



INSIGHTS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2020



A Message FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

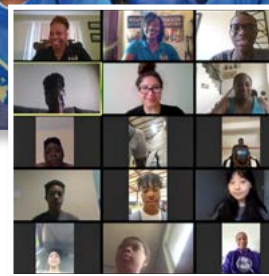
Ilene Harper, PhD, Executive Director, Family Life and Community Resource Center

In this unprecedented time, the mental health needs of our youth and crime victims are elevated. We are deeply saddened about the lives lost and uncertainty facing so many families. I hope and pray for the health and wellness of our community.

We started the year with standing room only at the Youth Ambassador Education Leadership (Y.A.L.E.) orientation and have

continued high attendance with the transition to virtual engagement. As a community-based organization, our mission has been to support youth and families with a specific need. FLCRC like many of you are repositioning our organization for the future. During the Summer Enrichment Camp, our Y.A.L.E. students gained first-hand experience with using PPE materials and practicing social distancing.

In an effort to maximize communication during the COVID 19 pandemic, we launched two community polls to determine the needs of our youth and their families. The results indicated a need for computers and Internet access for members of the community to engage virtually. In response to these needs, the FLCRC App was developed for individuals to access online classes, virtual counseling, and community resources via their mobile devices.



Y.A.L.E. PROGRAM *Summer Update*

In the midst of the difficult circumstances in our nation and world over the past few months, 2020 has still been an exciting year for our Y.A.L.E. students. They continue to shine as leaders in the Richmond community and beyond.

We kicked off 2020 with a packed room of 30 students, including 10 new members, at the Y.A.L.E. orientation on January 11th. The excitement in January continued with our students' participation in a Quiz Bowl Competition at the NAACP Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Breakfast on the 20th. They victoriously brought home the championship trophy!

The students sharpened their debating skills in a virtual event, "The Great Debate," on April 22nd. The participants were highly engaged in discussing the various topics covered.

Many students participated in online Mandarin lessons and learned about the Chinese culture during the month of April. We also focused on

Hispanic cultures to prepare for the Y.A.L.E. 2021 trip to the Dominican Republic.

In June, we launched the Y.A.L.E. "Teen Talks" series, which gives participants a safe place to discuss current topics and events. FLCRC celebrated the high school graduation of Y.A.L.E. members Aaliyah and Kanaan.



Clockwise from top left: Orientation meeting in January; MLK Day Quiz Bowl Competition champions; Y.A.L.E. gray and orange teams in the Quiz Bowl Competition; Y.A.L.E. leader Ja'Myia speaks up during "The Great Debate"; Y.A.L.E. leaders Xiaoxi and Bre-Hanna at the February meeting; Dr. Harper conducts the February meeting; Y.A.L.E. meeting virtually in May; Y.A.L.E. high school graduates Aaliyah and Kanaan.

FLCRC LAUNCHES THE FAMILY FIRST: NEW TRIUMPHS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

FLCRC officially launched our capital campaign on May 1st. Our goal is to raise \$400,000 for the construction of a new FLCRC building. This building will be a huge strategic step for our organization and will include several counseling offices, a computer room and a conference room.

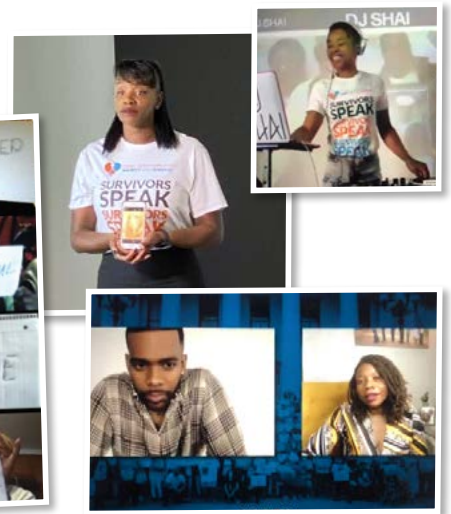
Learn more and take a virtual tour at
FamilyLifeCRC.org/campaign



EMPOWERING *and* PROTECTING...

CRIME SURVIVORS FOR SAFETY AND JUSTICE STAYS ACTIVE IN THE RICHMOND COMMUNITY

Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice (CSSJ) Richmond Chapter held several meetings that focused on survivors' healing and empowerment. *Survivors Speak*, which is an annual event that continues into a yearlong movement, was held virtually for the first-time due to the pandemic. Crime survivors join together to honor loved ones and advocate for policies that transform families, communities, and states. Survivors had an opportunity to hear from Mario, T-Pain, Diana Gordon and DJ Shai. It was an absolutely amazing and memorable virtual event!



FLCRC APP GOES *Live!*



On **Saturday, June 20th**, we celebrated the launch of the official FLCRC mobile app with a virtual launch party! Partygoers enjoyed live music from KHAM radio host ELAW, and a DJ battle between Y.A.L.E. students Kendon and Jordan. The app was downloaded 145 times during the party!

The FLCRC mobile app, now available on Apple and Android, is a place for the community to easily connect to FLCRC's resources. Features include a news feed, links to FLCRC programs, educational sites, a Y.A.L.E. portal, and more.



Above: The App Launch party on Facebook Live. Right: Y.A.L.E. students Kendon and Jordan battled it out as guest DJs.



VIRTUAL LEARNING POLLS GIVE VALUABLE INSIGHT

In an effort to better understand the educational and personal needs of our community during the COVID-19 crisis, FLCRC conducted two online polls in March and June. Students, parents and community members shared their thoughts about virtual learning and the impact of COVID-19 on education and their personal lives.

To view the poll questions and results, visit FamilyLifeCRC.org/learning-polls.



HONORING GEORGE FLOYD

Y.A.L.E. student leaders Aiesha, Kelin and Jahanna attended the George Floyd Memorial Service held in Houston on June 9th.



OUR VOLUNTEERS MAKING IT HAPPEN!

Thanks to their time and efforts, our volunteers have kept our presence strong in the community.



Volunteers completed virtual training on April 23rd (top). Our volunteers operated FLCRC outreach tables at the grand opening of Fort Bend Family Promise on February 15th (left), and George Bush High School Family Fun Festival on March 5th (right).

STUDENTS *Break Free*

AT FLCRC'S SUMMER ENRICHMENT CAMP!

Twenty students had a blast attending the FLCRC Summer Enrichment Camp from Monday, June 22nd through Friday, June 26th. The students enjoyed a variety of fun and engaging activities while practicing the CDC guidelines for social distancing. Session topics included:

- animal science (featuring a live animal demonstration and science lab specimens)
- first-aid & CPR certification training
- foreign languages and cultures

- infectious diseases, PPE and germ control
- line dancing and choreography
- self portrait and social justice expression painting
- social justice "Teen Talks" (including Facebook live sessions)
- technology & entrepreneurship
- youth leadership and service learning

To see additional photos and videos of the camp, visit FamilyLifeCRC.org/breakfree2020.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Social Justice Teen Talks
July 23, August 13 and
September 26, 2020
4–5 p.m on Facebook Live
Visit Facebook.com/FLCRCRichmond



Back-2-School Parent Chat
Zoom sessions available
July 27-30, 2020
Visit ParentChatFLCRC.Eventbrite.com



National Bullying Awareness Virtual Conference
October 22, 2020
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Visit BullyingAwareness.eventbrite.com

FLCRC BOARD MEMBERS:

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