

Alumni Profile

Nathaniel Marshall

Youth & Society 2003, CLI Baltimore 2005, CivicWeek for Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars 2006



When you ask Nate Marshall about his involvement at his Chicago high school, he is modest and brief. Class president. Executive board of the African American Culture Club. Lots of options for the future; hasn't picked one out yet. But when he talks about social justice, his words gush out quickly and smoothly. And they aren't any vague "I want world peace" musings, either. This high school junior is concerned about hands-on, close-to-home issues.

"One problem I'm passionate about," he says, "and I feel like it's something that not a lot of people pay attention to -- is convict voting rights. Here you are, paying a debt to society for all this time, but you don't even have a voice."

In Chicago specifically, Nate is very concerned about the dramatic segregation of racial and ethnic groups. "This friend of mine lives in a Polish neighborhood, and I can go over to his house and we can walk down his street and it's all Polish, one hundred percent, and then the next block over it's all Mexican, and then the next block

over there's another group -- and there is absolutely no interaction between these people. It's ridiculous. You have to work to be that segregated. But I feel like a lot of that is due to cultural conditioning, and that's very hard to overcome."

Still, Nate knows he can play a role in addressing these challenges. His experiences with CEP, he says, remind him of one simple but inspiring lesson: "Young people do have the ability to effect change in the world."

Parents and older alumni should have received a letter in the mail a few weeks ago asking you to consider a contribution to the CEP Scholarship Fund. Please keep us in mind for your giving this year! To request a donation card, email cep@northwestern.edu.

"Now I don't see my world in tunnel vision"

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Check out our
CivicWeek 2007
dates and locations!

New York City
Education & Youth Development
March 18-24, 2007

Chicago
Hunger & Homelessness
March 25-31, 2007

Washington, D.C.
Politics & Urban Poverty
April 1-7, 2007

San Francisco
Hunger & Homelessness
April 9-15, 2007

THE CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT

Catalyst

CEP's Alumni Newsletter • November 2006

A battle for all generations

America fights to find new ways to deal with the HIV/AIDS epidemic



The HIV/AIDS crisis has been a hot topic in recent news. This epidemic affects about 1.3 million Americans, and nearly a quarter of those infected with HIV – 250,000 people – do not know that they carry the disease. With 40,000 Americans newly infected every year, this health crisis demands the immediate attention of our generation.

In September 2006, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced an official recommendation that HIV testing become part of routine check-ups for every individual aged 13-64, rather than just for people at a high risk of contracting the virus, such as intravenous drug users. Though testing will still be voluntary and the recommendations are not legally binding, they may cause changes in health insurance coverage for testing.

Also in September, as Congress neared the end of its session before November elections, senators stalled the passage of a bill that would shift millions of dollars for AIDS care from urban centers plagued by the disease to rural areas that receive far less assistance. Senators from states such as New York and California, which would

suffer drastic cuts in aid, are concerned for the fate of their states' existing programs, while senators from under-funded states assert their need for money to start care programs of their own in areas where HIV/AIDS cases have increased drastically in recent years.

New Jersey, the only state in the union that still prohibits needle exchange programs which provide clean needles and sterilization kits for drug users, announced in September that it will consider running a pilot exchange program in six cities. In a state in which about 40 percent of HIV infections result from the use of dirty needles, many feel that this legislation, introduced 14 years ago, is long overdue.

Even if you know relatively little about this HIV/AIDS crisis, you are already well-equipped to think about it, for it is closely interwoven with the subjects you have studied with our program: hunger and homelessness, education and youth development, politics and urban poverty, and many others.

Read more about HIV/AIDS:

www.thebody.com

HIV/AIDS both has an effect on and is affected by each of these issues. As you watch the news for updates on these stories, try approaching HIV/AIDS through the lens of what you have already learned through CEP.

At a health clinic in Washington, D.C. during the CivicWeek for Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars program this summer, **Catherine Walecka** volunteers with the local *Reach Out and Read* program, reading to children in the waiting room.



summer's gone

but it sure was good while it was here

This was easily the most exciting summer CEP has ever seen. As if opening a brand-new Civic Leadership Institute site all the way across the country in San Francisco wasn't enough to keep us busy, we embarked on another first: running three CivicWeek programs simultaneously in Washington, D.C. with the Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars program. When you add that to our regular CLI sessions in Baltimore and Chicago, you've got one busy summer on your hands.

The students who participated in these programs certainly took full advantage of all they offered. Though heavy rain in Washington, D.C. left large portions of the city flooded, the students and staff dove in with gusto and made their week fantastic. In Baltimore, students hosted the finest CLI Olympics in history, complete with shoe bocce and air guitar contests. Chicago participants marked the Fourth of July with a massive outdoor celebration involving plenty of whipped cream pies, and at the San Francisco campus, students enjoyed a number of "organized social events with music and moving." Most importantly, these hundreds of students dedicated hours and hours to helping address significant social issues in communities across the nation.

While you're back into your routine at home, our staff here at CEP are already gearing up for our next batch of programs. Keep an eye on your mailbox for catalogs and applications. We can't wait to rekindle the fun of summer with you another program!



Spotlight on Service

Global Youth Coalition for HIV/AIDS

<http://www.youthaidscoalition.org/>

Due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic's far-reaching and devastating effects, there are abundant advocacy organizations all over the world that work to educate people about the disease, aid people affected by the disease, and fight to eradicate the disease. Since numerous studies have revealed that nearly 50% of all new HIV/AIDS infections occur among youth ages 15-24, many of these organizations rightfully target youth in their prevention efforts. These organizations recognize that not only are youth more likely to be affected by the disease, but they are also more likely to be motivated to do something about it.

Constance Georgina Khaendi Walyaro, East African Focal Point for the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS, reflecting on the Global Day of Youth Action to End HIV/AIDS, February 26, 2005:

"If we are to make significant advancements in the fight against HIV/AIDS we must ensure that young people are included at the frontlines. We shall not relent, we shall not get tired of advocating for greater participation of youth and youth organizations at local, national, regional, and international levels in the fight against HIV/AIDS...We must remain vigilant, convinced that our actions or lack of them have strong bearing on the very existence of our communities. HIV/AIDS has become a disease of the young, the worst consequence of poverty, discrimination and ignorance. We cannot, and must not, stand aside and watch another generation, our generation, be destroyed by HIV/AIDS."

The Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA) is a human rights based international umbrella organization, which serves as a networking tool for youth HIV/AIDS advocacy organizations worldwide. GYCA strives to sync and coordi-

nate advocacy groups doing similar work in the same region, as well as to serve as a means to share resources. Seeking to empower, educate, and involve youth at an international level, GYCA also hosts international youth summits to facilitate discussion and education on HIV/AIDS issues. For those that are new to HIV/AIDS advocacy, GYCA offers online mini-courses in project management, political advocacy, and grant proposal writing and fundraising to prepare youth for action in their communities and participation in international conferences.

MAKE AN IMPACT on HIV/AIDS research and relief

There are a multitude of ways to make a difference in the HIV/AIDS epidemic. If you cannot find the time to volunteer for an advocacy organization, or form an advocacy organization at your school, you can still impact the HIV/AIDS epidemic by raising funds for research and relief.

As much as the classic bake sale can be an effective (and tasty) way to raise money for a cause, with a little creativity, you can use your talents to make raising money fun and rewarding. No matter how you identify yourself, or what your strengths are, there is a volunteer experience tailored to your interests. Below are some suggestions to get you started.

Athlete: Organize or participate in an AIDS walk/run/jog in your area. For a comprehensive list of AIDS walks/runs, visit www.aidswalk.org. If there are no walks in your area, organize your own through your school, religious organization, or a local non-profit organization.

Musician/Thespian: Organize a benefit show in your area. Charge admission and donate the proceeds to HIV/AIDS research or non-profit groups that sponsor relief efforts nationally or internationally. Be creative with publicity for the event. Make eye-catching flyers to distribute and post, and give the event a fun name such as "Rock for Research" or "Act for AIDS."

Writer: Many HIV/AIDS advocacy organizations are looking for individuals with strong writing skills to assist them with their work. Consider helping out in this way. Additionally, one of the best ways to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic is to spread the word. Contact your local or high school newspaper to see if you could write a news or opinion piece on HIV/AIDS.

Aspiring Businessman/woman: Start a dialogue with local businesses to gain area support for a citywide "Night Out for HIV/AIDS." Ask business owners to consider donating a certain percentage of the evening's profits to HIV/AIDS research and advocacy organizations. Publicize the event in the community.

Movie Aficionado: Hold a movie night at your high school/college gym, cafeteria, or auditorium. Charge an admission fee. Contact local grocery stores to see if they would donate refreshments to sell for additional money. Have fun with this and choose a clever and topical theme for the movies, like showing classic or hooky horror films around Halloween.

Gamer: Pick your favorite board or video game and hold a tournament. Charge a fee to participate and donate the proceeds to a national, international, or local advocacy program for HIV/AIDS.

Aspiring Event Planner: Host a dinner party for HIV/AIDS. Make the meal as simple as fried chicken and potato salad, or as extravagant as a four-course meal. Invite friends, family, and neighbors and ask them to donate. Another way to have fun with this would be to turn it into a costume or "whodunit?" party. Be creative!

Outdoor/Environmental Enthusiast: Mother Nature provides surprisingly varied and creative ways to aide the HIV/AIDS epidemic. One way to help the environment and raise money for HIV/AIDS causes at the same time is to buy plants wholesale, or in bulk, and sell them for double the price. Talk to local businesses to see if you could set up just inside or outside their store. For those that live in California, a plethora of creative outdoor volunteer activities to aide people with HIV/AIDS are available. In the San Francisco Bay Area, the organization Healing Waters offers outdoors trips specifically for people with HIV/AIDS. According to their website, www.hwaters.org, the organization is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to run programs, clean dishes, guide trips, and assist with office management. For those near Sonoma County, California, a truly unique and powerful way to impact the lives of people with HIV/AIDS is to volunteer your green thumb in the organic garden located there. The garden, founded by the non-profit organization Food for Thought, operates as a healthful food bank for people with HIV/AIDS. To volunteer at the garden or to learn about how to set up your own organic garden for charity, visit Food for Thought's website for the Sonoma County AIDS Food Bank at www.fftfoodbank.org.

For more information on the HIV/AIDS epidemic and how you can make a difference, visit youthink.worldbank.org/issues/aids/ or www.idealists.org/ to discover specific volunteer experiences in your area.

MISSION

The Civic Education Project (CEP) combines traditional education and community service to promote civic responsibility among young people, giving them the knowledge, experience and leadership skills they need to make a positive impact on society.

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