

# WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## YESUSA TRANSFORMATIONAL CITIES

### EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT & VALUES-BASED LEADERSHIP



**Dear Friends,**  
YOU, through  
YESUSA Transfor-  
mational Cities'  
collaborative  
**COMMUNITY  
CLASSROOM**  
Project, are chang-  
ing students' lives  
at Norfolk's Booker  
T. Washington and  
Lake Taylor High  
Schools, and we  
want you to hear  
what the students  
are saying!

*The Booker T. Washington  
Wrestling Team put what  
they learned into ACTION  
by cleaning the front of  
their school!*

#### MEAL & MESSAGE LARGE GROUPS

This winter, we worked with the basketball and wrestling teams!

**Theme:**

**"EXCELLENCE IS YOUR STANDARD"**

**Topics:** Self-Awareness, Self-Worth, Self-Esteem and more!

**106 athletes** attended at least one of the **12 weekly sessions**.

A participant's feedback:

*These messages are very  
powerful and inspiring & really  
helpful with the guidance with  
helping people become better &  
develop their character.*

#### COLLEGE AND CAREER EXPLORERS CLUB KICKED OFF ON JANUARY 10, 2024!

Students are meeting weekly to discover their strengths, research careers, and set a course of action to achieve their goals!

A 9th grader said: ***"Last summer, my grandma asked me what I wanted to do with my life, and I didn't know. Now, I know that I want to get a job working with computers."***

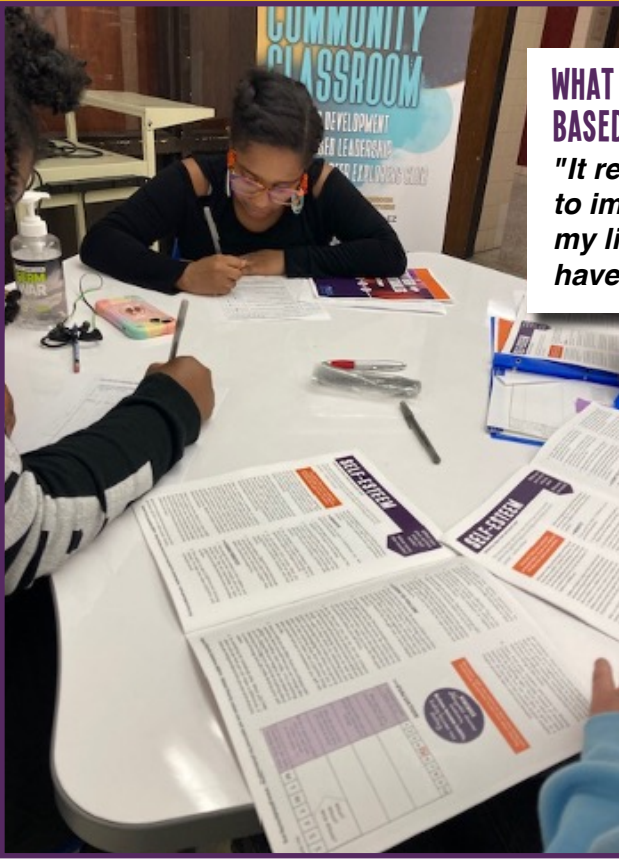
This work relies on generous friends like you! YESUSA has a place for you! Please come to one of our monthly **VOLUNTEER** Orientation Sessions on Zoom. Register here:

[Communityclassroom757.com](https://communityclassroom757.com)



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### WHAT ARE THE STUDENTS SAYING ABOUT THESE VALUES BASED LEADERSHIP SMALL GROUPS?

*"It really helps me and shows me where I need to improve in life." "It has been very helpful with my life in general, and they (these discussions) have changed me as a whole."*



**Booker T. Washington High School's newest Values Based Leaders! Congratulations Bookers!**

### VALUES-BASED LEADERSHIP SMALL GROUPS:

#### Topics:

Attitude, Resilience, Hope, Respect, Emotions, Resolving Conflict, and more!

**15 wrestlers** attended at least one of the **6 weekly discussions**, and **8 earned the Values-Based Leadership AWARD** by attending at least 5 discussions and by demonstrating what they learned!

**"EXCELLENCE IS YOUR STANDARD."**



With gratitude,

Ron Atkinson, President

**YESUSA Transformational Cities**

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