

# CHAMPIONS of MENTORING

Recognizing and celebrating our longtime partners,  
biggest supporters and those who have helped us  
elevate mentoring and transform lives



**25** YEARS  
**MENTORING**  
**MENTORS**

# FOUNDERS

**Mr. S. Buford Scott, BB&T Scott & Stringfellow**

**Dr. Jennifer Smith-Slabough, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Education**

**Dr. Catherine Howard, Virginia Commonwealth University**



As a founder of many programs to assist children, Sidney Buford Scott knows how mentoring can change a life. To support the mentoring field, Scott contributed his time and capital to help found the Virginia Mentoring Partnership (VMP) in 1993. Following its inception, Scott led VMP as the chairman of the board for more than a decade.



Dr. Jennifer Smith-Slabough began her work with VMP when she was a graduate student at Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Education.

As the organization grew, so did Smith-Slabough's role. For 18 years, she served as VMP's executive director and the organization's public face. She developed most of the early partnerships with agencies that sustain VMP today. During her time as executive director, VMP trained about 27,400 volunteer mentors, and more than 3,000 mentoring staff attended training programs.

"When you do something to help a child, that lasts a lifetime. Now that is a really good investment."

S. Buford Scott

*Richmond Times Dispatch, Dec. 12, 2016*

# VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In the 1990s, Virginia faced a real crisis with youth involvement in drugs and violence. An official with the state criminal justice system convened a group of youth providers and individuals who have supported youth programs to address the problem. Mentoring was identified as a strategy to prevent youth from getting involved with these risk-taking behaviors. However, youth providers did not have the capacity to train potential mentors.

Dr. Catherine Howard with Virginia Commonwealth University, now vice provost of community engagement, left that meeting encouraged by the idea of creating an organization to support mentoring programs. As VMP formed, Howard worked to develop VMP's training curriculum and helped facilitate VMP's affiliation with VCU's Division of Community Engagement. Howard has served on VMP's board of directors for 25 years.



"While we have made progress in the mentoring field – we still have thousands of children who need mentors. We have many young people who do not have stable, positive adults in their lives to help them navigate the life situations they may encounter – in school and in the streets. There is still a critical role for VMP to play in providing trained mentors. VMP has set the standard for training, as well as helping programs achieve high quality through the assessment process."

Catherine Howard, Ph.D.  
Vice Provost for Community Engagement  
Virginia Commonwealth University



## VMP STAFF

“Working at VMP gave me a sense that changing the odds for young people - particularly those growing up in poverty - is possible.”

Rebekah Holbrook  
former Director of Programs



Staff members are the backbone of VMP, supporting the mentoring field throughout Virginia. Each day, they help to develop and enhance mentoring programs to address the areas of most need, interest and capacity. They help organizations achieve their missions through training, coaching, capacity building and placement of AmeriCorps VISTA members. They facilitate partnerships, conduct research, measure the impact of mentoring and advocate for additional investment in the mentoring field.

Over the past 25 years, many people have worked as part of VMP’s team. Each of them has contributed to the organization’s success and improved the lives of tens of thousands of children through mentoring.

## THANK YOU CURRENT AND FORMER VMP FULL-TIME STAFF:

- Elizabeth Bass\*
- Betsy Bilharz\*
- Bill Craig
- Miriam Davidow
- Natalie Foster\*
- Alyssa Georgelas
- Rose Marie Germanis
- Rick Golembeski
- Michelle Hawkins
- Rebekah Holbrook
- Corey Humphrey
- Kim Lammi
- Julie Pilip
- Vanessa Reyes\*
- Allyson Roberts
- Jennifer Smith-Slabaugh
- James Starnes

\* Current staff

“Mentoring makes a difference in the lives of our youth. We see the difference - anecdotally and statistically - in them, in their school environments and in their families. Both the mentor and the mentee benefit, as does society in general, as it brings folks to communities that they normally may not engage in otherwise.”

Miriam R. Davidow  
former Director of Strategic Services





## VMP BOARD MEMBERS

VMP's Board of Directors provides oversight, inspiration and connection to the Richmond community. Board members are the champions of VMP in the community, raising awareness of the organization's goals and achievements with influencers who can then join the effort to provide trained mentors to children in need. VMP's growth and improvements are thanks to its active directors over the past 25 years.

"Serving on the VMP Board of Directors for eight years taught me that a diverse group of motivated professionals can mobilize their networks and leverage valuable business expertise to support staff and maximize resources. It was so rewarding to come together through our shared passion. I believe in the power of mentoring, and I know how important an active and engaged board is to the success of an organization."

Hannah Huber, former VMP Board Chair



## THANK YOU TO CURRENT AND FORMER VMP BOARD MEMBERS:

- Jean Clary Bagley
- Nannette Bailey
- William Bales\*
- Randolph Beales
- Sean M. Beard
- David Botkins
- Yvonne Brandon
- Ron Carey
- Lorie Coker\*
- Rick Cornwell
- Donald Cowles
- Tammy Cummings
- Willie Dell
- Ivan Feldman
- Eric Finkbeiner
- Andy Foldenauer\*
- Chuck Glover
- Cheryl Gonzales
- Kerry Grey
- Kym Grinnage
- William Hardy
- Marilyn Harris
- Frank Hinckle\*
- Catherine Howard\*
- Hannah Huber
- David Israel
- Brent Jackson
- Kristen Jamison
- Windy Jennings
- Wallace Johnston
- Basil Jones
- Victoria Ward Jones
- Caryn Kauffman
- Ben Kelahan
- Walter Kenney
- Mark Kilduff
- James Kresge
- Benjamin Lambert
- Richard Leatherman
- Elizabeth Majewski\*
- Christian Markow
- Sarah C. Martin
- Maureen Matsen
- Lola McDowell
- Anita McGinty
- Diane Monaco
- Paul Nardo
- Heather Newman\*
- Amy Nisenson
- Britt Parrack
- Cynthia Price
- Richard Reynolds
- Ralph Sampson
- Cynthia Schmidt
- S. Buford Scott
- Marsha Shuler
- Morris Starks
- James Starnes
- Ashley Taylor
- H. B. (Tom) Thomson
- Tamara Thornton\*
- Mieko Manuel Timmons
- William Van Thunen\*
- Doug Westmoreland
- Jessica White\*
- Larry Wilder
- Teresita Williams
- Jeff Wilson\*
- Sally Witt
- Jaclyn Wood\*

\* Current board member





## VMP TRAINERS

VMP provides training to mentoring program coordinators, youth development professionals, mentors and mentees to strengthen programs and build relationships that can change lives. Research indicates that training is a critical step for a program to enhance the quality and sustainability of mentoring relationships.

"I've mentored young people and adults on every level since 1983. I support VMP because I believe in the mentoring concept as one of the most effective forces of change on the planet to help a young person achieve their full potential. If we want a future full of progress, innovation and positive change, we must teach, support and encourage our young people to absolutely, positively and truly believe that our future can be so! Being able to have a bigger impact through training others on how to transform the lives of our young people has truly been an honor and a privilege that I don't take lightly and will never forget!"

Dwayne A. Bennett, VMP Trainer and Author

### THANK YOU CURRENT AND FORMER TRAINERS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS:

- Dwayne Bennett
- Risha Berry
- Claudia Biegler
- Quita Collins
- Karen Cottrell
- Bill Craig
- Miriam Davidow
- Kim Dean-Anderson
- Rose Marie Germanis
- Clyde Glasser
- Carol Grisby
- Ashley Hession
- Ernest Johnson
- Fritz Knapp
- Laura Leporati
- Tiffany Patton
- Laura Pilati
- Zandra Rawlinson
- Erika Schmale
- Michelle Schmitt
- Marsha Shuler
- Tabatha Spurlock
- Lillian Taylor
- Chelsea Tegels
- Angela Weaver
- Shirley Wiley
- Ashley Williams
- Susan Williams
- Cheri Wolff



A partnership that grew from St. Paul's Episcopal Church to more than 125 faith communities in the Richmond area now makes a huge impact on 23 Richmond elementary schools. Located in Richmond Hill, the Micah Initiative sends more than 1,600 mentors, tutors and volunteers into Richmond schools to live out their individual faiths in action.



The Initiative's name comes from the Bible's Micah 6:8 – "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God?" However, the partnership is open to and represented by Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim faith communities.

The Micah Initiative is one of VMP's longest-standing partners. VMP has trained mentors and provided technical assistance for Micah since its inception. Today, the program serves as a model for other similar partnerships around the country.

## MICAH INITIATIVE





## CASEY ROGERS

Carver Promise Program Coordinator



“VMP allows our parents and students to feel comfortable with the level of readiness that mentors have when they come into our building. They know that mentors have been prepared by experts in the field to work with mentees. This allows us to confidently stand by the mentors who come into our school.”

Casey Rogers  
Carver Promise Program Coordinator

**T**hanks to the Carver Promise program, every first- through fifth-grade student at George Washington Carver Elementary School in Richmond has a mentor. Casey Rogers, the program coordinator, says that she has seen children go from hating to read to running down to the mentoring room to pick their next books, all because of the hard work of well-trained mentors.

As a VMP partner for more than 20 years, Rogers has utilized a variety of VMP’s services to maximize her program results, from completing a quality assurance program to hosting an AmeriCorps VISTA member. She relies on VMP as her primary training partner for mentors, which she believes prepares Carver Promise volunteers to make a lifelong impact on students.

**D**elegate Betsy Carr represents portions of the City of Richmond and Chesterfield County in the Virginia House of Delegates. A member of the House since 2009, she uses her position as a public figure to advocate for youth mentoring. As part of national mentoring month, Delegate Carr reads proclamations from the House floor that draw much needed attention to the power mentoring has to help at-risk youth and the impact VMP and its partners make in Richmond and throughout the Commonwealth.

Delegate Carr has also served as outreach director at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in downtown Richmond for 16 years. She is a founder and past director of the Micah Initiative.

"I've been delighted and privileged to work with VMP for more than fifteen years. VMP has done a remarkable service working to ensure that all youth in our Commonwealth in need of a mentor receive one. Having a mentor makes a tremendous difference in a life and can be uniquely transformative; such relationships change lives in a way nothing else can. VMP's advocacy and training have guaranteed that mentors in Virginia have access to best practices. A number of organizations with which I have been involved have been able to benefit from VMP's leadership over the years."

*Betsy B. Carr, Member  
Virginia House of Delegates, 69<sup>th</sup> District*

## DELEGATE BETSY CARR





## CLAUDIA BIEGLER

Richmond Jewish Coalition for Literacy

Did your elementary school have a Readers Cafe that offered an Oprah-style book club lead by mentors? Thanks to the Richmond Jewish Coalition for Literacy, quality programs like this are available to students in Swansboro Elementary School in Richmond and Laburnum Elementary School in Henrico. RJCL has been a leader in partnership development and collaboration. Mentors and volunteers nurture interest in others – “Each One Reach One.” Bringing potential volunteers to the school has helped to encourage long-term mentoring relationships, and has increased their ability to reach more youth.

Claudia Biegler helped found the coalition more than 20 years ago and partnered with VMP, which trained her to be a mentor and employed her to be a trainer. She has served on various VMP committees and won the outstanding mentoring award in 2009. Claudia’s dedication to children and to serving her community are exemplary.

“The future of VMP is exciting! They have been there for me. They are my mentors and role models in my personal adventure in mentoring great children!”

Claudia Biegler  
Richmond Jewish Coalition for Literacy

**R**ichmond Mayor Levar Stoney believes young people need positive role models now more than ever, and mentoring is one of the most valuable and effective ways to be an influential role model and benefit one's entire community.

"VMP's goals align with my administration's efforts to build One Richmond," Stoney said. "Providing our youth with meaningful mentorships, particularly among our low-income families, helps build opportunities where they are needed most."

In the months ahead, VMP will be partnering with the Mayor's Youth Academy, which was launched in 2010 to develop Richmond's future leaders and workforce through job readiness training, leadership development, exposure to entrepreneurship, mentoring and post-secondary career exploration.

"Congratulations to Virginia Mentoring Partnership on their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The impact VMP has had upon our young citizens and local communities is invaluable, and I sincerely thank the partnership for engaging Virginia's next generation in such a tangible and meaningful way year after year."

*Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney*

## **MAYOR LEVAR STONEY**





## JAMES E. UKROP

“Perhaps the most powerful influence to student success cannot be found in the curriculum; it derives from example and cheering them on. The influence of mentoring is unequaled, and we, as business professionals, have the ability to infuse vibrant aspirations in a new generation of our workforce.”

Jim Ukrop

Jim Ukrop has lead new initiatives in Richmond that have transformed our community. His support of numerous charitable causes, including VMP, show an unwavering dedication to improving the quality of life of those around him. His advocacy for mentoring in Richmond’s business community has expanded the number of mentors available to VMP partner organizations. Under Ukrop’s stewardship, the Chamber of Commerce and regional Business Councils ran an awareness campaign that lead to a 150% increase in the number of new volunteer inquiries received by VMP in a single month. His steadfast commitment to providing trained mentors to youth has made an immeasurable impact that will last beyond his lifetime.

# ALTRIA

Experts point to a variety of societal, environmental and personal factors that lead young people to engage in risky behaviors, including experimenting with tobacco products, alcohol or drugs. Mentoring and the power of caring adults is a proven way of supporting youth and reducing the likelihood of them engaging in these risky behaviors. Altria has been a longtime partner to Virginia Mentoring Partnership, supporting the role of caring adults in the lives of young people. Altria invests in evidence-based programs - both local nonprofit organizations and leading national programs - to support middle school students' academic achievement and healthy development in and out of the classroom.



# Altria



Through its affiliation with MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, VMP has received funding from Altria to support research-based curriculum and continuous improvement processes for youth-serving organizations to increase mentoring capacity. Altria's support helps VMP to provide middle school students with trained mentors and other resources they need to succeed academically and make good decisions. VMP was also fortunate to be a part of Altria's CreateAthon in 2017, a skills-based volunteer initiative that provided VMP with expertise to support its communication strategy.

"Mentoring is a critical investment in our youth that can spark their creativity, confidence and success."

Heather Newman  
President & CEO at Philip Morris USA  
VMP Board Member

# CAPITAL ONE



"We are grateful for the service VMP provides to ensure that mentoring programs are effective. We believe a stronger VMP makes for stronger communities and better mentoring across Virginia."

Amy Chapman  
Capital One Community Affairs

Capital One has worked with VMP in a variety of ways for over 12 years, providing support for the individuals and organizations VMP serves, but also helping to build VMP's capacity as a backbone organization. From helping develop internal mentor recruitment and training programs, to supporting associate mentors, to ancillary support for nonprofits that have mentoring programs, to board leadership, Capital One has had a varied and deep relationship with VMP.





## DOMINION ENERGY

**D**ominion Energy and its employees are strong partners with the educational community through mentoring initiatives and philanthropic support to help prepare students for tomorrow's workplace. VMP provides training to hundreds of volunteer mentors each year, including Dominion Energy employees who have benefited from VMP's mentorship programs over the past 25 years. Dominion Energy maintains a substantial and diverse commitment to high-quality education as a key driver of economic growth and community vitality. To help ensure a strong, successful education system, Dominion Energy provides financial support to VMP and other programs needed to develop society's most valuable natural resource, our youth.



**Dominion  
Energy®**

"As part of my volunteerism, I coordinate the youth mentoring program at Dominion Energy. Each year, we collaborate with VMP to provide one-on-one mentoring to about 40 students per week at a local middle school in the City of Richmond. This partnership with VMP, specifically the training and technical assistance consulting, has improved the effectiveness and impact of our community outreach program by ensuring that we are aligned with best practices and can support the needs of our mentors and their mentees. I am appreciative of the services and support VMP has provided us."

Frank Hinckle  
VMP Board Member and  
Dominion Energy Director  
Customer Account Management



## GENWORTH

Over the past five years, Genworth has awarded grants to enable VMP to continue its work to strengthen mentoring programs by encouraging programs to use research-based standards to drive effective and impactful results. VMP furthers Genworth's mentoring initiatives by ensuring that the mentoring programs where Genworth employees volunteer are effective programs that are going to positively impact the lives of young people and Genworth employees.



"Genworth understands the value and transformational power of mentoring relationships for both the mentee and the mentor."

Mollie Brooks  
Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist



## VIRGINIA CREDIT UNION

"Our organization is focused on helping people succeed and gain confidence. Mentoring makes sure the opportunity to succeed is extended to more young people in our community. It's very clear how important a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult is for young people to thrive. That's why Virginia Credit Union supports Virginia Mentoring Partnership and its programs throughout the state."

Glenn Birch  
Director of Public and Media Relations  
Virginia Credit Union



Virginia Credit Union provides monetary, in-kind and volunteer support to various organizations in its communities, and employee volunteerism contributes to the social and economic well-being of the communities where members live and work. A dedicated group of employees serve as mentors to students at Elkhardt-Thompson Middle School in Richmond. In the past, employees volunteered as lunch buddies at Chalkley Elementary School in Chesterfield County. VMP conducts training for Virginia Credit Union staff who choose to serve as mentors.

# OWENS & MINOR



The needs of children and their education is one of the philanthropic focuses of Owens & Minor. Employees devote thousands of hours raising funds and volunteering with community groups. A hallmark program is the Lunch Buddies program, which provides economically challenged children with the opportunity to gain a mentor and a friend in an Owens & Minor teammate. For the past 11 years, an average of 28 Owens & Minor teammates have been matched with students in the third grade at Fairfield Court Elementary School. They stay with their match until the student completes fifth grade. Lunch Buddies mentors typically visit their pals' school to have lunch with them. Once a year, the children visit the Owens & Minor Home Office to see where their buddies work and spend time with them.

"I love volunteering as a Lunch Buddies mentor because I had a mentor growing up, and it is very important to have words of encouragement and support. I see the impact that mentoring has on the kids and on the teammates because it gives them the ability to build a relationship. It is beneficial to have the consistency with the students due to our visits, but it also helps the teammate balance their workday and gives them an opportunity to let their hair down."

Tamara Thornton  
Senior Accounting Analyst and  
Lunch Buddies Program Coordinator

Communities in Schools Founder Bill Milliken has long believed that, “programs do not change children, relationships do.” That is why mentoring is one of the essential programs in the CIS model, which positions site coordinators inside high-poverty schools in Richmond and eastern Henrico to bring community resources to students and families. In the 2016 school year, 4,361 trained volunteers shared time with elementary, middle and high school students through CIS, leading to positive, measurable progress in attendance, behavior and course completion. The organization’s work with students to meet their basic needs, provide qualified mentors and address mental health or academic needs effectively reduces dropout rates for students in high-poverty schools in the Richmond area.



“CIS of Richmond facilitates mentoring relationships across 39 different school sites. Each of these sites operate a little differently, and we look to VMP to understand what the gold standard of mentoring should look like so that we can ensure that those practices are upheld across a range of environments.”

Courtney Winters  
Development Manager at CIS-R

## COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF RICHMOND





## QUALITY PARTNERS

Evidence shows that quality mentoring practices are a determining factor in achieving positive youth outcomes. Through the National Quality Mentoring System (NQMS), Virginia Mentoring Partnership supports programs in implementing a continuous quality improvement process to improve program practices over time. By participating in NQMS, programs may better understand their current strengths and weaknesses, identify practices they'd like to improve and demonstrate their commitment to quality outcomes for youth.

Team Up Mentoring Program, a part of The Up Center in Hampton Roads, was awarded the top designation of a "National Quality Mentoring Program" by VMP and MENTOR's evaluation body. The certification lends credibility to individual programs to attract resources and support.

"The process of becoming a quality partner helped improve our program by standardizing our forms, keeping us abreast of the latest research, updating our training and helping us to make the best possible matches for our youth."

Mary Midyette, Team Up Program Supervisor at The Up Center

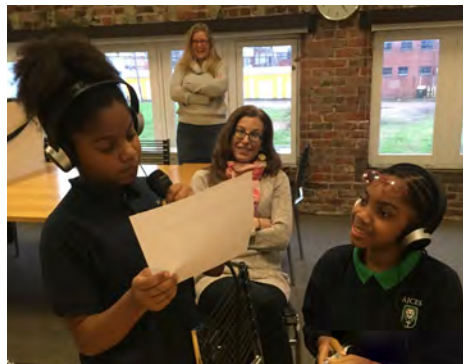
Make Space pairs 12 sixth grade girls—all of whom attend Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School—with 12 women for a year of mentorship and art-making. VisArts launched the program in the fall of 2008, and since then, it has affected the lives of almost 200 women and girls.

“Our organization went through the quality-based membership process to become a partner member a few years ago. This process was transformative for our program and our organization in such a positive way. Make Space continues to thrive and improve each year thanks in big part to the support we have received from VMP.”

Jordan Brown  
Director of Education  
Visual Arts Center of Richmond

## QUALITY PARTNERS

- AMP! Metro Richmond
- BEST Kids, Inc.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters - Greater Richmond, Tri-Cities, Hampton Roads and Greater Virginia Peninsula
- Carver Promise
- Communities in Schools of Chesterfield
- Computers4Kids
- Henrico HEROES: Power of One
- Henrico HEROES: Revealing Inner Character and Hope (RICH)
- Make Space: Visual Arts Center of Richmond
- Peter Paul Development Center
- SOHO: Space of Her Own
- Team Up Mentoring





## VISTA HOST SITES

AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. With a focus on the organizational systems that directly impact the quality of youth mentoring relationships, the VMP VISTA Mentoring Program infuses human capital resources into select start-up or existing mentoring programs throughout Virginia to support and/or develop organizational capacity, resiliency and to drive improved outcomes. VISTA Host Sites are granted an AmeriCorps VISTA member for a year at a time to assist in either building or maintaining a new program or project. Since 2012, this program has partnered with 32 Host Sites, placed 92 VISTA members and recruited and trained more than 2,500 new mentoring matches.

The Peter Paul Development Center, which supports the high-poverty communities around the Church Hill area of Richmond's East End to educate its students, has been selected to host a VISTA member for the past four years. The results of the extra staff are striking. Mentor matches more than tripled in a single school year, and VMP-trained mentor coordinators improved the quality of the matches, sustaining the duration of those relationships. The VISTA members also helped the Center launch a new community-based program.

"VMP's tremendous support of our VISTAs has made our job much easier. Our VISTAs have been able to move quickly to the work of recruiting, training and supporting our mentoring relationships, thanks to the efforts of VMP's wonderful staff."

Rosemary Jones, Director of Volunteer Services, Peter Paul Development Center



Through the VISTA program, Space of Her Own in Alexandria, Va. increased capacity by developing a mentor recruitment strategy, policies and procedures, curricula and evaluation. SOHO serves vulnerable girls through mentoring during carpentry, visual arts and other hands-on projects. SOHO has partnered with VMP since its inception and has used VMP services to help build a thriving organization.

“SOHO likely would no longer exist had it not been for the tremendous amount of support and resources provided by VMP to help enhance and sustain our programs. THANK YOU VMP!”

Linda Odell, SOHO Executive Director



## VISTA HOST SITES

- Alexandria Mentoring Partnership
- Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Northwest Virginia
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central  
Blue Ridge
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater  
Richmond, Tri-Cities, Hampton Roads  
and Greater Virginia Peninsula
- Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries
- City of Manassas
- Computers4Kids
- Excel to Excellence, TEAM EXCEL
- Fairfax Department of Family Services,  
BeFriend-A-Child
- Goodwill Industries of the Valley
- Great Expectations Germanna  
Community College
- Great Expectations Piedmont  
Community College
- Great Expectations Reynolds  
Community College
- Great Expectations Tidewater  
Community College
- Henrico County Public Schools,  
Henrico Heroes
- Higher Achievement
- MentorPrize
- Norfolk Public Schools
- Partnership for the Future
- Peter Paul Development Center
- Petersburg Public Schools,  
Petersburg PROMISE
- Powhatan County Public Schools
- Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club
- Space of Her Own
- Staunton Mentoring Alliance
- St. Joseph's Villa
- STORY, ML2 After School Program
- The Up Center, Team Up Mentoring
- University of Richmond
- Virginia Beach Public Schools, Virginia  
Beach READS
- Virginia Commonwealth University,  
Division of Community Engagement
- Virginia Mentoring Partnership
- Virginia State University
- Wytheville Community College,  
Talent Search
- Youth Life Foundation

# CLAUDE MOORE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



“Dr. Moore was defined by his belief that education is the key, and that everyone deserved the opportunity to get a quality education. The trustees strive to fulfill his wishes by concentrating a large portion of the grant budget on educational organizations in and around the place he called his home.”

K. Lynn Tadlock  
Deputy Executive Director of Giving  
*Loudon Times-Mirror, April 3, 2018*

The Claude Moore Charitable Foundation was founded in 1987 to enhance educational opportunities for young people in the Commonwealth of Virginia and elsewhere. It instigates programs and partnerships that help the talented and underprivileged of our society to increase academic competence and encourage leadership abilities through literacy and advanced academic pursuits.

The Foundation has supported VMP since 2004 with more than \$1 million in funding as part of its focus to elevate the quality and capacity of youth mentoring programs throughout Virginia. Its generous support of mentoring programs affects the future achievements of young people by providing role models that teach the skills needed to succeed.

# MENTOR: THE NATIONAL MENTORING PARTNERSHIP



“For 25 years, the Virginia Mentoring Partnership has been a champion, servant leader and resource hub for building meaningful youth mentoring relationships in communities across the State. We are so proud and grateful to be striving together toward a shared mission of connecting people, breaking down otherness, and expanding the mentoring movement arm-in-arm with them.”

David Shapiro, CEO of MENTOR



**M**ENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership is the unifying champion for expanding the quality and quantity of youth mentoring relationships in the U.S. MENTOR’s mission is to close the mentoring gap and ensure our nation’s young people have the support they need through quality mentoring relationships to thrive at home, school, and ultimately, work. MENTOR develops and delivers resources to mentoring programs nationwide and helps elevate the mentoring field with a unified public voice.

With Buford Scott as one of the original local visionaries to take the lead in building a local mentoring movement, VMP has been an integral part of the MENTOR family from the beginning and was one of the first five Affiliates in MENTOR’s nationwide network. MENTOR has supported VMP for its entire 25 years, providing VMP with the latest research, program tools, trainings and awareness building.

At the time of VMP’s inception, there were an estimated 300,000 at-risk youth in structured mentoring relationships across the nation. Today, research shows that number has swelled to 4.5 million mentoring partnerships in large part due to the advocacy, research and support of MENTOR and its Affiliates.



## UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND BONNER CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Many students at the University of Richmond seek volunteer opportunities that allow them to connect with youth in metro Richmond. The University's Bonner Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) prepares students for lives of purpose and connects students, faculty, staff and community stakeholders in social change efforts that value the knowledge and potential in our communities.

For more than 10 years, the CCE has partnered with VMP to train UR students in effective mentoring practices. The CCE hosted one of VMP's first Mentoring VISTAs, expanding the CCE's capacity to provide Mentoring 101 training to more UR students, as well as on-going learning opportunities for students mentoring through a variety of area organizations. Today, more and more of the CCE's mentoring partners have expanded capacities to incorporate VMP's training into their own orientations for all new mentors.

"Building a meaningful connection with someone who believes in your potential can be such an impactful thing. For college student mentors, they are often mentoring at the same time they are being mentored, offering powerful lessons for both sets of relationships. For some student-mentors, the experiences are directly related to future careers; for others, the experiences provide additional insights regarding larger systemic challenges; for all, mentoring demonstrates the power of personal connections."

Kim Dean-Anderson, Associate Director, Community Relationships and UR Downtown,  
University of Richmond Bonner Center for Civic Engagement

# UNITED WAY OF GREATER RICHMOND & PETERSBURG



“United Way encourages VMP to continue the good work of empowering mentors by providing them - and the agencies through which they connect with youth - with the tools to maximize the quality of their interaction.”

James Taylor, President and CEO  
United Way of Greater Richmond and  
Petersburg

How are United Way and VMP similar? Both organizations share the goal of helping communities maximize the quality of programs so that investments of time, treasure and talents have the greatest impact possible.

United Way seeks to empower individuals and address systemic issues so that everyone has a path to success. A relationship with a caring adult can have a substantially positive impact on the development of children and youth. United Way’s partnership with VMP to provide the community with qualified, trained mentors is an important way to help address systemic problems facing at-risk children and youth.



VMP gratefully acknowledges Padilla for sponsoring this 25th Anniversary Champions of Mentoring book.