

# A Sense of Values



Newsletter of the Values Institute of America

No. 10 Spring 2008

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*More than 30 members are expected to complete the ViA curriculum during the summer at two sites in Southwest Va.*

## Richmond Youth Gain Insights Into Values

More than 60 youngsters at five Boys & Girls Clubs in the Richmond area recently completed ten Values in Alignment™ classes that gave them insights into importance of embracing positive values.

These young people were

guided through games and exercises by the first group of staff members certified to teach the Values in Alignment (ViA) curriculum.

Brian Regrut, the Institute's ViA Project Director visited several classes and after one at

the Hopewell Club said: "I was surprised to see how engaged the youngsters were in the discussion of goal setting.

"Not only did the 14 boys and girls talk about their futures and create personal goal

**Continued on page 3**

## Values in Alignment Training & Implementation set for Boys & Girls Clubs in Southwest Virginia

The staff of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia are gearing up for ViA orientation and Values-Centered Leadership Training.

The May orientation class will be immediately followed by training of program staff to teach the ViA curriculum. Two staff members from each of two clubs, Shawsville and Forest Park (Roanoke) will be trained along with a Values in Alignment Coordinator for the entire organization.

Once trained, the instructors will begin conducting the 10-session ViA program in both locations.

More than 30 members are expected to complete the curriculum during the summer at the two sites. Additional classes and locations will be added in the fall.

For the first time, the Life Styles Inventory, a key compo-



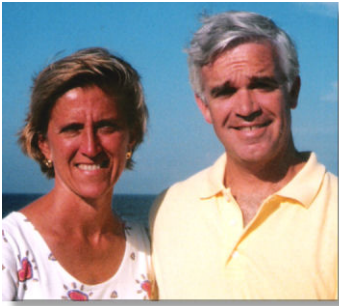
Boys & Girls Clubs of Shawsville (above) and Forest Park (below) will be the first in SW VA to utilize the Values in Alignment curriculum.



nent of the leadership training, will be conducted online. Executive Director Becci Emanuelson and her key staff members will receive the LSI Stylus,

an individual development report critical to understanding how thinking styles and values work together to help develop exceptional leaders.

## Newest Board Member Sarah Williams Champions Values Training for Youth



### Family Time Down Under

In her role as Team Mom for the William & Mary Women's Lacrosse Team, Sarah Williams accompanied Dolly and her teammates to Australia in January with Terrell along for an Aussie Vacation.

When Sarah Williams isn't driving off to serve as "Team Mom" for William & Mary's women's lacrosse team, or fixing dinner for her family, or attending a board meeting or helping out at church, she serves as a Managing Director at the investment firm of Cary Street Partners.

To say she keeps a busy schedule is to say that azaleas bloom in spring. And like the azaleas, her presence brightens her surroundings.

The Values Institute is one of the beneficiaries of Sarah's talents, energy and insight. Here she heads up the board's Development Committee, taking over from Mary Jane Hogue who, along with Jim Doherty, have helped the Institute meet and exceed its ambitious fundraising goals.

### I deeply care about values

"I am really pleased that I am in a position to accept this responsibility because I deeply care about values and the work of this organization to teach these values to young people," she said.

"The importance of what we're about came home to me at the Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year Awards dinner here in Richmond," said Sarah.

"We were sitting at a table with one of the youngsters who had completed the Values in Alignment curriculum. At the mention of Values in Alignment, the youngster, the staff member who had conducted the classes and the parents of the child all praised the

program and related how what was taught was having a positive impact on the youngsters at the Club."

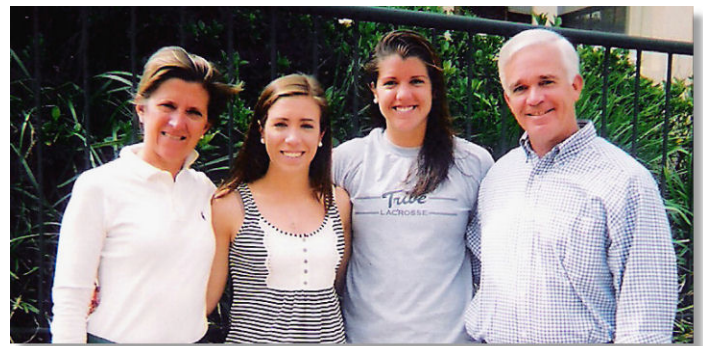
### Everyone needs them

Sarah knows that it's not just the inner-city, at-risk kids that need values guidance.

"I grew up on a healthy diet of positive values in rural Halifax County," she said. "I got my character education at

But it was something that happened to her girls that made Sarah stop and think about the importance of having those values reinforced outside the home.

"They started coming home from school talking about values. I wasn't expecting that from teenagers, so I spoke to the headmaster of their school to find out what was going



Sarah with daughters, Bane and Dolly and husband, Terrell.

home, in church and in my community. Today that's not happening nearly as much as it should be. Many important values like achievement, responsibility, respect and integrity were ingrained from an early age, and as I've grown I can see more clearly how these values guided all of the important choices in my life."

One of those choices was to marry VMI graduate Terrell Williams who entered the marriage steeped in the values of his family and his educational institution.

"It was a given that we wouldn't cheat, lie or steal, so, when our daughters came along," she added, "Terrell and I made sure they were taught these values as well."

on," she said. "It was so refreshing to hear someone doing so much more than giving lip service to an institution's core values."

### Strong values yield better choices

As Sarah explained, "Kids these days are exposed to so many negative influences, that to the extent that we can encourage them to hold onto positive values, they will be better off and so will their communities and our society."

Sarah lives what she teaches, which is why she is a valuable addition to the Values Institute Board. She exemplifies what the Values Institute tries to instill in the youth-serving men and women with whom they work.

*"Many important values like achievement, responsibility, respect and integrity were ingrained from an early age..."*

## Thanks to all for supporting the Values Institute

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*To make a gift, send checks payable to:*

*The Values Institute of America  
6802 Paragon Place, Suite 300  
Richmond, VA 23230-1655.*

## ViA helps Richmond Youth Gain Insights Into Values

Continued from front page

ladders, they wanted to continue the discussion of how they could improve their chances of success in life after the hour ended.”

“It was 6:00 p.m. so I expected to see these kids bolt for the gym or run to meet their parents as soon as the class was over,” he said, “but they wanted to stay and talk about what achievement

looked like and how they could overcome some of the challenges they faced at home and in school.”

One teenager talked about his goal of becoming an architect and spoke with Brian for 30 minutes about his dream.

“As a result of our conversation, the young man got his mother, the class instructor, to take him to the ‘Never Built’

architectural exhibit at the Library of Virginia, and a tour of the renovated Capitol.”

Talking later about his club visits, Brian said, “Every time I listen to these boys and girls talk about what they’re learning in the values classes, and I hear from staff how the learning is translating into better behavior and better choices, my spirit soars.”

He added, “For some of these children, the staff at the Boys & Girls Clubs are surrogate parents. The youngsters look to the adults for guidance on how to live.

To the extent that the staff members embrace the Core Values and live them out in the clubs, they are making a huge impact on the children and the communities they serve.”

## Board of Directors

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The Values Institute of America

Phone: 804-744-8400

Fax: 804-201-9322

email: [bregrut@valuesinstitute.org](mailto:bregrut@valuesinstitute.org)

[WWW.VALUESINSTITUTE.ORG](http://WWW.VALUESINSTITUTE.ORG)

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## Thought Stimulator

Created by one of the founders of the Values Institute, The Value Minute® daily feature, delivered to your inbox, will make you think about your values and give you something to discuss with others. Send us your email address and we'll arrange a free subscription for you. It's a great way to start each day. Here are two recent features:



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### Values—Innovation--Risk-taking

Dr. Ben Carson, Johns Hopkins' pediatric neurosurgeon and cancer survivor, wrote a book on learning to identify, choose and live with acceptable risks. In an Hour of Power interview, he says without risks, we would not innovate and stretch our potential through learning and advancing our capabilities. He says we are given inquiring minds with frontal brain lobes able to extract information from the past and present to formulate a direction as a basis to determine what risks are worthwhile to take. Carson affirms, however, that choosing and living with acceptable risks must be grounded in one's values system.

### How does your values system influence the risks you take?

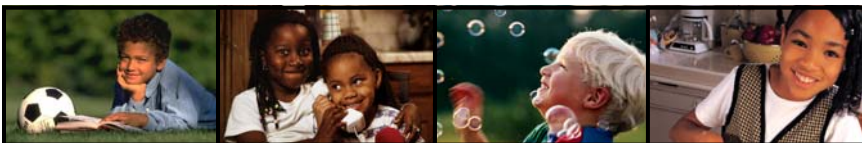
### Is This the Future?

Adia Blackmon, in a preparation session for Black Marriage Day in Richmond, VA, posed questions to a group of girls growing into womanhood. Tammie Smith, in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, reports that all 13 girls in the group raised their hands when asked by Blackmon if they wanted to be mothers. When asked how many wanted to be wives, only one hand was raised. "They felt like [marriage] diminished the mother's ability to live just a regular life."

### How important do you feel marriage is for parenthood? Why?

Helping youth organizations to identify, communicate and put into action values that build character in young people.

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