

**TURN IT
AROUND**

ISSUE: 14
TURN IT AROUND
YOUTH GROUP
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



Welcome Our New Youth Prevention Coordinator!!

We are so excited to welcome the latest addition to the Charlestown Coalition Team, Mswati Hanks!



Mswati is a native of upstate New York and lives in Chelsea, Mass., with his wife and two sons. He has worked with youth in the Boston area for over 10 years. We are thrilled to have his experience, knowledge and passion helping to elevate our youth prevention efforts in Charlestown.

When asked to tell us more about himself, Mswati said, "The one word I would use to describe myself is DRIVEN. I am an extremely dedicated and hardworking person who loves mentoring, motivating, and inspiring young people. As an African-American male, and the parent of two teen-age boys, I understand the many difficulties facing youth who are growing up in an urban environment. Through education, music, poetry, sports, film, theatre, and even the outdoors, I've been able expose these kids to a world that many of them had no idea existed or was even accessible. I truly believe that EDUCATION is the great equalizer when it comes to lifting one out of poverty, or any situation for that matter. And, hopefully, through my work, this is the legacy I will leave behind for these youth."

Ginaya Murray Greene will be returning from maternity leave in a new and exciting role for the Coalition and Community. As the new Communication and Events Coordinator, Ginaya will use her creative talents to take our communications and community events planning to a whole new level.

2019 Peace Calendar Contest:

Each year Turn It Around develops an annual calendar as part of our fundraising efforts to sustain the TIA youth program. For 2019, our calendar theme is Peace. With so much strife going on around us, we wanted to reflect and help others contemplate the meaning of Peace in our own lives.

As part of a creative-expression contest, the youth submitted images, quotes, and art pieces that bring them peace in their daily lives. Then during our art-piece exhibit, TIA members voted on their peers' submissions to be placed into the calendar. Congratulations to the 12 winners selected, Fatima, Ariana, Rahsaun, Ibrahim, Dylan, Oumar, Lataya, Anthony, Omar, Zaire, Precious, and Zhanae!

If you wish to support Turn It Around's youth programming, please consider purchasing our calendar in the amount of a \$10-\$20.00 donation. Thank you!



ISSUE: 14

**TURN IT
AROUND**

**TURN IT AROUND
YOUTH GROUP
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**



This Month in Turn It Around :

Each month, Turn It Around, has an overall theme for our weekly meetings. For the month of February our theme is "New Year, New Energy". We'll discuss how the new year is going for our youth and ways to keep up the "energy" going into the second month of 2019. We want to make sure our youth don't lose focus and keep working towards reaching their goals and dreams.



Ways to get Involved:

Want to join in on the fun during one of our meetings or events? We'd love to have you! There are many opportunities for parents and guardians to get involved in *Turn It Around*. Whether you help cook, serve, clean or participate in the activities, all are invited and welcome. Please reach out to Ginaya for more information.

Prefer Email?

To receive our Family & Friends Newsletter email instead of a paper copy, please contact Ginaya Greene Murray at Ggreene-Murray@Partners.org or call her directly at 617-726-6684

January's Youth of the Month:

Jeremiah is our January Turn It Around Youth of the Month! He's well-respected, and an integral part of the group. He's an excellent athlete, and an even better friend. His smile can light up a room, and we are so happy that he's part of our team.

*-Mswati Hanks
(Youth Prevention
Coordinator)*



Have Questions?

If you need assistance with your youth regarding school, job placement, risky behaviors, or anything else, please contact the Charlestown Coalition. We will be happy to help with any questions regarding you and your child.

Find us online:

Visit us online: www.CharlestownCoalition.org

Follow us:

facebook.com/TurnItAroundCharlestown

twitter.com/TurnItAroundCtn

instagram.com/TurnItAroundCtn