



## UNICEF USA Youth Engagement Staff Bios 2017-2018

THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TEAM IS AVAILABLE TO HELP GUIDE YOUR CLUB THROUGHOUT THE YEAR! CONTACT US AT [VOLUNTEER@UNICEFUSA.ORG](mailto:VOLUNTEER@UNICEFUSA.ORG) WITH QUESTIONS.



**Whitney Johnson**  
*Director, Community  
Engagement*

**Whit Johnson** received his Bachelor's degree in Hispanic Studies from Wheaton College and is currently working towards a Master's degree at The New School in New York City. Whit began his career teaching high school Spanish in the Boston area. From 2011-2013, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nicaragua. After his experience in Nicaragua, he worked as a staff member at Peace Corps Panama. Whit came to UNICEF USA in 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.

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**Laura Restrepo**  
*Manager, Youth Engagement*

**Laura Restrepo** is the Manager of Youth Engagement programs at UNICEF USA, where she oversees UNICEF Clubs on high school and college campuses and the development and implementation of youth-related activations in the U.S. In her current role, she has led youth trips to Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Tajikistan. Prior to UNICEF USA, Laura resided in Philadelphia where she managed 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.

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**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 traveling 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 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. There she was fundamental in tracking donors, cultivating donor relationships, and executing fundraising events. She is excited to work with students in schools across the country to educate, advocate and fundraise

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**Jake Haigis**

*UNICEF Clubs Fellow*

**Jake Haigis** graduated from Xavier University with a degree in Economics. 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 had the opportunity to travel to Uganda three times to meet the beneficiaries of Unified for Uganda. Jake has served as the event coordinator, treasurer and board member for the organization. Through college Jake was also 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. He is very excited to work with the the UNICEF clubs and support the mission of UNICEF USA!

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