



NEWSLETTER



Dear YMWAP Family,

As Spring returns to Boston, YMWAP has resumed traditional pre-Covid activities, including Men of Color Career Night and our New Hampshire weekend. These two great events expose our kids to new people and places and open their eyes to a broader world. Our young men then begin to make bigger plans for their lives. As we approach the end of the school year, we are seeing students regain momentum for learning while also really needing a safe place to belong. Earlier this month I was on a panel at a Children's Hospital event where we discussed youth mental health and well-being. I shared YMWAP's holistic mentoring model

and our outcomes. I also shared that, in our experience, violence in any neighborhood affects every kid in Boston, not just those most directly involved. Fear diminishes their worlds and makes their dreams smaller. Helping Boston's young people have a safe fun childhood is something we all need to prioritize as we look ahead to summer.

As always, we thank you for being part of our village,

Jaykyri Simpson, Ed.D., Executive Director - Young Man with a Plan
jaykyriymwap@gmail.com

MEN OF COLOR CAREER NIGHT

On April 12, 75 students and professionals from fields including law, technology, life sciences, real estate, business, law enforcement, engineering, education, and entrepreneurship shared a meal, played cornhole and Connect 4, and chatted informally. Then, in a "speed dating" process, the career professionals told small groups of students about their educational and career journeys. We were touched to see that two young men brought their fathers to speak on their careers.



YMWAP SENIORS

Back in 2018 when we were only serving high school students, a group of 8th graders in our host school, Boston Prep, approached us and asked to join YMWAP. They became an off-year cohort we've continued to support. They've overcome challenges of the Covid pandemic and made ambitious plans! These young men have been accepted into colleges that include Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, BU, Suffolk, and UMass Boston and Lowell and will study engineering, pre-law, marine biology, journalism, marketing, computer science, political science, game design, and accounting. With every graduating class we see greater diversity in career interests and majors. Vic Taveras De La Cruz, pictured here on our NH weekend trip, will attend Carnegie Mellon to study Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Aeronautics.



Young Man With a Plan

NEWSLETTER

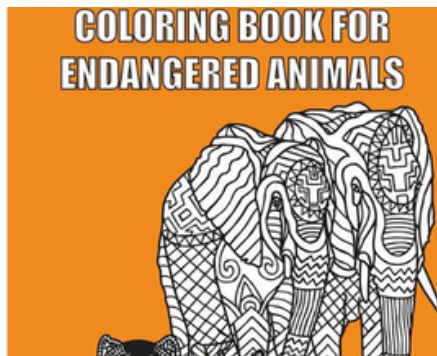
BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OFFICE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

YMWAP was selected from the 60 nonprofit organizations supported by Boston Children's Hospital Office of Community Health to speak on a panel at their annual May event, "Advancing Equity to Improve Youth Mental Health and Well-being." Fellow panelists included Kevin Simon, MD, Chief Behavioral Health Officer, City of Boston; Jenna Parafinczuk, BPS Director of Student Support; and Dr. Catherine Vuky of South Cove Community Health Center. Following the event, the Children's Hospital team wrote: "We are proud of our partnership with Young Man with a Plan and so thrilled to be able to feature your incredible work. I think the excitement for your unique model was captured by Dr. Vuky's remark that we need your program everywhere in the City!"



YMWAP ALUM HAKIM CARNES

YMWAP alum Hakim Carnes is a senior at Framingham State University, majoring in Graphic Design/Marketing, on track to graduate in December 2023. This summer Hakim will help YMWAP plan our new creative arts corner. Hakim writes, "Since I was a kid, I've always had an interest in animation and illustration. Pencil and paper are my primary media. I start by creating lines of different qualities, and then move on to paint or digital work that allows me to create pieces on a larger scale. Consistent themes are family, pop culture, fun, and color. My goal is to create work that people can connect to and interact with." We look forward to welcoming Hakim back to YMWAP!



To donate, visit youngmanwithaplan.org
or scan the QR code:

