



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RAA, Childsavers, Announcing Partnership to Help Kids Exposed to Trauma

March 16, 2023 - The Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) and Childsavers, a non-profit providing mental health services and childcare resources, have partnered to help kids exposed to trauma. RAA's Paramedics and EMTs are often on the frontline of traumatic calls and unfortunately, some of those calls involve children. Through this new partnership, RAA Paramedics and EMTs will use Childsavers' 24/7 hotline to alert the organization's traumatic response unit, allowing a specialist from Childsavers to respond to the scene and immediately provide the emotional support and psychological first aid children need after they've had a traumatic experience.

"This is another great resource our Paramedics and EMTs can use to help kids in our community," said RAA CEO Chip Decker. "We are grateful for this new partnership and to have access to the important services Childsavers provide.

This month, Childsavers began training RAA staff about the services they offer and how to recognize and approach a child who has been exposed to trauma. The partnership with RAA is part of the organization's latest effort as it looks to adopt new models and best practices to meet the needs of children.

Katie Francis, Program Manager Mental Health Services OP/IR at ChildSavers says, "Richmond Ambulance Authority is on the frontlines responding to crises as they occur. While they are responsive to the physical needs, ChildSavers can be a natural partner in healing the emotional wounds that occur during times of trauma."

If your child is experiencing immediate trauma, you can call Childsavers' immediate response helpline at 804-305-2420. If your child is expressing suicidal thoughts, thoughts of self-harm, or harming others, call the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.

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About the Richmond Ambulance Authority: In 1991, the Richmond City Council and the City Manager implemented an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system that placed the patient first and guaranteed its performance to the City's residents. Today, the Richmond Ambulance Authority responds to nearly 200 calls per day and transports, on average, 150 patients per day. RAA is one of only 32 EMS agencies in the United States accredited by both the Commission on the Accreditation of Ambulance Services and the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch. RAA is also a Commonwealth of Virginia Accredited Dispatch Center. RAA's staff has consistently received local, state, and national recognition for their work in EMS. In 2022 RAA staff members were recognized by the Old Dominion EMS Alliance (ODEMSA) in two categories at the ODEMSA Regional Awards.

About ChildSavers:

ChildSavers is a Central Virginia nonprofit organization whose mission is to guide our community's children through life's critical moments with trauma-informed mental health and child development services. ChildSavers is the only nonprofit in Virginia using a coordinated prevention and intervention model to prepare children for school, address mental health, and recover from trauma.

Nearly 100 years ago, ChildSavers was established as the Children's Memorial Clinic in memory of Dr. McGuire Newton, one of Richmond's first pediatricians. Martha Patteson Bowie Branch connected concerned citizens to create an innovative agency "for the purpose of giving complete physical and mental examinations, free of charge, to all children who may need the same."

ChildSavers is a community-supported nonprofit governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. They are licensed by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services and accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Child and Family Services. Their offices are located at 200 North 22nd Street in the East End of Richmond. To learn more about their programs and services visit www.chidsavers.org or call (804) 644-9590.