

MAY 2020



PODIUM

RICHMOND'S WRITING AND COMMUNICATION
NON-PROFIT FOR YOUTH



TRANSITIONING TO A VIRTUAL WORLD

BY VICKI YEROIAN

Welcome to Podium RVA's 1st tri-annual newsletter, helping you keep in touch with Podium programs, events, publications, and more!

Podium's winter (Jan - March) in-person programs served 141 youth across eight different after-school and youth community center programs, including new pilot programs at Henrico HS, YMCA STAR at Quioccasin MS, and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Richmond's Teen Center.

Now, Podium hosts weekly virtual programs to continue the critical writing development, healthy communication support, and connection to peers that youth need and crave. You can check out these virtual programs on our new website, launching on May 28th. Join us at www.podiumrva.org Thank you for reading our first newsletter, and enjoy!

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PODIUM IS HOSTING VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH!

BY AERIN MILLS

The heart of Podium has always been our hands-on approach. We've always believed that education thrives inside the classroom. But recently, we've had to make some adjustments.

With schools closed and stay-at-home orders in place, Podium launched virtual programs and workshops for youth on April 15. Since then, every Monday and Wednesday, Podium hosts two sessions for youth ages 10 - 13, two sessions for youth ages 14 - 19, and every Thursday, an Open Mic available for all ages! Our hands-on approach is now completely hands-free.



It has been wild, and there was a considerable learning curve, but our amazing site lead Chelsea Jackson has been making these sessions possible for just over a month. Podium has served over 28 youth virtually in the greater Richmond area so far. Big shout out to Chelsea!

Alongside these programs, we post weekly writing prompts for Podium family and friends to complete at home. On Fridays we highlight a submission or two from the week's prompt on our social media! Starting May 21, Podium is launching a new, Facebook Live Stream reading of Podium youth publications every Thursday at 12pm. Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and join us weekly!



We hope that the Podium family is able to help enrich yours during this tremendously difficult time. We are always inspired and proud of our youth for showing us that while the setting may change, the need remains. Podium wants to also give a special shout out to all of our amazing supporters for helping make this all possible.

[Register for virtual programs here!](#)



GIVING TUESDAY WAS THIS MONTH!

BY JONI ALBRECHT

Thank you who to those who helped us raise over \$6000 in one day – May 5, #GivingTuesdayNow –through individual donations and a generous challenge grant that matched those gifts dollar for dollar.

The ideals of #GivingTuesdayNow – that we can cure scarcity through generosity, isolation through connection and expression – are embedded in Podium’s mission and vision.

Our writing programs, now operating online, continue to offer an essential safe space for students to connect, express, and be heard.

As our students’ lives have been turned upside down, we are providing a trusted outlet to help them process what they are experiencing, a space to express the struggles they face and the ways they are helping within their own families and communities.

No matter how long this unprecedented time may last, we will deliver writing care packages, help distribute lunches, and connect with students who want to learn, express and grow. When doors close, we will open channels, avenues and outlets for creativity and communication, and opportunities to plan and prepare for the future.

Let us know how you are connecting and giving within your community. Thank you for your generosity to Podium. Together we will heal. Together we have hope.

"We can cure scarcity through generosity."

P.S. There is still time to make a donation and have it matched dollar for dollar. Our challenge grant has been extended until June 30!

