# 2024 YEAR END REPORT



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

Dear Friends,



We are excited to share the impact YOU, our volunteers & financial partners, are making through our Youth Character Development and Values-Based Leadership initiatives occurring at select Norfolk Public Schools. At YESUSA, we believe that nurturing character and instilling values in our future leaders is the key to a better tomorrow. Our collaborative project, "Community Classroom," featuring YESUSA Transformational Cities, JED White, LLC, GOing2COLLEGEisEZ, Let's Make a Difference, Royster Presbyterian Church, and others,

has been a shining example

of this mission.

## MEAL & MESSAGE WITH NORFOLK HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS: FOSTERING EXCELLENCE IN LARGE GROUPS

The Booker T. Washington High School Boys and Girls Basketball, Tennis, Wrestling and Football teams, as well as Lake Taylor High School's Football, Girls Basketball, and Track teams met weekly for eight weeks in engaging hour-long Meal & Message sessions. This year's theme:

#### EXCELLENCE IS MY STANDARD IN MY RELATIONSHIPS.

Each week the speaker spoke about Healthy vs. Unhealthy relationships. These discussions inspired and empowered these students to strive for excellence in all aspects of their lives, both on and off the field.

<sup>®</sup>/o CHANGE IMPACT REPORT % CHANGE 22% - 55% 6-9 Sessions 10+ Sessions MEALS SERVED 1,965\*

"MEAL & MESSAGE" Sessions will continue this Winter & Spring at Ruffner Academy, Booker T. Washington, and Lake Taylor High Schools.



### **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."

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

YEAR END UPDATE

4.640\*!

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE IMPACTED

"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."

# YEAR END 2024 NEWSLETTER



# COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORERS CLUB



Twenty-five Booker T. Washington students participated in the College and Career Explorers Club, where mentors worked with students to identify their strengths and interests, explore career options, create academic plans, research jobs, and visit colleges and workplaces. A highlight of this experience were Road Shows to: Old Dominion University's Open House, Explore Morgan State Day, and a tour of Elizabeth City State University. More trips are planned for 2025.





# **ALL IN SPORT CAMPS**

ALL IN Character Development Sports camps were held during Spring Break and Summer 2024. One hundred eighty children participated in these camps!

# PARENT EDUCATION/ENGAGEMENT

Community Classroom began collaborating with Booker T. Washington High School staff this Fall to support their ALL PRO DAD & Incredible Moms on the Move (IMoMs) parent initiatives.





## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Values were brought to the community at Booker T. Washington and Lake Taylor High Schools home football games and select basketball games. Values Banners were hung throughout the stadiums and gymnasiums, the game announcer discussed the value of the day, and volunteers invited parents to attend Booker T. Washington's **ALL PRO Dad** and **IMoMs** Parent Engagement sessions.

The Community Classroom Collaborative:

YESUSA Transformational Cities Let's Make a Difference GOing2COLLEGEISEZ JED White LLC & Others

## THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Volunteer - join us at a monthly training session www.CommunityClassroom757.com





**Donate online:** 

donate.yesusacities.com OR send your check to: YESUSA Transformational Cities, PO Box 64356, Virginia Beach, VA 23467



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