



# Church Hill Activities & Tutoring

Opening Homes, Transforming Lives, Rebuilding Communities



Rising Up and Into the Church Hill Academy!

Interns and Street Leader get oriented at the YWAM Ropes Course

## Swinging Into The New School Year

Church Hill Academy is gearing up for a brand-new school year beginning September 8th! We ask that you would continue to keep us in your prayers as we enter this crucial episode in the life of our school. We will begin this September with several marked changes in our school's dynamic. For one, we will begin this year with Gina Maio, the Academy's new Head of School. In addition, Church Hill Academy hopes to enroll 18-25 students this fall, a clear jump in our student population. Shante (pictured above) is one of many new students joining the Academy this year. We also have five year-long interns serving as teachers at the Academy this year.

Please pray that our staff and students would focus on the "big picture" of our school, and not be carried away by the vagaries of school life. Pray also for Brandon Clark, a student of ours who underwent hip fusion surgery on September 3rd. He will be absent from school for at least two months and he will need all the encouragement and support he can get.

Jack Bell - Assistant Principal

### Coming This Fall

- September 8<sup>th</sup> - Academy classes and Tutoring begins
- October 15<sup>th</sup> - Welcome Back Dinner for Academy parents and students
- The Year Long Internship has begun! Five recent college graduates are living and working with CHAT over the next year and will be teaching and mentoring our students.
- A third home will open this fall for tutoring. In addition sewing, dance, art, and outdoor adventure classes are being added to the Wednesday afternoon life skills electives.
- The Street Leader program, providing training and leadership opportunities for middle and high school youth will be offered as a year round program.

### Meet the CHA Head of School

Church Hill Academy welcomes the addition of **Gina Maio** as **Head of School**. Gina recently graduated from Union Theological Seminary with her Masters in Divinity and worked for eleven years in Fairfax County Public Schools. Gina and her husband Matt (who volunteers at CHAT's woodworking shop) reside in the City of Richmond in the near west end.

**Favorite Movie:** The Sound of Music, which I like to watch at least once a year

**What are you doing when not working at the Academy?:** I am thinking about various house improvement projects for my husband Matt and driving my 9 and 13 year old kids around town.

**What are your hopes and prayers for the Academy:** My hopes include finishing the accreditation requirements through the StreetSchool Network, provide more support for the teachers, and expand our enrollment to reach more students.



# CHAT Summer Day Camp



CHAT hosted a end of the summer banquet to recognize all the hard work of the summer interns and Street Leaders

C! H! A! T! CHAT! CHAT! CHAT! That is the sound of 50 vibrant youth cheering at the start of a typical day at CHAT Summer Day Camp. This year's camp, the first in CHAT's history, gave 50 youth from the Church Hill neighborhood the opportunity to take part in: supervised sports and recreation, daily snack, skits and group games, Bible instruction and story time, lunch, swimming, hip-hop dance, outdoor education and, of course, our famous field trips to King's Dominion, VA Beach, and SB2Dub camp. The children in CHAT were able to participate in all these activities because of the commitment and effort of our 12 summer interns. Our summer

interns worked 6 days per week, often 10 hours or more per day, in order to serve the community of Church Hill and the ministry of CHAT – thank you interns! Not only did these summer interns run all these programs, but they also mentored 10 youth from CHAT, known as our street leaders. Several of these street leaders were able to hold jobs as assistants to the summer interns in the day camp, helping provide leadership for the younger children. Other street leaders were able to create businesses through which they were able to learn valuable life skills as well as earn money. Congratulations to these street leaders who worked hard and grew into new leadership status within CHAT. It is our goal that these youth will eventually return as summer interns and lead the next generation of street leaders. What a blessing to witness them take another step in that direction!



## Re'ah:

Hebrew word for "friend." Youth who exhibited kindness, cooperation, and humility were given the Re'ah Award at the Day Camp closing ceremony.

## Special Thanks To:

- **Leigh Street Baptist Church** for opening up their church to host the Day Camp
- **Blue Sky Fund** for leading a weekly outdoor education program for youth at the Day Camp
- **Robinson Theatre** for inviting our youth to participate in the dance classes at their facility
- **Shalom Farms** for giving the CHAT youth hands-on experiences at their farm
- **SM4K** for providing daily lunches for all youth at the Day Camp
- A service team from **Stony Point Presbyterian Church** who served at the Day Camp and renovated the Lighthouse, specifically tiling the kitchen floor!
- For **New Hanover Pres and Rebecca Deroco** who served and led programs at the Day Camp
- **Altria Community Fund** for awarding CHAT with \$13.7k in grant money to expand the Little Tykes tutoring program over

## Ways to Get Involved

- ➔ Interested in taking a Mission's trip to Richmond...Contact Adam Burgess at [adam.burgess@chatrichmond.org](mailto:adam.burgess@chatrichmond.org).
- ➔ Interested in volunteering your time as a tutor...Contact Murray Withrow at [murray.withrow@chatrichmond.org](mailto:murray.withrow@chatrichmond.org)
- ➔ Interesting in sponsoring a student at the Academy or After-School Program...Make checks payable to CHAT or donate online at [www.chatrichmond.org](http://www.chatrichmond.org)



WWW.CHATRICHMOND.ORG

601 North 31st Street Richmond, VA 23223

info@chatrichmond.org (804) 236-4964

