



health brigade

Inside Scoop

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WELCOMING • TRUSTED • INCLUSIVE • INTEGRATED • IMPACTFUL • RESPONSIVE

Health Brigade provides exceptional health services to those least served in a caring and non-judgmental environment.

Art Brigade #27

On **July 18**, HB opened its 27th Art Brigade exhibit featuring Afro-pop local artist **Justice Dwight**.



See more photos of the event by Isaiah Mamo on page 2.



Inspired by "Resilience and Heart"

When board member **Joanna Fowler, MHA** was asked what makes her passionate about supporting our agency, she said "Health Brigade has so much resilience and heart that [it] really inspires me." The organization "is this long-standing pillar of the community—a trusted place of non-judgment, compassion, and true care—evolving every day to meet ever-changing challenges both in the clinic and throughout the broader Richmond area."

In May, HB was able to raise over \$6,000 for our LGBTQ+ patients and clients during the national Give OUT Day campaign, largely thanks to Joanna's offer to match small donations under \$20.

What made her do this? "We'd agreed as a Board to look into giving at the end of the fiscal year, and I worked with the

Development team to see how I could support the Give OUT Day campaign, which I'd been involved with during my time on the Emerging Leaders Council.

"The impact of a donation of any amount can't be understated. Health Brigade really stretches the value of each dollar received to serve patients, clients, and the broader community, so a donation of \$10 or \$20 goes a long way. As a long-time "small donation" donor myself, I felt lucky to be in a place now where I could match these donations during the Give OUT Day campaign."



Photo by George Collier

1010 North Thompson Street • Richmond, Virginia 23230 • www.healthbrigade.org



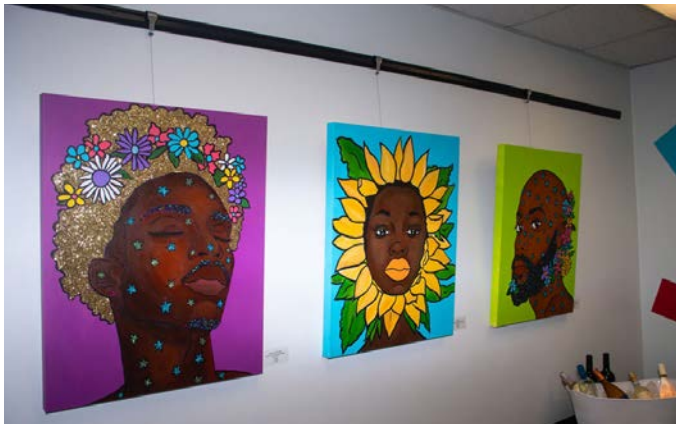
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Photos by Isaiah Mamo



Congratulations!



Congratulations to HB's Volunteer Program Manager **Kelsea Jeter** for being awarded *Volunteer Engagement Professional of the Year* by the Greater Richmond Association for Volunteer Administration. Way to go, Kelsea! Thank you for all you do!

Mental Health Intern Begins



"I'm **Peyton Buongiorno**. I'm a graduate student at VCU in the Counselor Education Department. My specific track is marriage and family counseling, and I'm also very passionate about substance use counseling. I'm so glad to be here!" Peyton began her internship with Health Brigade in May and will be working with us until May 2025.

Social Work Intern Begins

"Hi! My name is **Emily Park** (she/her) and I am excited to be joining Health Brigade in the Ryan White Part B program.

I am currently an MSW student at VCU and will be at HB until I graduate in May 2025, working directly with **Cristina Kincaid**, director of Health Outreach & Advocacy and **Keisha West**, Ryan White Part B Lead Case Manager.

With a concentration in clinical social work, I am extremely passionate about advocating for

and empowering others. I like to spend time with my people and my dog, learn how to cook new recipes, take yoga or pilates classes, and explore Richmond.

Some fun facts about me are that I have experience as a bartender and barista, and my personality type is ENFJ. You can find me at HB on Thursday and Friday in the summer, and Wednesday through Friday the rest of the year. I can't wait to meet everyone and work together!"



Welcoming New Staff



Health Brigade welcomes **Michelle M. Aguilar** as our new Bilingual Mental Health Counselor.

"I was born in Costa Rica and raised in Panama until arriving in Miami, FL at age 14. In 2002 I joined the U.S. Army and retired in 2023 after earning a bachelor's degree in occupational education and a master's degree in Community Counseling.

My experience derives from group setting therapy in a variety of behavioral health concerns and disorders in addition to individual and family counseling. My focus is on providing tools and skills that will improve the overall quality of life for the diverse population and families I may encounter, regardless of any pre-existing limitations. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of their journey.

My greatest moments are spending quality and fun times with my husband and our three girls. I enjoy gardening and I also love animals; we have 1 cat, 2 dogs, 1 bearded dragon, 1 leopard gecko and 4 turtles!"

They Eloped!

Congratulations to HB Director of Health Outreach & Advocacy **Cristinia Kincaid** and her partner Richard Swenck who married on May 16 in a private ceremony at Libby Hill Park in Richmond. Cristina is the longest serving female staff person at the agency, joining Fan Free Clinic in 2009.



Do Something Special for Yourself



Led by sound alchemist
Julian J. Desta



healthbrigade



Sound Bath

Experience relaxation, stress relief, mental clearing, and rest by listening to and feeling the vibrations from singing bowls and various musical instruments from around the world.



THUR, AUG 1st | 5:30 Pm - 6:30 Pm

Ginn Auditorium @ Health Brigade

Yoga Mats and Chairs Provided

ALL WELCOME | DONATIONS ENCOURAGED

Outreach in the Community

On **July 12**, Health Brigade was invited to give a demonstration to a group called the Partnership for the Future on sexual health education and contraceptive concepts.

The presentation was led by HB's **Ernest Charles**, phlebotomist and medical assistant.

Partnership for the Future is a local nonprofit organization that is a community driven college participation and workforce development program. It is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty for young people by providing training for the future.

The class of over 50 rising college students was able to get in-depth information to make better decisions in the future.



Also during **July**, **Ernest** was selected by iPOWER 92 and Radio One's recognition program *Heroic Day of Pampering*. The program provides 25 men and 25 women who are essential workers with spa services for their dedication to the community. Congratulations, Ernest!

A screenshot of the iPOWER 92 website. The top navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'ON AIR', 'RVA EXCLUSIVES', 'CONTESTING', 'EVENTS', and 'PHOTOS', along with a 'LISTEN LIVE' button. The main content area features a large banner for the 'HEROIC DAY OF PAMPERING' event, which is a collaboration between Radio One Richmond and the Image Enhancement Center. The banner includes the text 'SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE OTHERS' and a pink callout box stating: 'We're accommodating the busy schedules of those who serve to protect us by organizing an overnight relaxing event during their off duty hours! 25 Men and 25 Women can receive free Hairstyles, haircuts, manicures, pedicures, basic facials, hand and foot massages!'. To the right of the banner is an AT&T advertisement with a 'BUY NOW' button. Below the banner is a 'Trending' section with several article thumbnails and titles, including 'Family Matters Star Goes Topless For Spot In Playboy', 'iPower Under 30: Antonio Knox', and 'Weekend Roundup: Black Panther, Hip Hop Skating, & More!'. The bottom of the page shows the event dates: 'SATURDAY, JULY 20 - SUNDAY, JULY 21 | 1PM TO 7AM'.

Haleon Helps HB



On **July 19**, a group of scientists and product developers from Richmond-based pharmaceutical company Haleon visited Health Brigade to learn about our services and to lend a hand in building client supply bags for our needle exchange and HIV testing and prevention programs.



Photos by Julie Sulik

VCU ER Interns

On **July 24**, new interns from the VCU Emergency Department met with Health Brigade medical director Dr. Rachel Waller for an overview of our services to the community.

