



VOICES FOR CHANGE Call for Entries

Voices, in partnership with the Virginia Poverty Law Center, FACES for Virginia's Families and ART 180, is hosting "[VOICES FOR CHANGE](#)," an art-writing-photography initiative designed to engage foster youth and carry their VOICES to Virginia policymakers.

Foster youth ages 12 through 21 are invited submit an original essay, poem, painting, drawing, or photograph that shares their experiences in foster care and ideas for change. The submission deadline is August 15th. Cash prizes will be given to the top three entries in each category: writing, art, and photography!

If you know any foster youth, foster parents or foster care professionals, please share this information with them! A complete brochure and entry form is available on [Voices website](#).

This summer, foster youth will have the opportunity to participate in a one-day workshop with local writers, artists, and photographers designed to build the youths' confidence and encourage participation. Attendance at a workshop is NOT necessary to enter the contest, but free art supplies will be distributed to youth who attend. The workshops run from 9 am until 4:30 pm on the following dates:

DATE	LOCALITY	LOCATION
July 8	Salem	Roanoke College
July 25	Big Stone Gap	Trinity United Methodist Church
July 30	Richmond	Mary and Frances Youth Center, VCU
July 31	Harrisonburg	Rockingham Memorial Hospital
August 1	Alexandria	Northern Virginia Community College
August 7	Lexington	R.E. Lee Episcopal Church
August 8	Norfolk	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

Registration for the workshops is required and limited! Interested youth who are in foster care or were recently adopted should register today by contacting Laura Shepherd at laura@vakids.org or 804-649-0184 x23.

We are grateful to our Honorary Steering Committee comprised of civic and government leaders who are helping to plan and implement VOICES FOR CHANGE. The following is a list of the Honorary Steering Committee members:

Anne Holton, First Lady of Virginia, Steering Committee Chairwoman
Adriana Trigiani, Best-selling Author of the Big Stone Gap trilogy
The Hon. William H. Fralin, Jr., Virginia House of Delegates
The Hon. Phillip A. Hamilton, Virginia House of Delegates
The Hon. Janet D. Howell, Senate of Virginia
The Hon. Terry G. Kilgore, Virginia House of Delegates
The Hon. William C. Mims, Chief Deputy Attorney General
The Hon. Patricia S. Ticer, Senate of Virginia
The Hon. Jeion A. Ward, Virginia House of Delegates
Stacy Hawkins Adams, Author, Speaker and Freelance Journalist
Ralph F. Boyd, Jr., Chairman and CEO, Freddie Mac Foundation
Robin Foster, MD, Director of Pediatric Emergency Services, VCU Health Systems
George H. Hettrick, Esq., Hunton and Williams
Iris E. Holliday, Senior External Affairs Manager, Dominion
Jo Kennedy, President and CEO, Visual Arts Center of Richmond
Kyle Leftwich Banning, Esq., Marks and Harrison
Lisa Mathey, President, FACES of Virginia Families
Samantha Wheeler Marrs, Assistant Vice President and Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, Virginia Commonwealth University
Patty Nicholas, Community Volunteer
John Oakey, Esq., McGuireWoods
Renette Oklewicz, Senior Manager, Freddie Mac Foundation
Pamela J. Royal, MD, President, Royal Dermatology and Aesthetic Skin Care, Inc.
Ann Rust, Virginia Commission for the Arts and the Arts Council of Fairfax County
Rob Ukrop, Motivational Speaker and Soccer Coach

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Voices for Virginia's Children

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