



LEADERSHIP TEAM BIOS



Taruna Sadhoo
Community Engagement
Senior Director

Taruna Sadhoo, Senior Director of Community Engagement, has worked at UNICEF USA since 2011. She is responsible for the overall management and direction of the Community Engagement division, including UNICEF UNITE, youth engagement and the Global Citizenship Fellowship program. With a passion for international development and education, Taruna has taught in Guyana, Brazil, Ethiopia, and China. Prior to joining UNICEF USA, Taruna served as the Assistant Director of Student-Alumni Programs at Columbia University. In collaboration with administrators of the College, she was responsible for administering alumni and student programming opportunities to increase engagement and giving. Prior to working at Columbia University, Taruna spent three years at Queens College, City University of New York, as an academic advisor and coordinator of specialty advising – serving first generation and non- traditional college students on campus. In 2011, the City Council of New York presented Taruna with a Proclamation for devoting her career to the empowerment of women and children. She holds a Masters in Higher and Post-Secondary Education from Teachers College, Columbia University and a BA in Psychology from Queens College, City University of New York.



Whit Johnson
Community Engagement
Director

Whit Johnson received his Bachelor's degree in Hispanic Studies from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts and is currently working towards a Master's degree in Nonprofit Management at The New School in New York City. Whit began his career as an educator, teaching high school Spanish for four years in the Boston area. From 2011-2013, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in El Rama, Nicaragua, a small city near the Caribbean coast. After his experience in Nicaragua, Whit spent a year working as a staff member at Peace Corps Panama where he supported 45 volunteers as the assistant manager to the Teaching English program. In 2015, he moved to New York City, where he worked as an Instructional Coach for City Year New York, an AmeriCorps program that focuses on dropout prevention within New York City public schools. Whit came to UNICEF USA in May 2016 and has served in multiple roles with the Global Citizenship Fellowship, Advocacy & Engagement, and Youth Engagement teams. Whit believes that service is the most powerful vehicle for personal growth, community collaboration and human understanding. He is passionate in working towards a world that is equitable to the needs of all children, particularly those living in urban environments. Whit enjoys live music, cooking, podcasts, reading about design, and Boston sports.



Mandy Sharp Eizinger
Community Engagement
Assistant Director

Mandy Sharp Eizinger serves as Assistant Director for Community Engagement and the Global Citizenship Fellowship, supporting the recruitment, training, and coaching of Fellows and broader partnership cultivation, strategy and impact assessment for community engagement across the United States. Ms. Eizinger served for two years as the inaugural Chicago Global Citizenship Fellow, implementing UNICEF USA's domestic initiatives and global education programming in the Midwest. Prior to joining UNICEF USA, Ms. Eizinger worked in research and communication at an international fundraising firm—leveraging strategic fundraising campaigns for small community organizations to large global fundraising efforts. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Family Community Services from Michigan State University and a Master of Science in Public Service Management from DePaul University. She is a Gallup-trained Strengths Coach and active mentor with DePaul's Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) program. She and her family call Chicago home for ten years and enjoy exploring the city and spending time on Lake Michigan.

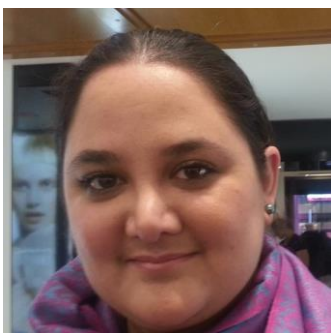
Supervises: *UNICEF UNITE Community Building Fellow*



Ryan Sasse
Advocacy and Engagement
Assistant Director

Ryan Sasse currently serves as Assistant Director, Advocacy and Engagement at UNICEF USA. In this role, Ryan works to sustain and deepen the organization's advocacy initiatives with supporters around the country, manages a portfolio of coalition partnerships with like-minded NGOs to advance shared advocacy goals, and is helping to launch a pilot of UNICEF's global Child Friendly Cities Initiative here in the United States. Before joining UNICEF USA in January 2017, Ryan worked on the Government Relations team of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), where he managed the organization's relationships with government officials, heads of state, and multilateral organizations – including UNICEF. Prior to that, he worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Obama White House, focusing on the administration's LGBT outreach and community engagement initiatives. Ryan graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Supervises: *UNICEF UNITE Advocacy and Engagement Fellow*



Laura Restrepo
Youth Engagement
Assistant Director

Laura Restrepo is the Assistant Director of Youth Engagement programs at UNICEF USA, where she oversees UNICEF Clubs in high school and college campuses and the development and implementation of youth-related activations in the U.S. In her current capacity, she has led youth mission trips to Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Tajikistan. Prior to UNICEF USA, Laura resided in Philadelphia managing state and privately funded programs in early childhood education and intervention. She has worked in the public and private sectors with a focus on international development and business. Laura has been involved with UNICEF for over 15 years as a volunteer, serving in different capacities.

Supervises: *UNICEF UNITE Communications and Content Fellow*



Donia Quon
UNICEF Next Generation
Deputy Director

Donia Quon joined UNICEF USA 5 years ago and was responsible for the recruitment and engagement of 74,000 volunteers across the U.S., getting community members involved with UNICEF's work. Donia transitioned to managing the UNICEF Next Generation program alongside its Director/Founder in 2015, and today, she serves as the Deputy Director of the NextGen program. Before UNICEF USA, Donia worked with an organization serving abused and homeless children, and then as the Director of Volunteer Resources and Online Communications for a local community development organization working in neighborhoods predominately known for high levels of gang violence, crime, trafficking, and low levels of education. Donia sits on the Advisory Committee for Episcopal Charities of New York.

Supervises: *UNICEF Next Generation Fellow*

FELLOW BIOS



Amena Elamin
UNICEF UNITE Community
Building Fellow, First Year

Amena Elamin graduated from Wichita State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She has worked with youth in her community for over four years through organizations like the Boys and Girls Club of South Central Kansas and Girls on the Run. She is a recent AmeriCorps Alumna and completed her VISTA term at the International Rescue Committee. As a Youth Development Coordinator VISTA, she created, implemented, and facilitated both a summer and after-school program for refugee high-school students. In addition to Amena's involvement in youth empowerment, she has also mobilized her community through her artwork displays and public speaking engagements. This commitment to her community led her to receive the Phenomenal Women Award, granted to one student each year who has made a difference on campus and in the greater Wichita community. Sudanese by the way of Brooklyn, she was raised in the heart of the Midwest and in Khartoum, where she spent most of her summers. She is eager to continue her work in youth advocacy and community engagement at the local, national, and international levels.



Rebecca Hinkhouse
UNICEF UNITE Advocacy &
Engagement Fellow, First
Year

Rebecca Hinkhouse recently graduated from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service with a bachelor's degree in International Politics and French. Rebecca focused on inclusive conflict resolution and spent semesters in France and Australia studying multilateral diplomacy. She was a member of Georgetown's student government, for which she led grassroots advocacy campaigns to promote college access and affordability. Rebecca has completed internships at the State Department, the Senate, and the French Embassy in Washington, DC. She was also awarded a grant to write and pilot a leadership development curriculum for an NGO in Léogâne, Haiti. Most recently, Rebecca served as an undergraduate fellow at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security where she designed and executed a legislative advocacy campaign to promote women's involvement in international conflict management. Rebecca looks forward to applying lessons learned from these experiences to the work of UNICEF USA and is excited to serve the organization's mission.



Jennifer Sperber
UNICEF UNITE
*Communications and
Content Fellow, First Year*

Jennifer Sperber is the new UNICEF UNITE Communications and Content Fellow. She is originally from Germany, where she founded a UNICEF club at her school and started doing different kinds of volunteer work. It was during this time that she realized there were very few things that motivate her more than working towards protecting children from poverty, violence, and exploitation and motivating others to do the same. She decided she could best amplify the voices of children and communities by harnessing the power of communication. This led her to focus on Communications and International Relations at Sarah Lawrence College. In college she interned for the social media department of the Hillary Clinton campaign, worked for the NGO: Deutsche Gesellschaft e.V., and was a tutor for America Reads.

Most recently she worked as a Marketing Assistant at Oxford University Press.