

NEWS for Youth Work Professionals

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YOUTH WORK PROFILES

Charisma Ceant'e Smith



Many of her youth call her CeCe. Charisma Smith has worked most of her life in the Social Services sector. As a youngster she worked as a peer educator for the Check Yo'Self Crew and at Youth Link's HIV/AIDS Prevention & Intervention Program. Currently she is TeenPRIDE Advocate at The Family Partnership.

Charisma's passion for youth work evolves from the healing of her own childhood trauma and her desire to "lift the next generation above their barriers and beyond their circumstances."

Charisma's skills and talents consist of spoken word poetry (scripted and freestyle), creative writing, youth development, crisis intervention and her overall ability to excel. Charisma's words to live by are, "If you don't love yourself, who will love you..." and "I love my self so much that I can love you enough."

[The Family Partnership](#)

The Family Partnership is one of the oldest non-profits in the Twin Cities and since 1878, has helped more than one million of the community's most vulnerable children and families. Through counseling, education programs and advocacy, they support families in need and empower them to solve problems. Over 1600 volunteers support more than 100 staff to advance the mission of building strong families, vital communities and capable children. The organization served 20,000 people last year at their six office locations, including three therapeutic preschools, and more than 100 schools, food shelves, jails, transitional housing complexes, churches, and community centers throughout the metro.

EVENTS

Digital Inclusion Forum

Jan. 17, 8:30AM-12PM, Best Buy Headquarters
8:00 am Check in and Continental Breakfast
Learn about current local, state and national Digital Inclusion projects, initiatives and opportunities.
Share your perspective and discuss how technology access, skills and use affect your business and/or community.
Develop vision and action steps for the coming year in world café-style small groups; table leads will collect action steps and support implementation throughout the year
[Register here.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: Minneapolis PARTNERS for Youth Conference: February 14

Invitations and information to be released next week.

Solutions in Action Youth Summit

Feb. 12, 9:00AM-2:00PM, North Minneapolis YMCA, 1711 West Broadway Ave, Minneapolis
A day for 7-12 grade students to focus on how students and staff can work together to transform discipline in their schools to improve behavior and responses for everyone. Students will brainstorm fair and equitable responses for inappropriate behavior and create action plans, so they can be involved with their school administration to advocate for and/or implement equitable, supportive discipline policies & practices. For more information and to register, [click here.](#) The summit is FREE and breakfast and lunch will be provided!

ADULT TRAINING

[Free Brown Bag Webinars: UMN Extension](#)

Webinars are held from 11:30AM-1:00PM (Central)

- Engaging Youth in Decision Making-Jan. 15
- Socio-Emotional Factors in Learning: Understanding to Action-Mar. 12
- Teen Technology Use: Putting Data into Practice-May 14

My Youth Pro's Data and Assessment 101

Jan. 28, 12:30-3:00PM, live at the TIES Building in Falcon Heights and streamed online.

Learn how to use data to efficiently and meaningfully tell your organization's story. [Click here for more information.](#)

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

January is National Mentoring Month

Visit the National Mentoring Month [website](#) to learn more about what you can do, view campaign PSAs, and access campaign materials.



Research on Somali Youth: An Invitation for Participation

This is an opportunity to take part in some valuable research about the mental health needs of Somali youth. For those who work in the human service field and have experience working with Somali youth. Give one hour of time and receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card. Contact Megan Jacobs @ oxto0733@stthomas.edu or 952-649-1123 by Jan. 31st for more information on the study.

[Stopbullying.gov](#)

Visit the new, re-designed and user-friendly Training Center at [StopBullying.gov](#). The Center includes many resources (training modules, community action toolkits, videos, and more) in both English and Spanish.

US Dept. of ED and Dept. of Justice Release the School Discipline Guidance Package!

This guidance package provides the support and assistance necessary for community and schools to work together to reform discipline policies and identify positive alternative practices that will replace the unnecessary use of suspensions in schools for minor, non-violent behavior and improve schools climate for all students. All school districts need to be held accountable to their obligations under federal law and this package will help them do that!

[Find the packet here.](#)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

The Mississippi River Green Team Looking for Teens

This is a two-year, year-round program which includes a 9-week summer internship and monthly meetings during the year. It is for residents of North or NE Minneapolis, 14–16 years old, able to work the entire summer and in good standing at school. Participants take care of our river and parks, learn job skills, explore environmental careers and earn money. The work includes sampling water quality, planting trees, prairies & rain gardens, cleaning up the riverfront, creating wildlife habitat and removing invasive plants. See attached application/flyer.



Youth Opportunity Center Calendar

Resources and activities for homeless youth. See attached