



IMPACT REPORT

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR KIDS

RICHMOND

2018

Message from the Executive Director



Dear BBK Family and Friends,

Building Blocks for Kids (BBK) was launched over 10 years ago by community, government and resident partners to bring awareness to the need for coordinated services and policy ideas that would transform the lives of children living in the Iron Triangle neighborhood of Richmond. While our organizational structure has changed over the last decade, our vision remains the same: A Richmond where families have what they need so that all children may realize their dreams and their full potential.

BBK remains committed to the “family-centered” approach because we believe that when we invest in our families strengths, youth can flourish. In 2018, Building Blocks for Kids was very proud to achieve success for Richmond families in three areas: [Health & Wellness](#), [Digitech](#) and [Community Engagement & Advocacy](#). We connected with residents through our summer camps, coding classes, women’s sanctuary meetings and parenting classes, voter outreach, and parent power workshops.

I am very excited about 2019 because BBK will finalize a strategic plan that guides our work for the next 3-5 years. Now more than ever is the time to ensure that all families have access to opportunities that will allow children to dream big and make those dreams a reality.

In partnership,

Sheryl Lane

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheryl Lane', written over a light grey background.



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BBK works to co-create and sustain supportive systems for Richmond families. We believe that providing effective supportive services, investing in individual transformation and building collective power serves thriving families, which yields long-lasting community change.

In 2018, Building Blocks for Kids - Richmond achieved successes for Richmond families in three areas: **Health & Wellness, **Digitech**, and **Community Engagement and Advocacy**.**



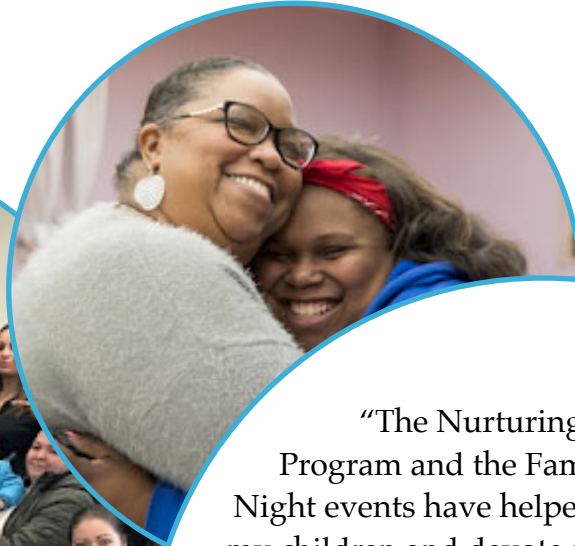
- **Elevate Youth Brilliance.** Our free weekly after-school STEM and computer science class and Minecraft summer camp helped engage Richmond youth in activities that are both fun and educational.
- **Get out the Vote.** We spoke to voters in our community ahead of the June Primary and November General elections, and got firsthand insight from Richmond voters about what is needed most to help our youth.



- **Expand Wellness and Self-Care.** We expanded our Black Women and Latina peer support groups and our Nurturing Parenting Groups to increase opportunities for healing, camaraderie and thriving during the ups and downs of raising children and grandchildren.
- **Create Fun and Educational Summer Experiences.** More than 3,600 free lunches were distributed to youth under 18. Hundreds of parents, caregivers, and children participated in weekly playgroups, accessed free produce and food, learned Caopieria, interacted with animals, created art, and obtained skills to boost summer learning.



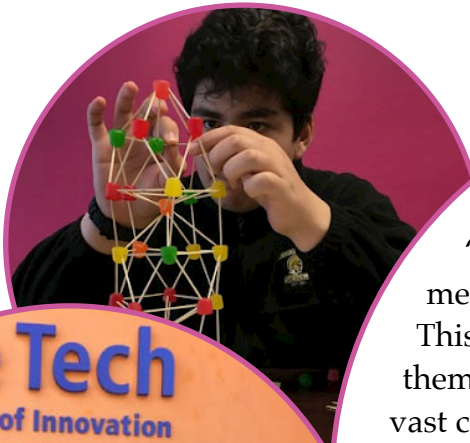
- We served more than 600 program participants with 64 parents successfully completing our 22 week Nurturing Parenting classes.
- During the summer, our program distributed an average of 90 free lunches per program day to children in our community.



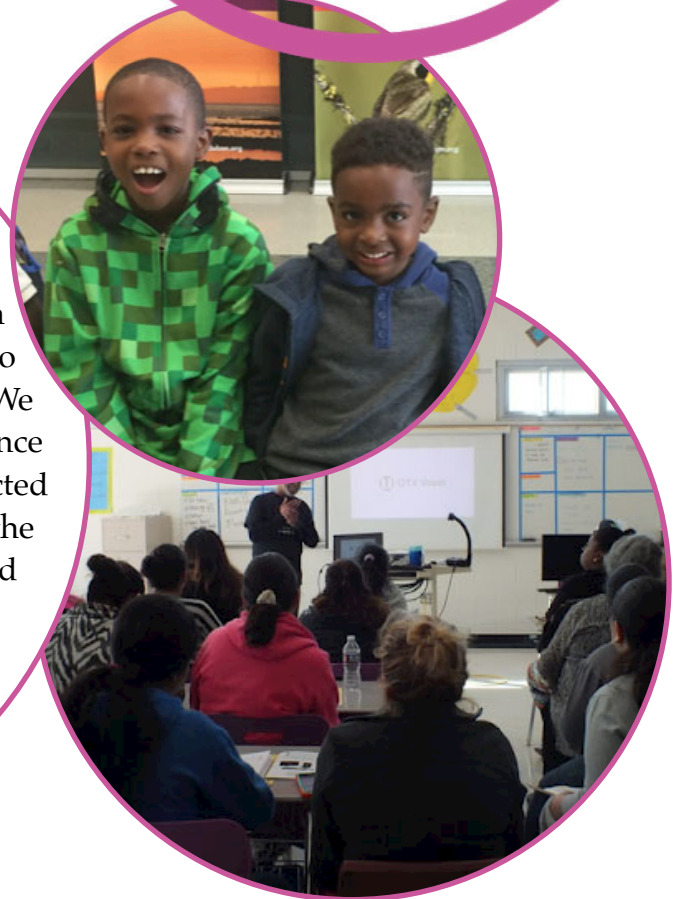
“The Nurturing Parenting Program and the Family Engagement Night events have helped me be closer with my children and devote more quality time to myself and them. I really value what I have learned in class. I now take the time to take care of myself and do things to make me feel relaxed, like go to the movies for example. I feel very excited and motivated to continue to learn. As a result of taking the Nurturing Parenting program, I signed up for English classes at Berkeley Adult School.”
- Rihana Idris



- More than **50** Richmond youth ages **9 to 15** participated in BBK's **22**-week Coding and STEM Club where they learned computer coding and STEM concepts.
- Our **3rd** annual Summer Minecraft Camp was a great success, with more than **25** youth participating regularly.
- We are currently excited to host our **1st** Coding and STEM Club at Lincoln Elementary School, where **20** students will master STEM and Computer Science concepts.



“Today Noah and Jordan are begging me to go back to Summer Minecraft camp. This amazing experience has lit a fire within them to dream big and it has exposed them to vast careers that are available in Technology. We have continued our learning with Minecraft since the summer- both boys have used their Connected Camps Minecraft subscription. In September the Boys attended the San Jose Tech Museum and the Silicon Valley Black Chamber of Commerce Tech A-thon event.”
 - Anisha Johnson





COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
&
ADVOCACY

- BBK spoke to nearly **1,600** voters ahead of the June Primary and November General Elections. In a survey among participants, resident overwhelmingly chose mental health services as the most pressing need of Richmond youth. This feedback will inform our work in 2019.
- We also hosted **17** parent workshops on **10** different topics that enabled parents to engage in their children's education, by giving them information and tools to interact with school staff and administrators, enhance learning at home, and advocate for the rights of their children.



"The workshops helped me and the others know our rights when asking for help for our children. BBK let me know what type of programs my son was entitled to, and the workshop leaders explained what to ask for. He now receives homework help, extra time and assistance on tests, and other in-class supports. Before the workshops, I didn't know how the school operates or my son's rights. When I learned my rights and knew what to demand, I got respect, and they listened to me."

- Fayza Ayyad



Sheryl E. Lane - Executive Director
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Bay Area PLAN
 Care Parent Network
 Chavez Elementary
 Child Abuse Prevention Council
 City of Richmond
 CoCo Kids
 Connected Camps
 Contra Costa Health Services Dept.
 East Bay Regional Park District
 Fresh Approach
 Healthy Richmond
 Jacinto
 Lincoln Elementary
 Monterey Pines Apartments
 Public Advocates
 Public Health Solutions Interns
 Native American Health Center
 Richmond Public Library
 Richmond Museum of History
 Tandem
 Tech Exchange (OTX)
 The Watershed Project
 West Coast Chess Alliance
 West Contra Costa Unified School District
 White Pony Express
 YES Nature to Neighborhoods



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