



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWSLETTER The YMCA of Greater Hartford



Here are some Fall highlights from around our Y.

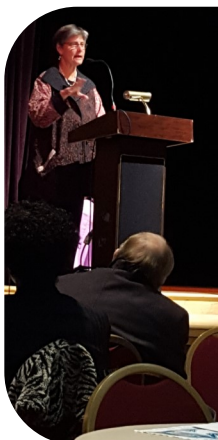
Greater Hartford Multi-Faith Prayer Breakfast

Every year, the YMCA of Greater Hartford sponsors the Multi-Faith Prayer Breakfast, hosted by the Hartford Seminary in collaboration with numerous faith organizations across the region.

This year, the Y hosted a table at the event and collected socks for the homeless.

With your help, we donated over 300 pairs!

Thank you to everyone who came to the event, worked our table, and donated socks!



GHYMCA DIG Statement:

The Y is made up of diverse people working side by side to strengthen our communities. Together, we work to ensure everyone -- of any income, faith, ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, ethnicity, national origin, cultural background or other unique personal characteristics -- has the opportunity to live life to its fullest. We share the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility, which are the foundation for everything we do.

Visit our DIG website page [HERE](#)

WE BUILD LIFELONG SUCCESS



Diversity, Inclusion & Global Equity Newsletter

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT TRI-TOWN FAMILY LEARNING PROGRAM

Global families growing together.

Thanks to Kim, Sarah, Josue, Zach, and Shawnee—as well as many other supporters and collaborators—this Wethersfield-based Family Learning Program impacts newcomer, refugee, and immigrant families who are looking for a connection to community here in the States.

With a multi-generational approach, the participants learn English and life skills, the children learn and grow, guardians and children play together, and families create a strong network.

Participants become intertwined in each other's lives, rely on each other, and share about their culture and traditions.

The grant from the Global Initiatives Committee will help bring much-needed supplies to the program, provide educational materials, and create posters for the room to display pride for and information about where the families came from.



About the Key Players

Kim Bobin is a thoroughly impressive woman from Wethersfield. If there's something going on in town, chances are Kim's a part of it.



She and the YMCA connected through the Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaboration (WECC), and we've worked together in a number of ways—for instance through this Family Learning Program that the GIC sponsored as the 2019 DIG Ideas Grant recipients.

A big thanks to Sarah Marquis, our Tri-Town Childcare Director, Josue Irizarry, Tri-Town Exec, Shawnee Baldwin and Zach Riccio, our positive, caring, and reliable childcare staff.

Something that this program emphasizes is that It Takes More than a Village. When so many players come together to sponsor, support, donate, and volunteer to make this program happen, it demonstrates the power of community.



Kim and the extended village are working to make sure everyone feels like they have a place where they belong and people who care about them.

Thank you, Kim and the entire team, for your constant passion and dedication!



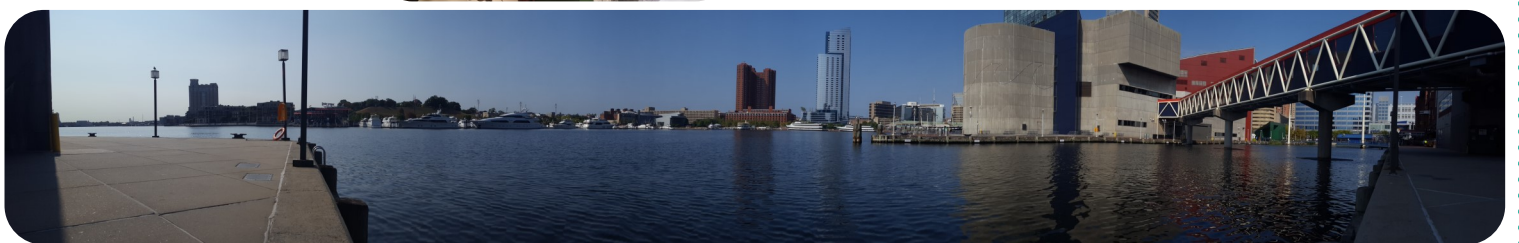
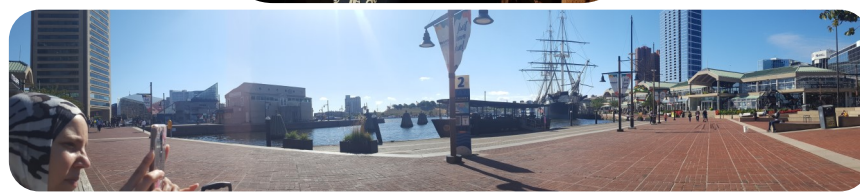
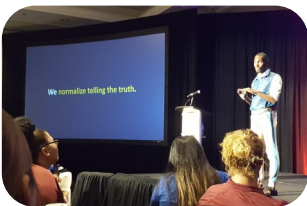
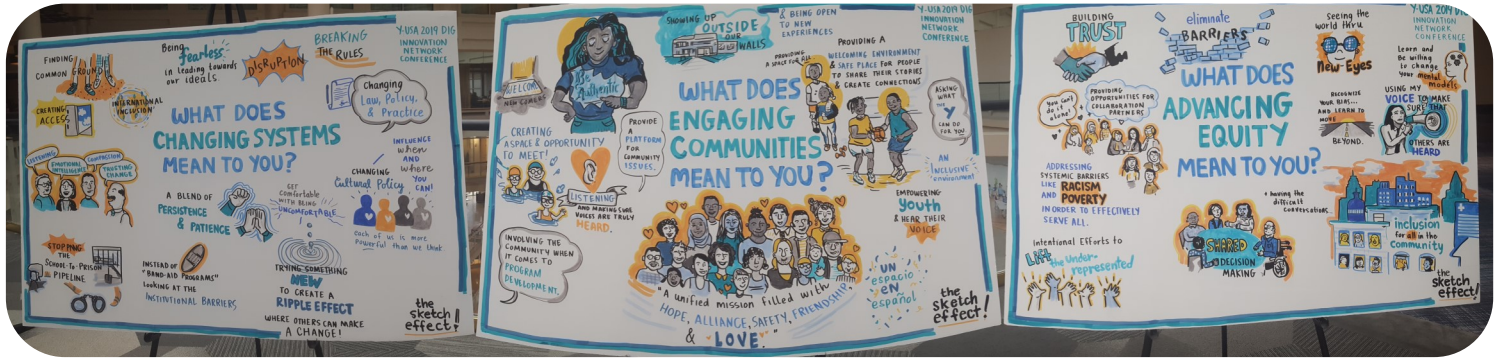
The Global Initiatives Committee is an association board level subcommittee, made up of volunteers and staff, that has been engaged in global engagement through GHY for over 50 years. The mission of the GIC is to promote international understanding and increase cultural competency throughout the YMCA of Greater Hartford and its communities in order to better serve our members and communities in an increasingly diverse and inter-connected society. To get involved, reach out to robin.thibault@ghymca.org

Diversity, Inclusion & Global Equity Newsletter

YMCA OF THE USA DIG CONFERENCE 2019 BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

YMCA of Greater Hartford represented at the DIG Conference this October in Baltimore.

Thanks to Marilyn Vazquez, Hoda Mousa, and Rachel Anthony for attending! We attended workshops, awards, community events, and heard from Kevin Washington, Carlos Sanvee, Little Miss Flint, Deray Mckesson, and many other DIG leaders. Want to attend in future years? Get involved in the Global Initiatives Committee and complete a Global Leader Project in 2020. Learn more by reaching out to Robin.



Diversity, Inclusion & Global Equity Newsletter



THANK YOU, RACHEL!!!

Our GIC Intern, Rachel Anthony, is accepting a position in development at the Central Coast Y.

With Rachel's help, the Global Initiatives Committee sponsored two Global Leader Certification Projects, a DIG Ideas Grant, sent multi-cultural staff to leadership development courses, and attended the DIG Conference in Baltimore.

We can't say how lucky we were to work with you, and we hope you stay a volunteer with the committee. You're the best!

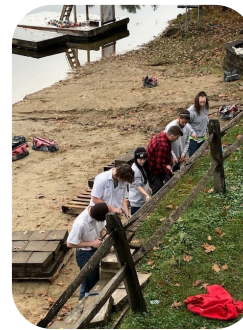
Congrats, good luck, stay connected, and thank you for all your hard work!



Know someone who wants a Global Internship at the Y? Send a resume and cover letter [HERE](#).

BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **Hale** held an Elder Law and Estate Planning Workshop for Seniors and Swim with the Pumpkins.
- **Farmington Valley** held Halloween at the Y!
- **Tri-Town** morning childcare participants enjoyed sensory play time.
- **Wheeler** hosted its annual Navratri Dance.
- **Indian Valley** held their Spirits for Giving Gala.
- **Glastonbury** hosted its Toast to the Town event.
- **East Hartford** martial arts participants won over 150 awards for the season.
- **West Hartford & Camp Jewell** celebrated with a Masquerade Gala.
- **Camp Woodstock** started a Waterfront Project.
- **Downtown** began an "Alphabet Soup" swim hour for the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Wilson-Gray** youth performed and volunteered at the association's Champion's Event, the 10th Anniversary of the Wilson-Gray branch.



There's always so much going on at our Y.

To get more involved in DIG (Diversity, Inclusion, Global), contact: robin.thibault@ghymca.org



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

The YMCA of Greater Hartford

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

Alexia Mckone
James Shelansky
Ian Nielson
Shai-Anne Gaston
Shelton Forney
Rachel Friedman
Salma Kasem
Cortney Castle
Dejia Santana
Ashley Kapinos
Scotti Easton
Shamia Cannon
Shelly You
Joseph Dobson
Anthony Canellas
Corey Hubbell
Xavier Phillips
Jayla Womack
Jaylis Womack
Reno Lausier III
Carletha Texidor
Matthew Ahlberg
Divyashri Coorg Satish
Meghan Simmons

Grace Gronski
Kayln Norman
Priscilla Herrera
Carter Dean
Erin Rady
Emma Barrese
Mackenzie VanBrand
Erik Winkler
Stacey Ann Phillips
Shaylon Shannon
Jada Carney
Andrew Laprise
Sheila Martin
Peter Richardson
Trinity DeJesus
Lissa Shamburg
Danielle Olson
Raquel Gaudette
Samantha Vear
Sarah MacDonald
Christopher Hoover
Autumn Ager
George Gutierrez
Fredrick Porter

Susan Bell
Krista Clark
Aisha Chaudhry
Evan Exum
Laura Townsend
David Field
Janet Pisch
Julia Baroni
Linda Giorgio
Jake McCausland
Patricia Rodriguez
Karen Rutigliano
Jacob Feliciano
Emma Kolb
Andrew Garrett
Sarah Segesdy
Alejandra Garcia
Jaelynn Stulpin
Leeandra Garcia
Shanita Hill
Stacy Lynch
Collin Manuilow

This is a list of employees starting between September 21st and December 1st. If anyone is missing from this list, they might have been included in the last newsletter, or they might still need to be entered into Kronos. Reach out for questions—robin.thibault@ghymca.org