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Buffalo PAL, Racial Equity Resources , and More!

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Program Spotlight: Police Athletic League of Buffalo

We recently received a spotlight submission from our good friend Nekia Kemp, Executive Director of the Buffalo Police Athletic League (PAL). Once the COVID-19 pandemic began to spread and take root, Nekia made the quick decision to transition the agency to address the immediate needs of youth and families.

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In the month of March, Buffalo PAL launched a virtual social media campaign and updated their website to keep youth moving physically, have fun, and be creative while they were at home. Through these efforts they launched a YouTube channel that is filled with tons of youth lead content and activities encouraging their peers to stay happy, healthy, and fit.

The Buffalo PAL then transitioned quickly to helping with what was an immediate need in the community. They were able to collaborate with Feedmore WNY, Project Play WNY, and the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo up until the first week in May, assisting in delivering food to vulnerable members of the community five days a week. Then in mid-May they partnered with the Cold Spring Bible Baptist Church, the Buffalo Public Schools, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of WNY to continue distributing meals.

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In addition, they began working with their grantors to adjust their budgetary needs to address these

immediate changes in response to COVID-19. Buffalo PAL also put a development plan in place to apply for additional funding to support these program changes and adjust their planned fundraising activities for the remainder of 2020.

Buffalo PAL continues to plan for safe social distancing programming for this summer. Their plan is to launch several programs for youth of all ages; including a series of golf clinics, a tennis camp, a virtual summer camp for grades k-6 and a hybrid virtual program for grades 7-9.

Buffalo PAL will also launch a program focused on police and youth engagement across the city called PLAYSTREETS. Through PLAYSTREETS the Buffalo PAL, the Buffalo PD, and other community partners will distribute sports equipment, PPE, books, and food. As part of PLAYSTREETS, officers and PAL coaches will demonstrate on how to use the equipment in each neighborhood.

Overall, the Buffalo Police Athletic League has been keeping a connection with their youth in these trying times by keeping them physically active and socially connected.

If you would like to share how your program has been able to stay in contact with your community, feel free to fill out our [questionnaire](#).

Afterschool Recovery Plan

The COVID-19 pandemic has created extraordinary circumstances for many children and families across the nation. In addition to this health crisis, many families also face the threat of mass unemployment and an exacerbation of racial and economic disparities, highlighting the significant inequities that communities of color and low-income communities experience. The losses and accompanying grief are shattering, the stability and economic security of millions of families has been undermined, and many of our children — our most precious resource — have been shaken or traumatized. Our country and state will emerge from COVID-19 in a different place. As we emerge from this crisis, our priority must be to rebuild the resilience and hope of our children for the future. To view our recently released Afterschool Recovery Plan, [click here](#).

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QSA Corner: How to Conduct a Self-Assessment When You Can't Meet In-Person

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In this 26 minute webinar you will learn how to use online tools to conduct a self-assessment with your team when you can't be in the same room together! This recorded session explores how programs can still do a Quality Self-Assessment (QSA) program assessment during the pandemic. In this webinar

you will find an emphasis on techniques and tools to allow assessing, scoring, and discussion when program staff cannot meet in person. To view the webinar, [click here](#).

Washington Post Article: I Learned the Impact of Prolonged Exposure to Stress from my Foster Child

Jenn O'Conner of Prevent Child Abuse NY recently had an article published in The Washington Post. In the article Jenn writes about her experiences with stress, whether it was through work or her own personal life. She uses her experiences with her foster child as a chance to learn and broaden her view on the topic she has spent much of her professional life working with. To read the article in its entirety, [click here](#).

Article Image

Talking to Kids About Racism and Justice

We will continue to highlight resources afterschool educators can use to talk with youth about racism and justice. This week we are highlighting the Oakland Public Library who have created a webpage with a host of resources including books, articles, videos, and more you can utilize to talk about racism with children of all ages. [Click here](#) to view said page.

For additional resources, visit our [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) page.

Network for Youth Success Events

8/18 - 8/26: Health and Safety, Virtual

Directors are responsible for hiring, training, and maintaining staff who provide a healthy and safe environment for children. This course will help directors look at policies and procedures that reinforce high-quality health and safety practices. Directors will get the most out of this training if they bring a copy of the policies and procedures from their program. For more details, [click here](#).

9/23: Fall SAC Credential Course, Capital District

The New York State Network for Youth Success administers the New York State School Age Care (SAC) Credential, which promotes quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation for afterschool professionals. For those interested, [click here](#).

9/2020 - 12/2020: Distance Learning

The Distance Learning School-Age Care (SAC) Preparatory Course includes viewing recorded videos, reading, and preparing a portfolio and resource file. This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State. We are now enrolling for Fall 2020.

SAVE THE DATE: 4/23 & 4/24, 2021: School's Out, Make it Count Annual Conference

Our Annual Conference will be held on April 23rd & 24th 2021 for 2020. Be ready for two full days of trainings on a wide variety of topics, various vendors, awards, networking, and more! Stay tuned for more information.

Other Events

6/18: E-Mentoring: Strategies for Successfully Engaging with Youth in a Virtual World

Join Million Women Mentors - Wisconsin for a conversation on e-mentoring, featuring MENTOR Greater Milwaukee's Executive Director, LaNelle Ramey, M.A. and Program Coordinator, Betty Hill. The speakers will reflect on their experiences with virtual mentoring programs, offer guidance on building virtual relationships, and share best practices for virtual mentoring. To register, [click here](#).

6/22: NASA STEAM: Project Based Learning and Fresh Water

Explore Project Based Learning resources to answer the real-life problem of the availability of fresh water. Videos, lesson plans, interactive websites and articles on the water cycle, weather, and climate and societal applications. You will explore the resources and discuss how they can be used to design a PBL lesson. For more information, [click here](#).

6/24 & 25: Nonprofit OpCon

What would have been the 6th annual Nonprofit OpCon, has now adjusted to the world of COVID-19 and will be hosted virtually. Over the course of two days you will still be exposed to the same level of expertise and content - focusing on streamlining processes and operations for nonprofits in New York. How to make things easier and more pleasant for executive leadership, operations, IT, risk, finance, HR, and more. It's a new day in the nonprofit industry; join and explore new insights and strategies. For more information, [click here](#).

6/29: NASA STEAM: Simple Machines Shoe Box Rover

NASA's new rover Perseverance will launch in July 2020. Explore the Perseverance Rover Design and Mission. The STEAM activity features all six simple machines - lever, wedge, screw, pulley, inclined plane, and wheels & axles - which are also combined to create more complex, kinetic systems. Students are inspired by the NASA mission while gaining critical mechanical skills, design-thinking principles, and physical science concepts. For more information, [click here](#).

6/30: Explore Humans in Space: Radiation

NASA Educator Professional Development is presenting a free 60-minute webinar for K-12 educators and parents. Participants will learn about living in the harsh environment of space. Hear about plans to go back to the moon and then on to Mars and how radiation impacts our planning. For more information, [click here](#).

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