

MEET THE ALLIES



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



Class of 2008/2009

Melissa Gwathney

Backpack Buddies and Food Drive Coordinator, Interfaith Food Shuttle

Melissa earned a B.A. in Communication Studies and Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Public Administration at North Carolina Central University. Melissa's passion is service, and she loves to spend time with God, family, and friends. Her ultimate goal is to own businesses which provide services to underserved demographics taking strides to improve society.

Tionya Shivers

Community Organizer, Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Tionya is shaping her life for a career in human rights law, both domestically and internationally. She credits her experiences growing up as a military child with shaping her

perspective of the world reminding her that there is life outside her zip code. She hopes to spread that awareness to others and to motivate them to be active in the social justice and human rights arena in whatever capacity they can. When she is not trying to save the world, Tionya enjoys poetry, soccer, and attempting to learn languages.

Krista Kenney

Community Education Assistant, Orange County Rape Crisis Center

Krista is a graduate of North Carolina State University with a degree in Communication. She has devoted much of her time to business and community development assisting countless startup organizations. Her involvement in the community has included the Durham Community Dinner, World AIDS Day Youth Speaker, volunteering at Habitat for Humanity and many other engagements. Krista is committed to the enrichment of our youth and the promotion of diversity throughout the community. She is also dedicated to

the arts and promotes creative expression through dance, photography, painting, and poetry. She is prepared for a bright future and eager to step forward, anticipating a rewarding Ally year ahead.

Becky Morgan

Special Events Coordinator, Interfaith Food Shuttle

Becky recently earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Wofford College in South Carolina. Originally from Wichita Falls, Texas, she relocated to Durham, North Carolina, this summer. She feels passionately about youth and education, and has an overall love of people. Becky would eventually like to pursue a Master of Social Work and become a counselor.

Frank Puna

Historically Minority Colleges and Universities Consortium

Frank is a first generation American born to parents from Congo, Africa. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from North Carolina Central University in 2005, and is currently

