



Dear Citizen of New Haven,

Public Allies Connecticut, AmeriCorps focuses on community leadership with the conviction that “Everyone Leads.” The New Haven team is comprised of nine individuals who have come together for ten months to create a unique project that will benefit the New Haven community. While many of us are placed at different non-profits throughout the city, we collaborate through a Team Service Project that will focus on strengthening and supporting a better sense of community between the many neighborhoods that encompass the city of New Haven. One of the core values of Public Allies is collaboration with others. Through this, we believe that lasting social change can result when citizens of all backgrounds step up, take responsibility, and work together to voice their opinions about topics concerning their neighborhoods.

As a team, we were able to take the time to explore many of the communities within New Haven to speak with residents and hear what their perspectives are on the issues that their neighborhoods face daily. From these conversations, we learned a lot about the concerns of these neighborhoods and found that many themes were repeated time and time again.

The most common theme we encountered was the concern with the level of violence amongst youth, as well as the shortage of opportunities to foster their future success. Our understanding is that because of these struggles, New Haven communities have found themselves as both segregated and disjointed from each other. This has created a vicious cycle of prejudice, isolation, and structured inequality that is visible in multiple neighborhoods. Our goal is to address violence through youth involvement in the community, hoping that it begins to break down barriers that may reinforce neighborhood isolation and violence.

The New Haven team is grateful to the many communities of New Haven for hosting such a wide array of diversity, languages, cultures and religions. It is this melting pot of individuals and groups that make New Haven such a unique, world-class city. We, as Public Allies, realize the need for valuable input and engagement from invested community members and partners. To achieve this, we are asking the people of New Haven for their comments and concerns on the many issues facing their neighborhoods, as to empower us to design and implement a meaningful, relevant service project for our beloved city. We extend our hands and invite you as neighbors to join with us in a town hall discussion on **Tuesday, December 10th** from **5:30pm - 7:30pm** at the Ives Branch of the New Haven Free Public Library at 133 Elm St. overlooking the New Haven Green. Refreshments will be served at **5:30pm** and discussion will begin at **6:00pm**. Parking will be **free** for all guests at the Yale University Lot 51 on Temple Street between Wall St. and Elm St. Childcare will also be provided in the library’s children section. To RSVP for the event, as well as childcare, please contact Ivette Tapia at (203) 789-8690 ext.124 or online at newhaventsp2013.eventbrite.com.

Thank you, and please join us; after all, it takes a village to create lasting change.

Sincerely,

The New Haven Team of Public Allies Connecticut, AmeriCorps



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Signed,

Antwon Hawkins, *Co-op Center for Creativity*

Doug Mowery, *Higher Heights Youth Empowerment Programs, Inc.*

Emily Marshall, *New Haven Land Trust*

Eve Sussman, *Domus Academy*

Hawa Cisse, *Solar Youth*

Ivette Tapia, *Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund*

Rodnesha Williams-Green, *United Way Boost!*

Samia El Osta, *United Way Boost!*

Zara Browne, *United Way Boost!*

