



The OLA Review

OLA Family Services

Volume I, Issue I

OLA Home for Boys and OLA Intervention Services for Youth and Families

Special points of interest:

- Realizing our Potential
- OLA Testimonials
- Prevent Gang Involvement
- Early childhood education.
- New Services offered

OLA Intervention Services for Youth and Families now offers additional services to meet the needs of families:

- Therapeutic Day Treatment
- Mental Health Support Services

Realizing our Potential

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There’s nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to manifest the glory of God that is within us. It’s not just in some of us; it’s in everyone. And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we’re liberated from our own

fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

(A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of “A Course in Miracles” , Marianne Williamson, Harper Collins, 1992. From Chapter 7, Section 3)



What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. Lansky Author, Single Parent

Potential is:

- The capacity that you were endowed with by your creator
- Everything you were born to become, do and accomplish
- All you can be but have not yet become
- All you can do but have not yet done
- How far you can reach but have not yet reached
- What you can accomplish but have not yet accomplished

Reach for yours!

OLA Testimonials

OLA Home for Boys:

- 50% of clients attend main stream schools; 50% were on the honor roll for the last grading period
- 31% of clients attend vocational school
- 15% of clients attend higher education facilities
- A client passed the GED test and enrolled in college
- A client completed Virginia Technical School for Hair and Technology

OLA Intervention Services:

- 20% of clients graduated from IHH
- Effectively stabilized all out of home placements receiving Therapeutic In Home Counseling
- Steady progress on client goals and objectives

OLA Family Services

P. O. Box 2074
Mechanicsville VA, 23116

Intervention Services:

Phone: 804-789-1956
Fax: 804-789-1986

Group Homes

Phone: 804-343-5153
Fax: 804-716-9632

Contact the GRIP resource center at 804-646-7867 for more information on gang reduction and intervention.

Gang Prevention and Intervention

The word gang can refer to many different types of youth groups—some in existence very briefly, others enduring for decades. Gang memberships can be complex, with some youths joining early in their lives and remaining well beyond adolescence, and others merely “visiting” for one or more short periods. Gangs are known to have negative implications on most of its’ members. It is critical to prevent and suppress gang activity whenever possible.

Warning signs that a child may be involved with a gang:

- Shows an unusual interest in one or two particular colors of clothing or a particular logo
- Has an unusual interest in gangster-influence music, videos, movies, or websites
- Uses unusual hand signals to communicate with friends
- Has specific drawings or gang symbols on school books, clothes, or walls, or displays tattoos
- Comes home with unexplained physical injuries (fighting-related, bruises)
- Has unexplained cash or goods, such as clothing or jewelry

To Prevent Gang Involvement Caregivers should:

- Spend quality time with child
- Talk with child about the dangers and consequences of gang involvement
- Encourage child to participate in positive after school activities with adult supervision
- Help child develop good conflict resolution skills
- Teach child how to cope with peer pressure
- Be a positive role model and set the right example
- Get involved with child’s school activities and know the child’s friends and their families

www.olafamilyservices.com



OLA’s Therapeutic Day Treatment program is available to children in preschool enrichment and early intervention programs. Please call 804-789-1956 if you know of someone who could benefit from our services.

Early Childhood Education

New science showcased in Newsweek says children begin learning at birth. Their emotional, social, and cognitive development starts from the moment they enter the world. All children are born learning. Together, we shape their learning. **A child’s day-to-day experiences affect the structural and functional development of his or her brain, including intelligence and personality.**

The quality of young children’s environment and social experience has a decisive, long-lasting impact on their ability to learn.

Research shows that when adults interact with young children—talking, singing, and play-

ing rhyming games—they stimulate language and vocabulary development and build important foundations for learning to read. **Every person who touches a child’s life—directly or indirectly—can enhance that child’s early learning.**

Too many children aren’t getting enough quality early learning experiences:

- Kindergarten teachers estimate that 1 in 3 children enter the classroom unprepared to meet the challenges of kindergarten.
- Some 46% of kindergarteners come to school at risk for failure.

- Almost 1 out of 4 third graders failed the English SOL in Richmond.

What’s needed?

We need quality programs and services; In some cases we need more of them. In other cases, like child care, we have enough programs, but we need to improve their quality to really give children the full benefit. We also need to expand early childhood mental health services, and the identification of developmental/physical delays. Finally, **we need people like you to help parents understand the importance of early childhood education.** Thanks in advance for enhancing a child’s early learning.