



NYCYMI Connection

News, Updates, and Stories

NYC | **YOUNG MEN'S
INITIATIVE**

Fall 2014 Issue
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NEW ROLE FOR FORMER DIRECTOR OF YMI

Jahmani Hylton



Jahmani Hylton is now the Deputy Commissioner of Family Services at the NYC Department of Homeless Services.

NYC YMI SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

October 15, 2014

Effective Monday, October 20, 2014, the NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) Director Jahmani W. Hylton was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Family Services Division at the NYC Department of Homeless Services. Jahmani's last day with YMI was Friday, October 10th, 2014. Under his tenure, YMI continued to excel in its accomplishments, some of which include:

Completion of the 1st YMI Evaluation
Clearer Articulation of YMI's Key Values
Strengthened Communications and Social Media Presence
Progenitor of White House's My Brother's Keeper
YMI Events: *Under the YMI Tent BBQ* and *YMI Youth Empowerment Summit*
20 City Agency Partners
40 YMI Programs
Approximately 30,000 Young Adults Served
"My Voice, Our City" Ashoka Changemakers Competition

Prior to joining the Mayor's Office, Jahmani worked for the NYC Administration for Children's Services as the Executive Director and Program Director of Youth Preventive Programs within the Division of Youth and Family Justice, as well as a Preventive Family Conference Team Manager in the Division of Family Support Services. While at ACS he was instrumental in implementing a number of initiatives to ensure that the best available services were being provided to families and the children in their care. He also provided management and oversight of a continuum of services that served an estimated 7,500 families annually and developed a training curriculum for the Preventive Family Team Conferencing Program. Jahmani's professional experiences have encompassed work with youth and families, adolescents, youth and adults with developmental disabilities, individuals and groups impacted by HIV/AIDS and the LGBTQ community.

As Deputy Commissioner of the Family Services Division, Jahmani oversees over 11,000 units of shelter throughout 150 locations for families with minor children. Jahmani's 16 years of professional experience and knowledge of both the nonprofit and government sector are imperative to his new role.

Jahmani has a Master's degree in Social Work from the Hunter College School of Social Work and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Binghamton University.

Please join the NYC Young Men's Initiative in thanking Jahmani for his leadership, vision, commitment, professionalism and excellence; and wishing him luck in his new position as Deputy Commissioner of Family Services with the NYC Department of Homeless Services.

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My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge

Accepted by Mayor Bill de Blasio

On September 30th, 2014 Mayor Bill de Blasio announced his acceptance of the President's My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Community Challenge to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential. The President's initiative seeks to organize and capitalize on the commitment of community leaders in order to reach its goal.

President Obama launched My Brother's Keeper (MBK) on February 27 this year underscoring the work of the New York City's Young Men's Initiative (YMI) and acknowledging that the national program's goals, strategies and model were based in part on YMI.

"New York City is very proud to have provided guidance to the White House as they developed My Brother's Keeper," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "My administration has programs underway that deeply share the spirit and the imperative of MBK, such as universal pre-kindergarten and the expansion of middle school after-school programs. By accepting the MBK Community Challenge, we pledge to continue our public investments and maintain our data-driven approach to tracking outcomes for young Black and Latino men and provide them with the opportunities they deserve to be able to succeed."



Photo Credit: NY Post

The inspiration for My Brother's Keeper came last year, after President Obama indicated in public remarks a need for programs and policies that "bolster and reinforce young men of color." Later that year, staff from YMI were invited to the White House by Jonathan Greenblatt, Special Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation in the Domestic Policy Council to present the work done in New York City.

Launched in August 2011 by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the New York City Young Men's Initiative is the nation's most comprehensive municipal strategy tackling disparities faced by young men of color. Under Mayor Bill de Blasio, the Young Men's Initiative has reinforced its commitment to work with stakeholders in government and philanthropy to ensure young men of color are supported as they navigate their way to adulthood.



My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge

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New York City will meet the MBK challenge in four steps:

1. Ensure optimal educational, social and career ready outcomes for school age children from pre-kindergarten to after they graduate from high school.
2. Convene a Local Action Summit to build an NYC MBK Community with external and internal stakeholders.
3. Perform a policy review and recommendations for future actions. This entails indexing existing local policies, programs, and practices to introduce or expand on existing efforts to better serve the needs of the city's youth.
4. Launch a plan of action and a 180-day timetable from the day the City accepts the challenge.

Currently, the NYC Young Men's Initiative is supported with an annual \$22.5 million City tax levy investment in programs designed to improve outcomes for Black and Latino young men in the domains of education, justice, employment, and health. In addition to City funding, YMI is supported by a \$60 million investment from Bloomberg Philanthropies and Open Society Foundation's Campaign for Black Male Achievement.

WHO WE ARE

The NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) is committed to addressing disparities faced by Black and Latino young men in New York City across the domains of education, employment, health and justice. YMI also has a vested interest in fatherhood services, mentoring, LGBTQ inclusion, and issues that pertain to women of color. Three years after the NYC Young Men's Initiative launched in August 2011, our efforts have been mirrored by the White House's "My Brother's Keeper" Initiative and we are thrilled to continue this relevant work in the de Blasio administration.



NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed by millions of Americans every year from September 15th to October 15th, by celebrating the cultures, histories, and contributions of Americans whose ancestral lineage come from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

September 15th is of particular significance as this is the date that marks the anniversary of independence for several Latin American countries; Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Additionally, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th and September 18th, respectively. Día de la Raza, or Columbus Day, also falls within this 30 day period on October 12th.



The observation of National Hispanic Heritage Month first began in 1968 with the observation of Hispanic Heritage Week under then President Lyndon Johnson. It would later be expanded by President Ronald Reagan and enacted into law on August 17, 1988 to encompass the 30 day span it is today.

The NYC Young Men's Initiative, is taking steps to increase our Hispanic/Latino outreach, recruitment, and engagement.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CITYWIDE INITIATIVE TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE EXPANDS

Since 2012, the New York City Young Men's Initiative (YMI) has funded Cure Violence programming via its NYC Violence Prevention Program (VPP). The VPP's primary objective is to replicate and build on this promising public health approach to violence prevention—formerly called Ceasefire, now called Cure Violence. Specifically, YMI funding has supported three Cure Violence sites in building and implementing identification, response, and referral protocols at two Health and Hospital Corporation facilities, Harlem Hospital and Kings County Hospital Center.

In the de Blasio Administration expansion, Cure Violence will reach the following precincts: East Harlem, South Manhattan (23rd Precinct); North Harlem, Manhattan (32nd Precinct); South Bronx (40th Precinct); East Concourse-Concourse Village, Bronx (44th Precinct); University Heights-Morris



IN THE SPOTLIGHT CONT.

Heights, Bronx (46th Precinct); Eastchester-Edenwald-Baychester, Bronx (47th Precinct); Seagate-Coney Island, Brooklyn (60th Precinct); East Flatbush-Farragut, Brooklyn (67th Precinct); Brownsville, Brooklyn (73rd Precinct); East New York-Pennsylvania Ave, Brooklyn (75th Precinct); Far Rockaway, Queens (101st Precinct); South Jamaica, Queens (113th Precinct); Queensbridge-Ravenswood-LIC, Queens (114th Precinct); and North Shore, Staten Island (120th Precinct).

YMI Teen Health Improvement Program Presenting at Annual Meeting

The Teen Health Improvement Program of the New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation will present two abstracts at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. The abstracts are: "The Teen Health Improvement Program: a system-wide initiative to improve the quality of care for adolescents served by the country's largest public hospital system" and "The impact of a multi-site training series on chlamydia screening rates among adolescent primary care patients in a public hospital system".



www.nyc.gov/hhc

In October, Elet Howe, Assistant Director of the Teen Health Improvement Program of the New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation, participated in a Google Hangout for Teen Health sponsored by The Fund for HHC and the Starfish Foundation. Ms. Howe and Monique Collier Nickles, MD, Chief of Adolescent Medicine and Director of Adolescent Services at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center answered questions live from Hangout participants.

YMI Arches Program Model Underpins New NYCHA Initiative

In June, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP for Neighborhood Safety), a \$210.5 million comprehensive, citywide plan to reduce violent crime in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments through targeted law enforcement efforts, immediate physical improvements, aggressive community engagement and outreach efforts, and the expansion of work and education programs. The initiative is a collaboration between ten city agencies (NYCHA, NYPD, DYCD, OCDV, DFTA, DOP, CEO, HRA, Parks, and OCJ), as well as community groups, non-profits, and residents of public housing.

Key to the initiative is the launch of the Department of Probation's Next STEPS program. Built upon the NYC Young Men's Initiative Arches mentoring program model, Next STEPS offers one-on-one and group mentoring within a cognitive behavioral therapy-based curriculum designed to help young adults make the attitudinal and behavioral changes necessary to avoid criminal activity and reengage with education, work and community.

YMI Cornerstone Mentoring Participants Plant Trees and Hike NYC Parks

YMI Cornerstone Mentoring programs are engaging program participants in project-based activities to provide mentees with an opportunity to learn life skills while developing positive relationships with caring adults outside their families. Two upcoming project based activities for the 2014-2015 program year are:



IN THE SPOTLIGHT CONT.

Appalachian Mountain Club: Youth Opportunities Program (YOP)

The Youth Opportunities Program offers outdoor leadership and skills training for youth workers so that they may in turn lead the youth they serve in outdoor activities of exploration. About 37 mentors and 130 mentees in YMI Cornerstone Mentoring programs will plan and lead two hiking trips in NYC parks from October to April 2015.

MillionTreesNYC: NAVigator Program

Through the NAVigator program Cornerstone Mentoring programs will adopt MillionTreesNYC tree planting sites and natural areas of designated parks. NAVigators receive training in invasive weed identification and removal techniques. About 28 mentors and 100 mentees in YMI Cornerstone Mentoring will plan and lead 12 independent hours in the adopted sites from October to December 2014.

ONE ON ONE

● **Alejandro McNab-Segarra**, a student at the New York City College of Technology (City Tech) successfully completed his Scholars at Work (SAW) internship program (2014 cohort) with S & L Aerospace, a recognized leader in supplying components for the aerospace industry. Prior to starting at his internship, Alejandro reported to the SAW team that up to that point he had only been able to study engineering from a theoretical point of view, and thus far, hadn't been able to apply what he had learned in school. Once assigned to his internship placement Alejandro finally had the opportunity to combine his academic knowledge with practical hands-on experience. By receiving continual coaching from the SAW team, Alejandro honed his skills and professionalism throughout the SAW program. Alejandro had made such a positive impression on the company that they extended a permanent position to him after his internship assignment ended. S & L recently reported that Alejandro was undergoing specialized training at an offsite location. We expect to hear more news about Alejandro's professional growth.



YMI IN THE NEWS

TOP STORIES

Teacher Validation: Wind in the Sails of an Ed-Tech Startup

"Thus far, the Brooklyn pilot has taught me that EdConnective can be helpful for veteran teachers. It's also reminded me that we have to remain flexible and willing to quickly identify opportunities for our team to improve the overall coaching process... Nevertheless, the result of the pilots that my team has completed so far points directly to impact, for teachers and students. With each teacher we serve, we get better and better, and my resolve to expand this support to others continues to strengthen. "

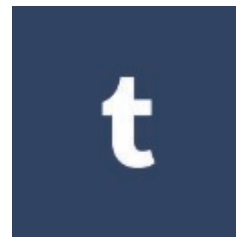
Full Article: (http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/the_startup_blog/2014/10/teacher_validation_wind_in_the_sails_of_an_edtech_startup.html)

Jobs-Plus: An Evidence-Based Program for Public Housing Residents Expands

"Jobs-Plus — a model proven to help public housing residents find work — is about to be replicated across the country. But to expect similar results as have been achieved in the past, practitioners need to learn from others' experiences with the program. MDRC has developed a guide to implementing Jobs-Plus, and in 2015 will release a new report on replicating the model."

Full Article: (<http://www.mdrc.org/publication/jobs-plus-evidence-based-program-public-housing-residents-expands>)

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ON THE GROUND

Cornerstone Mentoring Program Evaluation

Launched in 2012 as a component of the NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) in partnership with the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO), the YMI Cornerstone Mentoring Program supports youth in grades five through nine during their transitions from elementary to middle school, and middle school to high school, by cultivating positive personal relationships and community involvement. Employing a group mentoring model with a ratio of one mentor to four youth, Cornerstone promotes participant growth using dialogue, role modeling, trips, as well as academic support. The program targets youth of color living in or near public housing who are at risk of dropping out of school. Participants in school year 2013-2014 were 59% Black and 35 % Latino. Cornerstone is administered by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and operates in 25 DYCD Cornerstone Community Centers located in New York City Housing Authority facilities.

Dept. of Youth and Community Development, Center for Economic Opportunity, Young Men's Initiative, and Policy Studies Associates released a qualitative evaluation report in August 2014.

Key Findings:

- Mentoring program participants reported positive attitudes about their abilities to do well in school and beyond, compared to non-mentoring participants.
- Mentoring program participants reported high levels of trust and positive relationships with their mentors.
- Mentoring program retention is higher compared to traditional afterschool programs (43% vs. 35%).



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@NPowerOrg

Mobilizes the tech community and provides individuals, nonprofits and schools access and opportunities to build tech skills and achieve potential.

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

NYC Community Challenge Planning Summit

The NYC Young Men's Initiative would like to thank our Executive Steering Committee, Advisory Board Members, and a special thank you to our Youth Panelists for their attendance and contributions at our recent *My Brother's Keeper: Community Challenge Planning Summit*. The goal of this summit was to gather YMI stakeholders and youth voices to foster the beginnings of our *My Brother's Keeper: Community Challenge Community Convening* set tentatively for the beginning of 2015.



In this photo: Youth Panelists; (from left to right) Ruben Suazo (Mayor's Youth Leadership Council), Adip Vora (Mayor's Youth Leadership Council), Joseph Davis (The LGBT Center's Youth Advisory Board), Rajib Garcia (CUNY Fatherhood Academy), and Rawle Searles (Young Adult Internship Program).

Thank You!

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Department of Youth & Community Development



Center for Economic Opportunity



Human Resources Administration
Department of Social Services



YOUNG MEN'S INITIATIVE

