



Inaugural Cohort Bios 2022-2023

SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP COHORT

A large, stylized teal logo that resembles the letters 'SLC' in a cursive, flowing script. It is positioned behind the text 'SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP COHORT'.



They are...

Our inaugural cohort

From every part of the country

Brilliant, diverse, creative group of POWERFUL individuals

A'keira Demartre (she/her)

A'keira is a full-time student at Empire Beauty School originally from Las Vegas, Nevada. Her goal in life is to help and make people feel good about themselves. A'keira strives to do and be the best in everything she does. She is inspired daily to push through life's journey by her family and son. In her free time A'keira enjoys doing hair, makeup, decorating and being goofy. She loves to enjoy life and lives it to the fullest.



Alex Free (she/they)

Alex Free (she/they) is an activist, advocate, and writer. Their work focuses on supporting fellow trauma survivors as well as writing and speaking on topics spanning intersectionality, disrupting rape culture, mental health, and dismantling white supremacy. They are a creator, storyteller, leader, and trauma-informed facilitator in racial/social justice and healing spaces.

Alex is also a survivor of domestic violence, rape + sexual assault, and child abuse. They believe that survivors are powerful and magical and most importantly that fields and programs that are created for survivors should be survivor-led, because our experiences and our voices matter. They believe it is critical that the public health field becomes trauma-informed and is eager to create change in this area in order for survivors to feel safe, seen, and supported — always.





Beth Workman (she/her)

Beth is an advocate and leader in combating domestic violence and violence in the community. She is a strong member of the Lexington, Kentucky community involved in her neighborhood and the anti-violence movement. Her personal experience with violence fuels her passion towards ending domestic, sexual, and dating violence. Beth's personal health journey has also made her a health advocate and fighter against an oppressive, able-body system. She works tirelessly in her day job and after work to fight systems of oppression to advance empowerment for disadvantaged populations who have experienced violence. Beth envisions a world without violence and a future without violence. It is possible!

Chelsea Hendrickson (she/her)

Chelsea is a Citizen of the Northern Arapaho Nation from the Wind River Indian Reservation in Ethete, Wyoming, Cu'piq from Nunivak Island, Alaska and a Calista Corporation Shareholder. She was born in the South end of Seattle but was raised back and forth between her tribal communities in Wyoming, Alaska, and within her Urban Indigenous Community in Seattle her whole life.

She served her relatives in Coast Salish Country for the last 7 years through direct services and advocacy in the tribal DV/sexual assault field. She most recently took on the role as a Project Manager for an Indigenous led nonprofit called The Yarrow Project.

She is developing an Urban Response Protocol for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People. The protocol centers around multiple metropolitan areas of Western Washington. It also engages families, law enforcement, victim services, media, and community members for rapid mobilization of culturally informed resources to affect the best possible outcome when a loved one is missing or murdered.

Chelsea identifies as a survivor of trafficking, DV, SA and a MMIW Family member. She utilizes her own personal story and her family's story to create awareness and inspire healing in her community. She is a member of Survivors Leadership Cohort, the Native Action Network's Legacy of Leadership Cohort, the Sovereign Bodies Institute's Survivors Leadership Council, and an aunty to 4 boys and 2 girls and a poet.





Erik Ryder (he/him)

Erik Ryder is proudly transgender and queer, and currently living in Fargo, North Dakota. He has been working with unhoused populations for five years, advocating for housing first and harm reduction policies. His future goal is to join the Peace Corps.

June Barrett (they/them)

June Barrett is a long-time home care worker, a queer Jamaican immigrant, an executive Board Member at the Miami Workers Center and a leader in NDWA's We Dream in Black Project. June has been active in speaking out about sexual assault and discrimination in the workplace, especially among care workers. June has spoken on a international platform around domestic workers organizing and about the #MeToo movement on a variety of television shows including Full Frontal with Samantha Bee and BET's The Rundown with Robin Thede. As a Dorothy Bolden Fellow, June has focused on base-building in Florida, public speaking, and leading We Dream in Black programming for Black domestic workers throughout the U.S.





Hilde Koenig (she/her)

Hilde emigrated from Venezuela to Utah with her family as a teenager and is now a U.S. citizen. She is the proud mother of two amazing individuals and a survivor of DV and sexual abuse.

She obtained her Paralegal Certificate from Weber State University, after which she began her career at Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake City working closely with victims of domestic violence. This helped stoke an already burning passion for giving voice to those who have been silenced and allowed her to stand for human rights issues. She has worked for the YWCA of Salt Lake City, at the Salt Lake City Prosecutor's Office as the Diversity Witness Coordinator, the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office, Utah DV Coalition and as the Community Liaison with the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office. She is currently employed by the Utah Office for Victims of Crime as the Outreach & Civil Rights Coordinator.

Additionally, Hilde is the co-founder and president of a foundation, Ink Against Cancer- Cancer Warriors Foundation. IAC-Cancer Warriors Foundation is a unique 501c3 foundation uniting national, statewide and local artists of all mediums together to raise cancer awareness & financial assistance to support Cancer Warriors, especially children while they go through their cancer journey with their day-to-day needs.

Mona Muro (she/her)

Mona is a public health and economic justice thought partner. During her career, she has championed anti-gender-based violence (GBV) work with grassroots organizations, and community members, and fought to keep survivor voices at the heart of the movement. She is a recognized presenter, facilitator, and trainer in her field, having spoken for state and national audiences including the Center for Victims of Crime and The National Network to End DV. Mona has spent years advancing policy for people impacted by GBV as it intersects with immigration, consumer rights, economic well-being, and public benefits legislation. She spearheaded local, state, and national economic justice policy and systems initiatives for DV programs, including landmark Coerced Debt legislation in Texas. She believes that reflection and growth are critical to human-centered policy initiatives and strives to center equity in policy-making. Mona has a growing passion for working with organizations, to reflect, evaluate, and create a healthy organizational culture.

Mona serves on the Board of the New Leaders Council, Austin, where she is in her second term as Finance Chair. In her role, she promotes and values the role of power-sharing models and racial and economic equity. More recently Mona is working to support her community in a multi-year plan to preserve and develop quality, safe, and cost affordable homes in the city of San Antonio, while also teaching her nieces how to roller skate. She enjoys international hiking adventures and collecting and cooking with spices she finds during her travels. Mona is the granddaughter of Mexican immigrants, a Tejan, a Social Worker, a doggo mom to Missy, and an anti-oppression social justice proponent.



Ronisha Wyndon (she/her)

Hey my name is Ronisha but I go by Roni.

I currently work in the non profit organization for YWCA helping men and women with resources, case management, and multitude of services.

I love what I do and know it's my calling to aide and assist others. I enjoy life as much as I can and I am always looking for ways to gain new skills and apply them in my life.

My passion is helping others who've struggled as I have and have the determination of change and growth. I love to help others, advocate for self and others, as well as make a difference in lives; whether it be one person or multiple.

I'm ecstatic about getting involved into public health anti-violence work; clarifying the problem, identifying risks, developing some prevention strategies and so much more.





Sam Daniels (she/her)

Samantha, mother, advocate, author, domestic violence and trauma survivor. My Faith gives me the strength I need to continue to push through. I love to help others through encouragement and service. I have been working at an amazing non-profit who provides services to children and families for 20 years and I have been doing volunteer work with My Sister's Place for almost 10 years now.

What inspires me to do this advocacy, public health work is my daughter and the countless other people who should not have to live in a world where they are fearful of being in relationships and scared of love. They should only read about it in history books as a terrible public health pandemic that was eradicated. I am also inspired by other survivors who, despite everything, found the courage and bravery within themselves to fight back and go from surviving to thriving. We know the effects of being in a DV situation can go on long after the person leaves their abuser so support is needed there as well. It is my honor to turn my Pain into Purpose and be a voice for those that have not yet found it, so they can find theirs also.

