



The school year is ending but the service isn't!

Executive Director's Farewell

Dear YVCmembers and supporters,

It has been a pure joy for me to watch Youth Volunteer Corps of Hampton Roads (YVCHR) develop over the past eight years. We've come a long way since 2009 when our office was in my house, and we had 93 volunteers and two YVC Clubs. My vision was for youth from different backgrounds to come together and discover the joy in serving others, gain empathy for people in need and make new friends. That dream came to life! Now, in 2017, we have over 1,400 volunteers, 13 YVC Clubs, and our youth have contributed more than 42,000 hours of service.

Throughout this journey, I've been very blessed as God has placed many people in my path to help guide and build YVCHR. From the beginning, YVC Headquarters was there to support us and share their expertise. Leaders from local schools districts took a chance on YVC and teachers, along with school counselors, gave their valuable time to host YVC Clubs. Parents came to the rescue and lent a hand wherever needed. Students from Christopher Newport University and AmeriCorps members served as Team Leaders and Program Directors and became an important part of our YVCHR family. Board members shared much of their time and talents to help us grow. Agency partners worked with us to help plan and provide meaningful service opportunities for youth. Our Tuff Enuf Team of volunteers spent months planning our big event. Generous donors invested in YVCHR and enabled us to thrive. Directors of local nonprofits shared their expertise and gave guidance along the way. Last, but certainly not least, our youth volunteers gave us their vision of how they wanted to make a difference in our community. They have inspired me with their generosity, ingenuity, strong work ethic, humor, humility, and kindness. I have been delighted to watch them grow beyond high school and continue to lead lives of service to others.

As this school year ends and YVCHR prepares for summer camps, I'm happy to announce that Katie Morgan will be YVCHR's next Executive Director. Ms. Morgan comes to us with an abundance of experience and a passion for the mission and vision of YVCHR. She

has been a YVC Club sponsor since 2010 and has amazed me with her ability to motivate students and find meaningful opportunities for her students to serve. I'm sure Katie will be missed at Dozier Middle School where she has worked as a school counselor and was recognized district-wide as "Teacher of the Year" for Newport News Public Schools in 2016. I look forward to seeing all of the great things she will do with Youth Volunteer Corps of Hampton Roads!

The decision to step down from YVCHR to better serve my family was not an easy one. However, I take much consolation knowing that I will continue to be involved with Youth Volunteer Corps by serving on the national YVC Board of Directors and I hope to be able to help YVC expand on the east coast. From the bottom of my heart, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped me along the way. I was able to fulfill a dream, and I will forever be grateful to you all.

With much gratitude,

Laurie A. Sepanski

Volunteer of the Month

Meet our "Volunteer of the Month" Jacob Pegram! Jacob has just started volunteering with Youth Volunteer Corps Hampton Roads this year but has surely stood out amongst his peers! He currently attends Bethel High School and is active in the National Honor Society, ROTC, Scholastic Bowl and plays soccer for both the school team and a travel team! In his spare time Jacob enjoys playing even more soccer, hanging out with friends and going to Water Country. Following high school he'd like to attend college (fingers crossed for Duke University) and study engineering.



Throughout his time with YVC Jacob shared that his favorite project has been Top Soccer, a program for those with special needs, he said "I enjoy playing soccer and I love seeing the excited faces on the kids when I am working with them", we're glad that Jacob found a project he is passionate about that he continued to go throughout the rest of the season even when YVC representatives weren't there! Jacob told us that what interested him in YVC was his desire to help the community and he's found that being a part of this program has also allowed him to meet new people along the way. Jacob also shared that "volunteering is not just to get hours for school, but it makes a difference in our community". Congratulations Jacob, thank you for your dedication to service and our community!

May Wrap-up



Last month our volunteers were certainly busy working in the community even with the school winding down and all of their testing going on! Some of the projects volunteers served at last month included Relay for Life, the Noland Trail, the World Arts Celebration and the Chick-Fil-A race! We also had some volunteers, Paula-Ann and Nina Robertson who spent some of their spare time crocheting mats out of plastic bags for the homeless! And to end the month our youth volunteers served at Special Olympics Bowling on the last day of the season, this is always a great project and our volunteers are looking forward to helping again next year! Great work YVC members!

Summer of Service is almost here!

Thank you to everyone who has registered for our Summer of Service Camp! Our three sessions have filled up fast and we are excited to get started! If you have registered for a session and have been receiving emails concerning camp but haven't yet sent in your YVCHR registration and waiver forms (different from camp registration) please do so as soon as possible as these are needed before you can start camp! If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at kmulvaney@yvchr.hrcxmail.com or (631)346-7045!

Congratulations!

To all of our YVC volunteers graduating this year, thank you for all the time and commitment that you have dedicated to YVC! You have been a part of a great impact here in our Hampton Roads community and we hope that you'll carry your love and passion for serving others alongside you as you enter this new chapter in your life. Congratulations and best of luck!

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