

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **TrailsforYouth.Org Receives 2011 Governor's Transportation Safety Award**

Richmond, VA — TrailsforYouth.Org (TYO) is being recognized for improving safety for Virginians by the Virginia Board of Transportation Safety. TYO is the 2011 recipient Governor's Transportation Safety Award in for the Wallace Timmons Award for Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety.

The Governor's Transportation Safety Awards program recognizes individuals and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to transportation safety in Virginia. Accomplishments by individuals in the public and private sector, state and local governments, federal agencies, the military, businesses, and organizations that promote transportation safety are recognized by this awards program. This program is sponsored by the Virginia Board of Transportation Safety, which is comprised of citizens appointed by the Governor of Virginia.

TrailsforYouth.Org is a non-profit 501c(3) organization that helps disadvantaged youth in the Metropolitan DC area. They provide important life lessons through fun and educational outdoor excursions into Virginia, Maryland, and DC parks, nature areas and schools.

“TYO is grateful to the Governor and the Transportation Safety board for recognizing our efforts.” Says Julie Childers, TrailsforYouth.Org’s Executive Director. “The programs we implement make a difference and even save lives and it’s important that people are aware of these issues and hopefully support our efforts as well.”

TrailsforYouth.Org is being recognized for their work with 11 Northern Virginia schools to coordinate and implement the Safe Routes to School education and encouragement program. Through TYO efforts over 4,000 youth have been engaged in activities supporting the need to be more active and safe in walking or biking to and from school. Through participation in International Walk 2 School Day, bicycle rodeos and skills sessions, Walking Wednesdays, Frequent Walker programs, Fitness Fridays, Go Green Transportation Clubs, Parent and Student Pedestrian seminars, TYO mentors youth on the importance of creating a healthy safe lifestyle and choosing to walk or bike to / from school and beyond. Recently TYO created a bilingual video entitled “Listen, Learn and Lead, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advice for Adults” utilizing students from the Virginia Public School system to teach their parents transportation safety.

TrailsforYouth.Org is proud to be the recipient of the 2011 Governor's Transportation Safety Award for Bicycling and Safety. For More information on TrailsforYouth.Org and our many programs please visit our website at [www.TrailsforYouth.Org](http://www.TrailsforYouth.Org).

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