



Peter Paul is an outreach and community center serving children and families in Church Hill and neighboring communities in Richmond's East End. Founded by John Coleman in 1979, Peter Paul is the oldest continually operating community center in the area. **Our mission is one of empowerment through education: to support our neighbors in the East End and educate their students, equipping them to serve as positive contributors to their family, community, and society.** We help prepare students for long-term success by providing them with intensive academics in a supportive community of family and friends. Through programs that target families, Peter Paul helps parents in Richmond's East End enhance their ability to create healthy family environments. And by enhancing the academic performance of students in our neighborhood and engaging their families in the process, we can create a community of care, a place that meets the immediate needs of our neighbors and promotes long-term self-sufficiency.

Peter Paul provides two interrelated service areas designed to break the cycle of generational poverty, **out-of-school-time educational youth programming and Family and Community Engagement programs.** For our After School Academy, this year we are operating in five East End elementary school locations serving grades K-5, and serving middle and high school students at the Coleman Promise Center. Each weekly lesson plan incorporates project-based learning, learning through literature, STEM activities, and enrichment experiences. In addition to our academic program, this year provided in conjunction with Richmond Public Schools, we have an intense focus on non-cognitive and other social-emotional skills, such as critical thinking skills, social skills, and creativity.

At the same time as we provide these education programs, we know education is a family matter with community impact, and that belief is the basis for our family programs and the outreach programs we offer to our East End neighbors. We partner with a number of organizations to provide **wraparound services and resources to our families and community members**, including ACTS, CARITAS, FeedMore, the Senior Center of Greater Richmond, Smart Beginnings, the Richmond City Health District, and The Giving Wall.

To strengthen the bridge from our youth programs to our family and community programs, Peter Paul piloted a new program last year focused specifically on older youth and workforce development. It is during the transitional years of ages 18-24 that young people face a number of obstacles and barriers to success when it comes to finding employment. To address the challenges around workforce development for young adults, Peter Paul launched **Z-LIFE (Leading Individuals to Foundational Employment)**, which provides access to employment and wraparound support services to individuals ages 18-24 that reside in Richmond.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the children and families we serve are facing compounded challenges. Isolation, lost academic instruction, stress, and health concerns are having a disproportionate impact on our community. Our neighbors' typical needs are sharpened by the longer-term impact of the pandemic and are informing Peter Paul's focus on helping our neighbors adjust to life in the years ahead. **Peter Paul's holistic, trauma-informed approach to providing instruction will be essential to helping them meet challenges head-on.**