

MEET THE ALLIES



Advancing diverse young leaders to strengthen communities, nonprofits and civic participation.



Class of 2008/2009

Cynthia Ibarra

Young Women's Empowerment Project

Cindy holds a BA in Latin American and Latina/o Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is placed at the Young Women's Empowerment Project where she utilizes her skills as an organizer and activist. She is currently involved in the struggle for reproductive and sexual health rights.

Reginald Scruggs II

Center on Halsted

Reggie holds a Bachelors degree in Journalism and Marketing from Columbia College Chicago. Reggie is currently working on youth development at the Center on Halsted. His passion is rooted in youth development and social justice. After Public Allies Reggie plans to take his passion abroad to teach English.

Christian Bufford

After School Matters

Chris is a life long resident of Chicago. He currently resides on the southwest side of the city. He is currently placed at After School Matters where he is involved in the quality control of programming. Chris aspires to become a political figure in the near future to address many of the issues his community faces.

Ricardo "Riqui" Miranda

BUILD

Ricardo is a 30 year old of Mexican descent from Humboldt Park. As a 2nd year Ally, he is working as an Education Outreach Specialist. Through his work at BUILD, he assists youth with finding alternatives to the "gang life". Upon completion of Public Allies he plans to enroll in school and obtain a degree in Criminal Justice in order to continue fighting for social change.

Diana Beck

Youth Organizing Umbrella

Diana Beck is 23 years old and a graduate of Loyola University Chicago. She is originally from Indianapolis, Indiana. Currently, Diana works as a youth development worker in Evanston, Illinois. Diana is passionate about youth and community development. She is working on her Team Service Project in the Little Village community.

Annan Shehadi

Foresight Design Initiative

Annan Shehadi is 22 years old and grew up on the southwest suburbs of Chicago. After receiving a Bachelors degree in Graphic Design from the University of Illinois at Chicago she wanted to pursue a career in design with social good. At Foresight Design she is working on a number of projects that will promote environmental consciousness.



Hope Miles

University of Chicago Medical Center

Hope was born and raised on the south side of Chicago. She is a 27 year old mother of three boys. She graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a B.A. of Arts, Entertainment and Media Management. Hope is a community relations specialist at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

Marco Rios

After School Matters

Marco Rios is 27 years old and grew up on the north side of Chicago. He is an aspiring artist that uses ideals and concepts from his Puerto Rican heritage as his inspiration. Marco is placed at After School Matters where he is involved in quality control of after school programming. Marco is finishing his Arts degree and would like to teach art after Public Allies.

Reginald Tucker

Gary Comer Youth Center (GCYC)

Reggie Tucker is a 26 year old native of Chicago. After Graduating from Hales Franciscan High School he went on to attend DePaul University. There he attained a B.A. in Communications with a concentration in journalism. He is currently placed at GCYC as a communications coordinator.

Dalia Rubiano Yadidia

Latino Education Alliance

Dalia, 20, is originally from San Francisco, California. At the Latino Education Alliance, Dalia coordinates and manages an after school program for struggling sophomores and repeating freshman at North-Grand High School Campus. The organization and program are aimed to promote education in the Latino community.

Luis Santana

BUILD

Luis grew up in a community called Humboldt Park. He at one time was high school drop out who later developed a passion for education and returned to school and graduated. After graduation Luis enrolled in college and is pursuing a degree in sports medicine with a minor in social work. He is currently placed at BUILD where he does youth development.

Tina Riley

Partnership to Educate & Advance Kids (PEAK)

Tina is a 22 year old college graduate from John Hopkins University. She is currently working at PEAK, a program that assists youth to achieve academic and personal success. She is also working on her Team Service Project in the Little Village community. After Public Allies she is looking to pursue a career in medicine.

Ramycia Shantell Cooper

Chicago Women in Trades

Ramycia grew up on the west side of Chicago. She attended Flower Career Academy. After graduation she went on to pursue a B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and is completing work towards her Masters Degree at Roosevelt University. She is part of the Roseland Team Service Project on the far south side of Chicago.

Kimberly Collins

The History Makers

Kimberly, 24, hails from Beaumont Texas, but grew up in Houston. She received her bachelor's degree from Spelman College in 2006. She is pursuing a Masters of Science in Public Service Management. Currently she serves as a development assistant, recording stories of unsung heroes in the African American Community.

Stephanie Troche

Mikva Challenge

Stephanie is an 18 year old graduate of Jones College Prep High School. She is placed at Mikva Challenge where she is involved in running an after school program at both Orr and Al Raby High Schools. The program is called the Peace and Leadership council. She is passionate about youth leadership education and advocacy.

Shannon Medic

Firebelly Foundation

Shannon is 26 years old and holds a degree in Communications and Women's Gender Studies from the Honors College at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Shannon has spent extensive time studying and working on US-Mexico border issues and the murders and disappearances of women in Juarez Mexico. She is placed at The Firebelly Foundation.

Deangelo Armstrong

After School Matters

Deangelo is 22 years old. He was born and raised in North Lawndale where he has done work on grant writing. DeAngelo plans to spend his life assisting people to improve their communities. As Field Quality staff for After School Matters, he provides support for youth programming to community based organizations.

Samuel Kuntz

University of Chicago Medical Center

Samuel grew up in Cicero Illinois. He attended De LaSalle High School. After graduation, he attended Columbia University where he majored in American Studies. He was a member of City Year before joining Public Allies. He is placed at the University of Chicago Medical Center where he coordinates volunteer programs and special events.



Norma Mejia*TCEP*

Norma, 23, is a resident of the Little Village community. She is dedicated to serving her community and helping to improve its current conditions. She is involved in assisting youth getting involved in addressing community issues at TCEP. Norma also provides resources for youth to continue their education after high school.

Kristiana Richey*The History Makers*

Kristi is originally from Austin, Texas. She moved to Chicago in 2007 after receiving her degree in International Business with a concentration on Latin America from St. Edwards University. At The History Makers she is recording stories of unsung heroes in the African American Community.

Nicole Sutton*Public Allies Chicago*

Nicole, 26, is originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but moved to the Douglas Park neighborhood last year to become a Public Ally. She received her degree in Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations from the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point in 2005. She is currently placed at Public Allies Chicago as a program associate.

Jason Lopez*Southside Together Organizing for Power*

Jason Lopez is 22 years old and grew up in the Wicker Park area. Jason is also a DJ who has been spinning for the past 6 years. He is currently placed at Southside Together Organizing for Power where he is a housing organizer. He is also part of the Little Village team service project.

Lisa Avila*Crossroads Fund*

Lisa is 26 years old. She is placed at the Crossroads Fund where she will assist with all grant programs, work on special development projects, and manage the fundraising workshop series for grantees. She holds a bachelors degree in Spanish and Latin American and Latino studies from DePaul University.

Jessie Belton*Southwest Youth Collaborative*

Jessie is currently placed at Southwest Youth Collaborative where he is working on grassroots efforts in youth and community development through Imagine Englewood. Jessie is no stranger to grass roots efforts; he gained valuable skills working on the southwest side of Chicago with many youth campaigns against the criminalization of youth.

Sha-Hanna Lewis*University of Chicago Donoghue Charter School*

Sha-Hanna Lewis is from Evansville, Indiana. She attended Indiana University with the intent to develop a formal education in general studies. Sha-Hanna's professional development includes real estate, non-profit, youth partnership and health fitness.

Omar Zamora*National Training & Information Center*

Ambition, motivation, and creativity are the three words that define Omar Zamora. This multi-talented young man resides in Humboldt Park where he has lived his whole life. He is placed at the National Training and Information Center. His interests include youth organizing, music, fashion and graphic design.

