Working collaboratively with Richmond Public Schools and Greater Richmond SCAN, the Richmond Public Schools Resiliency Partnership has officially kicked off! ChildSavers is now meeting with clients onsite at Woodville Elementary School and Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School.

Bob Nickles (pictured above), RPS Program Supervisor, and Nicole Mason, Clinician, were warmly welcomed by school administrators, guidance counselors, and social workers during the first weeks of school. Bob noted that the students have gone out of their way to offer him directions around the building, as well as, a hand in setting up the meeting area. Bob said, “The students have met my respect with respect and are receptive to dropping in for a conversation or to color in a blank face picture to express how they are feeling.”

This partnership formed after RPS made a direct request for help. It’s no surprise that experiencing violence has an impact on children’s achievement in school. Last year, just one RPS school had more than 1,100 disciplinary actions. With your help and the help of our partners, we are working to mitigate the effect disruptive behaviors have on classrooms by providing direct care to students. At the same time, we’re providing professional development to school staff to help them best interact with children in a trauma-informed way.

Bob knows how critically important it is to provide onsite mental health therapy to children. Bob said, “Being where our community’s children are removes the common barriers of time and transportation for receiving regular mental health services.” By being onsite, ChildSavers is able to observe and respond to the needs of both the school staff and the students.

The RPS Resiliency Partnership is possible thanks to the generous funding from The Robins Foundation’s Community Innovation Grant, Bon Secours Health System, and the commitment from donors like you. We cannot thank our partners, SCAN and RPS enough. Thank you!
YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FOR CHILDREN DURING CRITICAL MOMENTS

Bubbles, playdough, crayons. A ChildSavers therapist packs a comfort and resilience kit for a child. Coloring sheets and a small stuffed animal.

Minutes earlier, a first responder called our Immediate Response hotline, shared the story, location, and number and ages of children on scene. We build relationships with and train first responders so they can provide trauma-informed care and recognize situations where our services are needed.

We are on-call 24/7, 365 days a year. John Richardson-Lauve, Director of Mental Health and Lead Trauma and Resilience Educator, said, “Because of community support, we have the ability and nimbleness to respond to moments of crisis and trauma for children.”

Flashing blue lights, sirens, caution tape. The children we serve know these images too well. John said, “The quicker we respond to a traumatic event and help to reduce a child’s stress response, the less trauma will impact their daily lives,” John said. Intrusive thoughts, nightmares, hyperactivity, and hypervigilance can be symptoms of trauma.

Last year, 129 comfort and resilience kits were distributed. Your support provided a kit for each child, free of charge. ChildSavers can’t erase trauma, but with your help, we can immediately respond and help build resilient communities, one child at a time.

For Immediate Response for mental health crisis and trauma involving a child, call (804) 305.2420. The child must be within a 30 mile radius of our Richmond City office in Church Hill.

Our team is always in need of resilience kits. For more information on how you can help children in your community build resilience, please contact Sarah Konigsburg skonigsburg@childsavers.org or (804) 591.3944.
ENSURING CHILDREN IN YOUR COMMUNITY HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY EARLY CARE

Child Development Services (CDS) looks a little different. But don’t worry! We’re expanding our team and continuing to offer high quality services to even more early child care educators and professionals.

Pathways to Quality, our newly launched initiative, enables child care providers to reach higher levels of professional development and quality improvements. Studies by the Virginia Departments of Education and Health and Human Services show that access to professional development improves the quality of life for child care providers. Further, it also results in staff retention and higher quality of care.

There are two ways child care providers can participate in Pathways to Quality. The first leads directly to Virginia Quality. Virginia Quality provides a higher level of development that guides programs to reach quality through regulations, staff qualifications, curriculum development, child/adult interactions, and classroom environment.

The second Pathway is designed for programs that are not quite ready to enroll in Virginia Quality, or for those that may not be eligible. It is a Pathway to test new things, develop new relationships, and guide child care providers on their journey to quality.

Those enrolled in Pathways to Quality, no matter the Path, have a ChildSavers team member guiding them every step of the way. We are here to assist child care providers in reaching goals that are right for their unique programs. This allows us to build a pipeline to quality for all early care professionals, ensuring children and families in Central Virginia have access to quality care.

If you are a parent or guardian with a child in preschool, ask your child care provider if they know about our services. If you have any questions, as a parent, guardian, or child care provider, please contact Lisa Thompson at lthompson@childsavers.org.
GIVING FROM THE HEART ON #GIVINGTUESDAY

Our community’s children are back in school, but not all are ready to learn.

Consider making your annual gift on Tuesday, November 28 during #GivingTuesday! Thanks to a challenge gift from an anonymous donor, your gift will be matched, dollar for dollar up to $10,000.

You know that when children have the right help, they can overcome even the biggest obstacle. Thank you for your partnership during this time in so many vulnerable children’s lives.

To give or renew your tax-deductible gift anytime, you can visit childsavers.org or call Amy Garmon at (804) 591.3913.

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT PLACE TO HOST YOUR EVENT?

The Overlook at ChildSavers

With sweeping views of downtown Richmond and a stunning lawn space, The Overlook at ChildSavers offers the perfect setting for your next outdoor event. Located in Richmond’s historic Church Hill neighborhood, we partner with a variety of vendors to help you create truly memorable moments.

A portion of your rental fee is tax-deductible and directly supports mental health and child development services. To start planning your next event, please contact Sarah Konigsburg at skonigsburg@childsavers.org or (804) 591.3944. Our 2018 calendar is filling up!