



YOUTH AMBASSADOR SQUAD

YAS MISSION: To empower young people transitioning into adulthood by building their leadership skills and confidence to advocate for themselves, their peers, and their communities.

The Youth Ambassador Squad supports young people (ages 15-21) while they transition into adulthood, in an effort to keep them free from incarceration. This program specifically addresses the needs of young people who have navigated the justice system.

Our structure promotes healthy youth/adult relationships, leadership cultivation, youth development, and support for their most personal needs. YAS members are part-time employees of Performing Statistics to build career and job experience. Due to capacity, this is a referral-based program.

We believe that work with any young person or young adult should use holistic and healing-centered approaches. We offer an array of workshops and activities that support a successful adult transition for all our young people.

Workshops

Policy 101; Financial Literacy; Conflict Resolution; Grooming & Hygiene Etiquette; Goal Setting & Vision Board Making; Public Speaking; Managing Emotions; How to be Resourceful & Independent; Leadership Training

Field Trips & Travel

In addition to workshops and employment obligations, we coordinate free, fun, and educational group field trips as an incentive to encourage team building and trust within youth/adult partnerships.

As part of the Performing Statistics national tour, YAS members travel with staff to connect with other young people across the country that have similar stories and act as peer mentors in youth-centered spaces. YAS members support programming, presentations, networking, installations and occasionally represent the project to media outlets.



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REENTRY SUPPORT SERVICES

Our reentry support services provide reliable resources for returning young people to access the tools they need to stay free from incarceration.

Based on the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's *Model Programs Guide* (2017), our support services focus on four priority areas.

1. **Housing**
2. **Mental health and substance abuse**
3. **Employment and job training**
4. **Family engagement**

Our youth reentry program addresses the lack of useful reentry support for young people in the City of Richmond. We curate a vetted resource guide and provide staff support for a number of services:

- Resume building
- Computer access
- Job search
- Budgeting tools
- Community service
- Grooming support, free haircuts or hairstyles
- Bus tickets
- Resource packet - food, clothes, shelter, health, etc.

We also provide support for court-mandated fulfillments such as community service, probation and parole, and diversion. Our support services are referral-based due to limited staff capacity.

If you are interested in referring a young person or accessing services, call 804-554-3527 or email:

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