



# FAMILY CO-CHAIRS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS



Karmita Morgan-Randall, MPA

MARCH 2022

Dedicated to Cristina Harris..... We Will Miss You...

Monique Lindsay, Parent Advocate

In March, the CCSI-NYC COC Family Co-Chairs are paying homage to women making history in 2022. These women support communities by providing education, training, information, guidance, and resources. They lead with grace, motivate us to take action, inspire us with ideas, and uplift us with their voices. They are the glue that binds families with community organizations. They build bridges for families so that they cannot just see the other side but get there... They developed foundations when there were none. They share their lived experiences and provide connections when you are feeling disconnected. They help navigate challenging situations, dispel fears, actively listen and stay solution-based. Ultimately, they are amazing.....



## Kim D. Kaiser

Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Families Together in New York State

- **About:** Kim D. Kaiser is a mother, daughter, sister, and advocate. She is the Director of Programming for the Color of Autism Foundation, serving the Black/Brown Indigenous & marginalized communities of Color in the US and Nigeria. She is also the Director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion for Families Together in New York State.
- **Passion:** Kim's passions involve being an artist, writer, poet, and speaker raised with a lens for Social Justice, Equity, and Empowerment which is reflected in everything she does.
- **What does Women History Month mean to me?** Women's history is acknowledgment and paying homage to our maternal ancestral ties and the women who fought for their children, partners, communities, and each other to push against the tides of racism, sexism, violence, poverty, and systemic disempowerment. Women's history month means embracing your inner Queen and paying homage to the power of the Womb-man, the Leader and Warrior that exists within all women.

Tell your daughters every day that they are beautiful, they are descended from royalty and they are destined for greatness. a little bit of body text

*Kim's Tips*

Show them their history and awaken their power to pave new roads, to build upon the pioneers of the past to create better futures for all Women.



## Diana Mendez

NYC Regional Parent Advisor working for Families Together in New York State contracted by the office of Mental Health.

- **About:** Diana is a mother, and a dedicated Parent Advocate. I had the opportunity for 23 years of being a "parent Advocate" to help families and youth learn the skill of advocating has been a challenging but rewarding experience. While doing my job, I have met so many wonderful families and advocates. That has been a "game-changer" for me. Knowing that I am positively impacting people's lives motivates me to continue my mission of being supportive to the families we serve and my community.
- **Hobbies:** I enjoy watching movies and going out to restaurants. My passion is to continue helping parents navigate the Special Education system. Giving parents or self-advocates the tools and resources they will need to navigate difficult cross-systems, well, that's what brings me joy. All I want in return from those families that I help is for them to pay it forward and help the next family.
- **What does Women's History Month mean to me?** Woman's History Month means getting out of your comfort zone, dusting yourself off from all the obstacles you've faced, and striving to become the best you could be without looking back or having any regrets. It means watching more and more women breaking barriers. It is sweet to see a woman "Vice President in the white house" and a woman as the "Governor of New York State." Women are now more unstoppable than ever before.

*Diana's Tips*

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE YOUR POWER TO CHANGE YOUR SITUATION. LET YOUR TRAUMA BE YOUR POWER.

TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WANT TO BE TREATED.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE GOOD AND BAD DAYS. ACCEPT IT AND PUSH THROUGH IT. REMEMBER FLOWERS NEED RAIN IN ORDER TO GROW.

## Recognizing Notable Women



Sonia Sotomayor



Maxine Walters



Ruth Beta Ginsberg



Toni Morrison



Kamini Roa



Mazie Hirono

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



### Louise Burwell

Community Ambassador,  
East Harlem CCP

- **About:** Louise M. Abram was born in New York City. She is a proud mother of three beautiful, kind and considerate children. Louise has one handsome and outspoken grandson. As a widow, she had to raise her children as a single mother and with a village. She is currently a Community Ambassador for East Harlem Community Partnership, Older Adult Navigator, and Older Adult Research Program at Mount Sinai Hospital. She was educated in New York City. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and my Masters of Science in Education from CUNY. She has taught and worked as an Educator, Parent Advocate and Volunteered for different organizations in the community.
- **Passion:** I originally started advocating while my children were in school. I saw the inequalities that were going on in some of the schools when it came to our children. I became upset and decided to become an Educator. Once I saw the need for me to advocate for those who needed someone to speak for them. I just became more involved with my community. I also became involved to show others how they can also become empowered themselves and speak up for their needs. I am a retired certified teacher of New York. Upon my retirement. I decided to give back to my community in East Harlem and other parts of NYC. I even became a docent for the African American Civil War Museum in Washington, DC. I would travel down to Washington, DC, every weekend.
- **What does Women History Month mean to me?** Women History Month means taking a moment to focus on women's contribution to others. The woman that is my role model is my mother, Dorothy Mae Robinson Alston Costa. She was a woman that struggled with mental illness and was able to raise six productive children on her own and the Grace of God.

### Louise's Tips

**TURN YOUR  
ANGER INTO  
YOUR PURPOSE.**

During my journey of giving back, I've come across others telling me "that I cannot ask for certain things alone and get it done with a group", but I'm telling you sometimes you can get things done with just you alone, because I've done it.



### Angela Donadelle

Community Organizer  
East Harlem Community  
Partnership/  
Union Settlement

**About:** Angela is a Native New Yorker and a graduate of Boston College, School of Management. She currently works in the capacity of Community Organizer for the East Harlem Community Partnership. She is the mother of an autistic child and has dedicated the last 25 years advocating for students, families, and her community, especially for individuals with Special Needs.

Angela is a former member of the SLT at P226 (part of District 75). She is Former PTA President (District 75) 2012 - 2013 Academic year. Angela was a member of the President's Council for District 75. She served as a member of the Pediatric Advisory Council at Mt. Sinai Hospital (2010 - 2017). She has been a Board Member Dawning Village Early Childhood Center and a Lakeview Tenants Association, Inc. member since 2000. She is also a member of Community Board 11 in East Harlem.

**Passion:** As a parent, she thinks it is crucial to hear and see what your children show you. From a very early age, you will see glimmers of what they like and love, and it is essential for you to create a plan that will establish a foundation for which they can stand and pursue all that speaks to their hearts. "With my son's diagnosis, I was unsure of how to begin. In seeking solutions for him, I discovered my passion."

**Why is Women's History Month important to me?** It is a time to highlight the successes of women. Still, to be completely honest, every month that you as a woman stand up against the powers that try to marginalize our community is Women's Day, Month, Year to Eternity.

### Angela's Tips

**BE TRUE TO  
YOURSELF.**

**DO NOT ALLOW  
OTHERS  
TO VEER YOU OFF  
TRACK!**

**REMEMBER  
SOMETIMES THAT  
FAILURE CAN BE AN  
INTEGRAL PART OF  
THE JOURNEY TO  
SUCCESS.**

### POETRY MOMENT K. M-RANDALL

### REJECTION OF GRAY

**I AM A WOMAN OF A CERTAIN AGE AND I HAVE ELECTED NOT TO EMBRACE THE GRAY.  
AS THEY CROP UP IN MY HAIR. I RUN FOR THE DYE PASSIONATELY SCARED.**

**I LOOK AT TODAY'S WORLD AND VIEWS.  
I NOTICED SHADES OF GRAY EVERYWHERE WHICH ARE NOT NEW.  
FACTS ARE CALLED FICTION. WHILE LIES ARE CELEBRATED.**

**INTEGRITY IS NOT REWARDED. WHILE SCANDALS ARE FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED.  
GUNS ARE AN AMENDMENT RIGHT WHILE SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN LEARNING AND LIFE.  
I CANNOT EMBRACE THE GRAY BECAUSE IT IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT  
I HAVE TO CHOOSE WISELY AND ELIMINATE IT BEFORE IT EXTINGUISHES WHAT IS MORALLY RIGHT.**

**SO. I YELL BYE TO THE GRAY INSTEAD OF A WHISPER.  
I EMPOWER THE BLACKNESS; EMBRACE THE WHITENESS AND REJECT ALL THE GRAY.  
I PRAY THAT IT STAYS AWAY UNTIL MY SOUL FADES.**

# Youth, Parents, & Caregivers Family Voices

**Information/Resources from Paola Martinez, Senior Advocate**  
**[pmartinezboone+nylpi.org@ccsend.com](mailto:pmartinezboone+nylpi.org@ccsend.com)**

## **SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR NEW YORKERS AGED 14-24**

Mayor Eric Adams opened applications for the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), the nation's largest summer youth program initiative. The 2022 program will include two six-week cohorts beginning July 5 and running through August 20.

Applications are due April 22, 2022, and can be completed online at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships/summer-youth-employment-program-syep.page>

## **Working While Receiving SSI**

On April 4 from 6-7:15pm, get to know SSI work incentives and how to use them to maximize monthly payments.

Register at <https://includenyc.org/events/working-while-receiving-ssi-2/>

## **FREE PRO BONO LEGAL & APPLICATION SERVICES**

If you need help applying for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), please register by calling 212-979-8988 or texting 646-630-7385 or emailing [luna\\_fu@aafe.org](mailto:luna_fu@aafe.org)

## **JOINT GUIDANCE FROM ACS AND NYC DOE ON EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT NYC DOE Child Abuse Designated Liaison Training**

This document provides information on what to do if a student has not attended school, the steps that should be taken, suggested interventions, a reminder of the existing criteria for emotional neglect and how to utilize the Tiered Response Protocol.

For more information, please visit <https://infohub.nyced.org/in-our-schools/programs/health-and-wellness/reporting-child-abuse#:~:text=If%20you%20have%20reasonable%20cause,%2D800%2D635%2D1522>

## **Contact Us!**

**We want to hear from you !**

**Send us your stories,  
opinions & views!**

**We get it.  
We Understand.  
We got You !**

**TRAINING**

**PARENTS VIEWS**

**OUR RIGHTS**

**EDUCATION & US**

**OUR CHILDREN**

**SELF CARE**

**DIVERSITY**

**FOOD INSECURITY**

**MENTAL HEALTH & US**

**SOCIAL**

**PARENTING**

**PARENT**

**JUSTICE**

**INCLUSION**

**SUPPORT**



**CCSI Citywide Oversight Committee Family Co-Chairs**

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