



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 the neighbors of the East End and educate its students, equipping them to serve as positive contributors to their family, community, and society.**

Peter Paul's mission is one that is accomplished through a holistic approach - providing our neighbors with nationally recognized out-of-school-time educational youth programming and programs that engage and strengthen families and the community that surrounds them. Recognizing that education is a source of empowerment, Peter Paul focuses long-term on providing academic support and skill development that both increases the number of high school graduates in our community and prepares them for higher education and/or career opportunities.

To ensure long-term success, **we provide our students with intensive academics in a supportive community of family and friends.** At the same time, we know education is a family matter with community impact, and that belief is the basis for the outreach programs we offer to our East End neighbors. These comprehensive programs reflect our longstanding commitment to fulfill our mission by creating and delivering programs that provide academic instruction, strengthen families, cultivate financial independence, and empower community advocacy.

The pandemic has shown us that our comprehensive approach to uplifting those we serve is not only a valuable service to our families but an imperative for our community. Introduced in 2015, our integration of family and community services as complementary service components to our educational programming continues to solidify our approach to **providing the competence, confidence, and connections that our children, parents and neighbors need to thrive.**

Relationships with those who live in Richmond's East End and our partners are at the cornerstone of our success and impact in the community. Key to building these relationships has been our ability to listen and respond with programs and services that are inclusive and engaging. Persistently monitoring feedback from families ensures that we are continually re-framing our services and are highly alert to community needs. This process is managed by our well-established and fully staffed Family and Community Engagement Program (FCEP), led by a social worker experienced in therapeutic interventions, and involves many community partnerships.

Our new program delivery structure will focus on identifying and establishing new community-based program venues and allow us full autonomy to design and deliver our models and deepen our engagements. The result will be that our staff and volunteers will be better able to fully embrace our philosophy on asset-based community development, community-centric program development, and individualized education for our students.