# Report 20 20 22





# Dear Team,

This year we are celebrating 20 years of YLFR! In many ways it has gone so fast and in other ways it seems like a lifetime. As I reflect on the 20 years, I am filled with so much awe at what God has done through the humble lives of so many of us who have stepped forward as staff, board members, volunteers, donors, students, and families. We have become a big YLFR family and always have that in common even when we have not seen each other in a while or move forward in different capacities of support.

God has sustained us through the beginning baby stages of YLFR, expansion to two centers, through economic turmoil, growing to meet the needs of our middle and high school students, expansion to a third and fourth center (the fourth in a totally different Spanish-speaking community), through a year of virtual learning, through staff turnover and beyond. As so many of you held my arms up at the beginning of this adventure, I am calling on you to continue to do so for our current staff as we see what the next 20 years will bring.

We start these next 20 years with many questions. The public schools are trying out new ideas that may affect the hours and operation of our centers. In addition, the very communities we have been serving are changing, and we are trying to adjust and adapt to new expectations and realities. However, through all these changes we know there are some constants that must stay the same:

The Youth Life Foundation of Richmond operates learning centers to develop leaders by making long-term investments in children from under-resourced communities. We rely on God to carry out our mission and know that we would be a miserable failure on our own. We trust Him and ask for His wisdom in the days and decisions to come. We invite you to continue to walk alongside us financially and help us be prepared for the future to ensure that there will be a YLFR for years to come.

Thank you so much for your partnership! As we step into these next 20 years, we are preparing for a sustainable future for YLFR where our communities and students are supported even when I am not around. This leads me to our next adventure: planned giving. If you are interested in being a part of the seed money for our endowment fund or for YLFR to be a part of YOUR legacy through your will or estate, I would love to meet with YOU! Call, text, or email me to start the conversation and let us keep YLFR viable for years to come!

Heather Goodlett.

Founder and Executive Director, Youth Life Foundation of Richmond



### Staff Members | 2022 - 2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Brittney Brunson, Delmont Program Director
Maggie Cusumano, Community Engagement Coordinator
Danny Ducap, Delmont Teacher
Heather Goodlett, Founder and Executive Director
Cayla Jiménez, Southwood Teacher
Jackie Jiménez, Southwood Program Director
Haley Pavie, Highland Park Program Director
Megan Pierce, Remix Staff
Amber Smith, Academic Director
Leahna Sullivan, Operations Director

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Sheree Jones, Secretary
Kris Allen
Matthew Benko
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Heather Goodlett
Donald Richard
Amanda Scandlen
Tasha Smith



## from January to December of 2022:



Students **improved their reading** by an average of 89.65% (or 1.9 grade levels)

Those working with **Reading Specialists** improved by even more at 178%

178%

74 students were served

150 volunteers totaled over 2,000 hours of service



## Student Spotlights

# Xavier Highland Park Learning Center

Xavier started as a second grader at our Highland Park Center in the fall of 2022. When he first came for testing, he lacked confidence and seemed to have several gaps in his reading skills, despite being back to in-person learning for a full school year. He came in very shy and reserved, but luckily he had a friend from his class at school who also attended the Learning Center. It wasn't long before Xavier began to warm up and come out of his shell. His warm, vibrant personality helped him to make friends easily. However, the real victory was the speed and success with which Xavier improved in his academics. Since he started, he has worked hard every day, both with his tutors and with one of our Reading Specialists, Miss Liz. It has really paid off!

Xavier is a testament to the value of the specialized instruction and individualized attention that our Learning Center offers, and we are beyond thankful that he found his way to Youth Life. It has brought us so much joy getting to know him and watching him apply what he is learning. He has light bulb moments every day, where things just "click," and that is the perfect reminder that what we are doing is making a difference. We are so thankful to have his bubbly, bright light at our Learning Center, and we know that God will continue to do a wonderful work through him. We are excited to be just a small part of Xavier's journey!











# Ashly Southwood Learning Center

Ashly has been part of our Southwood Learning Center since the second grade. She came in as a shy, quiet little girl, but those days have passed! Nowadays, she's become quite the young lady! Now a fifth grader, Ashly has come out of her shell and is not afraid to speak her mind. She has learned to navigate life well in both English and Spanish. She is also incredibly devoted to her family, and loves the the fact that she gets to spend lots of time with her cousins, who are also part of our Learning Center.

Ashly loves science and hopes to one day study science in college. She also loves young children, and wants to become a teacher. Perhaps one day, she will combine the two and become a science teacher! It has been a blessing to see her grow into the wonderful person that she is today. We are thankful to have known her and are honored to have a front row seat to her life these past few years!

# Langar Delmont Learning Center

Lamar is currently in the fourth grade, and this is his first year with Youth Life. Since he started at the beginning of the year, he has become known for many things— always building some new robot out of legos, never tying his shoes, and sharing the most random facts at the most random times. He is also full of energy! His favorite Fun Friday is, "whenever I get to run around!"

It is so fun to watch Lamar's brain work through things in the most creative way. He asks great questions during Bible time, and he is always willing to learn and keep a great attitude, even when things get hard. He's a master at math, and he is only getting better at his reading. We are so thankful we get to have him here every day with us and we look forward to all the days ahead as well!



## Volunteer Spotlight







## Ms. Margaret

Margaret Clikeman has been faithfully serving at the Highland Park Learning Center for the past six years, and what a difference she has made in the lives of our students! Her consistency, flexibility, and creativity truly set her apart, and she is beloved by our students. She first came to us when she taught the daughter of Youth Life's founder, Heather Goodlett, and learned about YLFR's mission. Now, she is semi-retired, but still serving our students with the same love, dependability, and zest for helping them unlock learning. She goes above and beyond to make an investment in the lives of our students, and even spent one of her summers off from teaching as a summer intern with us!

One of our favorite things about Margaret is that she takes a genuine interest in all of our students, even the ones that she hasn't had the opportunity to tutor. She makes sure to learn all of their names, their interests, and their personalities, and it's this extra mile that allows students to feel truly cared for by her. She shows up early to play with them each week at recess, and they are always particularly impressed by her jump rope skills.

When asked about her experiences over the past six years, Margaret shared: "I love when they greet me as soon as I get out of my car and are so happy to see me. It's humbling that a few hours a week dedicated to a certain student or students means so much to them, and it motivates me to be a consistent presence in their lives so they know I love them. It can also be challenging at times to be patient with their moods. It's important to be an encourager so they can get past the 'it's too hard' or 'I don't feel like doing this right now' and have them see that their effort in every assignment is building their character. I hope I am making a difference in students' lives. I want to be a bridge-builder and try to understand more about the challenges these students face and do something to help them be and feel successful."

We are beyond grateful for the way Margaret loves our students so well and for her many years of commitment and consistency to Youth Life. We know the impact she has made will leave a lasting impression on the hearts of so many students.

#### Community Partners

Amazing Praise
Art for the Journey
Atlee Church
Capital Realty Group
The Chapel
CharacterWorks Theater
Christmas in RVA
Eternity Church
Feedmore
Highland Park Community Church
Imago Dei Neighborhood School
Life Church
Live Red Foundation

Magnolia Green Golf Club
Make Studio
Memorial Foundation for Children
Movement Church
NOC (Northside Outreach Center)
On Point Prints (CHAT)
Outschool.org
Pop, Hop, & Rock
Red Orange Studio
Redemption Hill Church
Redeemer Anglican Church
Sky Zone
Sweetfrog- White Oak

Third Church
Trinity United Methodist Church
Ukrops Market Hall
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UTurn, Inc.
VCU Transform
Veritas School
West End Assembly of God
WeAcademies
Youth Life UR (campus organization)
YWAM

## Partner Spotlight

## The Chapel Scott's Addition

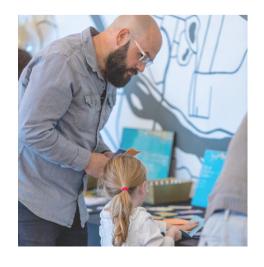
Youth Life's relationship with The Chapel goes all the way back to our earliest days. In 2002, before our first Learning Center (Delmont) had even opened its doors, Rob Rhoden—soon-to-be founding pastor of the then-named Commonwealth Chapel—put on some work clothes and helped paint our very first classroom. That early partnership continued, as Commonwealth Chapel supplied our students with Bibles, helped to fund Mystery Trips, and even hosted our very first I Have a Dream event.

It's amazing how God can often bring things full circle. Although there was a pause in partnership after Pastor Rhoden left, the Lord reconnected The Chapel and Youth Life a few years ago through Nate Jones, Todd Compton, and others. Since then, The Chapel (and the Scott's Addition location in particular) has fervently supported Youth Life's mission and vision in beautiful ways. In addition to giving monthly, they have purchased and filled backpacks for our Delmont students and hosted our 2022 and 2023 I Have a Dream events. Last year, both Chapel campuses took up an offering during their summer VBS and donated the sum (a total of \$6,000) to Youth Life.

We are so thankful for the multifaceted and incredibly generous partnership of this church, and we are honored to be working together to bring the Kingdom of God to earth.







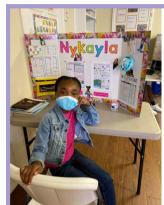
## Looking Back at 20 years

#### 2014

Youth Life's third elementary center, Northminster, is established



#### 2020-2021



Through the pandemic, YLFR switches to full-day programming so students can do virtual school from centers

#### Present Day



Today, Youth Life continues to serve students from under-resourced communities in Richmond through after-school and summer programming

#### 2008

Youth Life's second elementary center, Highland Park, is established at the Northside Outreach Center

2003

Heather Brown

(later Goodlett)

founds YLFR in

Delmont Plaza

**Apartments** 



#### 2017



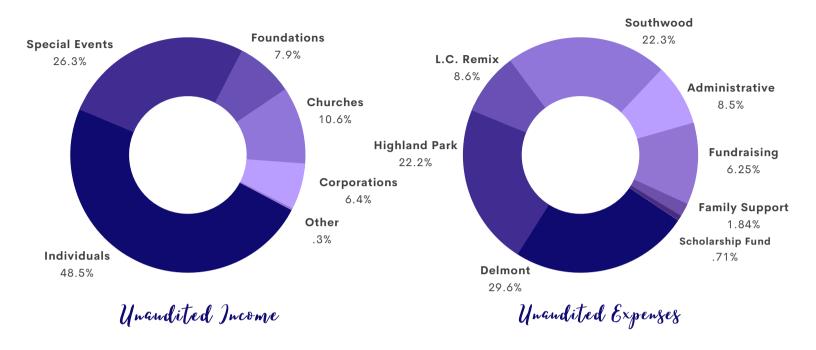
Youth Life expands
across the river to
serve Spanishspeaking students at
our 4th elementary
center, Southwood

#### 2009 & 2013



Youth Life expands to serve middle and high schoolers, first part-time at "Youth Life @ Night" (2009), then full time through LC Remix (2013)

### 2022 Jinancial Overview





Oh Lock, MAY YOUR WORK BE SHOWN TO YOUR SERVANTS, AND YOUR SPLENDOR TO THEIR CHILDREN.

MAY THE FAVOR OF THE LORD OUR GOD REST UPON US.

Establish the Work of our Hands!



## Thank You to our 2022 Donors!

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# ANNUAL REPORT

how much progress you have made towards the completion of your ongoing project.

20 22















# Annual 20 Pepost 22

















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