



**VCU**

Division of  
Community Engagement

# MARY AND FRANCES YOUTH CENTER



## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# MFYC Impact

The Mary and Frances Youth Center's vision is to be a regional leader in university-community collaboration for positive youth development. It accomplishes this by providing programming and training to enhance the lives of youth in the Richmond metro area.





# From January to December 2024, the MFYC has **made an impact through programming.** Together, we

- Provided 32 weeks of programming and an additional nine weeks of summer camp, serving youth and representing multiple cities and counties in the greater Richmond region.
- Provided 42 scholarships to youth-serving organizations and individual families to attend summer camp.
- Provided programming for over 406 youth through MFYC-specific programming.
- Through our first-ever micro-grants initiative, we partnered with four youth-serving organizations, which provided youth programming to an additional 50 youth in the fall, summer, and spring of 2024.
- Welcomed over 345 students, staff, faculty, and community members to play pickleball during designated open court times. The courts are open to the VCU community and their families whenever youth programming is not in session.



## ■ Funding and Facility Use

**The MFYC received \$150,000 in grant funding to provide anti-vaping and SEL programming at no cost to schools or youth-serving organizations.**



- Launched the inaugural Positive Youth Development micro-grants program.
  - 10 community partners were awarded \$2,000 each to partner with the MFYC to provide youth programming or programming for adults who work with youth.
- Developed cross-campus collaborations with the **Pauley Heart Center**, **Physical Therapy Department**, **RecWell**, the **School of Education**, and **ACE-IT in College**
- Increased daytime facility usage at the MFYC through
  - Developing partnerships with **Open High School** and **Orchard House Middle School** to provide court usage during student's physical education classes.
  - Developing parent and child programming for **Cultural Roots**, a homeschool cooperative.
  - Allowing VCU units to reserve classroom space or court space for meetings. Over 88 days were requested and provided throughout the year. VCU internal units are not charged for using the MFYC.



**Between the spring and fall of 2024, 22 adults participated in the MFYC's first-ever Pickleball Instructional Programming.**



**Launched the first-ever MFYC Youth Advisory Council with 10 members. The youth council:**

- Provided feedback on the micro-grant submissions
- Organized one community gingerbread house-making event for the community in December at the VCU Health Hub at 25th
- Has started working on a youth-focused podcast





**Supported student staff through Federal Work Study and the ACE-It program. Over the course of the past year, the MFYC has hired and trained over 15 VCU student workers as youth program counselors and front desk staff.**

- Provided CPR, AED, and First Aid training for all staff
- Secured an AED and Narcan to be housed in the MFYC



**The Richmond YDN housed within the Mary and Frances Youth Center has had a very productive year. There were 79 programs offered in 2024 with a total of 771 participants. See below for a breakdown of programs by category.**

- ▶ **11 Family Nights**  
(378 Registered Adults and Youth)
- ▶ **1 VPOST Conference**  
(54 Registered)
- ▶ **3 Fall YPQ! Workshops**  
(67 Registered)
- ▶ **64 RichmondYDN Workshops**  
(502 Registered)



The **Richmond YDN** also launched the first of its kind in the Metro Richmond area: the **Advanced Certificate in Youth Development**. Answering a community need, the cohort—selected through an application process—consists of 27 members who meet weekly for two hours during the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

The certificate offers essential training in workforce and positive youth development. It is designed for professionals across various sectors, including early childhood education, outside-school-time (OST) youth and young adult programs and services, school and community group settings, and healthcare facilities/offices. This certificate equips participants with the skills needed to excel in roles such as caregivers, mentors, teachers, healthcare providers, youth program leaders, and managers.

**By addressing the unique needs of Richmond's youth population, the certificate aims to establish best practices for engaging with diverse communities across Virginia.**





# Staff Highlights

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**Dani Derricott**  
Program Coordinator

- Participant in the Advanced Certification in Youth Development
  - Attended the Youth Methods Training provided by the Youth Forum at the Weikert Institute
  - Attended the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth Conference
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**Vaughn Garland**  
Youth Education  
Manager

- Attended the Youth Methods Training provided by the Youth Forum at the Weikert Institute
  - Launched the Advanced Certificate in Youth Development
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**Misti Mueller**  
Executive Director

- Attended the Social Emotional Learning Training provided by the Youth Forum at the Weikert Institute,
  - Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth Conference
  - Participated in the Positive Intelligence Leadership Series
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## National and Regional Outreach

Misti Mueller and Vaughn Garland presented on the MFYC and Advanced Certificate Program at the National **Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities** (Fall 2024). At the state and regional levels, they presented at the **Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time** (Summer 2024, Richmond and Newport News, VA) and the **Metropolitan Education Research Consortium** (Summer 2024, Henrico, VA).



# Contact Us



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