

# Directory of Youth Leadership Development Opportunities

## *Dare to Dream Phase 2*



**ORGANIZED BY THE RHODE ISLAND TRANSITION COUNCIL**

Updated 2015

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### Dare to Dream Phase 2

The RI Transition Council is committed to ensuring that RI youth and young adult have access to positive youth development supports and opportunities to be connected, productive, and further their own areas of personal development. To realize that goal, there needs to be an increase in the number of youth development opportunities in each community.

The purpose of this directory is to provide youth, young adults, Families, CEDARR staff, FCCP staff, PASS workers, teachers, guidance counselor, transition academies, youth workers, community organizers, youth group leaders, and interested Rhode Islanders with local and national resources to build youth leadership. The directory was produced as an outgrowth of the Dare to Dream Student Leadership Initiative and is considered an essential component of the Dare to Dream Phase 2 “Youth Leadership Development”.

This directory includes examples of school and community-based youth leadership development opportunities throughout Rhode Island. Please help us keep this directory a living document with sharing opportunities you participate in or others you want to try. We are committed to supporting you through this process.

The vision of the RI Transition Council is to create a partnership among state agencies, organizations, parents, students with special needs and local education agencies. This partnership will serve to enable students and young adults with special needs to successfully transition to adult life in their community. Membership of the Transition Council includes students, parents, representatives of local education agencies and state agencies.

**Positive Youth Development is a process that prepares young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through a coordinated, progressive series of activities and experiences, which help them to become socially, morally, emotionally, physically, and cognitively competent. It addresses the broader developmental needs of youth, in contrast to deficit-based models, which focus solely on youth problems (National Collaboration for Youth Members, 1998).**

Some characteristics of a Positive Youth Development Approach are as follows:

- Asset Based: The assets and strengths of youth are emphasized rather than problems or deficits.
- Collaborative: Youth are involved as collaborators in their own plan and development.
- Community-oriented: Activities take place in the community with an emphasis on the development of strong linkages to community institutions.
- Competence building: Activities are aimed at mastering a wide variety of skills.
- Connectedness: Social relationships and connections with community are central.
- Cultural Membership: A key aspect of all developmental processes and activities for youth is their understanding of cultural membership and its relationship to identity.
- Holistic: Positive youth development emphasizes all aspects of healthy personal growth, i.e., physical, social, moral, emotional, cognitive, etc.
- Long-range: Focus is on long-term plan rather than short-term solutions.
- Normative: The activities and outcomes of a positive youth development approach emphasize normative functions.
- Promotive: Philosophy/activities of a positive youth development approach emphasize the promotion of healthy pro-social development.
- Universal: Activities are not targeted to youth with problems but are generally universally available and desirable to all youth.

(Adapted from Integrating a youth Development Perspective into Transition Planning; A Curriculum for Child Welfare Workers developed by Boston University School of Social Work in collaboration with the Department of Social Services.)

There are many models and frameworks within the Youth Development Theory. The Search Institute's "40 Developmental Assets" is an example of a positive youth development framework. These 40 Developmental Assets highlight both internal and external qualities, which form the foundation for the healthy development of young people. This framework covers eight categories that each contains 5 individual assets. The categories are as follows: support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, constructive use of time, commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies, and positive identity. To learn more about The 40 Developmental Assets, please visit [www.search-institute.org/](http://www.search-institute.org/)

The listings of youth opportunities in this directory are meant to highlight programs and organizations doing youth development work in Rhode Island. Each listing will include the program and organization contact information and description, as well as populations of interest that a specific program may work with. This directory and these listings are a beginning step in identifying supports and opportunities for all youth in our state. We welcome any additions, questions, and constructive comments that will further the development of this guidebook. Please feel free to contact Carmen and Deb with your feedback.

## **Advocates in Action**

Box 41528

Providence RI 02940-1528

Contact

Phone: none given

[aina@AdvocatesinAction.org](mailto:aina@AdvocatesinAction.org)

[www.AdvocatesinAction.org](http://www.AdvocatesinAction.org)

Description of Program: (see below)

Ages Served: 16 through adulthood.

Areas Served: Statewide

Population of Interest: Individuals who have a developmental disability

Program Area: Leadership, Self-Advocacy

Advocates in Action RI is a statewide self-advocacy organization. We developed the Leadership Series to help people learn how to speak up for themselves and make a difference. This program is a 10 month learning experience for Rhode Islanders who have a developmental disability aged 16 and up, family members, friends and direct support staff. The Series begins with a kick-off retreat which all class members must attend. This is a casual, fun filled opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and learn more about the year that's ahead of them. The retreat is followed by classes that meet on weekday afternoons several times a month from September thru June. Each class covers a topic related to Leadership and Self-Advocacy. During the series, students will be introduced to the tools they need to speak up for themselves and others. Students do not need to be able to read or write to be in the Leadership Series. Our curriculum also includes pictures, video, audio, games and other interactive media that make the information accessible, easy to understand and fun! Individuals who participate in the program will graduate at a formal ceremony upon completion.

In addition to the Leadership Series, Advocates in Action RI also host Rhode Island's Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy conference each fall and the Statewide Self-Advocacy meeting each spring. Both events are coordinated and presented by individuals who have a developmental disability and feature information about a variety of topics to help individuals learn to speak up for themselves and others.

## **AS220 Youth Studio**

115 Empire Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Anne Kugler, Director  
[info@as220.org](mailto:info@as220.org)  
(401) 467-0701

### Description of Programs:

AS220 Youth is a free arts education program for young people. AS220 Youth believes in the power of art and the creative process to have a positive impact on the lives of young people.

Ages Served: 14-21  
Areas Served: Statewide  
Population of Interest: At Risk Youth

### Program Areas:

AS220 Youth offers free classes and workshops at three sites – our downtown Studio, at the Rhode Island Training School and at UCAP, the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program. UCAP is a middle school for youth at high risk for dropping out and/or becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.

At our downtown Studio, after-school workshops run 6 days a week, including photo, painting/drawing, hip-hop, music lessons, dance, creative writing, sewing and computer-aided design. Similar classes taught by the same instructors are offered at the Training School (RITS) and at UCAP, with the goal of creating strong mentoring relationships between instructors and students. Curriculum is designed so youth can start a class at one of our partner schools and continue learning on-site at AS220.

At the end of each term, youth exhibit or perform the creative work completed in their workshops. Finished work is then documented and uploaded into individual online portfolios. Youth use these portfolios to demonstrate their aesthetic vision, as well as skill acquisition and technical expertise. Many youth seek and obtain educational and employment opportunities with their portfolios.

In the past 3 years, AS220 Youth has expanded the transitional services offered to young people exiting the RITS. We now offer:

- Individual and group mentoring
- Internships
- Community Service
- Summer jobs and year-round transitional employment

**Audubon Society of RI**

12 Sanderson Road,  
Smithfield, RI 02917

Kristen Swanberg, Senior Director for Education

Jon Scoones, Director of volunteer services

[kswanberg@asri.org](mailto:kswanberg@asri.org)

[jscoones@asri.org](mailto:jscoones@asri.org)

[www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org)

401-949-5454

Description of Program: After School Programs – Providence, Central Falls, Woonsocket; summer day camps at Audubon refuges; Volunteer opportunities

Ages Served: All ages

Areas Served: Statewide

Population of Interest: All populations

Program Areas: classroom programs and outdoor activities on environmental topics. Free bird walks with Audubon, and volunteer opportunities for everyone.

**Autism Project**

1516 Atwood Ave

Johnston, RI 02919

Sarah Pimenta, Social Programming Administrative Assistant; [spimenta1@lifespan.org](mailto:spimenta1@lifespan.org)

Kristen Bock, Social Programming Coordinator; [kbock@lifespan.org](mailto:kbock@lifespan.org)

Caren Skurka, Social Programming Coordinator; [cskurka@lifespan.org](mailto:cskurka@lifespan.org)

[www.theautismproject.org](http://www.theautismproject.org)

401-785-2666

Description of Program: Foundational Group Skills

Ages Served: Middle/High School and Young Adult

Areas Served: Statewide

Population of Interest:

Program Area:

Club Jr. This group is designed to offer a supportive environment where participants can practice social skills. Age appropriate activities are used to support the development of friendships and to build interests in different leisure activities.

The Club is a safe hang out for teens and young adults to build friendships through participation in leisure activities and community trips. Participants can practice the social communication skills required to foster friendships as well as the appropriate social rules for effective interactions.

**Skills for Life:** This group focuses on specific activities to build important life skills such as cooking and preparing meals, shopping, managing money, doing daily chores and more. Independence skills are the focus of this program in a highly structured and supportive setting.

## RECREATIONAL/LEISURE

### Game On! Basketball

Players of all abilities will engage in activities teaching the fundamentals skills of basketball. Activities and drills target emotional regulation, communication, following game rules and team work. Participants also work on coordination, core strength, balance and endurance.

Meeting Location: Carl Lauro Elementary School  
99 Kenyon St., Providence, RI

### Game On! Karate

Participants will learn non-violent Shotokan Karate Do moves in a visually structured format. Sessions will focus on self-regulation tools and therapeutic recreation through martial arts.

Meeting Locations:

F: 1516 Atwood Ave, Johnston

S: Karate-Do Club, 1 Dewey Ave. Warwick, RI

## THE ARTS

### Creative Expressions

This group is co-facilitated with Figgy's Art Studio. Through individual and group art projects, participants learn more about social expectations, effective peer interactions and functional skills for group participation. A variety of mediums are explored in an effort to discover each artist's unique style.

Meeting Location: Figgy's Art Studio

5 Division Street, East Greenwich, RI (A \$15/week materials fee applies for this group)

### In Harmony

This group is co-facilitated with the RI Philharmonic Music School. In this group, music is used as a medium to help improve communication, emotional awareness, self-regulation and social interactions. A variety of different instruments and musical genres are explored.

In Harmony meets at the RI Philharmonic Music School

667 Waterman Avenue, East Providence, RI

### Curtain Call

This group is co-facilitated with Trinity Repertory Company. Each class is packed with dramatic activities that use imagination, body and voice. Improvisational games require role play, conversation initiation, and partner work. Comedic and dramatic scenes are performed in a supportive environment. Performances are held for families and friends. In this 10 week workshop participants will write and perform a play.

**Best Buddies Rhode Island**

25 Esten Avenue  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
Matthew Netto  
[matthewnetto@bestbuddies.org](mailto:matthewnetto@bestbuddies.org)  
401.228.9700

Description of Program: Best Buddies creates one to one friendships between students with and without intellectual developmental disabilities.

Best Buddies promote social inclusion for all people with intellectual developmental disabilities.

Ages Served: 11 - 70

Areas Served: Statewide

Population of Interest: Persons with and without intellectual developmental disabilities.

Program Area: Mentoring

**Camp Broadway--PPAC**

220 Weybosset Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
Cynthia Goldsmith  
[cgoldsmith@ppacri.org](mailto:cgoldsmith@ppacri.org)  
401.421.2997

Description of Program: Camp Broadway is an annual, one-week performing arts summer day camp designed for children ages 10-17 who are interested in singing, dancing, and acting. The program includes instruction in voice, dance, solo and ensemble singing while learning and rehearsing dialogue, musical numbers, and dance routines for a featured musical of the week.

Ages Served: 10-17

Areas Served: Statewide

Population Served: Children and youth interested in the performing arts.

### **City Arts for Youth**

Providence CityArts, Community Youth Arts Program

891 Broad Street, P.O. Box 27691

Providence, RI 02907-7691

Barbara Wong, Executive Director; [barbara@providencecityarts.org](mailto:barbara@providencecityarts.org)

Description of Program: CityArts teaching artists guide and inspire urban youth, ages 8-14 in free out-of-school time arts classes at our Southside Broad Street Arts Center, Boys and Girls Clubs, and in neighborhood public and charter schools. CityArts provides a positive platform for youth to develop skills and creative practice, to explore ideas for communities and self, and especially...to find their voice, through any arts discipline. Classes are offered in art& design, digital media, dance, theatre, music, and creative writing during afterschool, summer, and school vacations.

Ages Served: 8-14

Areas Served: Primarily Providence

Population of Interest: urban elementary and middle school youth

### **City Year Inc.**

77 Eddy Street 2nd Floor

Providence, RI 02903

(401) 553-2500

(401) 553-2510

[www.cityyear.org/ri](http://www.cityyear.org/ri)

Description of Program

A national service organization for young adults, ages 17-24, to participate in full time community service for the improvement of urban neighborhoods. An Americorps program.

Ages Served: 17-24

Area Served: Statewide, primarily urban areas

Population of Interest: Young adults interested in community service

### **Cranston YMCA**

1225 Park Avenue

Cranston, RI 02910

Colleen Logan, Aquatics Director

401.943.0444

[clogan@gpymca.org](mailto:clogan@gpymca.org); <mailto:jclifford@gpymca.org>

Description of Program

Swim lessons provided for individuals with disabilities

Ages Served: All ages

Area Served: Statewide

Population of Interest: People with disabilities

### **Dare to Dream Student Leadership Initiative**

Rhode Island Department of Health  
Office of Special Needs, Adolescent Transition Program  
3 Capitol Hill Providence Rhode Island  
Deb Golding, [deb.golding@health.ri.gov](mailto:deb.golding@health.ri.gov)  
401-222-5954

Description of Program: The Dare to Dream initiative engages communities, schools and youth in positive youth development, helps students explore, develop, and showcase concepts of leadership to increase positive outcomes of achieving successful transition to independent adult life.

Ages Served: Middle School/High School/ Young Adults

Areas Served: Statewide

Population of Interest: Rhode Island students with special health care needs and disabilities

#### **Program Areas:**

Dare to Dream Initiative provides opportunities for youth with special needs to develop skill, relationship & leadership. It culminates in the statewide Dare to Dream Conference held at the end of May at the University of Rhode Island Kingston Campus. The Dare to Dream Initiative provides a framework for local community groups and schools to receive technical assistance to start Dare to Dream clubs and to develop Dare to Dream workshops. Workshops highlight strategies and information to prepare students with special needs to become college and career ready.

Dare to Dream is a positive and empowering experience for thousands of Rhode Island's students. All Middle & High Schools in RI are invited to attend. We welcome classrooms/schools to prepare a 40 minute workshop session to present or recommend a student to keynote a presentation (4 minute limit) on a related topic.

### **DownCity Design**

425 West Fountain Street  
Providence RI 02903  
Adrienne Gagnon, Executive Director  
[adrienne@downcitydesign.org](mailto:adrienne@downcitydesign.org)  
401.272.8070

#### **Description of Program:**

DownCity Design is a non-profit organization that empowers youth through design education. Our goal is to improve the city of Providence by helping young people design and build bold interventions that respond to challenges and opportunities in their communities.

Ages Served: 11-18

Population of Interest: Youth interested in Architecture, Design + Construction

## **4- H**

### **State 4-H Office**

75 Peckham Farm Road  
Kingston, RI 02881  
Pamela P Martin  
pmartin@uri.edu  
401-874-5291/ 401-874-2981

#### Description of Program

The URI 4-H Program is an educational program that combines hands on education and life skills. Youth can join community clubs, do 4-H in after school settings and join as individual members

Ages Served: All ages

Areas Served: Statewide

Populations of Interest: Young people interested in leadership development.

#### Program Areas:

**Leadership and Life Skills-** Multiple 4-H leadership opportunities and training are planned for this year. Workshops will emphasize both on leadership and personal development. Resume writing, working with younger 4-H members as mentors, parliamentary procedure are some of the examples of educational topics.

**Healthy Living-** A core belief of 4-H is Health, as evidenced by the four H's in the 4-H clover: Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. 4-H is committed to the physical, mental and emotional health of our nation's youth so they may lead healthy and productive lives into adulthood. 4-H has become a national leader in health-related educational issues including chemical health, mental and emotional health, foods and nutrition, physical health and safety.

**Science and Technology-** As the youth development program of the Cooperative Extension system, 4-H is uniquely able to utilize the resources of the 106 land grant colleges and universities to prepare the next generation of scientists, engineers and technology experts.

**Animal and Veterinary Science**

**Communications and Expressive Art**

**National Conference in Washington, DC**

**Operation: Military Kids (OMK)** is a national effort to support children of service members during deployment. In Rhode Island, this effort is coordinated by URI's College of the Environment and Life Sciences' 4-H Program. It was developed to build a statewide network which educates citizens on the impact of deployment on communities, families and youth as well as provide educational, recreational, and social programs for the children of service members.

## **Future Farmers of America**

<http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm>

### Descriptions of Program:

The National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Ages Served: High School students

Areas served: Statewide

Population of Interest: Young people interested in agriculture

### Local Chapters:

CHARIHO HS- FFA  
453 Switch Rd  
Wood River JCT, RI 02894  
Phone: 401/364-7778  
Fax: 401/364-1190

Scituate FFA  
94 Trimtown Rd  
N Scituate, RI 02857  
Phone: 401/647-4120  
Fax: 401/647-4126

East Providence Career  
and Technology  
1998 Pawtucket Avenue  
East Providence, RI 02914  
Phone: 401/435-7815

Narragansett HS-FFA  
245 S Pier Rd  
Narragansett, RI 02882  
Phone: 401/929400  
Fax: 401/792-9410

Exeter West Greenwich  
HS- FFA  
930 Nooseneck Hill Rd  
West Greenwich, RI 02817  
Phone: 401/397-6893

Ocean State FFA  
219 Comstock Parkway  
Cranston, RI 02921

Ponaganset HS FFA  
137 Anan Wade Road  
North Scituate, RI 02857  
Phone: 401/647-3377

## **Girls Rock! Rhode Island**

PO Box 3475  
Providence, RI 02909  
(401) 227-0371  
[info@girlsrockri.org](mailto:info@girlsrockri.org)  
[www.girlsrockri.org](http://www.girlsrockri.org)

Description: Girls Rock! Rhode Island is a volunteer-based non-profit that uses music creation and critical thinking to foster empowerment, collaborative relationships, and the development of healthy identities in girls and women.

Ages Served: 11-18, 18+  
Area Served: Statewide, primarily urban areas  
Population of interest: We welcome girls, women, trans-identified, and gender-variant individuals in our programming. We also encourage, support, and collaborate with male allies.

### **Program Areas:**

We run a Girls Rock Camp in the summer for youth ages 11-18, where participants learn an instrument, form a band, write an original song together and perform in front of a live audience in just 5 days. Campers also attend lots of awesome workshops and lunchtime performances by local musicians. We also run a Ladies Rock Camp in the spring and fall for adults age 18+ that is similar to our Girls Camp but it lasts only three days and is for adults. Our year round programming includes Group Music Lessons, Sophia Sings! (an afterschool program at Sophia Academy), and a Gear Loan Program. We support youth leadership development through the GRIT (Girls Rock Internship and Training) program, where return campers serve as assistant instructors at camp and take on other leadership roles, and the Youth Action Council (YAC), a monthly gathering for teen participants to discuss various topics and continue their engagement in the organization.

## **Institute for the Study & Practice of Nonviolence (ISPN)**

265 Oxford Street  
Providence, RI 02905  
[www.nonviolenceinstitute.org](http://www.nonviolenceinstitute.org)  
(401) 785-2320

### **Description of Program:**

ISPN's mission is to teach, by word and example, the principles and practice of nonviolence, and to foster a community that addresses potentially violent situations with nonviolent solutions. These values shape ISPN's five core programs, which currently include: Nonviolence Trainings, Nonviolence Street workers, Youth Programs, Juvenile Re-Entry, and Victim Support Services.

Ages Served: 13 and up  
Areas Served: Providence and Central Falls, RI

Population of Interest: Gang members, juvenile offenders, youth involved with or affected by violence

Program Areas:

Youth Programs include: Nonviolence Class, Art Class, Surfing, Resume Writing, Breakdancing, Movie Nights, Barbershop, Gym, SummerJobs, Tutoring, Narcotics Anonymous, and Support Groups.

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## **Junior Achievement of Rhode Island**

120 Waterman Street #200

Providence, RI 02906

Karen Healey, Senior Education Manager

[karen.healey@ja.org](mailto:karen.healey@ja.org)

<http://www.jarhodeisland.org>

401.331.3850

Description of Program:

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students in grades K-12 about entrepreneurship, workforce readiness and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs.

Our programs help prepare young people for the real world by showing them how to generate wealth and effectively manage it, how to create jobs which make their communities more robust, and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace. Students put these lessons into action and learn the value of contributing to their communities.

JA's unique approach allows volunteers from the community to deliver our curriculum while sharing their experiences with students. Embodying the heart of JA, our classroom volunteers transform the key concepts of our lessons into a message that inspires and empowers students to believe in themselves, showing them they can make a difference in the world.

Ages Served: Students in Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Areas Served: Statewide

Population of Interest: All youth

Program Area:

Financial Literacy, Workforce Readiness, Entrepreneurship

**Newman YMCA**

474 Taunton Avenue  
Seekonk, MA 02771  
Luca Del Borgia, Regional Health & Wellness Director  
508.336.7103, x114  
ldelborgo@gpymca.org

**Description of Program**

The Newman YMCA offers inclusion in all their programs. For those who need more individualized adaptations to participate, we offer a full array of Physical Adaptive Activities. Those with physical and/or developmental disabilities are encouraged to meet with the Director to design the most rewarding and engaging individualized activity plan. Each session is 45 minutes unless otherwise noted.

Ages Served: Teen through adult  
Area Served: Seekonk, East Providence  
Population of Interest: People with and without disabilities

**Program Areas,**

Swim Social, cooperation and social skills developed through water games. Participants must be able to swim or have an aide in the pool with them.

\*Please contact the Newman YMCA directly for current schedules.

**Newport County YMCA**

792 Valley Road  
Middletown, RI 02842  
Katy Woolbright, Instructor  
401.835.3032  
Kwoolbright@hotmail.com

**Description of Program:**

Adapted physical activity is for individuals with disabilities as well as individuals who need adaptations to activities to be able to participate. People with or without disabilities can sign up for these programs. Each session is 45 minutes unless otherwise noted. Each session of classes is 9 weeks.

Ages Served: Teens  
Areas Served: Statewide  
Population of Interest: People with disabilities and others

**Program Areas:**

Teen Yoga: Participants learn positions and breathing techniques to help with stress, improve flexibility and body control.

Teen Social Swim: This program will focus on cooperation and social skills through games in the water.

Teen Fitness Workout: A program for teens that want to learn resistance training as well as other moves they can do at home to get and stay fit. The class will utilize resistance bands and metal weights and can be completed sitting or standing.

\*Please contact the Newport County YMCA directly for current schedules.

### **New Urban Arts**

705 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
Emily Ustach, Director of Programs  
[info@newurbanarts.org](mailto:info@newurbanarts.org)  
401.751.4556

#### Description of Program:

The Youth Mentorship in the Arts Program is our core program, which partners Artist Mentors with small groups of high school students who develop powerful mentoring relationships through free yearlong afterschool program. They foster risk taking and self-discovery through community building and creative arts projects designed collaboratively by Artist Mentors and youth.

Ages Served: High School aged students (14 - 18)

Areas Served: Statewide

Population of Interest: Rhode Island High School students

Program Area: Visual Arts & Creative Writing

Students also participate in Studio Study Buddies, academic tutors who provide homework help and test preparation.

Post- Secondary Planning for students with our Life after School Mentor and in partnership with College Visions, a local non-profit.

Vacation Week Workshops taking place during the week-long February and April school breaks.

The Gallery and Performance Program, including three exhibitions of student artwork annually. Exhibitions incorporate performances, fashion shows and the release of student-published poetry and literature. These events are also a formal opportunity for parents to visit the studio.

The Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB), akin to a student government, is a leadership development program serving about 15 students. Their duties include: advising staff and board; representing the organization publicly; orienting new students; selecting artist mentors; and organizing events.

Summer Programs: The Summer Art Inquiry is a thematic-based arts inquiry program in which 15 high school students collectively explore a common theme through research, art-making, creative writing and personal inquiry.

The Untitlement Project is program in which 15 high school students explores relationships, identity, stereotypes, gender, and body image, through creative writing, conversation and art making.

The Summer Open Studio is an open-enrollment, drop-in summer program that allows students to continue to use all of our resources; two mentors are present to assist them.

### **Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island**

500 Prospect Street, Suite 205  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
Katherine M. Begin, Executive Director  
[kbegin@preventchildabuse-ri.org](mailto:kbegin@preventchildabuse-ri.org)  
(401) 728-7920

Description of Program: Our mission to ensure the safety and well-being of the children in Rhode Island through education, public awareness and advocacy of PRIMARY Prevention strategies.

Ages Served: All  
Population of Interest: Every population  
Program Area: Statewide

### **Progreso Latino**

626 Broad Street  
Central Falls, RI 02863  
(401) 728-5920  
(401) 724-5550  
[www.progresolatino.org](http://www.progresolatino.org)

Description of Program  
A Multi-Service agency, addressing the needs of Rhode Island's immigrant community, primarily the Latino community.

Ages Served: Teens and young adults  
Areas Served: Central Falls  
Population of Interest: Young people of the Latino community, as well as those who identify as Hispanic and Spanish.

**Program Areas:**

Our after-school program is committed to encouraging success among youth and bringing neighbors together to foster a sense of community pride. We offer: After-school Academic Enrichment, Violence Prevention workshops, Leadership Development, field trips, dance classes, arts and crafts, and recreational Activities.

**Providence Youth Student Movement**

669 Elmwood Ave, Suite B-7 Box #16

Providence, RI 02907

[www.prysm.us](http://www.prysm.us)

[sarath@prysm.us](mailto:sarath@prysm.us)

(401) 383-7450

**Description of Program:**

PrYSM is a non-profit SEA youth-led organization, with four staff, three solid programs, a strong board of directors, and a clear and passionate vision for social change.

PrYSM's vision is end all forms of violence, whether they come from the self, the community, or from institutions and systems.

**Ages Served:** 14 and up

**Areas Served:** Greater Providence

**Population of Interest:** Youth and young adults from South East Asian (SEA) backgrounds.

**Program Areas:**

**The Organizing Circle:** The OC program challenges us to step up, address problems in the community, and pushes us to think of ways we can make positive change. Through the program, we aspire to become critical thinkers, fearless leaders, and social change activists. Being in the OC means coming to 3 to 5 meetings per week committing between 6-10 hours.

**Women's Group:** The SEA Women's Support Group program is a safe space for young Southeast Asian (SEA) women to build leadership skills, develop collective analyses and problem solving of shared problems, to challenge popular concepts about gender, and to create social change through community organizing.

**seaQuel:** Southeast Asian Queers United for Empowerment and Leadership's (seaQuel) mission is to provide a safe and supportive space for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer and questioning (GLBTQQ) as well as straight SEAA (Southeast Asian American) youth where they can lead healthy lives and develop their leadership and organizing skills to become involved in creating social change in their communities. seaQuel builds the leadership skills of SEAA youth, brings cross-cultural and inter-generational dialogue on sexuality to the SEAA community, and seeks to challenge the larger GLBTQQ community's definition of diversity.

**BRIDGE:** BRIDGE stands for Building Rhode Islanders' Development and General Education. As an organization committed to building power within the Southeast Asian American community, PrYSM recognizes that the education system is not meeting the needs of our people. In Providence, Southeast Asians have consistently high dropout rates and consistently low levels of overall educational attainment. Our schools are not preparing us for the future -- as individuals, or as a community. BRIDGE is a program for youth who have dropped out of high school and want to get their GED. Unlike other GED programs, BRIDGE offers intensive, individualized instruction, and includes a focus on community issues. All BRIDGE students are required to contribute to the Organizing Circle and are encouraged to seek out the connections between their own lives and the life of Providence's Southeast Asian American community. To join BRIDGE, you must be: 14 to 21 years old; be Cambodian, Laotian, Hmong, or Vietnamese; and dedicated to making change for yourself and others.

### **Rhode Island Department of Health Internship Program**

Rhode Island Department of Health  
3 Capitol Hill  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5097  
Carmen Boucher  
Carmen.boucher@health.ri.gov  
401-222-5926

#### Description of Program

Health- Office of Special Needs offers an Internship Program for RI's high school with special needs students to assist in office based and entry-level work throughout the Rhode Island Department of Health.

Ages Served: 18- 21

Areas Served: Statewide

Population of Interest: Students of Rhode Island's Transition Academies and high schools students with various special needs.

Program Area: Work exploration, job readiness skill development and experiences in the area of public health.

## **Rhode Island for Community & Justice (RICJ)**

c/o URI Providence Campus

80 Washington Street, Room 436

Providence, RI 02903-1803

Nanda Shewmangal, Assistant Director/Youth Programs Director

[leadership@ricj.org](mailto:leadership@ricj.org)

Tel: (401) 467-1717 x 103

Web: [www.ricj.org](http://www.ricj.org)

Description of Program: RICJ is a social justice organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism and promoting understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education. It is our purpose to transform communities to be more inclusive and just by empowering leaders to make institutional change.

Ages Served: Teens

Area Served: Statewide

Population of Interest: Young people interested in diversity and leadership

Program Areas:

Project RESPECT

This leadership development program brings 30-50 young people from all over the state together at a one week residential camp, where they explore the challenges and rewards of building community among people with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Participants spend the next year in service to their own communities by developing projects that promote respect and understanding among all students at their schools. Please visit the website for a brochure and an application.

Youth Action Council

Youth Action Council is a leadership and personal development program for the high school-age youth involved in RICJ programs. The group meets monthly to determine projects and explore their leadership skills and areas of potential growth.

Leadership in the New Century

Leadership in the New Century brings students and teachers from public and private high schools together to increase diversity awareness and to train students to lead their peers in diversity awareness.

Program Areas

Youth leadership diversity and cultural awareness, community service, public policy.

### **Rhode Island Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)**

Susan Shapiro at 263-7876 or Carol McKenna at 738-1013 ext 10  
<http://www.riylf.org/home.html>

#### Description of Program

The Rhode Island Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is an innovative, exciting program for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities who have demonstrated leadership capabilities in their communities and schools. The four-day forum includes many activities to help you to further develop your leadership potential and identify and clarify your future goals. Approximately 12 students with disabilities will be selected to participate.

Ages Served: Student who have a disability; Students who are in the 11th or 12th grade (some grade exceptions may be made)

Areas Served: Statewide

Population of Interest: Youth with disabilities

### **RiverzEdge Arts Project**

196 Second Avenue

Woonsocket, RI 02895

Brad Fesmire or Catherine Hood

Riverzedge Arts - Arts & Business Entrepreneurship Program

[brad@riverzedgearts.org](mailto:brad@riverzedgearts.org) / [catherine@riverzedgearts.org](mailto:catherine@riverzedgearts.org)

401.767.2100

Description of Program: Youth in the Arts & Business Entrepreneurship Program run 5 art and design micro-businesses, including Design Works (graphic design), Media Works (digital photography and video), Print Works (screen printing), the Public Art Lab, and the Green Design Lab. Participants create professional-quality client work and complete grant-funded public projects while receiving high-quality arts and STEM education, and developing marketable workforce skills.

Ages Served: 12-24

Area Served: Woonsocket, RI and surrounding communities (including Smithfield, North Smithfield, Cumberland, Lincoln Burrillville/Pascoag, Providence, North Providence, and Blackstone, MA)

Population of Interest:

The Arts & Business Program primarily serves at-risk and/or low-income youth, but all interested youth are welcome to apply, regardless of city, school, academic standing, or previous art/design experience. (*Please note: Arts & Business is not a drop-in program, but essentially a job. Participants are required to commit to working 10 hours per week during the school year and 20 hours per week during the summer.*)

Program Area: Teens in the Arts & Business Program receive support in graduating from high school or earning a GED and applying to college or the workforce, and are paid an educational stipend for their work.

### **Serve Rhode Island**

655 Broad Street  
Providence, RI 02907  
(401) 331-2298  
[www.ServeRhodeIsland.org](http://www.ServeRhodeIsland.org)

#### Description of Program

Serve Rhode Island transforms the lives of Rhode Islanders by increasing the number of people engaged in volunteer and service activities in their communities. SRI connects individuals with opportunities for community service.

Ages Served: Youth, teens, families, adults, 55+

Areas Served: Statewide

Populations of Interest: Disaster volunteers, service project volunteers, 55+ and senior volunteers, youth & family volunteers

### **Special Olympics Project Unify**

#### Description of Program:

Project Unify is a program to activate youth for Special Olympic and people with intellectual disabilities. The focus of this project is high school based Unified Sports program, which is endorsed by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League and the RI Department of Education. Project UNIFY's goal is to activate young people to develop school communities where all young people are agents of change. For information on upcoming Project Unify High School Volleyball or Basketball Games, please go to the Rhode Island Interscholastic League website at [www.RIIL.org](http://www.RIIL.org) for a complete listing of games and updates on any date/time changes.

Ages Served: (10-18)

Area Served: Statewide

Populations of Interest: Youth with and without special needs.

Barrington High School  
220 Lincoln Avenue  
Barrington, RI 02806  
George Finn  
(401-247-3150)  
[FinnG@bpsmail.org](mailto:FinnG@bpsmail.org)

Burrillville High School  
425 East Avenue  
Harrisville, RI 02830  
Kathryn Johnson  
[johnstonk@bsd-ri.net](mailto:johnstonk@bsd-ri.net)  
401.568.1310

Bishop Hendricken High School  
2615 Warwick Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02889-4292  
Allison Shank  
[ashank@hendricken.com](mailto:ashank@hendricken.com)  
401.739.3450, ext. 122

Central Falls High School  
24 Summer Street  
Central Falls, RI 02863  
Chris Conway  
[conwayc@cfschools.net](mailto:conwayc@cfschools.net)  
401.727.7710

Chariho High School  
453 Switch Road,  
Wood River Junction, RI 02894  
Michael Shiels  
[micheal.shiels@chariho.k12.ri.us](mailto:micheal.shiels@chariho.k12.ri.us)  
401.364-7778

Cranston East High School  
899 Park Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02910  
Tara Barone  
[tbarone@cpsed.net](mailto:tbarone@cpsed.net)  
401-270-8126

Cranston High School West  
80 Metropolitan Ave  
Cranston, RI 02920  
Matt Reis Liaison  
[mreis@csped.net](mailto:mreis@csped.net)  
401.270.8049

Coventry High School  
40 Reservoir Road  
Coventry, RI 02816-6457  
Brooke Macomber  
[macomberbrooke@coventryschools.net](mailto:macomberbrooke@coventryschools.net)  
Phone-(401) 822-9499

Cumberland High School  
2600 Mendon Road  
Cumberland, RI 02864  
Julie Bannon  
[jbannon@cpsed.net](mailto:jbannon@cpsed.net)  
401.658.2600

East Greenwich High School  
300 Avenger Drive  
East Greenwich, RI 02818  
Chris Cobain  
[ccobain@egsed.net](mailto:ccobain@egsed.net)  
401.398.1300

Exeter/ West Greenwich High School  
930 Nooseneck Hill Road  
West Greenwich, RI 02817  
Timothy Daft AD  
[timothydaft@ewg.k12.ri.us](mailto:timothydaft@ewg.k12.ri.us)  
401.397.6893

Hope High School  
324 Hope Street  
Providence, RI 02906  
Rachel Moran  
[rachel.moran@ppsd.org](mailto:rachel.moran@ppsd.org)  
401.456.9161

Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex  
182 Thurbers Avenue  
Providence, RI 02905  
Steven Nadeau  
[steven.nadeau@ppsd.org](mailto:steven.nadeau@ppsd.org)  
(401) 278-0562

Lincoln High School  
135 Old River Road, Lincoln, RI 02865  
Heidi Godowski  
[godowskih@lincolnps.org](mailto:godowskih@lincolnps.org)  
(401) 334-7500

Mt. Hope High School  
199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI 02809  
Christy Belisle  
[belislsec@bw.k12.ri.us](mailto:belislsec@bw.k12.ri.us)  
401.254.5980

Mount Pleasant High School  
434 Mt Pleasant Ave, Providence, RI  
02908  
Zack Pinto  
[zachary.pinto@ppsd.org](mailto:zachary.pinto@ppsd.org)  
401.456.9181

Narragansett High School  
245 South Pier Road  
Narragansett, RI 02882  
Krystal Cagnon  
[kcagnon@narragansett.k12.ri.us](mailto:kcagnon@narragansett.k12.ri.us)  
401.792.9400

North Kingstown High School  
150 Fairway Drive  
North Kingstown, RI 02852  
Howard Hague  
[howardhague@nksd.net](mailto:howardhague@nksd.net)  
401.268.6236

North Providence High School  
1828 Mineral Spring Avenue  
North Providence, RI 02904  
Jackie Hilton  
[jacqueline.hilton@npsd.k12.ri.us](mailto:jacqueline.hilton@npsd.k12.ri.us)  
401.233.1150

Pilgrim High School  
11 Pilgrim Parkway  
Warwick RI 02888  
Jeanne Miranda  
[mirandaj@warwickschools.net](mailto:mirandaj@warwickschools.net)  
401.734.3250

Ponaganset High School  
91 Anan Wade Road  
Smithville-North Scituate, RI 02857  
Beth Keeling  
[bkeeling3@aol.com](mailto:bkeeling3@aol.com)  
401.710.7500

Portsmouth High School  
120 Education Lane  
Portsmouth, RI 02877  
Christine Lawrence  
[christinelawrence@portsmouthschools.ri.org](mailto:christinelawrence@portsmouthschools.ri.org)  
401.683.2124

Rogers High School  
15 Wickham Road  
Newport RI 02840  
Raleigh Brennan  
[raleighbrennan@npsri.net](mailto:raleighbrennan@npsri.net)  
401.847.6235

Scituate High School  
94 Trimtown Road  
North Scituate, RI 02857  
Tim Brown  
[tbrown@scituateri.net](mailto:tbrown@scituateri.net)  
401.647.4120

Smithfield High School  
90 Pleasant Ave  
Smithfield RI 02917  
Daniel Kelley, Principal  
[dkelley@smithfield-ps.org](mailto:dkelley@smithfield-ps.org)  
401.949.2050

South Kingstown High School  
215 Columbia St, Wakefield RI 02879  
Terrie Marchesseault  
[tmarchesseault@skschools.net](mailto:tmarchesseault@skschools.net)  
401.360.1000

Tiverton High School  
100 North Brayton Road  
Tiverton RI 02818  
Dave Landoch  
[dlandoch@tivertonschools.org](mailto:dlandoch@tivertonschools.org)  
401.624.8494

Toll Gate High School  
575 Centerville Road  
Warwick RI 02886  
Marita Rachiele  
[rachielem@warwickschools.org](mailto:rachielem@warwickschools.org)  
401.734.3300

Tolman High School  
150 Exchange St, Pawtucket RI 02860  
Candi Turner  
[turnerc@psdri.net](mailto:turnerc@psdri.net)  
401.729.6400

Warwick Vets High School  
2401 W Shore Road, Warwick RI 02889  
Sara Amato  
[amatos@warwickschools.org](mailto:amatos@warwickschools.org)  
401.734.3200

Westerly High School  
23 Ward Ave  
Westerly RI 02891  
Brendan Murphy  
[bmurphy@westerly.k12.ri.us](mailto:bmurphy@westerly.k12.ri.us)  
401.596.2109  
401.456-9181

Woonsocket High School  
777 Cass Avenue  
Woonsocket RI 02895  
Samantha Darling  
[sdarling@woonsocketschools.com](mailto:sdarling@woonsocketschools.com)  
401.767.4704

### **TALC: The Adolescent Leadership Council of Hasbro Children's Hospital**

[TALCProgram@gmail.com](mailto:TALCProgram@gmail.com),  
[www.TALCProgram.org](http://www.TALCProgram.org)  
(401) 444-7563

Description of Program: TALC is a program for adolescents who live with chronic medical illness. We meet throughout the year to provide opportunities for teens to get social support from peers who live with illness while performing leadership and advocacy projects. Students from local colleges and universities who also live with illness act as mentors to the group. New members can start 3 times a year (September, January, April) through the Transition Program. Returning members are part of the Leadership Council, which is also the official youth advisory council for Hasbro Children's Hospital

Ages Served:13-18

Area Served: Rhode Island, Southern Massachusetts, and Eastern Connecticut  
Population of interest: Adolescents with chronic medical illness (i.e. diabetes, lupus, cardiac conditions, GI conditions, cancer, neuromuscular disorders, etc.)

Program areas: Leadership, mentoring, advocacy, social support

## **The Groden Center, Inc.**

610 Manton Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island 02909  
Sherri Huxtable  
401.274.6310  
[www.grodencenter.org](http://www.grodencenter.org)

Description of Program:  
Transition to Adulthood Program

Ages Served: 14-18  
Areas Served: Statewide  
Population of interest: individuals with Asperger Syndrome, Nonverbal Learning Disability, High Functioning Autism,

Program Area:  
Community of Support Services: The Groden Center's Community Support Services Department provides consultation and training services throughout the community as well as outpatient programs including individual, family and group therapy.

The Transition to Adulthood Program (TAP) is a series of therapeutic-educational tracks designed to assist individuals with Asperger Syndrome, Nonverbal Learning Disability, High Functioning Autism, or similar social needs, through the challenges of high school and the transition to adulthood.

## **YESS (Youth Establishing Self-Sufficiency) Aftercare Services Program**

55 South Brow Street  
East Providence, RI 02914  
Kimberly R. Rose  
401.431.0555 x201  
Fax: 401-431-0566  
[www.ricorp.org](http://www.ricorp.org)

Description of Program:  
YESS is a voluntary aftercare program that provides services and supports that are individually tailored to meet the needs young adults formerly involved with DCYF. Young adults are assisted in identifying and utilizing applicable community-based resources with the goal of having each young adult ready to live independently before or by their 21st birthday.

Ages Served: ages 18-21  
Areas Served: Rhode Island (including areas where young adults from Rhode Island may be living due to individual circumstances ex: out of state college or university)

Population of Interest: Young Adults who have been closed to the RI Family Court and DCYF and for whom the Department has determined there are no other viable permanency options.

\*The potential participant or their primary DCYF social worker may make a referral to YESS. To be effective, referrals should be made six months prior to the youth's 18th birthday or their anticipated closure date in Family Court, whichever date comes later.

**Program Areas:**

YESS participants are provided limited case management supports (8-10 hours per month), as well as assistance with establishing a budget and a Self-Sufficiency plan. Self-Sufficiency Specialists will help youth locate safe and affordable housing, assist with identifying a good employment match, and help them enroll in Higher Education, Technical Training and/or vocational training programs.

Youth may be provided housing/living expenses which are based on individual identified housing expense costs and is paid directly to them. With minimal exceptions, youth are expected to have a roommate. It is the program's expectation that as the young adults progress in skills and age they will become increasingly responsible for their housing expenses.

**YMCA Leaders Club**

371 Pine Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
Melissa Walsh- Director of Community Development  
Providence YMCA Youth Services  
mwalsh@gpymca.org  
w: (401) 427.1865

**Description of Program**

The YMCA Leaders Club meets weekly and engages in youth led leadership development activities & service-learning opportunities in Providence. The members of the Leaders Club are dedicated to continually developing their leadership skills while making a positive impact on their community.

**Ages Served:** 14-18

**Area Served:** Providence

**Population of Interest:** Providence High School students

**Program Areas**

Leadership Development & Service Learning

### **Youth Advisory Council**

The Rhode Island Department of Health  
Office of Special Needs  
3 Capitol Hill, 302  
Providence, RI 02908  
Pauline Thompson  
[pauline.thompson@health.ri.gov](mailto:pauline.thompson@health.ri.gov)  
401-222-4963

#### Description of Program

The Youth Advisory Council is an active work group that provides recommendations concerning public health initiatives and topics concerning a positive transition to adult life. The council meets monthly September-May with additional time spent on sub committees. Members of the Youth Advisory Council have the opportunity to learn and engage in other opportunities and to be members on the Dream Team. The Dream Team members serve as the young adult ambassadors of the Dare to Dream Conference

Ages Served: 14-26

Area Served: Statewide

Population of Interest: Youth, young adults, and mentors interested in sharing talents, ideas, making friends, and making a difference!

Program Area: Youth Leadership and Development

### **Youth in Action (YIA)**

672 Broad Street  
Providence, RI 02907  
(401) 751-4264 Main Phone  
[www.youthinactionri.org](http://www.youthinactionri.org)

#### Description of Program

Youth In Action is a partnership between youth, adults, and community where young people are at the forefront of creating positive social change.

Ages Served: High School

Area Served: Providence

Population of Interest: Urban youth interested in making a positive social change

#### Program Areas

Community Meetings: Once a month all members of YIA come together to learn about a variety of topics ranging from facilitation, to time management, to youth activism. The meetings, which take place on the first Friday of each month, are led by YIA adult staff, mentors, current members, alumni and other volunteers. The monthly meetings provide an opportunity for the YIA community to come together and share information and

connect. All members of the YIA community, including parents, friends and alumni are welcome.

The Youth 4 Change Coalition (Y4C): Y4C is a group of five organizations in Providence, RI that believe in youth power and leadership. They came together because they are deeply concerned about the lack of youth presence in public discussions. Decisions are made that affect youth first and sometimes more seriously than adults, without their voice at the table. Y4C believes that when young people have the access, support, and opportunity to impact policies and systems, the entire community benefits. Right now, Y4C is working on Providence's first Youth Bill of Rights, which will focus on the issues that impact young people most. They're also building a youth network to keep youth informed about issues and their community and ways to work on real solutions. The Y4C organizations are Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE), Providence Public Schools District Wide Student Government (DWSG), Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM), Young Voices, and Youth In Action. [www.Y4Cri.org](http://www.Y4Cri.org)

Academic Mentoring Program: AMP is a FREE tutoring program for all Rhode Island high school students. Youth In Action works with Brown University to provide tutoring and SAT prep for all students who need help with any subject. The program takes place on Mondays and Thursdays at Brown University in Salomon Room 202 from 4 to 6pm. We also offer tutoring on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Youth In Action (672 Broad St. Providence) from 4 to 6pm by appointment only. Please email or call Chachi for info or directions: [chachi@youthinactionri.org](mailto:chachi@youthinactionri.org) or 401-751-4264 ext 6. AMP has supported hundreds of youth to keep their grades up and get to college.

College Visions: Youth In Action is proud to partner with College Visions, to make sure YIA seniors have a change to obtain a college education. College Visions provides low-income and first-generation college-bound youth in Rhode Island with the individualized advising and resources needed to enroll in college. With College Visions' guidance, students access the support and knowledge to make informed college choices.

Next Generation Media: The Media Team is a group of dynamic youth who use modern technology to learn about and share information with their community. The Media team focuses on issues related to social justice and equality, to feed the community and their peers with knowledge about situations they wouldn't be informed about in school or by watching the news.

Youth Education About Health (YEAH): Members of YEAH Team are not your typical health teachers. The team was started by youth who wanted to stop teen pregnancy and STDs from hurting their community. Every year they reach 300 of their peers with information about pregnancy, HIV & STD prevention and health behaviors. Youth on the team worked with the RI Department of Health to create the YEAH curriculum. The team is in charge of hiring and training their own staff, and is responsible for setting and reaching program goals. Because of that, the sessions are always fun and youth can be really honest about the issues they face—which leads to real solutions! As a part of its

work, Y.E.A.H. Team also conducts community outreach through its STREET Team, which brings vital health information and referrals for a variety of services to members of the Providence community.

**Youth Pride Inc.**

743 Westminster St.  
Providence, RI 02903  
[info@youthprideri.org](mailto:info@youthprideri.org)  
[www.youthprideri.org](http://www.youthprideri.org)  
Phone 401-421-5626  
Fax 401-274-1990

Description of Program

Youth Pride, Inc. provides support, advocacy, and education for youth and young adults throughout Rhode Island who are impacted by sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. We offer a variety of services including a drop-in space, support groups, individual counseling, workshops, advocacy, and community based activities and more.

See the calendar page of our website for a complete list of upcoming events and activities.

Ages Served: 13-23

Areas Served: Rhode Island

Population of Interest: LGBTQQ youth and their allies

**Youth Speaking out**

535 Centerville Road, Suite 202  
Warwick RI, 02886  
Ana Santana Pena  
[A.santanapena@psnri.org](mailto:A.santanapena@psnri.org)  
401- 633-5717

Description of Program:

Youth Speaking Out is a group of youth who want to work in partnership to support one another and help others; educate youth rights and other important information; raise public awareness, and become a strong advocacy voice for youth and young adults at risk for or who have serious emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges.

Ages Served: Ages 13-18

Area Served: Statewide

Population of Interest: Youth interested in becoming leaders in the mental health field and making a difference in their communities by promoting positive mental health.

Program Area: Youth Leadership and Advocacy

## **Young Voices**

150 Miller Avenue  
Providence, RI 02905  
401-751-3086  
<http://youngvoicesri.org/>

### Description of Program

Young Voices is a Rhode Island-based non-profit organization that transforms urban youth into powerful advocates who have a voice in every aspect of their lives.

Ages Served: Youth and young adults

Area Served: Greater Providence

Population of Interest: Young people interested in making systemic change in their community.

Program Areas: Youth Advocating for Issues- Our young people are powerful advocates for youth issues. They testify at State House hearings, meet with high-level government officials, sit on a variety of prominent Boards and Commissions, and influence the creation of policies at the State and local level.

Advanced Youth Leadership Training- Our Cornerstone Program is the 7-month Leadership Transformation Academy (LTA), through which young people learn how to analyze and impact policy, conduct research, present their arguments in persuasive and compelling ways, and communicate effectively with powerful policy-makers. By 2010, more than 250 youth will have participated in the Academy.

Reforming our Public Schools- Our youth conducted groundbreaking research about the everyday experience of students and teachers in Providence Public Schools. More than 1,600 youth—21% of Providence public high school students—were reached through surveys (created with the assistance of Brown University). Additionally, more than 200 youth were reached through focus groups that covered the survey questions in great depth.

**Please improve this directory by submitting additions!  
Contact Deb or Carmen with your feedback.**

Deb Golding  
Adolescent Health Transition  
Coordinator  
Rhode Island Department of Health  
(401) 222-5954  
[Deb.Golding@health.ri.gov](mailto:Deb.Golding@health.ri.gov)

Carmen Boucher  
Community Program Liaison  
Rhode Island Department of Health  
(401) 222-5926  
[Carmen.Boucher@health.ri.gov](mailto:Carmen.Boucher@health.ri.gov)