

MEET THE ALLIES

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



Class of 2008/2009

Hinna Ahmad

INNOVATIONS-Children's Hospital

Hinna Ahmad, a Cincinnati native, returned from Ohio State University as a double major graduate in International Relations & Diplomacy as well as Strategic Communications, looking to create change in her community and abroad. She wishes to use her academic focus in persuasive communication to reveal the political and social contexts of her community to understand the nature and impacts of aggregate opinion and its psychological influence on the minority. She is working with the Children's Hospital **INNOVATIONS** program to identify behavioral health resources for underserved children and families, and to understand program evaluation and public policy research related to schools and non-profit community agencies. When relaxing, you can find her with either (or a combination of) a book, her cat 'bibi', or her camera.

Monte Allen

Freestore/Foodbank

Monte' Allen, a recent UC graduate, has found his dream job. As a Special Projects Coordinator at the Free Store Food Bank, Allen helps to provide food and services for people in crisis. His mantra to live by is, "For as long as our people are held hostage by controllable socio-economic forces, we cannot afford to be indifferent to the ravages of poverty in all its dimensions and ramifications" -Ibrahim Babangida.

Candice Barnes

The Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education

Candice attended the University of Cincinnati majoring in Secondary Education, with an area of concentration in English. Her ongoing ambition to provide services to the youth in her community led her to the non-profit world. Candice served as a Tutor Coordinator at the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati until joining the staff of CHHE. As the Education Coordinator, Candice will

be responsible for planning events for school groups on the Holocaust, recruiting new groups to participate in programs, and arranging diversity and tolerance workshops. Candice is motivated to empower underrepresented populations to value and learn from history so as to use the lessons from the Holocaust to promote tolerance, inclusion and social justice. Her mission is guided by the words of Elie Wiesel, "Without memory, there is no culture. Without memory there would be no civilization, no society, and no future."

Brandon Black

Children, Inc.

Brandon Black, a native Cincinnati, is proud to be a member of the Decennial 2008-2009 class of Public Allies. He earned a B.A. in English with a concentration in Creative Writing from Miami University. He believes his undergraduate college experience paved the way for his current path. A professor's announcement that "In order to do you good, you must do



well" in a business course motivated him. His mission is to challenge that statement and has adapted "to do well, by doing good" as his personal motto. He is confident that his apprenticeship at Children, Inc. as a service learning coordinator will prepare him for future socially responsible endeavors.

Daria Branham

Xavier University-Center for Community Engaged Learning

Daria, 23, is a Cincinnati native. She is a graduate from University of Cincinnati where she obtained a degree in Communication. Daria is placed at Xavier University's Center for Community-Engaged Learning as the Community Partnership Liaison. There she is committed to fostering partnerships between Xavier, Evanston, and Norwood communities. After Public Allies, she will continue to work in nonprofits to help improve communities. In her free time, she enjoys reading and creating fashion designs.

Kim Burgas

Peaslee Neighborhood Center

A native of Toledo, Ohio, Kimberly Burgas moved to Cincinnati in 2003 to attend the University of Cincinnati. After a long, non-traditional journey through her undergraduate education, studying and working abroad in Japan, Dubai, Yemen, Italy and locations in between, she graduated from UC in sociology and Asian studies. Kim has a strong interest in the arts, languages, and cultures and is placed at the Peaslee Neighborhood Center as Arts Coordinator. Upon completion of the Public Allies program, Kim hopes to apply her skills gained through Peaslee to a nonprofit arts organization, Murmur Inc., she helped establish in January 2008.

Aarika Burton (not pictured)

Holly Hill Children's Services

Aarika Burton is a graduate from Kentucky State University. She has received her bachelors in Business Administration with a specialization in Management. She joined Public Allies in hopes of becoming a future leader by making a difference in the lives of inner city youth. She wants to open up youth centers within the Cincinnati area. Aarika is placed at Holly Hill Children's Services where she serves as an Adolescent Treatment Worker for mentally disturbed teenage girls. She is excited about her placement and is confident that her experience will give her the knowledge she needs to reach her goals.

Jasmine Coaston

Girls Scouts of Western Ohio

Jasmine Coaston is a Criminal Justice major at the University of Cincinnati and has chosen to take a year off to participate in the Public Allies program. A graduate of Walnut Hills High School, Jasmine is a Cincinnati native that is passionate about social justice becoming a reality in her hometown. Jasmine is a dedicated mother to 3 yr. old Jordan and enjoys motherhood, as well as writing poetry, music, debating, and building communities. As an Educational Outreach Specialist with Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, Jasmine will be pursuing one of her greatest passions, teaching peace, friendship, self esteem, and leadership to young girls encouraging them to grow into strong, self reliant young women.

LuShonda Gibson

Harmony Garden

LuShonda "Shon" Gibson is a researcher for the community resident research team at the HARMONY GARDEN. She has lived in the West End community for over 25 years where she attended Robert A. Taft High School. Shon's greatest

passion is being a mother to her five children. She has four sons whom she is raising to be respectful and one daughter for whom her hopes are to be healthy, independent, and self-sufficient. In January 2007, Shon earned her Certified Nursing Assistant License. Her special interest in healthcare led her to obtain experience working as a home health aid for a local community agency. Shon's years of active involvement in the West End community, place the HARMONY GARDEN Community Resident Research Team at an incredible advantage for accomplishing its research goals.

Micha Hall

Washington United Church of Christ

Micha Hall, 26 years old, was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. Her education is the most important part of her life and puts a lot of time and effort into educating herself and others, which is why she joined Public Allies. She has a Bachelors Degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in Economics and a Masters Degree from St. Mary's University in Political Science. She hopes to attend law school in fall of 2009.

John Hemmerle

Gorman Heritage Farm

John is excited to embark his service journey with Gorman Heritage Farm. He hopes to gain the skills necessary to educate and lead the way we develop as a nation in our interaction with the natural environment.

Zayvonie James

Winton Place Youth Center

A graduate of Clark Montessori High School, Zayvonie is excited to join Public Allies Cincinnati at her placement, the Winton Place Youth Center. She hopes this experience will give her the tools to grow professionally while doing service and having a good time with her fellow Allies.



Lindsay Jarvis

Early Intervention Program

Lindsay was born in Cleveland, OH, and lived there until she was 18. In Cleveland, she trained with the Ohio Ballet and Cleveland Ballet dance companies. After graduating High School, she was accepted to the Conservatory of Performing Arts at Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA. After a back injury, Lindsay decided to move to Honolulu, HI where she attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa and graduated with a double major in Biology and Kinesiology and a minor in Dance. She is currently applying to medical school, and serving at the University Hospital Emergency Department—Early Intervention Program.

Rosina Karikari

Early Intervention Program

Rosina Karikari is a 23 year old recent graduate from the University of Cincinnati with an undergraduate degree in Anthropology. She was born in Chicago, Illinois, and spent a portion of her life in Ghana, West Africa. She attended high school in Batavia, Ohio, where she implemented a program geared towards racial tolerance and acceptance. She is placed at the University Hospital with the Early Intervention program that aims to research, inform, and eradicate HIV/AIDS in the greater Cincinnati area. She aspires to attain her nursing degree at the end of her service with Public Allies and pursue a career within the field of medical and cultural anthropology. Her mission is to empower and educate women on the importance of health issues.

Rachel Klayman

Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Cincinnati

Rachel Klayman, 24, is placed at Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Cincinnati. Rachel is the Program Assistant and recruits and matches BIGS and LITTLES. She hopes to increase the number of matches

beyond the number that is expected per month. She hopes to raise the profile of the BBBS in the Jewish community and be seen as an important service in the Jewish Network. Rachel also continues to work on her own non-profit organization in Colombia, which services to single mothers and children. On her own time, she enjoys spending time with her two boys, exercising, traveling and spending time with her friends.

Jessica Linz

Santa Maria Community Services

Jessica is very excited to join Public Allies and Santa Maria Community Services. She hopes this experience will continue to strengthen her professional skills while having fun with her Allies.

William Lambeth

VISION 2015

William Lambeth, 26, is an Ohio native from the south eastern river town of Marietta. Since moving to Cincinnati in 2001, he has created a home for himself in the Clifton area and wants to create a positive impact in the community at large. After working several years for the Cincinnati Parks Department under horticulture and nature education, he left to peruse Public Allies and is now placed at Vision 2015 in northern Kentucky. When asked to describe himself he responds, "I'm just a regular guy, you know?"

Joy Love

Children, Inc.

Joy Love is a 27 year old University of Cincinnati Alum with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. She has been matched with Children, Inc. as a Service Learning Coordinator for her 08-09 year with Public Allies. She enjoys writing, reading, and plans on using her educational award to attend Graduate School. She lives with her beautiful family in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dan Moore

Cincinnati Interfaith Worker Center

Dan Moore, 24, is a native of Cincinnati with a degree in Community Development from Portland State University. Dan has a strong passion for social justice and workers rights, and is excited to be placed as an Organizer with the Cincinnati Interfaith Worker Center. There he coordinates the membership and does leadership development with low wage and immigrant workers. When not shaking his fist, Dan enjoys silk-screening, traveling, and general raucousness.

Tiara Newbill

Housing Opportunities Made Equal

Tiara Laurell Newbill was born in Cincinnati, OH. Moving from city to city, through the military lifestyle, she learned the importance of accepting change, embracing diversity, and making friendship last through move after move. Exposures to various cultures, languages and customs furthered her love of the universal language of music. Armed with a Bachelors degree, a killer smile, bewitching personality and a noble heart, she decided to take the 10-month foray into the non-profit sector that would professionally equip her with the career skill set to save the world.

Hakiym Sha'ir (not pictured)

Housing Opportunities Made Equal

With an oratorical style that draws directly on the force of the religious texts and a serene confidence derived from his nonviolent philosophy, Hakiym Sha'ir advocates a lifestyle of moderation and inclusion. Hakiym Sha'ir was born by the name of Brian Edward Simpson on September 19, 1982, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Always emitted a ideology of gaining knowledge, Brian struggled to perfect any craft. In 2004, Hakiym started the Lyrical Insurrection, an open mic and artist



network at The Greenwich Jazz Club in Walnut Hills. Since then, Hakiym has worked with the Mayor of Cincinnati, Gov. of Ohio, Cincinnati Public Schools, Hip Hop Congress, has spoke about social change at colleges and universities, and now is part of Public Allies, an Americorps program. Now at 25 years of age, Hakiym has a fiancé named Suriah and a 5 month old son destined for great things named Messiah.

Basette Smith II

Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati

Basette Smith, 29, holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management. He is placed with Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio as Assistant Project Coordinator for the Hardworking Families/EITC Coalition, bringing together community organizations and volunteers to educate families in the community about the Earned Income Tax Credit, and to run free tax return preparation sites serving over 6,500 low-income families in Ohio's Hamilton, Butler, and Clermont counties. A married father of two beautiful girls, Basette is committed to bringing the "Renaissance Man" back en vogue, with music, cycling, avid reading and politics among his many interests. After his service with Public Allies, Basette plans to obtain a Master's degree at the University of Cincinnati, and to eventually pursue a career in Public Interest and Civil Rights Law.

Chelsea Varnum

Santa Maria Community Services

Chelsea Williams-Varnum recently moved to Cincinnati from her home state of Oregon. She received her bachelors in Community Development in 2006 from Portland State University, and has a variety of experiences in community organizing and involvement. She is committed to helping find meaningful ways to fight oppressions, create community awareness, and promote investment

in family. She is also interested in alternative modes of healing and learning all things "do-it-yourself". Chelsea has been placed at Santa Maria Community Services as an Affordable Housing Caseworker. She will be working to help residents of Price Hill obtain affordable housing, avoid eviction and foreclosure, and improve the quality of housing. She is excited to become an active part of the Price Hill and Cincinnati community. She is dedicated to doing community work and healing as a career.

Kelvin Woods

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cincinnati

Kelvin Woods, 25, is a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He studied for his BA in English at the University of Cincinnati. He is placed at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cincinnati as a School Based Case Manager. Kelvin is very committed to improving and empowering socio-economically deprived individuals and neighborhoods. He has extensive experience working with children/youth in regards to education, development, and planning. In his free time, Kelvin likes to play and watch sports, cook, read and write short stories. After Public Allies, Kelvin hopes to obtain his masters degree in Secondary Education or Social Work and apply his efforts towards Education reform in public schools.

2nd Year Fellows

Rachel Champlin (not pictured)

Project Connect

Rachel Champlin, 22, completed her education at the University of Cincinnati with degrees in Psychology and Family Studies. Rachel is placed with Project Connect where she helps to advocate for preschool children experiencing homelessness in Cincinnati. Rachel enjoys singing in her church choir, her pseudo-band, and in conversations.

Nicole Kelch (not pictured)

Housing Opportunities Made Equal

Nicole is a returning alumna serving at Housing Opportunities Made Equal. Placed as a Homelessness Prevention Counselor, she is working to combat issues of eviction, tenant-landlord relations, and financial instability in order to keep individuals and families in their homes. She connects clients to needed resources and mediates with their landlords in order to promote stability in local communities. In her free time she attends local concerts and attempts to play the bass guitar. She graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 2007 with a degree in communication and hopes to continue working locally in client services.

Joshua James

University of Cincinnati's Economic Center for Education and Research

Joshua James, 22, is serving as a second year fellow at University of Cincinnati's Economic Center for Education and Research. This year he will capture and edit audio and video for the Economic Center. He currently attends Cincinnati State where he majors in audio/video production. In his spare time, he runs a full function recording studio known as Clear Vision Productions. He also enjoys hanging out with friends and family.

Yasin Southall

Public Allies Cincinnati and BRIDGES for a Just Community

Yasin is serving as a second year fellow at BRIDGES for a Just Community and Public Allies of Cincinnati as a Service Day and Alumni Relations Coordinator. Yasin is passionate about alternative journalism, national service, social justice, and organizing events. In his spare time he enjoys swimming, hiking, cooking Falafel, listening to live music, and hanging out with good people. After his service with Public Allies, Yasin will graduate



from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in International Affairs and Journalism. In the future he plans to dive into the world of political journalism.

