

@nywusa News

nywusa.com | Editor: Cecil Bundick

Mission Statement:

“The purpose of OMI is to instill resiliency skills through education and developing life skills to “at-risk” youth in hopes that they will become productive members of society.

To provide opportunities that will focus on the entire mind, body, soul and spirit.”

Board of Directors:

President/CEO- Lori Hoff

Board Secretary- Anthony Bennett Jr.

Treasurer- Kim Mitchell

Technology Officer- Phil DiMarco

Development Committee Chair- Grayson Mask

Board Advisor- Christina Schmitt

Celebrate Youth!

Do you know an outstanding youth in your community? Are they innovative? Do they make a difference in their community? Nominate them for our spotlight section. Go to our website at nywusa.com, email us at info@nywusa.com, or post a photo or video on instagram @nywusa.



Meet Our Team!

Dr. Omai

Coming from an abusive childhood and experiencing triggered rage and anger throughout my young adulthood, the CASE App and opportunities such as National Youth Week (nywusa) would have been right up my alley. I was blessed to have sports, youth leadership organizations and a job as a teenager as a way to help me through.

The CASE app is a powerful way for youth to be able to state their case. Everyone in life

deserves to share their expressions and perceptions so they can learn more about themselves and how they relate to others. Due to the nature of my own youth organization, The CASE app will be utilized in all of our programs with our non profit The Board Of Literacy, Inc. and we are proud to share our experiences with all of our partners and youth so they can spread the word as well.

Youth are being targeted, left behind and being called “lost” and “disrespectful”, as well as being compared to former generations, which had an onset of varying circumstances. I don’t see political campaigns highlighting youth solutions, it’s rare to locate youth empowerment outside of charities, and adults seem to barely have enough time to tend to our youth these days as they have to maintain their own onslaught of issues. nywusa brings together several state-wide initiatives by highlighting ages 13-19 and having the dates match the ages, and it takes a reflective moment for us all to consider the next generation of leadership from a solution based viewpoint.

When youth know they are cared about, heard out, and taken more seriously, their confidence rises, their esteem shifts positively and their self-hope brightens. I feel the need to express how nywusa is a beacon for high schools all across this nation in order to create solutions by planting and growing fruitful seeds for our development of new leaders. By having an entire platform dedicated year after year and focused on specific ages, it gives leeway for a better foundation, a more stable outcome and collective prudence. This will create positive INFLUENCE for our youth and IMPACT them in a way to increase empowerment for teens across the nation. I’m a a very proud supporter of nywusa and am always promoting its initiatives and goals in our networks.

-Dr. Omai Kofi

Victor

My name is Victor McCray and I am a Dallas native. Presently I'm a radio broadcaster specializing in music and sports entertainment on 3 different outlets. I'm a marketing promoter and event coordinator with 20 years of working with youth



organizations in the community and over 25 years coordinating and organizing several types of high school events in the state of Texas. I've been supporting this vision for a few months. We're presently supporting the mission by speaking to Principals and Curriculum department heads in high schools about our mission, website and CASE App. Together we are brainstorming to pre-plan for this year's up-coming National Youth Week 2020. Also to mention what caught my eye are the amazing t-shirts this team designed that completely align where we are in today's society with so much senseless teenage violence.

-Victor McCray

Note From President:

In this session we are sharing our team with you. The definition of a team is one that comes together to achieve a common goal. Our common goal is to support youth everywhere and stop teen homicide and suicide.



According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), one out of every five students has contemplated suicide. Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much. Lets come together and end this senseless violence.

- President/CEO, Lori Hoff

Christina

My name is Christina Schmitt and I am known for my heart, being selfless, tenacious and for having a passion to cultivate positive youth culture. Often youth are exposed to not so favorable environmental circumstances and it is my desire that they become full functioning citizens in society by making sure they have the proper tools. A big goal of mine is to break generational cycles of poverty through education and reduce the recidivism rate amongst youth.



Having worked tirelessly with youth for over 20 years I have found that having a growth mindset and being able to be a foreword thinker as a strong educational leader is essential in order to be relevant. I believe that effective curriculum & resources that is cultural pertinent is paramount in supporting parents, teachers and educators alike. The curriculum here is designed to help develop and support a structure that fosters a social, emotional learning aspect that will help youth connect to society. Believing strongly in the mission and a wholistic approach, I have been working to expand it through county and state agencies as well as the three largest school districts in Virginia. I currently am the organization's Board advisor for education and youth wellness.

-Christina Schmitt

Anthony

I'm Anthony Bennett, Secretary of the Board of Directors at nywusa. I am currently a senior Politics major at Hendrix College, where I serve as a Peer Mentor and campus leader. Additionally, I've served as the Student Voice for the Arkansas Department of Education's ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Steering Committee since August 2016.



Prior to joining NYW, I was the Arkansas Director, South-central Regional Director, and later Senior Vice President of Youth for National Change (YNC), as well as President of the National Association of Youth Leaders (NAYL). Through these youth-led, youth-focused nonprofits, I developed a deep passion for youth engagement and empowerment. This passion ultimately led me to join National Youth Week.

Since being elected Board Secretary in August 2019, I have enjoyed working with the outstanding team, here. As the youngest member of the Board, I've had the privilege of sharing important perspectives, values, and needs of youth with our Leadership to promote engagement and empower students across the country.

I'm honored to be a part of a group so dedicated to youth well-being and achievement, and I'm eager to contribute to our big plans in 2020.

- Anthony Bennett