



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **FRIENDS Association for Children Welcomes New Executive Director**

RICHMOND, VA, Oct. 16th, 2012 – The FRIENDS Association For Children, a non-profit childcare and family agency that has served the Richmond, Va., community since 1871, is pleased to announce that David Young has joined the organization as its new Executive Director. Young has worked in various leadership roles for non-profits for most of his career, most recently at the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness and the American Heart Association. Prior to that, he worked as a Senior Development Officer at the United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg.

“David’s vast experience and leadership in the non-profit industry will help all aspects of our organization, from overseeing our programs to fund development,” said FRIENDS board chairman Jim Duty. “He’s the right person to help us to continue and grow our mission of helping even more children and families achieve their potential and become productive citizens.”

FRIENDS currently serves more than 1,000 children ages six weeks to 12 years and their families each year, primarily low-to-moderate income working families, in two centers – the Friends Family Center in North Jackson Ward and the Robert L. Taylor Child Care Center located in Church Hill. The organization’s broad services help children gain the critical literacy and developmental skills they need to succeed in school and in life, as well as a broader understanding of their community and the world around them. In addition, the association provides support programs that enhance the learning environment, including the organization’s heralded music and performing arts program that offers children, youth and adults creative learning opportunities and its health education that teaches preschool children and parents the value and importance of good nutrition, physical activity and health and wellness practices.

“FRIENDS is a model agency with an incredible track record of transforming at-risk children into successful students and leaders,” said David Young. “One of my immediate goals is to further increase awareness and community support for the organization so we can change more lives and make our communities stronger.”

Young is preceded by Cherry Peters, who served as Executive Director for the past two years and will be retiring following a period of transition working closely with Young. Peters will continue to be associated with FRIENDS as a key volunteer in its fundraising efforts.

“I’ve known David Young for eight years and his leadership and experience will really help raise FRIENDS’ profile substantially at a time when so many children and families need and deserve the critical services we provide,” said Peters. “I am really looking forward to working with him during his transition and supporting his remarkable passion and commitment to the families we serve.”

**###**

**1. Bio & headshot**



J. David Young

Mr. Young brings over 30 years of non-profit experience to his new role with FRIENDS. The former Columbus, Ohio native has held various leadership positions related to supporting and advocating for better opportunities for underserved populations. He brings to Friends extensive development and program management experience. As the Campaign Director for United Way in Richmond, Virginia and Columbus, Ohio, he was responsible for over 50 million dollars in combined revenue. Prior to relocating to Richmond, Mr. Young served as Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Ohio. He has worked with a variety of other community organizations including Franklin County Offender Assistance Program, Richmond Public Schools and the American Heart Association. He attended Ohio State University, and completed his education at Kent State University in Child Psychology and Communications. In his spare time, Mr. Young is an accomplished tennis player and led his adult men's team to the USTA National Championships.



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## **FACT SHEET**

### **ORGANIZATION**

FRIENDS Association for Children was founded in 1871 as the FRIENDS Asylum for Colored Orphans. It has changed, adapted and evolved over 141 years with one central purpose: to serve Richmond-area children and families.

### **MISSION**

The mission of FRIENDS Association for Children is to help children and families in metropolitan Richmond area achieve their potential and become productive citizens.

### **PEOPLE SERVED**

The Association serves over 1,000 children and adults annually, primarily low to moderate income working families.

### **FACILITIES**

Two centers, Friends Family Center and Robert L. Taylor Child Care Center, are conveniently located in central Richmond and Church Hill.

### **PROGRAMS**

Three core programs help family members improve literacy, develop positive personal, social and self development skills and gain a broader understanding of themselves, their community and the world in which they live.

Developmental Childcare – a curriculum-based, early education and school readiness service for infants, toddlers and preschool children;

School-Age and Youth Development – after school and summer programs, which help children and youth, ages six-to-18, to thrive and achieve; and

Family Development Program – a coordinated child, youth and adult service, which assists children, youth and their families better develop their capacity and skills to achieve in school, at work and in their homes.

Two support programs address additional needs in the community and enhance the learning environment.

Music and Performing Arts – offers children, youth and adults creative learning opportunities

Health Education – teaches preschool children and parents the value and importance of good nutrition, physical activity, and health and wellness practices.

## **GOVERNANCE**

Volunteer Board of Trustees, representing business, public sector, education and civic communities.

## **ORGANIZATION**

40 full- and part-time staff members

Over 200 dedicated volunteers

205 licensed child care seats serving ages 6 weeks through 12 years

United Way Partner Agency for 85 years

Annual budget approx. \$2.5 million

No government funding



[www.friendsassn.org](http://www.friendsassn.org)

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## **FRIENDS Association for Children Plans Two Events**

**Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

FRIENDS Association for Children will hold their **Annual Meeting** on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 6:30 PM, in the conference facilities at Owens and Minor Corporate Headquarters, located at 9120 Lockwood Boulevard, Mechanicsville, VA.

The Annual Meeting will be a celebration of the completion of FRIENDS Association's 142<sup>nd</sup> year of serving children and their families in the Greater Richmond area.

The Board of Trustees' Class of 2015 will be installed by Lynn Pharr, President and CEO of United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg.

Since 1974, FRIENDS has been giving the Milton L. Randolph, Sr., Award. The Award bears the name of an individual who served as president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and chairman of the finance, personnel and agency service study committees during his 38 years of service on the Board. Mr. Randolph was a faithful and guiding trustee, and his inspiration and leadership continue to inspire the work of this organization. The award is given annually to an individual or organization, recognizing extraordinary volunteer service to the agency.

This year the award will be presented to Capital One, for their tremendous support of, and commitment to, FRIENDS Association for Children.

The Annual Meeting also presents an opportunity for FRIENDS Association for Children to introduce their new Executive Director, J. David Young, to the agency's friends and supporters. More information about Mr. Young is available in this packet. He joined FRIENDS on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

FRIENDS Association for Children will be having a celebration at the FRIENDS Family Center, 1004 St. John Street, at 11:00 AM on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be honoring our long-time executive director, John C. Purnell, Jr., by naming the education program the John C. Purnell, Jr., Child Development Center.

More details about that event will be released the first week of November.