

# ANNUAL REPORT



YOUTH LIFE FOUNDATION OF RICHMOND

2020

NIKE

Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

*Matthew 6:34*



# Founder's Note

Dear Team,

Thank you for giving to the Youth Life Foundation of Richmond (YLFR) this past year. Going into this year I had two main concerns: the safety of our staff and students, and the financial stability of YLFR. Scriptures remind us, "Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." How true that has been this year! Neither of those concerns have affected us at all. We have not had to shut down this year as miraculously not one student, staff member or volunteer has gotten COVID. Secondly, God has provided above and beyond all that we could ask, think or imagine financially this year thanks to YOU! Thank you for your generosity.

Our teachers stepped up exponentially this year as starting September 8 and all the way through June 18, we have opened our Learning Center doors every day all day for our students to come and do their online learning. This helped the parents of our students to be able to work, allowed our students to have positive interactions with other adults and children daily, and kept our students accountable to continue their education. I have loved getting to see them take breaks from their online learning to play outside, get exercise through Pop, Hope and Rock, Minds in Motion and Live Red Foundation, and most recently have some fun making mosaics with Art for the Journey's outdoors program.

Now what about the part of the Scripture shared, "Each day has enough trouble of its own?" This year has certainly not been without its challenges and trials – they have just been different than I thought. Helping students with their virtual learning has taking its toll on our teachers and they have had to fight to stay motivated and engaged as their job descriptions changed dramatically. We have had multiple teachers go out for extended periods of time due to health challenges and one for the blessing of a baby. Finally, two of the three buildings where we have programming sold within weeks of each other, and each brought various challenges with the change of landlords.

Through it all God has been faithful and provided every substitute/staff member that we needed, volunteers with different areas of expertise to help us problem solve each unique situation, and abundant patience for us to keep going. We covet your prayers as we start to prepare for our summer program and plan to return to being an after-school program in the fall. Please pray that our staff would be refreshed and filled up as they have poured out all year long. Thank you again for your faithful giving to YLFR this year – we are overwhelmed with gratitude!

*Heather Goodlett,*

Founder and Executive Director,  
Youth Life Foundation of Richmond



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## LIVE RED FOUNDATION

With their mission of “Empowering youth and communities through fitness,” the Live Red Foundation programs work with children from low-opportunity neighborhoods to get them active and teach important life skills along the way. Live Red Foundation has been a Youth Life Foundation of Richmond community partner for three years and counting. Invaluable lessons covered through the programs include goal-setting, empathy, self-belief, resilience, and more.

Live Red’s big annual event is Run for Mukhano, a youth-planned run benefitting Mukhanyo Christian Academy in South Africa, Live Red, and YLFR. This run is always jam-packed with excitement, energy, and lots of —you guessed it — running! Students, families, and community members from the aforementioned organizations, as well as other runners, come together to participate. Since things were very different in 2020 due to the pandemic, Live Red offered to do smaller runs at each learning center instead.

During Covid, Live Red continued to provide exercise and much-needed outside time for our students. Once or twice a week, they send a coach to help get the students motivated and active through exercise and movement sessions. Starting in the second half of this school year, Live Red has been spending time at each of our learning centers. During the 45 minute to an hour-long session, Coaches April, Sarah, or Joanne lead our students in strength training, stretching, and cardio activities- always making things fun to keep our students engaged.

Since our students have been spending so many hours sitting for virtual learning, our time with Live Red each week has become a particularly crucial part of our organization. With each and every session, the coaches not only guide students through fitness activities, but also teach them foundational life skills that they can carry with them into the field, track, classroom, home, and far beyond. Coaches discuss and ask the students questions covering topics like teamwork and empathy, all the while keeping them moving and modeling kindness, leadership, and patience. We are thrilled to have a continuous partnership with Live Red Foundation and cherish each time the coaches spend time with our students!



# Student Spotlight

## AMIR AND TERRELL

With our centers being open all day for students to participate in virtual school, our students and staff have spent double the amount of time together. Amidst all that extra time, Northminster students Amir Setzer and Terrell Washington have grown closer and quickly become best friends! Our centers have experienced plenty of difficulties this year, but it's been a blessing to see this friendship and realize that some good has come out of it as well.

Amir is finishing up the 4th grade and has been coming to the Northminster learning center since he was entering Kindergarten to follow in his sister, Amia's, footsteps. When it comes to schoolwork, he does really well in math. One of our volunteers will even give him harder work to see if he gets it and he is usually able to pick it up fairly quickly! Amir has a very curious mind and is always asking "what if" questions, usually having to do with tornadoes or Godzilla. We're so grateful to have such a curious mind like Amir's.

Terrell is about to graduate out of elementary school! We're so proud of him. He started coming to Youth Life in the Summer of 2018. His favorite part of school is his orchestra class. He plays the violin and has been loving it. Oftentimes, he will ask to practice in a separate room when he's on a break just to make sure he can improve. He has a great sense of humor and likes to make other people laugh. He was a little reserved earlier in the year, but as time has passed and we've all been spending so much time together, he has grown comfortable talking about anything!

Amir and Terrell are different in a lot of ways, but they are able to relate to each other well through video games or playing ball tag or hide and seek during recess time. It's been really cool to see how their friendship has flourished from September all the way to now. They're always finding every opportunity to talk to one another throughout the school day. If one of them is upset, the other one will make sure they're okay. It's obvious that they're buddies, and we're proud to be the place where they met and a safe place for their friendship to grow!



# Volunteer Spotlight

## LISA EGGERT AND MAC DUNN

Lisa Eggert and Mac Dunn from West End Assembly of God (WEAG) have loved and served Delmont students for years—from leading monthly “fun nights”, to inviting our kids to participate in WEAG children’s ministry events. This year in particular, however, the two of them have gone above and beyond. Every Wednesday morning, rain or shine, caffeinated or not, Lisa and Mac arrive at the Learning Center at 8am, and our students always run to greet them. Despite Covid precautions, it's almost impossible to keep the kids from giving them flying bear hugs, and their smiles and laughs make even the students who half-sleepwalk into the center a little happier to be up so early.

“Mr. Mac” works with our quietest student, King (Kindergarten). Through relentless kindness and months of one-sided conversations, Mac has earned his trust, and the two can now be heard talking and even laughing as they work and play together. He even got them matching Flash masks when he learned that The Flash was King’s favorite superhero. “Miss Lisa” started volunteering during our Covid programming all the way back during our modified summer program, during which she taught Bible twice a week. It was such an exciting experience for the kids to have her as a “guest teacher” and to hear someone other than their two Youth Life teachers tell them about Bible truths. Now during regular programming, Lisa floats from student to student wherever she is needed, but has especially gotten close to Jeremiah (1st) and Na’Ziya (3rd). While the original student she worked with is no longer in programming, Lisa also stays connected with him, even buying him a Pikachu onesie for virtual pajama day when he mentioned that he didn’t have anything to wear.

Aside from “just” volunteering each week, Lisa and Mac also started a pen pal program between Delmont and WEAG students, organized a pizza party for the end of the fall semester, brought in Christmas doughnuts for the whole center, and offered to be substitutes for the Delmont teachers when emergencies arose. Truly, Delmont would have looked very differently this year without their weekly support for the teachers and love for the students. They have consistently brought joy into what has often been the dismal undertaking of virtual school, and we are thankful for their generosity and the investment they have made in each of these children's' lives.

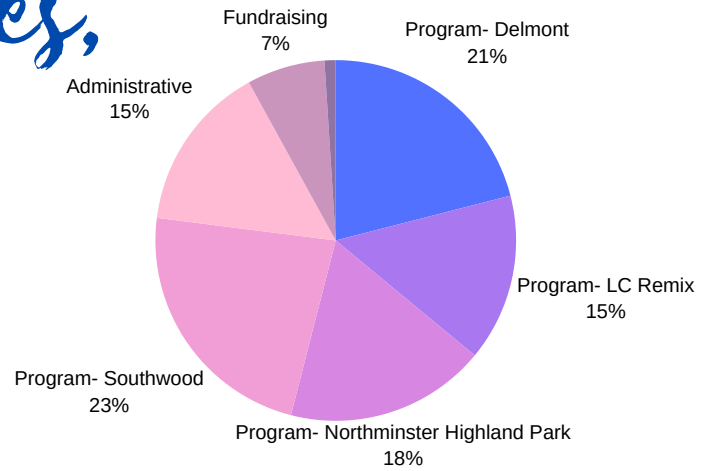




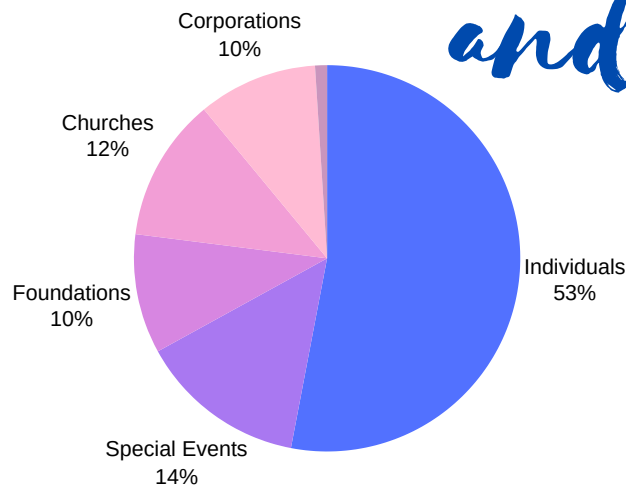
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- Richmond Ballet/Minds in Motion
- Richmond City Young Life
- Run for Mukhanyo
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- Taylor Bates Photography
- Third Church
- Tuckahoe Women's Club
- UR Bonner Center for Civic Engagement
- UR Youth Life Mentor Organization
- VCU ASPIRE
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- Veritas School
- West End Assembly of God
- YNAB

# Expenses,



# and Income\*



\*unaudited





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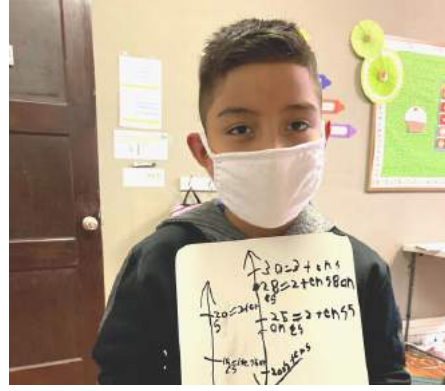
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