



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

YMCA Young Adult Services  
Issue 3—August-October 2011

## INTRODUCTION TO THE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of the YMCA Young Adult Services Community Connection Newsletter! This newsletter is just as full of news and features as our last issue, you should have a better idea of what we do, and this issue focuses more on program updates and new information about our organization. We hope that you learn something new about YMCA Young Adult Services and enjoy.

## THE Y AND AMERICORPS PARTNERSHIP

From September to July of the last year, 13 AmeriCorps volunteers dedicated themselves to a year of service as a part of YMCA MetroCenter’s Employment, Education, and Immigrant Outreach team. Associated with Y branches all over the city as well as other community partners, this group of young men and women worked with young adults from 12 to 25 to increase stability and success. From after school programs to transitional housing, a wide variety of services were offered all over King County.

At Young Adult Services, Leah Gustitus, Glenn Leever, and Jess Reichard worked to increase the capacity of volunteers, housing programs, the Independent Living Program, and employment success among the Center’s participants. In addition to their work in these individual programs, Glenn, Leah, and Jess attended regular trainings with a team to improve their own job skills and knowledge of social service. As a team, they also organized a Day of Service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., cleaning and organizing Young Adults in Transition, a YMCA housing program in downtown Seattle.

AmeriCorps service is not for the weak of heart – it is a year of incredibly tasking work done for minimal compensation in trying circumstances. However, the rewards reaped, from career development to community connections and a sense of purpose, are well worth the ten months of service. These same positions will continue with the Y for years to come, supporting youth and staff alike.

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*The Y AmeriCorps Team w/ Rep. Pedersen*

## NEW PROGRAM: EMPLOYMENT WEEK

Almost every day a new participant comes into the YMCA Center for Young Adults (The Center) asking for help finding a job. For various reasons, the job search process is difficult in this economy, especially for young adults. In order to address this issue, The Center staff team, led by John Barbee and Glenn Leever, engineered an "Employment Week" crash course in finding a job. The idea is that after an Employment Week session participants will have a portfolio of everything needed for a professional job search, as well a solid grip on the skills of job searching, interviewing and professionalism.

After three week-long sessions, 10 participants completed the Employment Week program, including 3 who found jobs within two weeks of completing the program. The program is still developing and changing with suggestions from participants, but the pilot seems to be successful and will likely be a key component in addressing the needs for successful job searching.

For more information contact: John Barbee or Glenn Leever at 206-749-7550



*Y Staff and Participant in Employment Week*



*Back To School BBQ 2011*

## BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ 2011

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Back-to-School BBQ held August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 saw over 100 people in attendance! The annual event provides an opportunity for youth and young adults ages 15 – 25 years old, to receive backpacks and other schools supplies along with a chance to visit with over a dozen community resources and community colleges.

KUBE93 Dj Supa Sam along with the YMCA Member Advisory Committee provided the music and entertainment and there were lots of raffle items given away. The food, atmosphere and weather could not have been better and this was a chance for people to socialize and gear up for the upcoming school year. The YMCA, Treehouse, BECU and Casey Family Programs sponsored the event and thank you to all those who attended.

## DAY OF CARING EXTRAVAGANZA

Join YMCA Young Adult Services for an exciting day of volunteering on Sep. 16th from 10-2 to support young people who aged out of foster care or are experiencing homelessness. The day will be packed with important volunteer projects including the creation of decorations for our annual holiday party, helping to beautify our drop-in center, putting together hygiene kits, cleaning up our community garden, helping foster parents with yard work, and baking treats for young adults living in our shared homes. These projects will provide a better, cleaner, and safer space to support our participants. A team from Microsoft will be helping to carry out these projects.



*United Way Day of Caring 2010*

## NEW PROGRAM: HOME AT LAST

Home at Last is a new permanent housing program through the YMCA. This housing program is grant funded through King County for a five year period, and serves chronically homeless young adults that also have a disability. Participants in the program pay 30% of their income towards housing expenses, and the YMCA provides assistance for the remaining costs. Participants search for an apartment within King County, and are able to choose a location that is suitable to them. While in the program participants receive case management services, and focus on goals that will give them the tools to live independently once the five years has come to an end.

Outreach for the program began in June, and we quickly began receiving referrals from service providers throughout Seattle and King County. So far five participants have been enrolled in Home at Last, and we are taking referrals for the remaining ten spots in the program. For More information contact:  
Charles Sripranaratanakul - csrip@seattleyymca.org



*New Volunteer Laura V.*

## NEW: VOLUNTEERS AND DRIVE TOOLKIT

Our volunteer programs are expanding daily, and as part of this process, we get amazing new volunteers. In future newsletters we will be using this space to shout out to our brand new volunteers and also announce any new volunteer happenings.

A big welcome to:

- Tirzah I. - Independent Living Program Outreach Specialist Volunteer
- Lizzy H. – Independent Living Program Outreach Specialist Volunteer
- Cassie R. – BSW Volunteer Intern
- Laura V. - MSW Intern in The Center

We also have a new toolkit for organizing drives for Young Adult Services. If you have any interest in organizing a drive (for school supplies or first apartment supplies etc.) and testing out our brand new toolkit, please contact:  
Glenn Leever – gleever@seattleyymca.org, 206-749-7550



*Y Admin Team Volunteering at a Plant Nursery*

## PASSAGES 2011

Passages 2011 was a great success! We had a wonderful night of celebrating and honoring foster youth who are graduating from high school and aging out of foster care at the Museum of Flight. Dr. Benjamin Danielson from Odessa Brown Children's Clinic was our Keynote for the evening and spoke about his experiences in foster care. A Treehouse staff shared with us some wonderful poetry on childhood. Thanks to everyone who encouraged their participants to attend and to those who helped make Passages a special evening for the youth we serve with 30 participants and 79 guests in attendance!

For more information contact: Drena Sellers at asellers@seattleyymca.org



*Y Staff and Participants at Passages 2011*

## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Thanksgiving Feast 2011:** Help to plan, set-up, decorate and serve food. We are also always looking for support in the form of food donations to help make the feast even better.

**Holiday Party 2011:** Help to plan, set-up, decorate and serve food. We are also always looking for support in the form of food donations to help make the party even better.

**Volunteer at a Shared Home:** Work alongside participants and other volunteers to clean-up and rejuvenate one of the Young Adult Services' transitional living shared homes.

**Lead a Workshop:** The YMCA publishes a full monthly calendar of workshops for young adults to develop life skills, receive additional support, or just have fun. Current needs include money management, job connection, education mentoring, men's and women's leadership groups and more. You can also share your own additional interests (cooking, personal finances, book club, knitting, meditation, etc.).

**Individual Opportunities:** There are new individual opportunities opening up every day at Young Adult Services. If you are interested in volunteering in a longer term position, please call to inquire about our current openings.

For more information about opportunities or details, contact: **Glenn Leever or Brigitte Smith**  
[gleever@seattleyymca.org](mailto:gleever@seattleyymca.org) or [bsmith@seattleyymca.org](mailto:bsmith@seattleyymca.org)

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - MEET CHERYL!

### How did you come to the Y?

I run a program called Lawyers Fostering Independence and I came to the Y to host a legal clinic so young adults can easily access our services. I hope my involvement at the Y helps young adults resolve legal issues that stand in the way of independent and happy adulthood.

### What have you gained from volunteering with the Y?

I've gained connections to staff that are committed to young adults and dedicated to implementing real change. My work has been enriched by the insight and suggestions that case managers generously share with me.

### Why would you recommend volunteering with the Y?

I recommend volunteering at the Y because it provides exactly what I look for in a volunteering opportunity – a relationship with individuals who genuinely enjoy the work they do and are passionate about issues impacting young adults.

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## GIVE. GROW. INSPIRE.



The YMCA views youth as resources to be developed, not problems to be fixed. Each year, across greater Seattle, we help more than 69,000 children and teens.

In YMCA programs, caring adults work to help young people build a solid foundation based on developing lifetime skills, an ethic of service and the Y's core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and caring.

Our goal this year is \$4,602,000 to ensure that YMCA programs are available to everyone. On behalf of thousands of kids, families and our larger community who directly benefit from your support and campaign efforts

The Young Adult Services campaigner team raised more than \$38,000 for our annual Partners With Youth campaign, and we project exceeding our Downtown Seattle YMCA branch goal of \$505,000 by the end of May.

Partners With Youth funding helps vulnerable youth, adults and families imagine a better future through access to an array of housing, healthy living, child care and crisis response services. **To donate, visit our website at [www.ymcayas.org](http://www.ymcayas.org) and click the "give" tab**



*Cheryl and Supervisor Aaron*

We serve young adults from 17-25. The Center for Young Adults provides support in the areas of employment, education, housing and life skills. The YMCA of Greater Seattle strengthens communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.