



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Dec. 10, 2013

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VFHY Awards Y Street Grants to 22 Youth Organizations *Grants will train teen volunteers across Virginia to promote healthy lifestyles*

RICHMOND- The [Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth \(VFHY\)](#) has awarded \$44,000 in grants to 22 youth organizations across Virginia to start or support chapters of VFHY's award-winning [Y Street](#) teen volunteer group, which promotes healthy, tobacco-free lifestyles for Virginia's young people.

Y Street was named the top youth advocacy group for tobacco-use prevention in the nation in 2011 by the Washington, D.C.-based Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. One of VFHY's multiple marketing strategies, Y Street is a statewide association of high school youth advocates who work to create positive social change through projects designed to educate community members about the benefits of healthy, active living and the detrimental effects of tobacco use.

VFHY's Y Street teen volunteers have been invited to testify before the FDA and have worked on tobacco-use prevention issues with top government officials, including the U.S. Surgeon General, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Virginia's governor and Virginia's attorney general. Since 2004, more than 6,000 teens statewide have participated in Y Street.

Y Street grants are awarded to local student organizations in Virginia for encouraging teens to become a part of Y Street and to support its mission. By the end of December, each mini-grant recipient will host a Y Street training event in their community, training at least 25 teens and one adult coordinator to become a working Y Street chapter. In 2012 Y Street added 869 new teen members, who collectively completed nearly 1,000 projects and volunteered more than 2,000 hours.

The recipients of the 2013-14 Y Street grants are:

- Bassett High School CHILL (Martinsville)
- Blacksburg High School DECA (Blacksburg)
- Brentsville District High School FLBA (Nokesville)
- Charlottesville High School DECA (Charlottesville)
- Clover Hill High School DECA (Midlothian)
- Colonial Forge High School FCCLA (Stafford)

- Danville Parks & Rec (Danville)
- Franklin County High School FCCLA (Rocky Mount)
- Harrisonburg High School DECA (Harrisonburg)
- James Madison High School FCCLA (Vienna)
- Kempsville High School Men of Valor (Virginia Beach)
- Manchester High School DECA (Midlothian)
- Ocean Lakes High School FCCLA (Virginia Beach)
- Oscar Smith High School DECA (Chesapeake)
- Park View High School FBLA (Sterling)
- Parry McCluer High School Interact Club (Buena Vista)
- Phoebus High School DECA (Hampton)
- Poquoson High School DECA (Poquoson)
- Powhatan High School FCCLA (Powhatan)
- Skyline High School FCCLA (Front Royal)
- Tabb High School DECA (Yorktown)
- William Fleming High School DECA (Roanoke)

More information about applying for Y Street mini-grants can be found at YStreet.org.

About the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth:

Established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1999, the **Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth** is responsible for statewide efforts to prevent and reduce youth tobacco use and childhood obesity. Since the Foundation began its work in 2001, high school smoking in Virginia has been cut more than in half and the number of middle school smokers has dropped by more than 70 percent!

The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth directly reaches about 50,000 children each year through classroom-based prevention programs in public schools, after-school programs, community centers, daycares and prevention programs across the state. VFHY's award-winning marketing campaign delivers prevention messages to more than 500,000 children annually through TV and radio ads and online.

For more information, visit www.vfhy.org.

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