

For Immediate Release

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RRHA Hosts 6th Annual 'Open House in the Village' Scholarship Event Honoring 19 Graduating Seniors

Richmond, VA – June 2025 — The Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) proudly announces its 6th Annual "Open House in the Village" Scholarship Banquet, a signature event that celebrates and uplifts the educational achievements of public housing and voucher community youth. The event takes place Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 6p at the Virginia Union University's Claude G. Perkins Living and Learning Center, 1813 – 1899 Bath Street, Richmond VA 23220.

This year marks a significant milestone, as 22 high school graduates — the largest group ever recognized by the program — will be honored as they prepare to take their next steps toward higher education and career training.

Set to take place this summer, the banquet will spotlight these outstanding students as they transition into four-year colleges, universities, and technical or trade schools, representing the next generation of leaders, innovators, and change-makers. This event underscores RRHA's mission to support and empower its residents by providing real opportunities for advancement through education.

"Educational achievement is one of the most powerful tools we have to break the cycle of poverty," said RRHA CEO Steven Nesmith, who himself was raised in public housing. "This event is about more than celebration — it's about transformation, support, and investing in the futures of our young people."

Each honored student will receive essential items for college success to help kickstart their college journey, made possible through the generosity of RRHA's sponsors and community partners. RRHA extends heartfelt gratitude to all program sponsors and supporters. Their contributions help ensure that these first-time college students and technical trainees begin their life journeys with the tools, resources, and confidence they need to succeed.

Among the 22 students, 16 have earned acceptance into four-year colleges and universities to further their education. Two of them have received scholarships from the Virginia Association of Housing Community Development Officials (VAHCDO). Six students are preparing to commence career training programs. This event is just one example of RRHA's

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commitment to foster educational excellence and career readiness among the youth in our communities.

The following are the RRHA graduating seniors, college-bound students and career bound students and the RRHA communities that they represent:

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| 1. Ti'Shaun Smith Bates (Mosby) | 12. Ky'dree Holloway (Creighton) |
| 2. Jamonte Baker (Mosby) | 13. Davonte Hines |
| 3. Karmishia Braxton (Gilpin) | 14. Ayana McLaurin (Mosby) |
| 4. Trevion Brown (Hillside) | 15. Jadon Morris (Fairfield) |
| 5. Yahkirah Bertrand (Mosby) | 16. Bill Perry, Jr. (HCVP Community) |
| 6. Heaven Cary (Fairfield) | 17. Bless Powell (Whitcomb) |
| 7. Joi Claud (Whitcomb) | 18. Datwon Roberts (Gilpin) |
| 8. Leon Davis, III (Fairfield)* | 19. Dale Robinson, Jr. (Mosby) |
| 9. Shyne Farrior (Gilpin)* | 20. Caleb Smith (Whitcomb) |
| 10. Aries Franklin (Gilpin) | 21. Janisha Wilkins (Gilpin) |
| 11. Alana Hamilton (Whitcomb) | 22. Coreyon Winston (Mosby) |

Those interested in learning more and contributing a tax - deductible donation toward RRHA's scholarship program for these students can contribute online at rrha.com.

* VAHCDO scholarship winner

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