



CADCA's National Youth Leadership Initiative Trainers



Melanee A. Piskai,
Westchester, PA

Melanee has been an actively involved in coalition and prevention work for over seven years. She serves as a member of the West Chester Area Communities That Care (WCCTC), a local community prevention coalition in Exton, Pennsylvania, USA. Since the age of 14, she has been instrumental in the efforts and successes of the coalition. Comprised of youth leaders committed to living a substance-free lifestyle, raising awareness related to destructive decisions and changing behaviors within the West Chester community, Melanee serves as President of their Youth Leadership Council and representative to the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) Committee. The committee presents data from surveys administered to secondary school students on behavior, attitudes and knowledge concerning alcohol, marijuana, abuse of prescription drugs and other illicit drugs. With her contribution and the contributions of other WCCTC coalition members, the West Chester area is experiencing a decline in underage drinking and tobacco usage.

As a youth trainer for CADCA's National Youth Leadership Initiative (NYLI), Melanee trains and empowers thousands of youth from across the United States, and now world, with the tools needed to create population-level change as it relates substance abuse prevention and other social ills that affect young people. Most recently, she and CADCA's NYLI team had the opportunity to share those skills with youth from more than 40 different countries at the 1st Global Forum for Youth Leaders on Drug Use Prevention in Abu Dhabi, UAE. In addition to her training experience, Melanee has represented young people at CADCA's Drug Free Kids Campaign Annual Awards Dinner amongst national, state and local legislatures, community leaders, corporate executives and other public officials. She has sat at the table with CADCA's senior leadership and Italy's Head of the Department of Anti-Drug Policies to assist in coalition building efforts in Italy.

Melanee currently studies Sociology and Psychology at Ursinus College in Pennsylvania with a goal to amplify her knowledge and experience in community-based prevention.



Sheri Jones Montgomery, AL

Born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama, a focal point during the African American Civil Rights Movement, Sheri has always had a desire to strive and overcome the social adversities within her community in order to improve the lives of those around her. Growing up in a community with racial tension and substance abuse that plagued her own peers, Sheri decided to become involved in a solution.

As a high school sophomore she was given an opportunity to serve on the Council on Substance Abuse-NCADD (COSA-NCADD) Youth Advisory Board. In her role as President of the Youth Advisory Board, Sheri received an opportunity to attend CADCA's 2011 Mid-Year Training Institute where she participated in the National Youth Leadership Initiative (NYLI). It was here that she developed the skills needed to impact her community in ways that allowed her to be proactive in her desires for a better environment. Because of her passion and dedication, Sheri was selected to join NYLI's Training of Trainers and is in motion to become a CADCA NYLI Youth Trainer.

A strong advocate of community service, Sheri volunteers at the West End Boys and Girls Club and continues to serve as President of COSA-NCADD's Youth Advisory Board. She is a recent graduate of Booker T. Washington High School's Law Magnet Program and, now, freshman at Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. Sheri has future aspirations of Law School and working within the non-profit sector.



Carlos Martinez
Reading, PA

Carlos Manuel Martinez Jr. Correa, born and raised in Reading, Pennsylvania where it is too often characterized by its high school dropout, unemployment and crime rates. Determined to beat the statistics, Carlos entered the world of Prevention at the age of 11 through Berks County PRIDE (Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education) Youth Programs.

After making significant contributions to Berks County PRIDE, Carlos joined the Youth Coalition of Berks County where he was awarded the Caron Treatment Centers' Unsung Hero Award for his efforts in prevention in the city of Reading. In 2008, he was selected to represent his coalition at CADCA's Mid-Year Training Institute in Palm Springs, CA where he learned invaluable tools from the NYLI Training.

After a few years of diligent training and practice, Carlos completed the NYLI Training of Trainers and is now a certified CADCA Youth Trainer for the NYLI. In his role, he instructs youth across the country on how to critically assess social problems and develop efficient, sustainable solutions. Carlos credits the NYLI for indubitably shaping his perspective on life and enhancing his leadership capabilities and passion for civic engagement and community development.

Now a senior at Northwestern University, Carlos is majoring in journalism with a concentration on integrated marketing communications. In his tenure, he has been selected for precious opportunities to serve in countries like Nicaragua and Cuba where he applied skills attained from the NYLI's public health approach to community problem-solving. Needless to say, Carlos has a passion for service and development that cannot be quelled.



Teresa Bishop

St. Lucie, FL

Teresa serves as the Lead Trainer for the NYLI and Instructor for the National Coalition Academy for the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). She is also the Founder and Director of Provision Training and Consulting, LLC and received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Central Florida.

Over the past 20 years, she has worked in the children and families arena and in recent years has championed causes around youth development, juvenile justice reform and community development issues. Ms. Bishop has provided training and technical assistance for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Department of Labor national initiatives, including the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Project; the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Intensive Technical Assistance Initiative, the Targeted Community Action Planning (TCAP) initiative, the Going Home Initiative and the Youth Offender Demonstration Project (YODP). Through these projects, she worked closely with community officials, youth and family serving agencies, grass roots organizations and coalitions, to develop plans and strategies to affect community change and system reform.



Yvonne Stroman
Reading, PA

For more than 25 years, Yvonne has worked in the field of social services providing leadership, direction, support, education, advocacy, training and empowerment to individuals, families and communities. In her recent role as Executive Director, Yvonne was responsible for developing and implementing strategic and operating plans to meet financial expectations, resident and family satisfaction, administering grants, securing funding and ensuring quality service.

Prior to this work she served in the capacity of Director of Community Programs at Community Prevention Partnership of Berks County. As Director of Community Partnership Programs, her responsibilities included supervision of prevention staff as well as providing coordination and oversight of the City of Reading Weed and Seed Initiative and the Mayor's Coalition on Youth Violence. Yvonne collaborated with individuals and social agencies to promote environmental strategies and educated the public at large about the dangers and consequences associated with youth's use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and other social issues affecting youth and the community.

In addition Yvonne served as an active member in her community serving on several local boards including, school board, Police Diversity Board, County Children and Youth Advisory Board, Central Pennsylvania African American Museum Board and a member of the Pennsylvania Statewide Disproportionate Minority Contact Sub-Committee – an advisory committee under the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

In addition to her local professional work and civic engagement, Yvonne is a national consultant for the CADCA and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs providing training to youth and adults on issues and initiatives that promote cultural diversity and awareness and ultimately create community level change.



Alexander Cook
San Juan Island, WA

From small Lopez Island and at the age of 13, Alexander found that he was passionate about helping others. At 16 years old, he co-founded the Drug Related Education and Awareness Mentors Team, also known as The DREAM Team. It was school-based peer leadership club dedicated to preventing teens from making destructive decisions such as engaging in substance abuse, underage

drinking, violence and suicide, with a mission to promote healthy choices among youth. As part of his involvement with the work of prevention Alexander became the first and only youth coalition member who has graduated from CADCA's National Coalition Academy. He has been a CADCA spokesperson, advocating on Capitol Hill during CADCA's National Leadership Forum and Capitol Hill Day.

His knowledge and skill earned him a position on the NYLI Training Team in 2010. Since, he completed a two year mission trip in Brazil, and continues to be involved in prevention as he studies Biological Engineering at Utah State University.