



Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation 2011 Fall Newsletter



2011 Citizenship Conference a Success!

The 2011 MassSTAR Citizenship Conference was held from June 10 - 12, 2011, at Lasell College in Newton, MA. Organized by the Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation, and sponsored by Lasell College, Sodexo, and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts, the Conference brought together 114 high school sophomores from across Massachusetts to learn about leadership, community service, engaged citizenship, and self-discovery.

Building upon the theme of "The Road Less Traveled," students participated in workshops, heard from diverse panelists, and were challenged to think critically about how their actions and choices shape their future and their communities. Download the event program on the MassSTAR website at www.MassSTAR.org

Conference Service Project: Blue Bears Brigade



Gena Restiano, now a junior at Revere High School, presented **Fire Lt. Jim Caramello** of the **Revere Fire Department** with two bags full of stuffed animal bears. The bears were part of a community service project of the Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation's MassSTAR Conference. During the 2011 Conference, MassSTAR delegates sewed and stuffed the blue bears, drew faces, tied on red scarves and gave the finished bears to local police and fire departments around Massachusetts. Fire and police departments can present these bears to children in times of crisis. The bears serve as a source of comfort and distraction for the children. Blue bears were also presented to the **Wrentham Police Department**.

General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts

The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts generously donated materials for the stuffed bears, which included partly sewn bear patterns, the stuffing, and the black markers, needed to make faces and the scarves. GFWC clubwomen, **Lynne Sullivan**, **Second Vice-President of GFWCMA**, and **Mary Ann Pierce**, **First Vice-President of GFWCMA**, also came to the MassSTAR Conference to assist the students in this great project! **Mary Ann** later spoke to MassSTAR students and their families at closing ceremonies. She spoke of the history of GFWCMA's involvement with the Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation and encouraged students to become involved in their communities.



Pictured above from left to right: Joan Shanahan, Leadership Chairman, GFWC of Massachusetts, Laura S. Coppola, President, GFWC of Massachusetts, and Jennifer Coliflores '00 at the Spring Club Institute Award Ceremony in Medway, MA

August Group Service Spotlight



On Sunday, August 21, 2011 the Alumni Association traveled to Brighton Massachusetts to work with Cradles to Crayons, a nonprofit that provides, free of charge, disadvantaged children with the essential items that all kids need in order to flourish.

Twenty-five alumni and friends volunteered their time on Sunday, writing notes to the recipients, as well as inspecting, cleaning, and organizing toys that had been donated to Cradles to Crayons.

Congratulations to the new MYLF Junior Board!

The Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation is pleased to announce the members of the 2011-2012 Junior Board. These MassSTAR alumni will be working with board members on various projects and responsibilities central to MYLF. They are recognized for their hard work and dedication within the organization.

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|----------------------|------------------------|
| Olivia Mei | GFWCMA Liaison |
| Alex Gomez | Member-at-Large |
| Deanna Oliveira | Member-at-Large |
| George Murphy | Parent Liaison |
| Alexander Nogueroles | Communications Officer |
| Cayla Barbour | GFWCMA Liaison |
| Cristian Bedoya | Member-at-Large |
| Riddhi Jain | Secretary |
| Sara Wojda | Finance/Grants Officer |

Alumni Association Updates

September Alumni Association Meeting Cancelled

We have decided to cancel the Eastern and Western Alumni Association Meetings planned to be held on Sunday, September 18 due to the Life is Good Festival the following weekend and overlapping events in the Kenmore area that weekend.

Life is Good Festival

All MassSTAR alumni who registered for the festival are scheduled to volunteer on Sunday, September 25 from 10am-6pm. If a team leader from Life is Good has previously contacted you about volunteering at a different time, please disregard this and plan to volunteer on Sunday.



Save the Date

The Make a Difference Day Conference will be held on Saturday, October 22. There will be no regular Alumni Association Meeting during October. Classmates, Key Clubs, Student Councils, or any other group of peers who you think would benefit from joining the MassSTAR community are welcome to attend!



If you have any questions please contact [Samantha Curtis](#).

Meet Our New Alumni Association Leaders!

These young alumni are responsible for organizing alumni events and listening to your feedback in order to build the community. We hope you reach out to them with your event ideas and get to know them throughout the year!

Junior Board Liaison: Riddhi Jain

Riddhi '09 represented Trinity Catholic High School, and is currently a freshman in the pre-business program at the University of California, Berkeley. She is serving as the Co-Director of the Make a Difference Conference this year, and was Co-Director of the In-Kind Donations team for the 2011 Conference.

Eastern MA President: Alex Gomez

Alex '10 is a senior at Weymouth High School and is from Weymouth. Alex is bilingual and is a tri-citizen of the United States, Chile, and Spain.

Western MA President: Livia Mei

Livia '10 is from Granby and is a senior at Granby High School. She coaches soccer and is a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, and the Yearbook. She has been to four countries and is enthusiastic about trying new foods while traveling.

Community Service Liaison: Marisa Parker

Marisa '11 is from in Mattapoisett and is going to be a junior at Old Rochester Regional High School. She is looking forward to the prospect of an amazing, exciting, enjoyable, and all-around enthusiasm-filled year. Marisa is currently a green belt practicing the traditional Chinese kenpo style of martial arts.

Secretary: Sammi Carr

Sammi '10 is from Holbrook and is a senior at Archbishop Williams High School. She manages the hockey and softball teams, and enjoys photography.

Alumni Spotlight

Adrianna Boulin, 2007

Roles within MassSTAR: In the past, she's served as Co-Director of In-Kind Donations, Junior Operations, an active member of the Alumni Association, and Co-Director of the Make a Difference Day Conference.

Current Service: Adrianna recently traveled to South Africa with her university and participated in a Service Learning Trip, in which she learned about the culture, the history of apartheid, and the life of Nelson Mandela.

Community impact since her MassSTAR Conference: Adrianna started a freshman tutoring and mentoring program called Fruition at her school. She also initiated and planned "Jamakin Me Smart", a school supply drive for students in Jamaica, and fundraised \$1300 for "Roses for Riordon", a scholarship fund in memory of her school nurse that passed that year.



Conference Staff

Love MassSTAR? Want to be part of the team that makes it all happen? Join the 2012 MassSTAR Conference Planning Committee! There are several positions that need to be filled; contact [Colleen Myers](#) for more information.

Thank you to our 2011 Sponsors!



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Sincerely,



Jennifer Coliflores
Director of Communications
Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation