

# THE LAUNCH PAD

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## Sponsor Spotlight:

We're proud to highlight Cabela's for their continued support of our organization and the young men we serve. Their generosity has provided our mentees with fishing gear, swag bags, and refreshments. Sponsorships help us create experiences and show our youth that the community is invested in their growth. We're grateful for their ongoing dedication to our mission. A huge thank you!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### \* Photography Class

December 7, 2025

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden  
1800 Lakeside Ave.  
Henrico, VA 23228  
11am-3pm

### \* Bowling Arcade

December 14, 2025

Uptown Alley  
6101 Brad McNeer Pkwy  
Midlothian, VA 23112  
1:45pm-4pm



## Family Feature

# Learning Together, Growing Stronger

To kickoff off our new Family Feature series, we're proud to introduce **Shalandia and her son, Landon**. As an active and engaged family in our program, they represent the strength, love, and determination that we hope to see in our families everyday. Curious to hear her perspective in her own words, I asked Shalandia a few questions about the impact the program has had so far.

- How long have you been with L4L? ***This is my first year with Launch, I became apart of the organization in August.***
- How did you hear about L4L? ***I discovered the program while strolling through Facebook after searching for programs for boys. I then visited the Launch website and read more about it, which I knew I wanted my son to become involved.***
- How has your son grown during the program? ***Since joining the program, my son has grown significantly. He is now able to communicate more effectively and engage socially. Although he appears shy at first, he warms up over time and is expressing himself much more confidently.***
- How has the program helped/supported you? ***Growing up in the foster care system, I always aimed to create a complete family structure for my children. While that hasn't fully been the case, the program has been an incredible support by providing resources and guidance that go beyond what I could offer on my own as a mother-support that a father might traditionally provide. It has also given my son opportunities to interact and build friendships with other boys his age from diverse backgrounds, helping him grow socially and emotionally.***



**Continued..**

- What would you like to brag on your son about/his accomplishments? **Honestly, I could brag about everything he does good and bad lol. If I had to choose one thing, I'd say it's him becoming his own person-gaining confidence, independence, and a sense of identity.**
- What is your family dynamic? **My family consists of myself, my son Landon and my 23 year old daughter who ventured out on her own with my 1-year-old grandchild.**
- Would you recommend the program to friends and family? **Yes, I would recommend.**

-Shalanda Scott



**"I am truly grateful to be a part of this organization and to walk alongside our amazing Moms as we support their son's growth"**

—Amanda Floyd,  
Family Engagement Director

## Our Latest Events in Pictures



Our Junior mentees truly enjoyed rock climbing where they learned the importance of teamwork and trust. Thanks to Triangle Rock Club



Our Graduate and Ambassador mentees went on a Hike to Honor Veterans at Powhatan Park. We thank all Veterans for their service.



The entire organization fellowshiped together over good food and fun at our annual Thanksgiving Family Feast.



"Our hearts are full and we are grateful for this day, for this community, and for every person who showed up to make it special" -L4L



### Mentor Spotlight

## Meet Tyler Rood

Kicking off our Mentor Spotlight series, I interviewed one of our incredible mentors to hear what inspires him to pour into the young men in our program. Here is what Tyler Rood had to say.

1. How long have you been a mentor?

**I've been a mentor since July of 2023 or almost 3 years.**

2. Why did you decide to become a mentor?

**I wanted to put my time into something that actually mattered. And the way I landed at LAUNCH was almost accidental. I got an HOA violation, jumped on the neighborhood Facebook page ready to stir the pot, and while I was typing up a full rant, I saw David's post looking for mentors. It stopped me. Pouring into a young man felt like a much better use of my energy than arguing with neighbors, so I closed the Facebook tab and applied.**

3. What have you learned through mentoring?

**I've learned it really is the size of the fight in the dog, not the size of the dog in the fight. Love, consistency, and steady delivery go a long way. When you show up the same way every time, slow down, and actually listen, trust starts to build and that is the real growth.**



**Continued..**

4. Tell us about yourself.

**I'm a husband, a dad, and mortgage lender. I help people build long-term wealth through clear strategy and problem solving. Outside of work, I'm big on video games, fishing, and hiking. I meet people from all kinds of industries, which keeps my perspective fresh. Life moves fast with a toddler and a growing business, but I'm grateful for it and grateful to be in a position to pour into others.**

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-Tyler Rood



### A Holiday Note of Gratitude

As we wrap up the year, our hearts are certainly full. L.A.U.N.C.H has grown into something special - not because of any single program or event, but because of the community surrounding our young men.

To the moms and guardians, thank you! You are the steady foundation of this entire mission. Your trust, your partnership, and your willingness to walk alongside us give these boys the space to grow into confident, resilient, and compassionate young men. Your support fuels everything we do, and we are grateful.

To our mentors - thank you for showing up, not only at events but in moments that matter. Your presence gives our boys examples of strength, humility, humor, and character. To our donors and sponsors, thank you for believing in what's possible when a community wraps around its young people. Your generosity makes new opportunities, new experiences, and new futures possible.

Together, we've built more than a program. We've built belonging. We've built moments of joy and discovery. We've built a space where young men can find themselves, find friendship, and find a path forward.

As the holidays arrive, we hope you feel the impact of what you've helped create. You've shaped lives this year, and the ripple effects will stretch far beyond it.

-Ken Jordan, Board Chair & President

## Fundraising Corner

We're in the final stretch of our **M4K Richmond** fundraising campaign. With just **4 days left**, we're inviting our entire community, sponsors, and friends to join the effort and make a meaningful impact. Every donation, big or small, helps us continue providing mentorship, resources, and unforgettable experiences for our mentees. Here's where your donations go.

- Mentoring events and experiences
- Annual Capital Hill Congressional advocacy
- Hands-on life skills development
- Transportation
- Mentor education
- Family support
- Leadership development

If you haven't had a chance to give yet, now is the perfect time. Let's finish strong together!

[M4K Fundraising Link](#)

LAUNCH for Life gives a special shout out to the advertising team at LAMAR for their support!





### A Message from our Founder

As we move into the winter season and look ahead to an exciting spring, we're thrilled for all the meaningful experiences planned for your sons. From college basketball games to fishing and events designed to challenge them, these upcoming months are full of opportunities for growth, connection, and fun.

We also want to gently highlight something that makes a tremendous difference in each boy's journey: consistency. When our young men show up regularly and participate actively, they build confidence, develop stronger relationships with mentors and peers, and get the full benefit of the program. Every session adds a brick to the foundation we're helping them build.

Thank you for encouraging your sons to stay engaged, show up, and give his best effort. Your support and partnership help make this mentoring community strong, impactful, and truly special.

Here's to a season of learning, laughter, and positive growth!

-David Crisafi



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## Having difficult talks with your son should happen sooner than you might think, expert says

Published September 13, 2025

This article emphasizes that parents should begin challenging, but crucial conversations with their sons earlier than they may feel comfortable. Experts argue that topics such as consent, technology use, substance use, and emotional well-being are best addressed proactively while relationships are still open, and that waiting too long can make these conversations feel contentious. Whereas beginning the talks in a calm, ongoing way helps set the tone for trust and openness. Begin early. These talks work best when they are calm, ongoing and part of everyday connections rather than big confrontations. Framing the conversation in a calm, comfortable, and nonjudgmental manner encourages and strengthens trust.

For the full article, please see the link below.

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/09/13/health/talk-to-your-boys-book-wellness>

## Get Involved!

**Our workforce is comprised of volunteers. If you have a few free hours that you can dedicate to others, or a skill that can be shared, we will be happy to channel it in the right direction.**

**Contact us today!**

