



YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES

On behalf of YES, we hope you are remaining safe during this uncertain time.

2020 Highmark Walk



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is with a heavy heart that we announce the Annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community will be a virtual walk this year.

Brandon Burns, Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community Director, announced the following: "With the recent updates by the CDC in regards to mass gatherings; we have made the decision to **modify** all seven of the 2020 Highmark Walks for a Healthy Community to an **online only fundraiser & virtual walk** for this year's campaign.

This contingency plan ensures that our participating organizations are still able to fundraise, a vital component of this event via our online system; while not putting our participants at risk of further spread of the COVID-19 virus in a mass gathering situation."

YES is still working hard to gather donations to support our organization. We are hopeful that with the support of our partners and stakeholders we can still reach our \$3,000 fundraising goal.

Please visit [YES' Highmark Walk Homepage](#) to learn more about joining our team and donating to our cause. All support is greatly appreciated!

Learn and Earn

Learn & Earn applications are in full swing. YES is working endlessly to ensure that all students are eligible for a summer work experience. If you know any youth between the ages of 14-21 who are looking for a summer employment opportunity, please consider [applying for Learn & Earn](#).

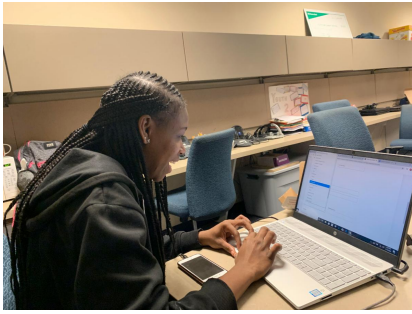
Worksite Opportunities

YES is seeking new work experiences for our high school youth. Learn and Earn is a 6-week summer employment program for youth between the ages of 14-21 who work 25 hours per week. If you have capacity for a summer intern, please do not hesitate to reach out to Denise and see how you can fit into YES' summer structure.

Denise Jones, Program Director
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YES Students Take on College



Since October 2019, YES has worked vigorously with 20 high school seniors to apply for and navigate post-secondary educational opportunities. It has been no small feat, but rather an exciting task of helping young people envision themselves with a seat at the table. As of now, all 20 YES seniors have been admitted into dynamic collegiate and vocational programs. The list extends far beyond 50 institutions, but some are highlighted here: University of Virginia, Xavier, Purdue, Allegheny College, Pennsylvania State University,

Lafayette, Temple, Howard, Villanova, Virginia Tech, Louisiana State University, and many more. In addition to these prestigious acceptances, students have received nearly 2 million dollars in scholarships and grants.

As we support our young people in applying, attending, and ultimately graduating from college, we operate from the ethos that they are worthy and valuable, irrespective of their life experiences. Many of our youth have confronted turmoil, challenges, and setbacks that *should have* discounted and discredited them. However, through our college and career preparation program, we disregard the “detractions” and instead build students up, help them reclaim and tell their complete stories, and market themselves as assets.

For more information on our college and career preparation program or to learn about our students’ successes, [click here](#).

From YES to Success: Makalia Holston Smith

At YES, we consider it a privilege and an honor when our current youth refer their peers and closest friends to our non-profit. It shows that they trust you, but most importantly, it demonstrates the value they see in what you offer; because of this, they want their friends to benefit from that “good thing,” too. The same was true for Makalia. Makalia got connected to YES because of a friend who felt she needed support navigating post-secondary opportunities. Makalia was described as a high-achieving honors student who was extremely brilliant and multi-talented but merely selling herself short. From the sounds of it, Makalia was exactly the student YES hopes to guide: a student peppered with promise and purpose but not quite sure of all they possess and carry. It was beyond a blessing that she connected with YES, and an even sweeter opportunity to see all the amazing things Makalia is accomplishing.



Makalia has a bold and courageous personality and is limitless in her pursuits. A co-founder of a non-profit organization and a leader of various student groups, Makalia applied to 25 colleges with the hopes of matriculating to a place where she can continue her environmental justice commitment. Makalia has been accepted into nearly all her schools and has received competitive financial aid packages. With full scholarships to Virginia Tech, Lafayette, and Xavier, and waitlisted options at CMU, NYU, and Lehigh, Makalia is destined for greatness and prepared to attend a prestigious institution.

To read more about Makalia, [click here](#).

PAP Workshops

Pathways to Access continues to support students in their work readiness programming.

Participants were given the opportunity to learn about the importance of good credit and dressing for the workplace through two different workshops: Credit 101 and Dress for Success.

Liz Mims, Area Director of Dress for Success, taught students how to properly dress for and navigate the workplace and informed students about the importance of personal branding. During their Credit 101 session, Saloam Bey of Credit Power LLC gave students insight into why credit is so important and how to obtain good credit. Participants were able to walk away from each session feeling empowered and filled with new information for their future employment.



YES Research Efforts

YES remains active in pursuing scholarly endeavors. Check out our latest research publication regarding our summer employment model featured in the [Afterschool Matters Journal](#).

Thank you for your continued support!

Visit our Website

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