project Power!

Peter Paul's brand new Board of Associates is off and running! One of their first initiatives has been the creation of **Project Power**, a program that provides participants with the opportunity to receive free estate planning services (creation of a will, power of attorney, advanced medical directives, etc.). This program works with members of Peter Paul's Senior Citizen Program, a partnership with the Senior Center of Greater Richmond for seniors who live in the Peter Paul neighborhood and are 50 years of age or older.

Earlier this month, several attorneys on the Board of Associates met with seniors to introduce the opportunity



and disseminate documents for review. Over the next few months, they'll return to answer questions, help complete the paperwork, draft estate planning documents, and work with seniors and a notary to prepare final documentation. This is an incredible (and vital!) service and we're excited to expand the scope of **Project Power** to serve others in our neighborhood.

Second Annual Paint Night at George Mason

As part of Peter Paul's **Promise Family Network**, all 5 Peter Paul Promise Centers host a monthly family engagement opportunity. For the second year in a row, our Peter Paul George Mason teachers and Family & Community Engagement staff planned a **Valentine's Day-themed paint night!** Parents joined their children after school to create Valentine's Day artwork while enjoying a photo booth and the chance to have fun and relax!



Volunteers Needed



Many students at our Promise Centers (Fairfield Court, Bellevue, Chimborazo, and George Mason) still need mentors and tutors! On-site mentors and tutors meet one-on-one and visit with their student once a week for an hour. Tutors focus primarily on academic assistance while mentors participate in a wide array of activities including helping with homework, playing games, and doing various other fun activities. There are also opportunities for mentors and mentees to meet on weekends, enjoying Peter Paul sponsored activities!

If you would like to mentor or tutor at one of our Promise Centers or need more information, please contact Michael Bledose at mbledsoe@peterpaulva.org or 804-780-1195.

Join Us For a Lunch & Learn Tour

Are you looking to learn more about Peter Paul? Do you have friends or colleagues who you want to introduce to the Center? If so, join us for a [Lunch & Learn!](#) We offer these monthly tours to guests interested in learning more about our community and the programs we offer to support our neighbors. The tour starts at noon at Peter Paul, and after the thirty-minute bus tour, we arrive back at the Center for a tour of the facility, followed by lunch (boxed lunches included) and conversation. Tours typically occur the fourth Thursday of every month.



A \$20 registration fee is requested to help us off-set costs associated with the tour. You can register [on our website](#) or by clicking the links below:

- [March 26, 2020](#)
- [April 23, 2020](#)
- [May 28, 2020](#)

Questions? Contact Sarah Young at syoung@peterpaulva.org or 804.780.1195.

STAY CONNECTED



Peter Paul | 1708 N. 22nd Street, Richmond, VA 23223 804.780.1195 |
info@peterpaulva.org | www.peterpaulva.org