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ChildSavers

Press Release

Dinner Gives Guests a Chance to Fight Against Childhood Trauma

Local Nonprofit Hosts Benefit at The Overlook at ChildSavers

RICHMOND, VA, May 16, 2017:

- WHO:** ChildSavers
- WHERE:** 200 N. 22nd St.
Richmond, VA 23223
- WHAT:** An outdoor, sunset dinner paired with Barboursville Wine and prepared by Metzger Bar and Butchery and Rappahannock benefitting ChildSavers. Sponsored by CapTech and Williams Mullen.
- WHEN:** May 25, 2017 5:30 PM to Sunset. Tickets \$85

Few charity dinners can boast a sunset view of Richmond’s beautiful skyline. Supper at Sunset can for the third year in a row. However, while the backdrop for Supper at Sunset is sure to be beautiful, the purpose of the dinner is to combat an ugly reality in our city: childhood trauma.

According to the Richmond Police Department, between 2011 and 2015, there was a 1033% increase in homicide and an 825% increase in sexual assault in Richmond’s East End. Children live in these East End communities and are often witnesses to horrors reminiscent of warzones. “When children experience community violence or other trauma, it can have a major impact on their brain development and health.” Said Chief Executive Officer, L. Robert Bolling. ChildSavers is the only nonprofit that provides the community with 24/7 psychiatric first aid in the form of Immediate Response. “That means that within 30 minutes of a call to report a traumatic



event in our community involving a child, one of our therapists arrives to treat that child at the scenes of often-tragic circumstances.” Our therapists help them feel safe, he said.

“Trauma disrupts neurodevelopment, and impairs social, emotional, and cognitive development.” Said Director of Mental Health and Trauma and Resilience Education, John Richardson-Lauve. “There is a higher likelihood of chronic diseases like cancer and diabetes, mental illness, and the adoption of risky behavior for a child who experiences trauma and doesn’t get treatment she needs.”

The CDC and Kaiser Permanente discovered all this in a study called Adverse Childhood Experiences Study – or ACEs. ACEs was groundbreaking in that it revealed trauma experienced in childhood had lifelong impacts on physical and mental health. “A child who has experienced four or more traumatic experiences is 242% more likely to smoke, 222% more likely to become obese, 357% more likely to experience depression, and 555% more likely to develop alcoholism,” Said Richardson-Lauve. “ChildSavers is fighting the effects of ACEs on our community’s most vulnerable children, daily but we can’t do it alone.”



ChildSavers addresses the impact of trauma in several ways, with intervention in the form of outpatient mental health and with prevention services in the form of quality early child care. Both, according to Bolling, are needed to ensure that children get the only universal prescription for trauma – resilience.

“Every child who experiences something life-altering can be a story of hope.” Richardson-Lauve.

“Just because something terrible happened, doesn’t mean that that child will grow up to be a substance abuser or get cancer. Resilience is truly key, because one nurturing healthy relationship with just one adult can change the outcome for one child impacted by trauma.” That is why, Richardson-Lauve maintains, that it takes a village and that every adult a child encounters has the potential to provide them with something invaluable. “It could be a teacher, a coach, mentor, or a neighbor. A mother, grandparent, father, or foster parent. Helping children be resilient serves them throughout their life.” Richardson-Lauve went on to say that such relationships don’t just help children heal from past trauma but prepares them to cope and face future adversities as well.

“Events like this raise awareness about the need for trauma-informed care in our community,” Said Bolling. “We are grateful to our community, partners, board members, and sponsors CapTech and Williams and Mullen that supports ChildSavers through Supper at Sunset.” Joanna Bergeron, Principal, Chief Talent Officer at CapTech said, “CapTech is proud to sponsor the mission of ChildSavers though Supper at Sunset. Making sure our city’s children have the

services they need to be happy and able to learn is so important to the future of our community.”

Supper at Sunset tickets are \$85 a person and includes dinner and wine. The dinner itself will take place at the Overlook at ChildSavers and will feature 10 farm tables from Paisley and Jade with eclectic place settings from the Runaway Dish and flowers from Flower Make Scents. Last year, a sitting area complete with plush Victorian furniture and an oriental rug was a guest and chef favorite for lounging and photo ops. This year will be no different in providing the unique opportunity to pose against the back drop of the city on beautiful, antique furniture. A dream come true for any frequenter of Instagram.

ABOUT CHILDSAVERS

ChildSavers is a Central Virginia non-profit organization whose mission is to, “...guide our community’s children through life’s critical moments with trauma-informed mental health and child development services.” The core of their mission is a fundamental commitment to the mental well-being of children and the positive bond between adult and child. They support this with clinical treatment, education, and training services that offer reassurance, healing, and the skills necessary to achieve normal life and development.

ChildSavers was founded in 1924 by Martha Patteson Branch in memory of one of Richmond’s first pediatricians, Dr. McGuire Newton, to serve Virginia’s children during a worldwide flu epidemic. Early in their history ChildSavers mission turned to addressing the mental health and development needs of children throughout the region; especially those who have experienced trauma.

ChildSavers is a community-supported nonprofit governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. They are licensed by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services and accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Child and Family Services.

Their offices are located at 200 North 22nd Street in the Church Hill community of Richmond. To learn more about their programs and services visit www.childsavers.org or call (804) 644.9590.