



OUR HEART IS IN THE EAST END

Peter Paul eNews - March 2021

Dear Sarah,

Happy Spring! We hope you are all feeling refreshed and ready for the new season. Planning for the summer and fall is well underway, and we can't wait to share those updates with you as they develop! We recently wrapped up our winter family and community engagement programs, and spring programming will begin on April 12th. Stay tuned for more details.

We also want to highlight our continued partnership with [The Giving Wall](#). The Giving Wall allows you to put your compassion to action by supporting a neighbor with an urgent need. Click [here](#) to view current needs on the wall. Food distribution is also available every first and third Wednesday at St. Peter's Episcopal Church (across the street from Peter Paul), in partnership with [FeedMore](#). Please share this information with your networks!

Check out more updates below, and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) for the latest announcements. Thank you for your continued passion for Peter Paul and our purpose to Educate the Child, Engage the Family, and Empower the Community.



Donate Now

Rent-to-Own Program Partnership

Peter Paul is proud to partner with the [Maggie Walker Community Land Trust](#), [Urban Hope](#), and [ReWork Richmond](#) on an exciting new housing project! MWCLT's **Homeownership Bridge Program** aims to promote inclusive homeownership by setting aside homes specifically for would-be buyers who do not currently qualify for a mortgage, be it due to a low credit score or an inability to afford a down payment or pay closing costs. Through the program, families are able to lease a home until they are "mortgage ready".

Once constructed, Urban Hope will manage the property, and Peter Paul and ReWork will be identifying potential families for the property built adjacent to our Coleman Promise Center. Check out this recent article in [Richmond Bizsense](#) to learn more.



This house on North 30th Street in Church Hill is the first built specifically for the rent-to-own program. (Photos courtesy of MWCLT)

Check out what's happening at MLK!

Earlier this month, we partnered with [MEDARVA Healthcare](#) to provide **FREE vision screenings to our students at the MLK program**. With increased screen time due to virtual learning, regular eye exams help identify any potential issues with children's eyesight.

To learn more about MEDARVA, visit <https://www.medarva.com/>. Thank you for providing this incredibly important service to our community!

Protect Your Child From Digital Eye Strain

Digital Eye Strain is eye discomfort after staring at a phone or computer screen for too long.

Remind your child to:

- Blink/rest their eyes
- Reduce the glare on their devices
- Position the screen at an arm's length
- Avoid using a device in a dark room/before bed

Vision screenings are essential to identifying potential issues with children's eye sight.

Getting your child's vision screened is FREE & easy:

1. Complete the MEDARVA Consent Form
2. Return the form to school by

WHO: MEDARVA Screening Program
WHAT: FREE Vision Screenings for students
WHERE: [Richmond MLK Middle School](#)
WHERE: MLK Middle School

20:20:20 Rule Every 20 minutes of exposure - look at something 20 ft. away - for 20 seconds

www.visionhearingcreen.com
screening@medarva.com
@MEDARVAscreening
804-545-0294

MEDARVA
VISION & HEARING SCREENING

(Click to enlarge)



We're gearing up to see all our students at Peter Paul again soon! Director of Education, Dr. Bassett, and Peter Paul teachers, Ms. Banks, and Ms. Davis have all been fully vaccinated, along with the majority of all Peter Paul staff!

To learn more about how Peter Paul is meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, clear [here](#).



RPD officers were out taking their horses for a walk around the neighborhood and stopped by MLK to visit with students. Students were excited to pet the horses and ask questions while on break.

The Peter Paul Promise Center Youth Program at [MLK](#) is an enrollment-based program for students in grades 2-8 whose parents or caregivers are teachers, essential workers or live in the East End.

This in-person support for students and families provides:

- Structured academic support and technical support in alignment with Richmond Public Schools' virtual instructional day
- Safe transition between classes, assignments, brain breaks, and lunch
- Adapted version of Peter Paul's signature after-school enrichment program with activities including STEM, health and wellness, and the arts
- Breakfast, lunch, and late afternoon snack
- Transportation to and from MLK in the mornings and afternoons

Click [HERE](#) To Enroll Your Student Today!

For more information, please contact Dr. Stephanie Bassett, Director of Education, at (804) 780-1195 or sbassett@peterpaulva.org.

Join us live on Instagram!

The [Z-LIFE](#) (Leading Individuals to Foundational Employment) program provides access to living-wage employment and wraparound support services to individuals ages 18-24 that reside in Richmond.

On April 13th at 5:00 pm, our Workforce Barrier Navigator, Sam Brown, will host: "SQUAD! My Network Should Enhance My Career-Work" live on [Instagram](#). Come hear about the many resources available to Gen Z at Peter Paul and in the community!

Whether you're in this age group, work with or know someone who is, or you just want to learn more, this live event is for you!

Missed the last live event? Watch it [here](#). For more information on Z-LIFE, contact Samuel Brown at sbrown@peterpaulva.org

Looking to get involved? Join us for a Community Walk!

This spring, Peter Paul is holding 4 community walks in March and April. These walks aim to inform students of our MLK program, and to spread the word about other Peter Paul programs. On March 13th, a group of Peter Paul staff, community partners, and volunteers met in Fulton and canvassed several apartment complexes and parks. We are very grateful to everyone who

EMPOWER THE COMMUNITY

Z-LIFE

(Leading Individuals to Foundational Employment)

April 13th at 5:00 pm
SQUAD! My Network Should Enhance My Career-Work

Live on Instagram
@PeterPaulVA 

Hosts: Sam Brown, Sr., & special guests:
Chimere Miles and Sherika Chew- Family and
Community Engagement Staff at Peter Paul

Focus: Overcoming barriers through
connection

Purpose: Come learn about the many
resources available to Gen Z at Peter Paul and
in the community!



(Click the flyer to enlarge)



helped on the last walk, as we were able to talk to many students and families! Want to join for an upcoming walk? See below:

- 1) March 27 at 10:00 am - meet at Peter Paul (1708 N. 22nd St.)
- 2) April 10 at 10:00 am - meet at Robinson Theater (2903 Q St.)
- 3) April 24 at 10:00 am - meet at Bellevue Elementary (2301 E. Grace St.)

If you would like to join us on any future walks, please reach out to Michael Bledsoe, volunteer manager at mbledsoe@peterpaulrva.org

Congratulations, Sarah!

Join us in congratulating Sarah Young, Peter Paul's Director of Development for receiving [VAFRE's Rising Star Award](#)! The Rising Star Award is made annually to a VAFRE member who exhibits excellent potential and who has demonstrated remarkable talents at an early stage in their fundraising career.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Sarah and the other honorees, and join the Virginia Association of Fundraising Executives on May 4th for the (virtual) 2021 Annual Awards lunch. Click [here](#) to register.

Congratulations!



Catching up with Peter Paul Alumni!

Thank you [Meaningful Meals](#) and [Garnish](#) for the tasty lunches provided to our staff last



week. It was a much-appreciated surprise! Our favorite part was meeting **Nathaniel Williams - Garnish employee and former Peter Paul student.** We caught up with him to see what he's been up to. Check out what he had to say below!



What grades did you attend Peter Paul as a student? *"I attended Peter Paul between about 4th-8th grade. My older brother also attended!"*

What have you been up to since then? *"I've really just been working my way around the city while getting to know both Richmond and myself. I did some culinary school after high school then started working here and there. In the last few years, I've been able to find real passion and enjoyment in cooking so now I'm just seeing where that takes me."*

Favorite Peter Paul memory? *"I wouldn't say I had ONE favorite memory in particular but just memories of some of our big trips everyone looked forward to like Water Country and Skateland. Also just being able to hang out with other kids in a safe and positive environment. When I was there, Mr. Beechaum, Ms. Hawks, and Mrs. Jones were running things and they were great. Always looking out for everyone and also helping us stay sharp outside of school; whether that was brushing us up on black history or taking us to bible study. There was a sort of "Secret Santa" we'd have every year with people who donated, or we might have a night of video games, pizza, and Uno. All of those things together I think make up my favorite memory!"*

Any other takeaways from your time here? *"Just that it really was a great time and opportunity being involved at Peter Paul. It's great to see not only the longevity but the growth of the program. I hope that many more kids from the city are able to look back on their time at Peter Paul as fondly as I can while going on to be the best versions of themselves."*

Want to make an even greater impact?

Consider making your next gift a recurring one and join our Monthly Giving Program! In a time like no other, your monthly gift would offer a steady stream of support to our students, families, and community by providing food distribution, academic instruction, school supplies, virtual hangouts, and so much more.

YOUR monthly gift of any size makes a difference in the lives of many East End families!



Join the growing number of Peter Paul supporters who provide ongoing support to our families!
Click [HERE](#) to find out more about our Monthly Giving Program.

STAY CONNECTED



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