



This Month in Turn It Around

During the month of February, Turn It Around met during the first week for their monthly in-person meeting. The group celebrated the deep affection they have for each other with their favorite activity, "Love Jars"! The teens filled jars for both peers and staff with special messages bursting with encouragement, kindness, and lots and lots of love!



Turn It Around will also be celebrating Black History Month throughout February. Check out our social media pages to see what inspires the youth when it comes to African and African American history, you may or may not be surprised by the accomplishments and leaders that stand out to them.



Happy Birthday to February Babies



Happy Birthday to Yanailyz! We're celebrating you with lots of love this February!

Peace Park Funding Update

Turn It Around and Charlestown Coalition's application to renovate the Peace Park reached a significant milestone recently -- the City's Community Preservation Act Committee ranked the project among the highest of 39 others in the open space and parks category!

Supported by City Councilor Lydia Edwards and Representative Dan Ryan, our group requested funds to transform the space into an irrigated, landscaped green area with seating, new fencing, paving, and a quiet section to honor those lives that have been lost to overdose and community violence. There would be enough space to safely host Peace Park and other important unifying community gatherings, such as our monthly Race & Equity Discussions hosted by Councilor Edwards.

In a highly competitive round for 2021, the CPA Committee must make final recommendations to the Mayor and City Council who must approve project selections, due in the spring of 2021.

The applications' conceptual design drew from input by neighborhood residents. The grant would cover design and construction. Final designs will be developed by a Landscape Architect, qualified and experienced in urban settings, which would undergo City and Mass DOT (the landowner) reviews with neighborhood participation. The Charlestown Preservation Society, a 501(c)3 organization, will act as our fiscal sponsor and has experience in park planning at the Training Field and Preservation Park at Thompson Square. All in all, it's turning out to be a popular and exciting project for all involved!

Please email Ginaya Greene Murray (Ggreene-Murray@Partners.org) to become more involved in this project and to learn about the "Friends of the Peace Park".

**TURN IT
AROUND**

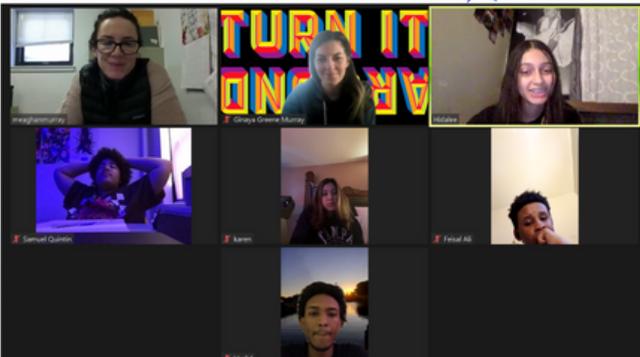
**TURN IT AROUND
YOUTH GROUP
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**



Last Month in Turn It Around

During the month of January, Turn It Around youth met with the Director of the Charlestown Golden Age Senior Center, Meaghan Murray, to discuss a potential pilot program. The TIA youth would make bi-weekly calls to local seniors, checking in with them to help alleviate some of the isolation and pandemic stress that many of our elders are feeling. We're very excited to get this program started as we know it will benefit our young people just as much as the seniors!

**BCYF GOLDEN AGE
SENIOR CENTER**



Ways to get Involved:

Want to join in on the fun during one of our virtual meetings? We'd love to have you! There are many opportunities for parents and guardians to get involved in *Turn It Around*. All are invited and welcome. Please reach out to Mswati Hanks for more information at MHanks1@partners.org.

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:**

Our first Youth of the Month for 2021 is Aliyah Madden. Aliyah has the brightness and the energy of the sun!! Her personality and positivity light up any room she is present in. Recently, Aliyah and her family moved many miles away, and Aliyah is also attending a new school. But through all of the chaos of these changes in her life, Aliyah has stayed connected to her TURN IT AROUND family, and still attends and participates in every meeting.



*-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.

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