Dear Michelle,

First off, we want to send a huge thank you to all of the families, volunteers, staff, and partners for attending and making the Community Block Party a huge success! We were incredibly excited to host our community members at the Coleman Center, and loved having all of you here with us again! Feel free to comment on our social media pages and let us know how you enjoyed the event. Missed it? Check out the video recap here of all the fun. More pictures to come!

We also wanted to take a moment to remind you all about 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. There are currently a few needs on the wall from our neighbors. Please click here to support!

Check out all of our updates below, and don’t forget to 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

OR

Text "peterpaul" to 243725 to give!
Workforce Development Initiatives

We wanted to provide a quick update to you all on our workforce development initiative, and what's happening this summer!

Our Z-LIFE (Leading Individuals to Foundational Employment) program continues to support the Gen Z (18-26-year-olds) in our neighborhood. We have a cohort of youth that consistently participate and engage in group outings, financial literacy sessions, career readiness support, and more!

In addition to their regular 1-on-1 meetings with the ZLIFE Program Coordinator, Tyree Prince, and career readiness workshops, the group has had social outings at Dave and Busters, the bowling alley, Top Golf, and more!

This summer, we're excited to welcome a few of our students to work with the Peter Paul team and gain career readiness skills. Rising 9th grader, Caleb will be a kitchen aide, rising 8th grader, Marlon will be an administrative aide, and rising 9th grader, Love will be a classroom aide. Under the Z-LIFE program, the youth will be provided daily transportation through the Operations team. They will operate on a blended schedule with the Summer Promise Academy and their work schedules. The Education and Family and Community Engagement staff will work together to enforce the life skills taught in the classroom with the hands-on training. Each student will be supported by staff in their positions and participate in orientation, job training, and career readiness workshops throughout the summer. We'll have more updates on this initiative in the coming months!

For questions about Z-LIFE, other Peter Paul workforce initiatives, or to lend your skills at a Z-LIFE workshop, contact Z-LIFE Program Coordinator, Tyree Prince at tprince@peterpaulrva.org.
Richmond Public Schools Valedictorian & Peter Paul Alumni, Sanaa Hayes

A huge congratulations to Peter Paul alumni, Sanaa Hayes on being announced as RPS’ top 2022 valedictorian! Hear from her about her educational experience, as well as her time with Peter Paul below:

"Hi! My name is Sanaa Hayes and I am a recent graduate of Open High School as the class of 2022’s valedictorian and the top valedictorian of RPS. I also graduated from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College with an Associate’s Degree in Social Sciences summa cum laude. I plan on attending the College of William and Mary this fall to major in biology or kinesiology and health sciences under the pre-medicine track.

I was a student at Peter Paul for about 7 years and one of my favorite memories there was attending Claire’s Camp for the summer. What made this part of the program so special was that it was educational AND recreational. It was a chance for the students to have fun while learning new subjects and concepts that will be essential for the upcoming school year. I am proud to say that I had used many of those lessons to further excel in my academics. Attending Claire’s Camp also allowed me to improve my leadership and team-building skills, which have been very useful throughout my years of high school and still are today!

Another fond memory that I have from my time at Peter Paul is participating in reading buddy sessions. In this program, I was paired with a younger student and we would read to each other. I enjoyed these moments as I was able to help another student achieve academic success as I have been able to."

A student of Open High School, Sanaa is graduating with a 5.03 GPA. All of us at Peter Paul are so proud of you and have loved watching you grow over the years. Congratulations!

S.T.E.A.M. Academy students in the community!

Our STEAM Academy students at the Coleman Center visited the Mobile Market at the Fulton NRC to cash in Veggie Vouchers. Veggie Vouchers is a program that Jason Muckle of Shalom Farms has presented to our students! Students receive the voucher each month, and each time they eat a vegetable during our "Linner" time at Peter Paul, they receive a hole punch on their voucher. Once they receive ten-hole punches, they are able to redeem the voucher at any Mobile Market in the East End for $3 of free produce! Last month, our students had their first visit to the market and were extremely excited to cash in their vouchers. They even began eating their veggies right then and there!
Coleman Center students (Middle School and STEAM Academy) stopped by the Robinson Theater Block Party this month! The students requested to attend the Block Party to support their peers who performed with the Robinson Theater’s Youth Hip Hop Dance class. This group of students has been participating in dance class for the past 9-weeks, and the Block Party performance was a chance to show off what they have learned! Our Family and Community Engagement team also attended the event to share information about our programming with families. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Robinson Theater and attending the event next year!

Thank you for donating!

A huge thank you to Christ the King Lutheran Church for donating 180 snack bags and 240 bottled waters for the Community Block Party, Hourigan Construction for donating 159 meal bags as a part of their Juneteenth service project, and The Women’s Group of St. Luke Lutheran Church for donating personal hygiene products. We greatly appreciate the time and energy it took to put these items together for our community! Our students enjoyed the snack bags at the block party, and we'll be giving out the food and hygiene items at upcoming events.

We also want to thank Richmond Amazon employees for their donation of 10 boxes of personal hygiene items, as well as meal and snack items for our community support bags. These bags will be distributed during our Community Walks, and stored in our community pantry for neighbors to access during the week!
Community Partner Spotlight

This month, we're proud to highlight Ray Neblett's Inner City Basketball Camp. This is a FREE camp for youth aged 8-18 in Richmond, VA. It will be held this summer - running July 18th-July 22nd. Click HERE to register, learn more about the camp, make a donation, or sign-up to volunteer!

This camp has existed in Richmond for over 15 years, and we are excited that Peter Paul is able to partner with and support Ray and his team with capacity building!

The Ray Neblett Inner City Foundation encourages children and teens to achieve success through hard work while avoiding a life of crime. You can read more about Ray Neblett's impactful story HERE!

Birdies for Charity

Birdies for Charity presented by TowneBank, is a fundraising platform operating in conjunction with the Dominion Energy Charity Classic. Through this program, participating charities have the opportunity to solicit contributions that will be bonused by 10%. Peter Paul is honored to once again be a participating charity this year!

Interested in increasing your gift by 10%? Please click here to learn more, and please note that the deadline to give is Sunday, October 23, 2022.