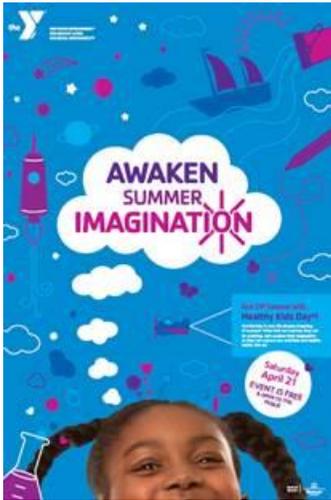




## April 2018 Photos



### Celebrate Healthy Kids Day on Saturday, April 21



### Youth leaders Devon Jenkins, Ayan Ali and Chaquanna Lattimore participated in the Foster Child and Youth Day on the Hill event on March 12

## YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities Social Responsibility Spotlight

### Celebrating Healthy Kids Day

On Saturday, April 21st, the YGTC will celebrate Healthy Kids Day—Y-USA's national initiative to improve the health and well-being of kids. This year's theme, "Awaken Summer Imagination" inspires creativity, stimulates imagination and promotes active minds and healthy bodies. Our hope is that Healthy Kids Day will serve as the catalyst to encourage youth and families to be healthy and active all summer long.

### Veterans Seminar Expands to Y-USA

Recently Amanda Hooper took the Veterans and Military outreach program to a Y-USA level. In March she presented a webinar to approximately 30 other YMCA sites across the country to talk about inclusion of our veterans and military communities. With this webinar she will be moving forward to create a Y-USA working group for inclusion of veterans and military in our everyday YMCA. If you are interested in the webinar, please check [here](#). For those interested in participating in the Veterans Inclusion Planning team in the Twin Cities and the Global Working Group, please contact Amanda Hooper at [Amanda.Hooper@ymcamn.org](mailto:Amanda.Hooper@ymcamn.org).

### April is Month of the Military Child

Please join us April 13 in wearing **purple** to support military children by wearing **purple** accessories to your uniform (ribbon, earrings, bracelet, ring, shoe strings, socks, scarf, shoes). Month of the Military Child celebrates children of current and former military personnel. Information on activities around the Twin Cities and hosted by the YMCA can be found at the Month of the Military Child table at the YRUN on Saturday, April 14. Please join us April 20 in Forest Lake for Month of the Military Child Night with arts and crafts, a bounce house and open swim from 5-8 p.m.

### Youth Hold Rally at the State Capitol

Foster children and youth from across Minnesota made their voices heard on March 12 as they rallied during the first-ever Foster Child and Youth Day on the Hill event at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul. The all-day event was organized by the Minnesota Youth Leadership Council, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities.

Youth leaders spoke about high priority issues, including a "Sibling Bill of Rights" that AspireMN is working to get introduced in the Minnesota Legislature this session, and shared personal stories. They also spoke about the need for more independent living skills training opportunities for foster children and youth and the need for higher quality training for prospective foster parents. Youth leaders then had an opportunity to meet with legislators and discuss issues related to foster children and youth.

### New American Welcome Center at Blaisdell YMCA

The Blaisdell YMCA is strengthening and serving South Minneapolis' immigrant and refugee communities through the New American Welcome Center (NAWC). The center helps integrate newcomers into American society and prepare receiving communities to be

welcoming and inclusive. The Blaisdell YMCA is changing their community and empowering immigrants to achieve their full potential through programs such as a Citizenship Corner, Women's in Action Leadership Program serving Somali and Latino/Hispanic women, Women's Only Swim, ESL Classes in collaboration with the Lyndale Neighborhood Association (LNA), and Water Safety Instruction Classes. To learn more about the Blaisdell YMCA's NAWC, please reach out to Mary Britts, Blaisdell YMCA executive director, at [Mary.Britts@ymcamn.org](mailto:Mary.Britts@ymcamn.org).

### **The African American Resource Network (AARN)**

The African American Resource Network (AARN) was organized to provide leadership development of African Americans in the YMCA movement and for career and personal development, networking, training and mentoring.

Executive Sponsor: Kerry! Givens

Chair: Henry Crosby

Co-Chairs: LaVelle Warfield & Lisa Holyfield

Communication and Membership Engagement Chairs: Kylie Peterson & Ravin Scott

Are you interested in joining AARN? For more information, please email [equity@ymcamn.org](mailto:equity@ymcamn.org).

### **YRUN**

Don't forget you can volunteer and support the YRUN on Saturday, April 14! This event is a great way to get your family and friends involved in helping with YMCA. Join us for this fun in the sun run!!!

### **Save the Date!**

- Healthy Kids Day Saturday, April 21
- Regional Emerging Multicultural Leadership Experience September 15

Best,

Hedy Lemar Walls

Chief Social Responsibility Officer, YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities



**AARN Chairs Kylie Peterson, LaVelle Warfield, and Ravin Scott can be contacted at [equity@ymcamn.org](mailto:equity@ymcamn.org)**

