



## Global Citizenship Fellowship

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FELLOWS (BASED IN 12 CITIES)



**LaDarrien Gillette**  
*Atlanta Community  
Engagement Fellow,  
Second Year*

**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.



**Giovana Ortiz-Barrera**  
*Boston Community  
Engagement Fellow*

**Giovana Ortiz-Barrera** is a graduate of Clark University with a Bachelor of Arts in International Development and Social Change. She has worked with youth for over four years. She has mentored girls in a program called All Kinds of Girls, interned for the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program in partnership with the Worcester Division of Public Health, and most recently, worked at a local elementary school. Throughout her undergraduate career, she has worked on public health projects with refugees, sexually exploited women, and other underserved populations. Her background and educational experiences have inspired her to pursue a career addressing social inequalities and inequities in health and education. She is excited to join UNICEF USA as a Community Engagement Fellow in Boston to empower youth in her community and globally.



**Tyehimba Turner**  
*Chicago Community  
Engagement Fellow,  
Second Year*

**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 federal clinic. Tyehimba is a prematriculant at the University of Chicago, pursuing a Master of Science in Threat and Response Management. He looks forward to his continued engagement of the Chicago and Midwest communities – on behalf of the world's most vulnerable children.



**Lily Heine**  
*Dallas Community  
Engagement Fellow*

**Lily Heine** has dedicated her early career to serving children and families affected by war and persecution. In response to the Syrian Civil War, Lily lived and worked in the Middle East as a Community Development Liaison for a small NGO assisting vulnerable women and children refugees. Lily is also an AmeriCorps Alumna and completed her VISTA term at a refugee resettlement agency in Dallas, TX where she educated the community about the Global Forced Migration Crisis and raised support for refugee resettlement services. Lily is a graduate of Baylor University where she studied International Studies with minors in Poverty Studies and Social Justice as well as Arabic. Lily was also a Student Senator and a Baylor University Ambassador. Lily is honored to join UNICEF USA to mobilize and educate her local community and to advocate for children around the world.

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**Olivera Jankovska**  
*Houston Community  
Engagement Fellow,  
Second Year*

**Olivera Jankovska** is the Houston Community Engagement Fellow and a long-time supporter and volunteer for UNICEF both in the United States and internationally. A 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.

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**Monica Galvan**  
*Los Angeles Community  
Engagement Fellow*

**Monica Galvan** hails from the San Fernando Valley area in Los Angeles County where she has dedicated years to improving the lives of children in her community. Monica has served in many capacities with the YMCA from volunteer roles to Supervising Director. She has contributed her leadership to fundraising campaigns, community event committees, strengthening relationships with community stakeholders, and training staff to become cause-driven leaders. Since 2010, she has served elementary students in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Monica received a Bachelor of Science in Public Health with an emphasis on Health Education at California State University, Northridge, while maintaining her role as a Director. Throughout her undergraduate studies, she volunteered abroad with Global Vision International (GVI) working on community development projects in Quepos, Costa Rica. She collaborated with other program leaders to develop, implement, and evaluate health education programs for the community's youth. In addition, she taught English classes for Spanish-speaking adults who wished to seek higher-paying employment to support their families. Monica is eager to fulfill UNICEF's international goals of putting children first through programs in her home of Los Angeles.

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**Lis-Marie Alvarado**  
*Miami Community  
Engagement Fellow*

**Lis-Marie Alvarado** was born in Nicaragua and raised in Miami's vibrant immigrant community. She graduated from the University of Miami, earning a Masters in Community and Social Change from the School of Education and Human Development. She has extensive experience in the immigrant rights sector doing everything from community organizing, grassroots campaign development, and communications. She is highly proficient in community outreach and popular education pedagogy and training design. Her focus areas are migrant and refugee protection, children and youth programs, and women's leadership development.



**Phoebe Castelblanco**  
*Nashville Community  
Engagement Fellow,  
Second Year*

**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.



**Monica Oliveira**  
*NYC Community Engagement  
Fellow*

**Monica Oliveira** is a recent graduate of Fordham University where she studied International Political Economy on the French Language Track. She grew up between the U.S. and Southern Spain and loves UNICEF's international approach. Her UNICEF journey began at Fordham where she founded a UNICEF Club, became deeply involved with social justice issues in the Bronx community, and eventually joined the UNICEF National Council! Her commitment to education has led her to mentor high school youth, serve as a TA for public policy courses, and conduct research in Europe on access to education for child refugees. She has been involved with the UN's work throughout her college career, interning at Religions for Peace and the Mission of Honduras. She also participated in the UN Youth Assembly. She is ecstatic to continue her journey with UNICEF and hopes to strengthen UNICEF's presence in NYC.





**Neda Dai**  
*San Francisco Community  
Engagement Fellow,  
Second Year*

**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.



**Eric Sype**  
*Seattle Community  
Engagement Fellow,  
Second Year*

**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.



**Abir Ibrahim**  
*Washington, D.C. Community  
Engagement Fellow,  
Second Year*

**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.

## PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT FELLOWS (BASED IN NYC)



**Curan Mehra**  
*Advocacy and Engagement  
Fellow, Second Year*

**Curan Mehra** 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,  
Second Year*

**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. Upon graduating, Morgan served as a 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. She currently serves as a Youth Engagement Fellow in NYC, focusing on Communications for the UNICEF Clubs program. This includes creating an integrated strategic communication plan, overseeing our UNICEF Clubs social media channels, carrying out our email communications, developing content, and supervising a team of National Council members.



**Jake Haigis**  
*UNICEF Clubs Fellow,  
Second Year*

**Jake Haigis** is originally from Cincinnati, OH and a graduate of Xavier University with a passion for youth engagement and empowering young people to use their voice. Through high school and college, Jake worked with Unified for Uganda, a nonprofit focused on education in Uganda. He served as a club leader in both high school and college as well as the event coordinator, treasurer, and board member for the organization. Through college, Jake 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 and worked closely with OneSight, a non-profit partner of Luxottica focused on providing access to vision care around the world. Jake's long-term goal is to build partnerships between corporations, non-profits, and government so that each sector can work together using their strengths to create lasting change.



**Eitan Peled**  
*End Trafficking Fellow,  
Second Year*

**Eitan Peled** is a second year, UNICEF USA End Trafficking Fellow based in New York City. Leveraging UNICEF USA's grassroots education and advocacy initiatives, he works to create transformational change in the lives of children around the world by mobilizing students, faith-based, and community groups to take action against trafficking. His international experience includes tutoring in Peru and teaching karate to refugees in the West Bank. Eitan is originally from Coronado, CA and holds a degree from UCLA – where he played water polo and studied economics, global studies, and public affairs.



**Hanna Cody**  
*End Trafficking Fellow,  
Second Year*

**Hanna Cody** is an End Trafficking Fellow at UNICEF USA, where she works to raise awareness of child trafficking and mobilize U.S. constituents to take action to end the exploitation of children. A Minnesota native, she has worked to uplift the rights of gender, sexuality, and relationship minorities in her roles with UN Women, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and SMYAL – a nonprofit supporting LGBTQ+ youth. She is most proud of her work with UN Women's Political Participation Unit, where she conducted original research on trends among women heads of state and government and supported the methodological development of Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 5.5.1b. Hanna graduated in 2016 from Rollins College with an honors 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 – a passion area that continues to drive her work within UNICEF USA and beyond.



**Colette Eustace**  
*UNICEF Next Generation  
Fellow*

**Colette Eustace** joins the UNICEF USA team after completing her MPA in Development Practice from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Colette's international experience includes projects in education and M&E with both Save the Children Mexico and the Practical Education Network in Ghana. She served as an M&E Fellow with MIT's Development Lab in 2016, spending her summer in rural Guatemala to analyze the outcomes of a co-creation initiative aimed at designing low-cost technologies to solve local problems. Prior to completing her master's degree, Colette lived in Honduras where she worked as a National Volunteer Coordinator with a small non-profit that builds schools in rural villages. She earned her B.A. in both Economics and Sociology from Stony Brook University, where she led a chapter of Students Helping Honduras and served on the university's Women's Leadership Council. Colette has also previously held internship positions with the U.S. Peace Corps, Room to Read and the Institute of International Education, and is extremely passionate about global development and child protection.