



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FELLOWS (BASED IN 12 CITIES)



LaDarrien Gillette
*Atlanta Community
Engagement Fellow*

LaDarrien Gillette is a native of South Bend, Indiana. In 2012 she moved to Atlanta to pursue a degree at Spelman College in international studies. LaDarrien spent four years at Spelman traveling to several countries completing research on the issue of human trafficking between Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa. At Spelman, LaDarrien founded Project Priceless, a mentoring program in the West End educating young girls on human trafficking in Atlanta. She spent the rest of her time aiding the college in reforming sexual assault policies and proposing new positions for the student government association as well as the Title IX office. In 2017, LaDarrien completed a Juris Master at Emory Law School with a focus on international law. Her long term goal is to work for UN Women where she hopes to create and implement economic empowerment programs for women around the world.



Jessica Morris
*Boston Community
Engagement Fellow, Second
Year*

Jessica Morris is a Second Year Community Engagement Fellow in Boston. Jessica implements UNICEF USA's national campaigns in the New England region while encouraging New Englanders to be more globally-minded citizens. Prior to joining UNICEF USA, Jessica spent several years as a volunteer with the organization. After graduating from James Madison University in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, she joined Teach for America in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, teaching sixth grade English while getting a master's degree in education from Louisiana State University. Other experiences include working with the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), Campus Assault Response, and the JMU Student Government Association. The culmination of these experiences has led to a larger understanding and passion for the needs of children around the world.



Tyehimba Turner
*Chicago Community
Engagement Fellowship*

Tyehimba Turner graduated from Dominican University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in fashion design. During his studies, he developed interest in political science and law, leading him to take additional coursework in these fields. After graduation, he served as an AmeriCorps volunteer with Chicago HOPES for Kids, an organization working to increase literacy within Chicago's homeless youth population. While there, he ran programming at two shelters, managing volunteers and working to educate students. He continued his service as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Liberia, where he taught secondary science and connected community members to their local clinic. Tyehimba is excited to join the UNICEF USA team and looks forward to working with Chicagoans on behalf of children around the world.



Emiliana Lopez
*Dallas Community
Engagement Fellow, Second
Year*

Emiliana Lopez is a Second Year Community Engagement Fellow in Dallas. Her role is to serve as a grassroots and national spokesperson for children and bring together networks of faith-based communities, schools, universities, volunteers, advocates, elected leaders, and others to unite on behalf of children. Leveraging UNICEF USA's education, advocacy and fundraising initiatives, she works to create transformational change in the lives of children around the world, empowering people to act locally. Emiliana holds a Master of Science in Women and Gender Studies from the University of North Texas. She graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies with a concentration in International Development and Humanitarian Affairs and a minor in French. Emiliana has been involved with UNICEF USA as a volunteer at the high school and college level and is enthusiastic to serve a second year as the Community Engagement Fellow in North Texas to mobilize the community and make the world a better place for all children.



Olivera Jankovska
*Houston Community
Engagement Fellow*

Olivera Jankovska is the Houston Community Engagement Fellow and a long-time supporter and volunteer for UNICEF both in the United States and internationally. Native of Macedonia, Olivera is also a Nonresident Scholar at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy. Olivera is a global citizen, proficient in seven languages and an avid traveler. She has more than ten years of nonprofit experience and has held multiple leadership roles. Her volunteering work extends to several cultural, educational and business organizations. She was recently recognized as being one of the United Macedonian's Diaspora "40 under 40." Olivera is passionate about making the lives of children in the developing world better than her childhood experience in hardship in a developing country. Olivera holds a master's degree in applied economics from Virginia Tech, a bachelor's degree in agricultural business from University of Arkansas and an Associate Degree in Marketing from Perrotis College in Thessaloniki, Greece. She is the winner of the 2009 Wall Street Journal Academic Achievement Award.



Edmund Pacleb
*Los Angeles Community
Engagement Fellow*

Edmund Pacleb is a graduate of Pomona College, where he earned a Bachelor of Art in Neuroscience. While a college student, he worked with Los Angeles county hospitals to provide underserved communities with healthcare resources and education. In addition, he worked with a team of college students in starting a public health pilot program that provides patients with limited English proficiency greater access to primary care resources. In combination with his work with Asian American communities in the Los Angeles area, these experiences created a passion for the intersections of health and social justice. Prior to the fellowship, he served as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Semarang, Indonesia, where he was responsible for teaching English at a local high school and carrying out a variety of community engagement projects. Edmund is excited to join and collaborate with the UNICEF USA team to empower American youth and volunteers in service on behalf of the world's children.



Laylah Copertino
*Miami Community
Engagement Fellow, Second
Year*

Laylah Copertino is the UNICEF USA Community Engagement Fellow in Miami. Her role is to serve as a grassroots and national spokesperson for children and bring together networks of faith-based communities, schools, universities, volunteers, advocates, elected leaders, and others to unite on behalf of children. Leveraging UNICEF USA's education, advocacy and fundraising initiatives, she works to create transformational change in the lives of children around the world, empowering people to act locally. Laylah comes to UNICEF USA with a master's degree in education with a focus in community and social change from the University of Miami and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Rollins College. Dedicated to environmental and social justice issues, Laylah has been an active member of the Edyth Bush Institute for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Management, has assisted local nonprofits, and serves as a local representative for international student exchange programs. Laylah is eager to collaborate with others in support of the mission of UNICEF USA in Miami for a second year.



Phoebe Castelblanco
*Nashville Community
Engagement Fellow*

Phoebe Castelblanco is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with two degrees in geology and peace, war and defense. She has volunteered with various organizations and worked with children for more than five years. Phoebe cultivated a passion for defending human rights while interning with Human Rights Watch and is eager to direct her career toward protecting children. She is very excited to collaborate and innovate with the team as the Community Engagement Fellow in Nashville with UNICEF USA.



Tori Curbelo
*NYC Community Engagement
Fellow, Second Year*

Tori Curbelo, NYC Community Engagement Fellow, has mobilized thousands of individuals on issues affecting children. Her passion for human rights has led her everywhere from delivering briefings at the United Nations to managing 24 Fair Trade campaigns at universities. She currently sits on the Coalition for Global Citizenship, Coalition to Stop Trafficking in Persons, and the Mid Atlantic Leadership Team for Fair Trade Campaigns. One of her favorite professional and personal projects was creating the End Trafficking project's podcast, "The Ending Human Trafficking Locally and Globally Podcast." She previously completed a master's degree in public health at the CUNY School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Italian at College of the Holy Cross.



Neda Dai graduated from the University of California, Berkeley where she studied media studies and public policy. Prior to joining UNICEF USA, she interned for the Supreme Court of The United States, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, and former California Attorney General Kamala Harris. Neda aspires to attend law school and pursue a career protecting children's rights. Neda is passionate about UNICEF USA's education, advocacy, and fundraising initiatives and is excited to work with the San Francisco community to help children around the world.

Neda Dai
San Francisco Community
Engagement Fellow



Eric Sype is a graduate of Seattle University, where he studied humanities for teaching. In his junior year, Eric traveled to Nicaragua to fulfill an internship with a local NGO, working with youth in a small rural community. As a senior, he served as Student Body President. Upon graduation, Eric received a Fulbright grant to work in Colombia, receiving a separate grant from the U.S. Embassy to pursue a youth-centered, peace-building project. Since returning to Seattle, Eric has volunteered and worked with a number of globally-minded organizations in the region, supervised a homework center and served as a substitute teacher at a local elementary school.

Eric Sype
Seattle Community
Engagement Fellow



Abir Ibrahim is a certified program management professional with extensive experience in social and economic development and global health. Her desire for grassroots advocacy led her to serve in the Peace Corps after graduating from University of Mary Washington with a Bachelor of Science in Biopsychology. She served three years in Tanzania as a Health Volunteer where she also founded a social enterprise to economically empower rural women living with HIV/AIDS. She went on to complete a master's degree in public health from the University of New England with a focus on underserved and marginalized groups in rural Sudan, Kenya and Tanzania. Born to Sudanese parents and having spent most of her early years in East Africa and the Middle East, Abir is eager to bring her multilingualism and personal and professional experience to connect and empower American youth and volunteers in service of children around the world.

Abir Ibrahim
Washington, D.C. Community
Engagement Fellow

PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT FELLOWS (BASED IN NYC)



Curan Mehra
*Advocacy and Engagement
Fellow*

Curan Mehra recently graduated from Saint Louis University with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health. His volunteer work in the greater St. Louis area and New Delhi, India and public health background influenced his desire to pursue public policy and advocacy. Curan enjoyed working previously for a nonprofit heart coalition, WomenHeart, as a public policy intern in Washington, D.C. He hopes to pursue a master's degree in public health, with a concentration in public policy and eventually work to improve health policy for socio-economically disadvantaged individuals. Curan is very excited to work with others to achieve the goals and missions of UNICEF USA.



Morgan Thobe
UNICEF Clubs Fellow

Morgan Thobe graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a minor in Global Public Health. After travelling to Bangladesh, she developed a passion for the health and human rights of children around the globe. This led her to leadership in Ohio State's UNICEF Campus Initiative program, serving as Vice President and President. During her time at OSU she was a member and mentor of her Health Science Scholars program and began working as a Nutrition Educator with local nonprofit Children's Hunger Alliance. Upon graduating, Morgan served as Development Assistant at Cancer Support Community Central Ohio, which provides wellness programs, support groups, and educational resources to anyone affected by cancer at no cost. There she was fundamental in tracking donors, cultivating donor relationships, and executing fundraising events. She is excited to work with college students in Campus Initiative programs across the country to educate, advocate and fundraise for our world's most vulnerable children with UNICEF USA.



Hanna Cody
End Trafficking Fellow

Hanna Cody is a Minnesota native currently based in New York City, where she has served as an intern with UN Women and a Development Associate for Central Synagogue. She graduated in 2016 from Rollins College with a degree in gender studies – a major she created. Her academic background is focused in sociological research, especially as it relates to violence against women and girls. She previously worked in Washington, D.C. as an intern for the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and SMYAL, a nonprofit supporting local LGBTQ+ youth. When Hanna is not working, she enjoys exploring the New York food scene and reading dystopian fiction.



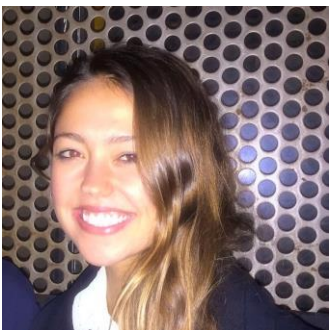
Eitan Peled
End Trafficking Fellow

Eitan Peled is an End Trafficking Fellow at UNICEF USA. Prior to UNICEF USA, he studied economics, global studies and public affairs at UCLA, worked in a law office and volunteered with UNICEF USA's Los Angeles Congressional Action Team. During his time at UCLA he was one of 10 students who facilitated the UCLA Shut-out Trafficking program, which worked to raise awareness on the issue of human trafficking. That same year he organized UCLA's Greek Week, which raised a record amount of money for athletes to participate in the Special Olympics World Games: Los Angeles. He was part of the UCLA Center for Middle East Development Research team and visits the Middle East nearly every year. Eitan has consistently worked to encourage open public discourses on issues surrounding the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian situation and has engaged in meetings with elected representatives and university administrators. He spent time tutoring in Cusco, Peru and teaching karate classes to Palestinian refugees in the West Bank. Eitan was raised in Coronado, California, is trilingual, and has traveled to 15 countries.



Jake Haigis
UNICEF Clubs Fellow

Jake Haigis is a highly-motivated graduate from Xavier University with a passion for youth engagement and empowerment. Through high school and college Jake worked with Unified for Uganda, a nonprofit focused on education in Uganda, as a high school and college chapter leader. Jake also served as the event coordinator, treasurer and board member for the organization. Through college he was involved with various organizations including student government, freshman orientation and Alternative Breaks. Prior to joining UNICEF USA, Jake gained business experience by working in Internal Audit at Luxottica Retail. Jake is excited to work with the UNICEF clubs and support the mission of UNICEF USA.



Bridget Harvey
UNICEF Next Generation Fellow, Second Year

Bridget Harvey is a Second Year Next Generation Fellow based in New York City. Her role includes growing and cultivating NextGen's membership base and subcommittees, supporting NextGen activities, events and programs, assisting NextGen's emerging cities, managing NextGen's social channels and webpage, and facilitating communications and actionable items for NextGen members seeking a higher level of involvement. She graduated from Occidental College with a Bachelor of Arts in Diplomacy and World Affairs with a concentration in IR Theory and a minor in Studio Art. Bridget aims to incorporate a creative and nuanced view on international development and global issues affecting the world's children to inspire the millennial constituents that comprise the NextGen community.
