



Intergenerational Connection:

DON'T BE RUDE

EDITION – April Update

April 2025

Welcome to Our April Newsletter!

Spring is in full swing, and here at Speak Into The Light, we are gearing up for an exciting season of summer programming and intergenerational connection. This edition of the newsletter focuses on our core youth initiative, Don't Be Rude, and how it's helping to create safe, respectful spaces for children and families in Cleveland. Whether you're a parent, grandparent, or youth advocate, this issue includes vital updates, resources, and opportunities to get involved.

Helpful Resources for Parents

Access local supports to prepare your child for a successful summer:

- **Cleveland Public Library:**
Daily youth learning events and tech workshops. <https://cpl.org>
- **NEON (Northeast Ohio Network):**
Assistance for families of children with disabilities, including summer camp funding. <https://neoncog.org>
- **Cleveland Recreation Centers:** Free and low-cost after-school and summer activities. City Rec Programs
- **Explore more at:** <https://speakintothelight.org>

Thank You for Being Part of Our Mission

Your support helps us continue to provide programming that uplifts, educates, and connects our community. Please forward this newsletter to other families who could benefit.

Contact Us:

✉ speakintothelight@gmail.com
☎ (216) 421-5085

Follow Us on Social Media:

f [speakintothelight](https://www.facebook.com/speakintothelight)
@ [speak.intothelight](https://www.instagram.com/speak.intothelight)

Feature Segment: Don't Be Rude – Where Respect Starts Young

The Don't Be Rude program is designed to instill positive behavioral habits and social-emotional skills in children through lessons in manners, etiquette, and emotional intelligence. Using a culturally inclusive approach, we work with children from diverse backgrounds to help them understand the value of gratitude, consideration, and kindness in everyday life.

- Workshops are available in both in-person and virtual formats.
- Programming aligns with CASEL standards for social-emotional development. 91% of parents surveyed said their child became more mindful and respectful after attending two or more sessions.

Why It Matters

Children with strong social-emotional skills are 54% more likely to graduate high school and 46% more likely to hold full-time employment by age 25 (source: Committee for Children).

Our book Don't Be Rude continues to be used as a central tool in each session, sparking conversations that bridge generations and create deeper connections within families.

We're Gearing Up for Summer Camp!

We are finalizing plans for our Don't Be Rude Summer Sessions, launching in July. Campers will:

- Participate in hands-on social skills lessons
- Focused on teamwork and service
- Engage in creative projects centered around kindness and leadership
- 86% of parents from last year's camp said their child returned to school more confident and focused.

Join the Conversation!

- Parent & Grandparent Survey Question:
"Which three values or life skills do you think every summer program should teach?"
- Visit our website to submit your answer and share your voice in our community forum.
<https://speakintothelight.org/newsletter-1>



Speak Into The Light:

YASS Program Edition

April 2025

Program Spotlight: YASS

Young Adult Supplemental Skills

The YASS Program is helping young adults across Cleveland break barriers and build brighter futures. With a blend of virtual learning and in-person support, YASS empowers individuals ages 16–24 with life skills, job connections, mentorship, and career-focused resources.

Whether you're earning volunteer hours, exploring entrepreneurship, or just need help building a resume or finding the right outfit for an interview—we're here for you.

April Highlights & Recent Wins

CPR/First Aid Certification: 10 participants earned certification this month.

- Career Mentoring Pods are live—pairing participants with local professionals.
- 25 attendees joined us at the last Workforce Mixer at Zanzibar Soul Fusion.
- Connected with over 30 community partners including trade schools and employers.

Testimonial:

“Before YASS, I didn't know how to talk about myself in interviews. Now I'm interning with a real estate company and getting paid to learn!” – Tatiyana M., Age 19”

Did You Know?

- 93% of hiring managers value soft skills like teamwork and communication more than GPA.
- Completing a job readiness program boosts your hiring chances by 40%.
- YASS participants get access to business coaching, resume help, and hands-on experiences—for free!

Resources That Empower You

Here are free resources in Cleveland to support your career and life goals:

- Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) Free job readiness training, paid internships, and career pathways. <https://www.youthopportunities.org>
- FrontLine Service – Youth Housing Assistance Support for youth facing housing insecurity or homelessness. <https://www.frontlineservice.org>
- College Now Greater Cleveland Help with FAFSA, scholarships, and one-on-one career and college advising. <https://collegenowgc.org>

Blog Features

This Month: “Dress the Part: Professional Style on a Budget”

Discover how to create a professional wardrobe without spending a fortune—perfect for interviews and first jobs.

Read the blog on our website.

YouTube Feature

- Unlocking Success: Mastering Resume Writing, Interview Skills & Job Search Strategies - [Watch now on YouTube](#)
- Be sure to subscribe and share it with a friend looking to level up their career!

Upcoming Event:

Job Readiness Workshop – Hosted by the City of Cleveland

Don't miss this opportunity to sharpen your skills and turn “Why didn't I get hired?” into “You're hired!”

April 3, 2025 | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Cleveland Public Library – MLK Branch | 10601 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44106

Workforce Development Clinic- Hosted by Speak Into The Light

Harvey Rice Library | April 15, 2025 | 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | Gain access to employer interviews, workforce training, and career resources.

We Need Volunteers!

Help out at our April 17th Job Fair at Tower City by guiding attendees to employer tables and offering support.

Tower City Center | April 17, 2025 | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Earn volunteer hours, get in the action, give back to the community and land your dream job! Interested? Email us at [\[speakintothelight@gmail.com\]](mailto:speakintothelight@gmail.com) or sign up through our volunteer form: <https://speakintothelight.org/pathway-to-yass>


Registration & QR Code


Sign up for upcoming YASS events and opportunities:

<https://speakintothelight.org/pathway-to-yass>




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