



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 • NOVEMBER 2020



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

FRANK WILLIAMS, JR

Thursday, October 15, 2020, the White Plains Youth Bureau celebrated its 50 Faces Recognition Virtual Ceremony honoring 75 individuals who got their career "Jumpstart" at the Bureau. Many of the honorees, as youth, participated in afterschool programs, employment, mentoring, college and career prep, summer camp, Mayor's Youth Council, Neighborhood Services and a range of other Youth Bureau programs. Dawn Barrett, Mayor's Youth Board member, was chair of the event. She was assisted by her daughter, Annia Takori. The event was attended by Mayor Thomas Roach, Youth Board Chairman Justin Brasch, Senator Shelly Meyer, Westchester County Board of Legislators President Benjamin Boykin, and Vice President of the Westchester County Board of Legislators Alfreda Williams, Common Council members Vicki Presser and Jennifer Puja and Council President Nadine Hunt-Robinson

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER TABLE OF CONTENTS

"What Thanksgiving Means
to Me" + Alumni Association
Signup • P. 2-3

**REMEMBERING NICOLE STANSBURY
+ 50 FACES • P. 4-6**

**Message From The President
of Friends of The White
Plains Youth Bureau - P.7**
**If you can dream you can
achieve, Judith Watson -
P. 8-9**

**Alumni Highlights:
Raina Kadavil - P.10**

[Click Here](#)

"What Thanksgiving Means to Me" **Courtesy of Youth Bureau Alumni**

"Thanksgiving is a holiday where we usually gather around the dinner table to eat turkey and stuffing. I love to remember the many blessings; health, family, friends, and the ability to serve those less fortunate than myself. We all have a gift to make this world a better place which is the one thing I am most thankful for."

-Sylvester Price

"I often share Thanksgiving with extended family and friends and with COVID-19 this year I will have a smaller gathering with immediate household members. With all the loss of life, jobs, health and social turmoil, I have plenty to be "THANKFUL FOR"! I have all my immediate loved ones alive and healthy or on the mend to being healthy. I have great family, friends and community support for all things important to me. I have a job that supports my well being and allows for me to work from home and take leave for family needs. I have a husband that is my champion and has provided security and stability during these uncertain days of 2020. MOST IMPORTANT, I HAVE MY SAVIOR GOD keeping me strong in faith, strength, and making all the impossible possible for me!"

-Zelda Strong

"What Thanksgiving Means to Me" Courtesy of Youth Bureau Alumni (Cont'd)

""Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays. No pressure of finding the perfect gift, no worries of leaving anyone off my holiday shopping list or making sure that I pick out just the right gift for that special someone. Instead, Thanksgiving has been a time for me to give thanks, be grateful and eat some humble pie. Thankful for the many things we all often taken for granted. Like, waking up in the morning, shelter, clothing, food and employment! Grateful to have another opportunity to make a difference, to make amends with someone or let family and friends know just how much you love and appreciate them. And that slice of humble pie helps us remain grounded and focused on the things that are most important.

But this year, Thanksgiving has taken on a new meaning! There is so much more to be thankful for, so much more to be grateful for and so much more humble pie to share with others. This unprecedented time in our lives has challenged all of us to rethink how we celebrate special days and events in our lives. Throughout 2020, we all had to make many adjustments to mark major milestones in the lives of our loved ones. And against our better judgement, we adapted and made it work!

So, this Thanksgiving I am extremely thankful, grateful and humbled. As this year has been a challenging year, yet every day I have been blessed with an opportunity to get it right. With that, this holiday season I encourage everyone to think about someone other than themselves, offer a kind word to someone and lift their spirits, call someone and make their day, and continue to devote yourselves to prayer being watchful and THANKFUL"- Colossians 4:2

-Delphine Burton

Remembering Nicole Stansbury

The White Plains Youth Bureau celebrates the life and legacy of Nicole Stansbury. Nicole was one of our 50 Faces honorees. After graduating White Plains High School, Nicole received her Bachelors and Master's Degree from Fordham University.

Nicole's work included Camp Director for the Bits N' Pieces Camp; Instructor for the Saturday Academy Program and promoted to the position of Education Director.

Nicole also held the position of Director of Youth and Community Services at the White Plains YWCA. Nicole helped to change the trajectory of many youth. She was personable, giving and caring. Her passing, while leaving a hole in our heart, reminds us of the significant impact she had on the White Plains community.

May her memory be a blessing.



50 FACES HONOREE:

Nicole Stansbury



Growing up in White Plains provided me with many opportunities- and one special opportunity was the White Plains Youth Bureau. I started attending the Youth Bureau at eleven years old. It was located a few blocks from my house and one of a very few places my mom would allow me to go. Frank Williams was my youth counselor. He held weekly meetings with my peers and I and taught us invaluable lessons. My first job at the age of fourteen was through the Youth Bureau. I was placed at the YWCA Little Sister's Camp. Little did I know that later in my life I would become the director of the Little Sister's program as well as the Director of Youth and Family Services at the YWCA.

After attending Fordham University and majoring in Education and Child Psychology, I returned to work at the youth Bureau. I was the Educational Coordinator of the Saturday Academy program, the Camp Director of the Bits N Pieces Day Camp as well as other positions throughout the after-school programs. It gave me joy to be able to come back and work alongside Frank, the very person who showed me the importance of investing time and love in children.

After working in various educational settings and nonprofits, I launched my online life coaching business, named 'A Mom's Movement'. 'A Mom's Movement' is dedicated to working with other mothers as they navigate the education system and extracurricular activities for their children. I will forever be grateful to the second family I gained through the White Plains Youth Bureau.

50 FACES HONOREE:

Christian Nunez

Christian Nunez was born and raised in White Plains, NY. He grew up on Ferris Ave which happens to have played a major part in his development and success. Christian went on to graduate from White Plains High school in 2009 and was part of the varsity basketball team for 2.5 years. He went on to play basketball at Farmingdale State College, helping lead his team to a Skyline Conference Championship in 2012 and graduated with a Bachelors in Sports Management.

Upon graduation, he has been giving back to the community in many ways. He worked as a teacher assistant for the SAIL program and as a freshman basketball coach at the White Plains High School for about 5 years. He has helped mentor the youth in White Plains and served as a great role model. His continued support and attention have helped the White Plains community.

The Youth Bureau was a safe haven for Christian; it was a place where he could go to with his friends and play the game he loved. The Youth Bureau also granted him the opportunities to find jobs, enhance his academics, and gain the knowledge and support needed to become a leader.

Currently, Christian Nunez resides in St. Louis, Missouri. He is a Graduate Assistant on the Men's Basketball team at Saint Louis University and will be graduating next year with a Masters in Higher Education Administration in Student Personnel. He hopes to one day work his way up and become a head coach at a Division 1 school one day, but in the meantime, he will continue to work and set an example for the younger generations to follow.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF FRIENDS OF THE WHITE PLAINS YOUTH BUREAU

Renee Willis Smith

Born and raised in White Plains, I consider myself an alumna of the White Plains Youth Bureau where I would often attend with my father, Charles Willis, who worked at the Teen Lounges.

While I loved spending time with my father, I was thrilled to meet other young people, learn how to play Ping Pong, go on field trips, and hear from guest speakers on various topics. In addition to having fun, being involved with the Youth Bureau provided valuable life skills in a nurturing environment where people genuinely cared about my development. As most of us know, Frank Williams, White Plains Youth Bureau Executive Director, has the innate ability to recall the involvements of virtually all of the youth who pass through the Youth Bureau. Over the years he followed my corporate endeavors and always provided support and praise.

Being involved with the Youth Bureau has taught me the importance of the following:

Exposure: Having new experiences, learning new things and engaging with peers is essential in the development of young people and helps them to dream and make decisions about their future.

Mentoring: Alumni and other volunteers who serve as mentors not only help youth to continue to grow and explore, but it is key in demonstrating that they matter.

Caring: Over the years, I have heard many stories about staff members going above and beyond by providing clothing and car rides for teens going on college and job interviews. Knowing that you have people who personally care about your wellbeing can mean the world to a child and make a difference in their trajectory.

I have experienced first hand how the Youth Bureau has and continues to shape the lives of White Plains youth by providing programs in a nurturing and supportive environment, which is why I became a founding member of the Friends of White Plains Youth Bureau board of directors and currently serve as its President. With the services provided by this institution, which are more critical now than ever before, I am honored to be in a position to help Frank Williams and his team to continue their valuable work. I have certainly come full circle from my Teen Lounge days!

Born and raised in White Plains, Renée Willis Smith is a founding member of the Friends of White Plains Youth Bureau where she also serves as President.

IF YOU CAN DREAM YOU CAN ACHIEVE

Judith Watson

When asked to contribute a piece that speaks to youth about holding fast to their dreams and not to quit, there's so much I'd like to say to younger folks.

Dreams are powerful ideas that allow us to see ourselves being, doing or having something that may not be a part of our daily life right now. Sometimes dreams come while we're sleeping but they can come from seeing someone that either has something, does something or projects an image of success that we wish we could have or be like. How do we make our dreams a reality?

Realization of where we are right now and believing we can work for and achieve our dream sets us on the path toward believing we can make it to the finish line with effort.

Effort is our willingness to use our mental and physical energy in a positive way, in order to push ourselves from the realization of where we are now, toward making our dreams come true. We're ready to make it happen but how do we get there?



Judith Watson is a WPHS graduate, an alumnus of White Plains Youth Bureau programs, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, Inc. Watson fondly recounts her time involved with Youth Bureau programming and the significant impact the organization had on the direction and success of her life.

IF YOU CAN DREAM YOU CAN ACHIEVE

(CONTINUED)

Judith Watson

Adjustment is taking our energy or willingness to succeed and giving it direction. Making a plan to reach our dreams can come through research, education and a willingness to learn and try new experiences. Maintaining an open mind and flexibility toward change allows us to learn and grow. We make plans, but plans often change. Sometimes our plans aren't working out as expected no matter how hard we try. Now what?

Momentum is the determination to continue moving ahead. It's easy to become discouraged as we begin working toward making our dreams a reality. Putting in effort sometimes requires a willingness to spend more time reading, gaining knowledge and skills. Along the way, there maybe people that will try to discourage us. There may be times it seems that reaching our dreams seems so difficult and every time we try, we fail. All these situations can drain our energy and make us feel like quitting. Seeing failures as temporary detours with information to help us navigate toward our dreams can help us stay on course. For every moment it seems impossible and easier to quit, consider taking a moment to remember the dream, what it means to you and know that you are but a step closer because you have been working hard and need only to refuel and that success is near.

Success rarely comes instantaneously. It comes from repetition, and an openness to learning and functioning outside of our comfort zone. It often comes with repeated failures but they are lessons we can learn and grow from that help us reach our goals that lead to the realization of our dreams. So when you feel you've lost our way, or lack the support you need, take a moment to regroup and believe in yourself and the importance of pursuing your **DREAM**:

Dreams can become a reality with the **Realization** of what can happen when we apply **Effort**, formulate a plan and stay flexible to the **Adjustment** of our plans as we learn and grow. At times it may be tough and we may fall short of our expectations and feel discouraged. Turning failures into opportunities to review our dreams and their importance can give us the **Momentum**, to build up our energy and belief in ourselves.

Keep on trying because with every step, with every try, with every failure and lesson learned, you're one step closer to reaching **Success!** Don't ever quit. You're almost there!

Alumni Highlights: Raina Kadavil Donates \$1,000 of 2020 CEO Force for Good Award to Establish 2 \$500 Scholarships

Raina was awarded the 2020 CEO Force for Good Award, through her employer Mastercard. Quoting the email she received from the company CEO congratulating Raina on the award: "These awards were created four years ago to honor the outstanding community and public service contribution of [Mastercard] employees." Raina was chosen because of her recent establishment of the the Westchester United Nations Association's first Model United Nations conference to engage high school students in debate, diplomacy, and awareness about global issues during Covid-19.

As a recipient of this award, Raina received a \$1,000 donation to a charitable organization of her choice as well as recognition at the Q4 CEO Force for Good Awards celebration, "honoring the 'best of the best' in volunteering." Raina also briefly spoke about her work with the Model UN in a recent speech in the UN General Assembly's SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) Action Zone.



White Plains Youth Bureau



DECEMBER



Upcoming Events

5th Fatherhood Conference

Responsible Fathers:
Lifelines during Covid -19



10am via Zoom

10th GRANDPAS UNITED

AWARDS

BREAKFAST

9am via Zoom



2nd Careers In Science

12pm - 12:30pm
Speaker for MS students

1:30pm - 2:30pm
Forensic Science Activity



9th Careers In Technology

2pm - 4pm
3D Modeling
workshop for
MS students



15th to 17th Baby Sitter Training

3pm - 5pm
each day
6 Hours Total

17th My Brothers Keeper

ANNUAL
AWARDS
6:30pm via Zoom



22nd Youth Webinar

"Navigating College in
the Midst of Covid 19"

6:30pm via Zoom

Annual Toy Drive Distribution*

Dec. 21st & 22nd 11am - 7pm

*Pre-registered Families Only

