



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Thanks for tuning in to our latest YAYB newsletter. Spring has arrived and we here at Youth Action are bustling with activity. Our 2019 cohort is entering the home stretch - many of the students are preparing to sit for their HSE certifications. Others are engaged in internships gaining work experience, making connections with potential employers, and building resume credits. Still others are working to complete their construction skills, OSHA 30, and CPR certifications.

We've launched two new career pathway programs to offer to our students and other young people from the community - the *Good Food Jobs* and the *Building Operators Training Programs*. We believe these offerings will help young people develop sustainable careers with good wages and opportunities for advancement, as well as positively bind them to our community. You can read more about Good Foods in the section ahead. In house, we are reflecting on our direction, growth, and role in the community - determining what needs to be better aligned in order to bring the future forward. This is all engendering great conversations at every level, with our students, among the staff, within the board of directors, and in consultation with our stakeholders and partners. It is indeed a time for moving forward and change. We're excited about the momentum and we want you to be excited along with us - let us know what interests you and we can figure out how to plug you in. Become a part of building hope - you are needed! Enjoy the read....

YA Making Moves

GOOD FOOD JOBS PROGRAM: ROUND II



The Good Food Jobs Program (GFJP) is a new Youth Action initiative coordinated with the CUNY Center for Urban Food Policy, Seedco, and the Stanley Isaac's Center. We have all joined together to introduce Upper Manhattan youth to jobs in the food economy that have a low barrier to entry and offer opportunities for advancement and good wages. We are now working with our second GFJP cohort who have just completed their fundamental training. Cohort 2 recently demonstrated their new culinary skills and healthy recipes to family and friends before earning their certificates of completion and knife kits. Now, graduates are moving on to internships and getting prepped to start careers in the food sector.



YA Snapshots



(Jan. 24) Youth Action students helped install the Pride Totem in Longwood in the South Bronx. Designed by public artist Roy Secord, the Totem stands over 20 feet tall and represents the diversity and unity of the community. The event was covered by Bronx News 12.

(Mar. 29) YouthBuild programs from all over the City and Long Island recently came together for an impromptu basketball tournament in the Bronx. The prize was an impressive trophy donated by our Dean of Students Michael Parker.



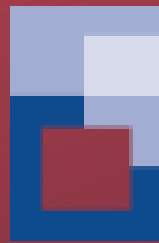
(Apr. 9) YAYB recently hosted a community forum in response to concerns about youth development and the need to foster a hopeful future for our community. The revived East Harlem Community Forum inspires solutions-focused conversations with residents, community workers, NYPD officers, and others.

Partner Spotlight



We've had the pleasure of collaborating with CUNY UFPI, a leading food policy research center, to conceptualize and implement two rounds of the Good Food Jobs Program. A huge thank you to Charita Johnson, Craig Willingham and Nick Freudenberg for their commitment to the work.

Seedco is helping graduates of the Good Food Jobs Program find permanent jobs where they can apply their skills and build long-term food careers. Thank you, Alex Breen, Veronica Adorasio, and Valerie Nigg!



Seedco



Isaacs Center

The Isaacs Center is a community-based organization that both trains youth for jobs and supports seniors. They are working with Youth Action's workforce training programs, providing participants for both the Good Food Jobs and Building Operators Training Programs (BOTP). Thank you, Damion Samuels!

Save the Date

Set your calendars! Youth Action is celebrating its 40 years of service in East Harlem kicking off with CommUNITY Day, a softball tournament and street fair, 6/28 at Jefferson Park. If you or your business would like to get involved you can **give**, or Email us at developadmin@youthactionyouthbuild.org.

Stay

engaged!

You can keep up with Youth Action happenings year-round by following us on social media and checking out the rest of our website. Make sure to use our hashtag **#YAYB40** on social media to help us celebrate our 40th anniversary!

