

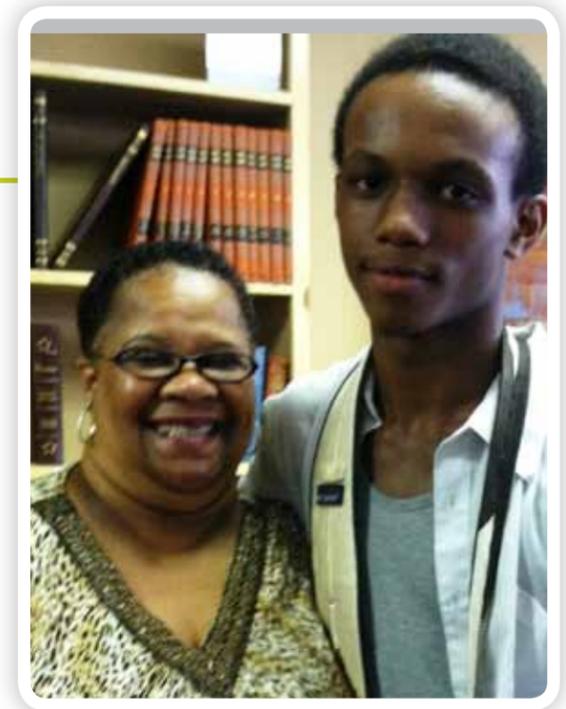
## Vada Cuffee: Making a Difference Every Day

Drugs, violence, poverty and crime surround many of Norfolk's young people. The vice grip of destructive influences often throw teens and young adults into the Juvenile Justice System. Attempts to escape the cycle of poverty and crime result in frustration and despair for the youth and their families.

After four years working as a court officer in Norfolk, Vada Cuffee knows this struggle all too well. "Families come to us broken," Vada says. It's her mission to give them the resources necessary to heal. Ms. Cuffee has had a diverse career that includes a background in mental health, a Master's Degree in Counseling and Education, a teaching stint at TCC, and the pursuit of her PhD, but the driving force behind her work has never changed. "I love children. I love working with them," she says. Now, as a court officer, Vada hopes to "impact them in another format." It's safe to say that she has achieved this goal through her work with The Up Center.

The Up Center's Face Forward program aims to teach necessary life skills to youth who face continued involvement with the Juvenile Justice System. Vada Cuffee has become an invaluable asset to this program, referring seventeen participants in this cycle alone. Ms. Cuffee states that Face Forward won her over with its results. "I promote Face Forward because I bought into it," Vada says; "I was skeptical at first, but my skepticism was met with success." Today, Ms. Cuffee is a vocal supporter of the program. "My coworkers tease me that I'm the coordinator [of Face Forward], but I'm just an advocate."

The program's success lies in the skills it provides to its participants. It meets and exceeds the court's requirements, equipping its participants with such valuable tools as social skills, communication skills, leadership skills, and more. According to Ms. Cuffee, "[Face Forward] empowers [its participants] to know the feeling of earning a hard day's wages with their own hands." With Vada Cuffee's support, graduates of the Face Forward program, like Stephen Murphy, are able to continue their education, find jobs, and build their lives on a foundation that leads to a path out of the despair they once faced.



*On a mission to break the cycle of crime.*

*Officer Cuffee with Face Forward graduate Stephen Murphy, now a senior at Booker T. Washington High School.*

## JOIN THE PARTY!

Love live music? How about free fun?

Volunteer with The Up Center and be a part of the celebration!

Just 3 hours can help more than 10,000 people!

Volunteers help manage beverage sales at some of the most fun events around! All tips and a percentage of sales support the agency's programs and services, helping 10,000 people in Hampton Roads every year.

Visit [TheUpCenter.org](http://TheUpCenter.org) and sign up today!



Saturday, September 26



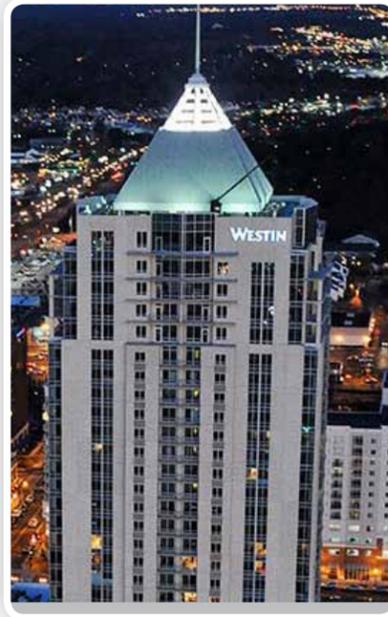
Saturday, October 17

You can bring hope to a young person in crisis.

Your gift of \$20 will help other young people in Norfolk realize their potential.

**Donate today! [TheUpCenter.org/donate](http://TheUpCenter.org/donate)**

# Thank You for Stepping Up!



On May 9, nearly 400 people gathered at the tallest building in Virginia, the Westin Virginia Beach Town Center, to climb 37 flights of stairs in support of The Up Center. Because of your support, *Step Up* raised over \$75,000 that will change lives here in Hampton Roads; protecting children, strengthening families, empowering individuals in crisis, and maximizing independence for those with disabilities. Thank you!



*Step Up* participants challenge themselves to strengthen our community.



The Beach Ambassadors work hard to make our community a better place. We are proud to have their support for this year's *Step Up* stair climb and fundraising campaign.

*Step Up* would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers!



# Without Your Support...

...we could not impact thousands of lives in our community each year!

*The Up Center President & CEO, Tina Gill, speaks with guests at an event hosted by Board Member Lisa Ehrich.*



*We are so grateful for our amazing supporters who help us to strengthen families in Hampton Roads.*



*Up Center Board Member Ken Berklee with band at an event sponsored by Signature Financial.*



*We were honored to introduce event guests to the life-changing work of The Up Center. It's only with the support of the community that it is possible.*

**Interested in learning how you can make an impact in our community?  
Visit us online at [www.TheUpCenter.org](http://www.TheUpCenter.org), or call 757.965.8650.**