



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH DIVISION

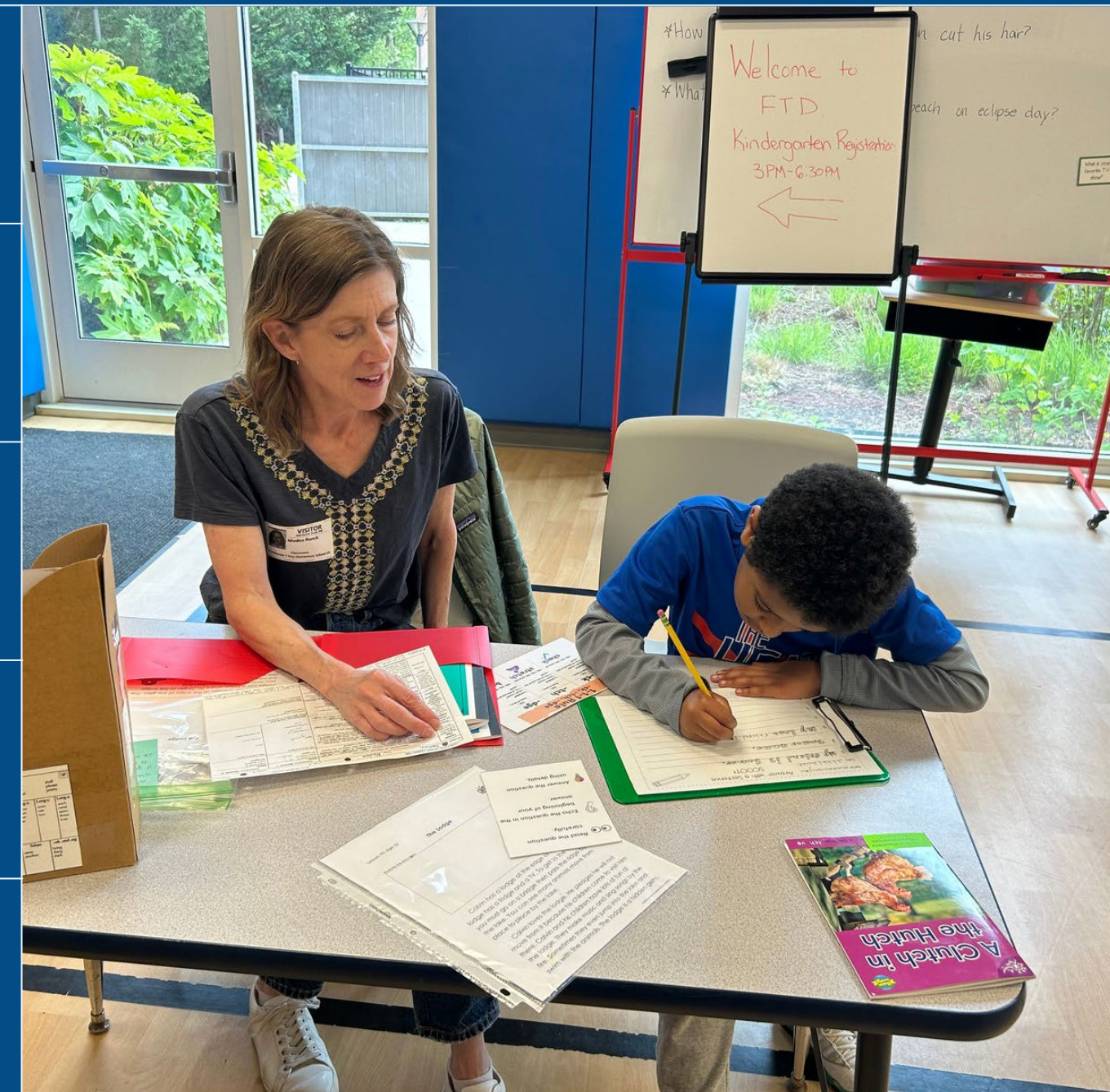
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities



Developmental Assets: 5 Areas of Focus

Before and after participating in mentoring programs

- 1 Increase youth self -esteem
- 2 Increase youth participation in after - school activities
- 3 Increase presence of a caring non - parent adult in youths lives
- 4 Increase youth feeling like they have a community that cares about them
- 5 Prevent loneliness and social isolation in youth



Our Current Programs



- Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP)
- Mentor University
- Building Your Power (BYP)
- Space of Her Own (SOHO)

ALEXANDRIA MENTORING PARTNERSHIP (AMP)



MENTOR **ONE** CHILD.
CHANGE **TWO** LIVES.

ALEXANDRIA MENTORING PARTNERSHIP



Our goal

AMP works to **maximize** mentor recruitment, screening, and training, and ensure that programs follow best practices. AMP's mission is to ensure that **every child that wants a mentor, has a mentor**.



Team

11 local mentoring programs
740 mentors
1390 Alexandria youth



Partnerships

- 12 official partnerships (including the City of Alexandria, ACPS, and RPCA)
- Collaborates with RPCA, ACJS, CSU, MENTOR Virginia, MENTOR MD|DC, and ACT for Alexandria, AmeriCorps VISTA
- Additional partners include Northern Virginia Family Services, The Campagna Center, SAPCA, ACAP, and the Center for Alexandria's Children, Tickets for Kids



Impacts

AMP enhances community engagement by **connecting young people with dedicated mentors**. This initiative fosters **resilience**, **academic success**, and **personal growth** among mentees, thereby strengthening the fabric of our community.

MENTOR UNIVERSITY



Overview

A **free learning institute** created to equip Alexandrians with effective mentorship skills, enhancing their ability to support youth. The university offers courses focused on **mentorship, youth development, and community engagement**, tailored to meet the needs of caring adults in various capacities.



Colleges

- College for Caring Adult Mentors
- College for Youth Development Professionals
- College for Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers
- College for Youth Empowerment (Social and Emotional Development)



Partnerships

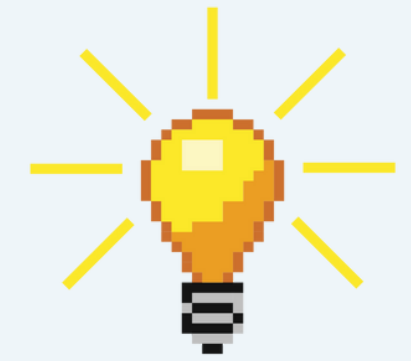
ACPS, DCCHS' Youth Development Team, CSU, MENTOR Maryland/DC, the Center for Alexandria's Children, and the Department of Homeland Security.



Impacts

- 71 students enrolled
- Mentors: 50
- Program staff: 8
- Caring Adults: 13

BUILDING YOUR POWER (BYP)



Our goal

To **promote healthy community relationships** through positive engagements between middle school students and their college-aged mentors to **reduce truancy and other risky behaviors.**



Who we serve

Students in grades 7 & 8 showing signs of disengagement from school, referred by school staff

Youth from 3 schools; recruitment is on-going



Partnerships & funding

ACJS

ACPS

CSU

Virginia Youth Violence & Substance Use Grant Program (JJDP)



Impacts

Improves school attendance, grades, and behavior

Builds strong foundations for healthy relationships

Prevents youth crime and gang involvement



soho^o
SPACE OF HER OWN
CREATIVE MENTORSHIP

SPACE OF HER OWN (SOHO)



Our goal

Transforming spaces and transforming lives, SOHO empowers remarkable girls from underserved communities through one-to-one mentoring, art, STEM, and life skills development



Who we serve

5th grade girls:
Old Town/Del Ray Program
West End Program

6-8th grade girls:
SOHO Club

High school girls:
Internship Program
Family Advisory Council



Partnerships

ACPS
Act for Alexandria
The Art League
Building Momentum
City of Alexandria
Executive Diner
501c3
Foundations
Grants
Individual donors



Impacts

- Connected **527** youth with caring adults
- Improves Developmental Assets, social skills, confidence, healthy decision-making, math and science skills
- 98% have avoided juvenile court involvement

SPACE OF HER OWN (SOHO)



2024 Survey Highlights

- 100% of girls reported a positive SOHO experience
- 100% of girls & families reported that they like their SOHO mentor
- “My mentor taught me how to...”
 - “Be helpful to others”
 - “Deal with my emotions”
 - “Be patient”
 - “Be kind”
 - “Be myself”



Significant Awards

- Mentor Virginia Champion of Mentoring
- NBC Universal Project Innovation Winner
- Alexandria NAACP Community Service Award
- Harvard University’s Innovations in America Government “Bright Idea”

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT VISION



Overview & Key Responsibilities

Community Engagement and Outreach

Key Responsibilities

- 1 Evidence -based Targeted Outreach: Connecting with the hardest -to -reach youth and families
- 2 Specialized, Best -Practice Programming
- 3 Partnerships
- 4 Alternative Funding



EVIDENCE-BASED TARGETED OUTREACH



Our goal

To expand program opportunities for RPCA that engage underserved populations, prevent juvenile crime, decrease disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile court system, and offer alternatives to costly and punitive out-of-home placements



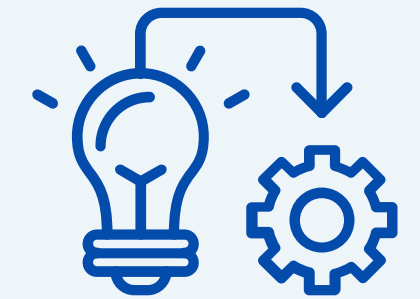
Lead

Lead focused conversations and establish priorities with partners, community groups, and residents



Partnerships

Partner with stakeholders (ACPS, APD, Sheriff's Office, DCHS, ACJS, CSU, etc.) to establish standardized outreach methods and shared outcomes



Implement & Evaluate

Implement targeted outreach plans, and measure outcomes to address barriers in alignment with City Council and RPCA Priorities, Children and Youth Community Plan, and City and Schools Staff Group Communications Subcommittee

SPECIALIZED, BEST - PRACTICE PROGRAMMING

Focus Areas

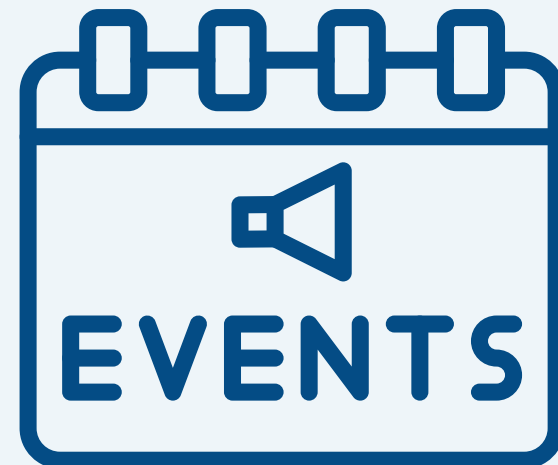
- 1 Support youth development through restorative practices, asset - building, and mentoring
- 2 Expand evidence - based mentoring, parenting, and youth programs
- 3 Build staffing resources with VISTAs, interns, and seasonal employees
- 4 Spearhead standardized outcome measures across youth serving programs, focused on measuring Developmental Assets

PARTNERSHIPS

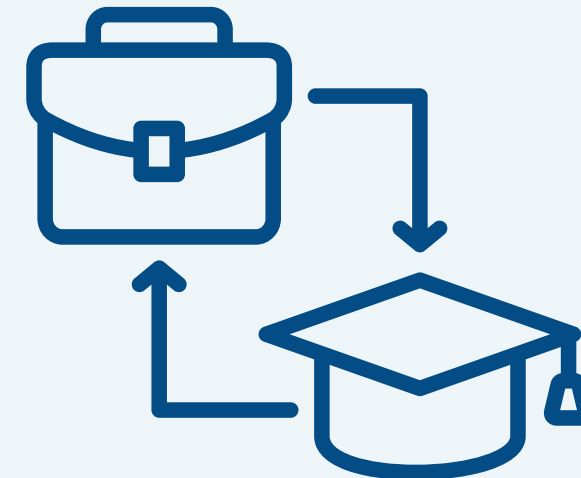
Maximizing Resources



Enhance and expand partnerships with schools, businesses, nonprofits, and community groups



Maximize recreational center space for special events, career fairs, and training



Develop internship and fellowship programs with universities



Lead career fairs and recruit seasonal employees to build diverse City employee applicant pool

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING



Funding

Build funding streams for engagement in recreational and educational programs and accessing all City programs and services, and for maximizing utilization of RPCA facilities



Grants

Submit and manage grants for crime prevention and youth engagement, and crime prevention



Development

Research development of foundation or 501c3 to support RPCA activities and to provide more scholarships for those in need



Fundraising

A foundation would allow us to seek funds typically available only to those with nonprofit status, i.e. Mason Hirst and Bruhn Morris Foundations, and ACT for Alexandria's Spring2Action

QUESTIONS?

