


Welcome to Our June Newsletter!

Summer is in full swing, and here at **Speak Into The Light**, we are gearing up for a dynamic season of **summer programming and intergenerational connection**. This edition highlights our core youth initiative, **Don't Be Rude**, and how it's transforming community spaces into safe, respectful environments for children and families across Cleveland. Whether you're a parent, grandparent, or youth advocate, this issue is filled with important updates, local resources, and ways to get involved.

Program Feature: Don't Be Rude – Where Respect Begins


We are thrilled to welcome our **Y.O.U. participants in the ST. Lukes Foot Print**, who will serve as **program coordinators beginning June 16, 2025**. Their leadership will help launch this summer's **Don't Be Rude** program sessions, which officially begin **July 1, 2025**, as part of our intergenerational initiative.


The **Don't Be Rude** program is designed to nurture positive behaviors and social-emotional development in children. Through lessons in manners, etiquette, and emotional intelligence, we equip youth with the tools to thrive in school, family, and community life. Our culturally inclusive approach helps children from all backgrounds understand the power of gratitude, empathy, and kindness.

 **Why It Matters:** Children who build strong social-emotional skills are **54% more likely to graduate high school** and **46% more likely to hold full-time jobs** by age 25 (*Committee for Children*).

We're Gearing Up for Summer Camp!


Final plans are underway for our **Don't Be Rude Summer Sessions**, launching in July. Campers will:




 **Learn table manners** and social etiquette, culminating in an **upscale etiquette dinner** to practice what they've learned in a formal setting

 **Enjoy an interactive puppet show** that models respectful behavior and teaches problem-solving skills in a fun, age-appropriate way

 **Participate in creative activities and games** that reinforce core values like gratitude, generosity, and consideration


 **Helpful Resources for Parents (Registration for the Don't Be Rude Program is full, but here are some additional resources)**

 Prepare your child for a successful summer with these trusted Cleveland programs:

-  **Cleveland Metroparks Youth Outdoors** – Offers outdoor adventures, day camps, and nature exploration activities for youth of all ages.
<https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com>
-  **Center for Arts-Inspired Learning** – Summer camps that integrate arts, literacy, and STEM learning through creative expression. <https://arts-inspiredlearning.org>
-  **Cleveland Public Theatre's Student Theatre Enrichment Program (STEP)** – A summer theatre program for teens that builds confidence and performance skills.
<https://www.cptonline.org>

Stay Connected

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 Follow us: @SpeakIntoTheLight on Instagram & Facebook

(back) June Newsletter: YASS Program Impact

We're excited to share the **June edition of the Speak Into The Light Newsletter!** This month's issue is packed with highlights of our impact in the community, upcoming events, and vital resources to prepare families and young adults for a successful summer.

Here's What's Inside:

✓ **YASS Program Impact** – In May, we took bold steps to empower our young adults through dynamic engagements:

📍 At **Harvey Rice Library**, we hosted a **Workforce Development Workshop** where participants built resumes, practiced interview techniques, and completed career interest assessments. Each young adult left with a personalized career packet and access to job leads, training referrals, and clothing vouchers for interview attire.

🗣️ At **Zanzibar Soul Fusion**, our **Professional Networking Mixer** brought together young adults with entrepreneurs, community leaders, and program alumni. This intimate setting gave participants the chance to share their aspirations, receive mentorship, and build connections in a real-world environment.

📍 Additionally, we **participated in two career fairs within the St. Luke's footprint**, reaching our target audience of young adults in neighborhoods that need access to opportunity the most. These events helped expand awareness of our services and connected us directly with job seekers ready to take the next step.

💬 **Impact Highlights:**

- 12 participants received job interviews within one week of the workshop
- 9 applied for training programs through community partners.
- 100% of attendees reported increased confidence in their communication and job-seeking skills


✓ **Upcoming Events** – Our next **Workforce Development Clinic** will offer hands-on support with goal setting, job search tools, and mock interviews. Plus, don't miss volunteer events and our prep sessions for summer work programs.

✓ **Helpful Resources** – We've curated scholarships, local opportunities, trainings and essential resources for housing, food, and career assistance—all in one place at www.speakintothelight.org.

Thank you for walking alongside us as we uplift young adults with purpose, preparation, and positivity. Your support fuels their success.

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