

YMCA BRIGHT BEGINNINGS



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA of Greater Richmond
804.474.4322
ymcarichmond.org/brightbeginnings

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

2015

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Y makes strengthening our communities our cause. We strongly believe that children who have the necessities they need to succeed can focus on learning rather than worrying about having shoes to wear on the playground and crayons to color their assignments. By pairing a child with a caring adult volunteer “shopping buddy,” children also learn that our community cares about them and wants them to succeed. YMCA Bright Beginnings makes for confident and prepared kids on the first day of school and contributing and engaged adults tomorrow.

Here’s How it Works

Before school starts, the Y invites eligible children to participate through one of thirteen branch locations. Children meet at the Y on their assigned shopping date. Y staff takes them to a local Target® or JCPenney® where they are paired with a volunteer shopping buddy. Together the child and shopping buddy shop; share a meal and, if time allows, read a story, play a game or color together. Backpacks filled with grade-appropriate school supplies are provided for each child. At the end of the trip, each pair of shoppers gets a souvenir photo to remind them of their special time together and the shopping buddies escort the children back to the bus and say goodbye.

Make a Donation

There is no cost to the child’s family to participate. We count on the generosity of individuals, organizations and corporations. This August, we are committed to outfitting local students with new back-to-school clothes and school supplies. We invite you to join us and take an active role in giving back and supporting our neighbors.

Volunteer

There are countless ways you can serve as a volunteer for Bright Beginnings. By simply giving your time and talent, you can help nurture the potential of our youth. No job is too small for you to make an amazing impact on a child’s life.

Become a Backpack Buddy

Each child who shops with YMCA Bright Beginnings receives a backpack filled with grade-appropriate school supplies. Your business or organization can partner with a specific YMCA branch and fill backpacks according to our school systems’ supply lists for children in grades K-2 or 3-5.

Please contact YMCA Director of Volunteer Engagement Katie Gholson at 804.474.4322 to discuss how you can give back and support our youngest neighbors.

