

THE RESPECT! CHALLENGE

2013 RESPECT! Regional Captains



Susan Brostrup-Jensen – Boston, MA

I am a social worker with many years of experience working to address violence in the home in a number of capacities. Initially, I worked in a community-based setting doing advocacy and counseling, community organizing, legal advocacy, and trainings. Most recently, I worked as a volunteer organizer in the Blackstone River Valley with the Christian faith community to raise awareness about domestic violence and to create a relationship between the community and the domestic violence service providers. Our work together resulted in new information-based resources, community-wide events, and “Domestic

Violence Awareness Sunday” events in a number of local churches. This work was funded through Futures Without Violence. Additionally, I completed my own dissertation research looking at the role of resource loss and gain in the decision-making and coping strategies of women in abusive relationships, graduating from Simmons College in October of 2012. In addition to working on violence prevention issues, I participated as an ethnographer in a three-city research study looking at the impact of welfare reform on low-income families. Specifically, the families that I followed had a child with a disability. Currently, I am teaching part-time in the Simmons College School of Social Work and Wheelock College’s social work program.

Caitlin Burke – Cincinnati, OH

I graduated from Marquette University in 2011 with a degree in Biomechanical Engineering. I became interested in the field of violence prevention, specifically sexual and intimate partner violence, during my senior year in college. I was a member of a peer education group that presented on violence prevention and risk reduction. When I graduated and moved back home, I started volunteering for an organization called Women Helping Women, a nonprofit organization that provides services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. After a few months of volunteering with their education department, I was offered a part-time position as a School and Community Educator for the organization. Now, I present an evidence-based curriculum on primary prevention of teen dating violence to high schools around the city and I absolutely love it!



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Stephanie M. Clark – Miami, FL

As a marketing communications expert and entrepreneur, Stephanie M. Clark possesses over 20 years of developing and executing effective marketing and public relations campaigns as well as producing small to large-scale special events. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Marketing from the University of Detroit-Mercy. She has worked as a Marketing Consultant for over 20 years and has serviced clients within the Construction, Education, Healthcare, Retail, Nonprofit, and the Cultural Arts industries.

Passionate about empowering women and girls, Clark's philanthropic efforts include founding Project Single Moms Worldwide, Inc., a national advocacy and empowerment movement for single moms, where she served as National Director from 2007-2012. She also served as the Director and Small Business Coach for the Small Business Academy for Single Mothers which she created to help single mothers become entrepreneurs. In 2012, she was tapped by Yahoo! to serve as a Small Business Coach for the 2012 Yahoo! Remake America Series working with single moms to help them start home-based businesses. Well versed in all facets of nonprofit operations, she possesses over 15 years of nonprofit executive management experience and has consulted with several community and faith-based organizations in the areas of organizational management and marketing.

She has been featured in national media including *The Talk*, *FOX News*, *The Steve Harvey Morning Show*, *The Michael Baisden Show*, *CNN's Comcast Newsmakers*, *The Huffington Post*, *Bloomberg Urban Report*, *Fox TV's The Morning Show with Mike & Juliet*, *NAACP's Crisis magazine*, *Black Enterprise.com*, *NBC News' (thegrio.com)*, *Yahoo! News*, *The Atlantan magazine*, *The Atlanta Voice* and several other local radio and television media outlets. Also, she was featured in the August 2009 issue of *Family Circle magazine*. During 2008-2010, she served as the national spokesperson, marketing consultant and career coach for the Project Working Mom and Career Stimulus Package Empowerment Tour, two online education scholarship programs presented by eLearners.com. She has served as a motivational speaker and workshop facilitator for various programs presented by The Steve Harvey Foundation. She is a former *Essence.com* blogger.

Clark served as a Champion for the United Nations Foundation's 2012 Shot@Life Campaign. She is a 2011 L'Oreal Paris Woman of Worth Honoree, a 2011 Who's Who in Black Atlanta honoree and was honored by America Online (AOL)'s ParentDish.com as one of 24 "2010 America's Most Amazing Moms" on Mother's Day. She is a 2009 Best Community Leader finalist for the Steve Harvey Hoodie Awards. She is a recipient of numerous awards and has presented keynote & motivational speeches to several faith & community-based groups, professional associations, corporations, government agencies, primary schools & colleges and has facilitated workshops to women & youth groups throughout the country.

Clark is a published author. Her debut book entitled "Life as a Single Mom: It Isn't Easy or Is It?" was released on October 26, 2007. Her eBook, "More Than a Notion: 12 Practical Steps to Starting & Operating a Small Business" was published in 2010. Her next title, "Success Finds You When You Have Positioned Yourself to Be Found", is scheduled for release in 2014.

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She volunteers as the Chair for the Economic Community Partnership, Habitat Miami, and the Young Professionals Network. She is the proud mother of her beautiful and brilliant daughter, a student at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Crystal Mozell – Los Angeles, CA



Crystal Mozell is the mother of Justice her only child, she owns and operates www.GreatTravel4u2.com an online travel agency and has done so for over seven years. She has spent the majority of her career working as a member of management at a Fortune 500 information records management company. She recently left corporate management to pursue more meaningful work in the non-profit sector. As she puts it “contributing to the bottom line was no longer fulfilling”, she needed to positively impact the lives of people who intern would impact the world for better. She has worked as a social

worker at several non-profits whose focus were women and children, reducing infant mortality and homelessness. She has been an advisory board member of South East Communities Prevention & Intervention Program and ten year volunteer and mentor at An Open Door. Though nonprofit funding is quite scarce making it difficult to keep long term employment she says that she would not trade this life changing experience for the world. It has definitely changed her life in ways that are inexplicable.

Melanie McQueen – Chicago, IL

Melanie has been a resident of Oak Park for 12 years. She is the proud mother of 3 beautiful daughters, 17, 7 and 5. She believes in fair education and respect for all parents, teachers and students. Melanie's involvement in the community started in the schools. In the interest of keeping schools strong and the quality high, she has been an energetic team player within many parent groups. She a Parent Consultant of the A.P.P.L.E. Organization, Early childhood Collaboration Parent Information and Support committee member, VP of Community on the PTO Board at *Longfellow* Elementary School and is a member of the OPRFHS Booster Club Silent Auction Committee. Through her involvement she keeps parents informed and connected to the high school.



Melanie understands our youth. She has been the youth director at Grant Memorial AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Church for 10 years, Chicago Area youth director of the Young People's and Children's Division (YPD) for 4. She was elected as the 2012-13 3rd Vice President of the Chicago Conference Women's Missionary Society of the AME

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Church whom hosted the 2013 World of Women Praying Convocation with 5000 international and intergenerational women, lead the on-going Eradicate campaign to stop violence against women and girls locally and globally, sponsored the 2012 Stop Bullying Campaign Video Challenge, and 2010 Fit to Lead Wellness Initiative.

Melanie graduated from Triton College with honors and is a member of the Chi Zeta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the National 2-year honor society. During her time at Triton College she was an active member of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC).

Melanie graduated from Elmhurst College with honors with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Professional Communications. She was a founding and charter member of the Omicron Tau Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communications Honor Society as well as a member of Mu Theta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.



McCandless Petty – San Francisco, CA

I'm an educator with 10 years experience serving youth. I am passionate about teaching and supporting youth in building healthy relationship skills. My particular expertise is working with boys and men to raise awareness and promote the development of positive masculine identities. I began this work during my studies in psychology and experiential education at Hampshire College. Following graduation, I worked as an instructor and trainer for Thompson Island Outward Bound and the National Outdoor Leadership School leading sailing and camping expeditions for pre-teen, teenagers, and young adults. After 4 years living the wilderness-expedition-life, I moved to Santa Cruz, California where I took a job as the program director of the youth department at the Walnut Avenue Women's Center, a local family

resource center for domestic violence. Through my work at the center and in schools I saw the intersection between my interests in working with boys and young men around issues of healthy masculinity and the prevention of violence against women and girls.

I currently live on Potrero Hill in San Francisco. In addition to my work with the RESPECT! Challenge I work for Futures Without Violence on their Coaching Boys into Men program. I also work for the One Circle Foundation on a program called The Council For Boys and Young Men and sit on the Board of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. Outside of work I like to cook big meals with friends, surf, and go on camping adventures.

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**Shannon Sandra MS, LPC –
Austin, TX**

Licensed professional counselor, over 17 year's experience working with teens and families in, Boston, Houston and my hometown, Austin; Masters degree with specializations in family and school counseling, focus on issues related to poverty, court-involved youth, substance abuse, domestic violence prevention and intervention as well as arts and activism; Currently a counselor at SafePlace; SafePlace exists to end sexual and domestic violence through safety, healing, prevention and social change; Worked with a team to create the National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week and toolkit and assisted the creation of the state law requiring all schools to create specific policy to recognize, prevent and safely intervene in issues of teen dating violence. I have a history of building strong collaborations with others and mobilizing communities. I co-founded The Cipher, Austin's Hip Hop Project in 2007. The Cipher has become a recognized model for youth empowerment programming.



Specialties: working with youth that are involved in multiple systems including foster care, criminal justice and education, expertise in issues relating to interpersonal violence and family issues, youth leadership and community organizing, working with youth through the arts, drop-out prevention and school based counseling, youth empowerment.



Naliaka Wakhisi – New York, NY

Naliaka Wakhisi is a Miami Florida native who has been dedicating herself to many underserved communities since the age of ten. With a passion for people, education, and empowerment, she uses movement and creative workshops to help inspire students and organizations to fully thrive. With a passion for dance, she's done work for four dance/theater productions this year alone and is currently working on a community based skateboard play in New York City. Naliaka is now organizing with several different organizations including, Imagining America, Huelga, Black Techies, and The Young Leaders and Organizers. All organizations focus on giving students, particularly students of color a way to express themselves through art, education and mentorship. Last year she created a start-up with a colleague, Kemeya Harper, called The Scenario. The Scenario engages nutritional empowerment for plant-based diets by shifting perspectives towards healthy eating that is accessible and fun. Using education, health and nutrition, as well as movement and leadership workshops, Naliaka hopes to continue helping students understand their role as healthy powerful leaders and have access to the tools they need to be successful contributors to their society.

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