

November 21, 2008



Ariana playing at Camp Sunrise

Hi, my name is Iris and I am one of eight Youth Mentors that work with YouthCARE. I want to tell you about my friend, Ariana. Ariana is nine years old and lives in the McDonough Homes community of St. Paul. Ariana is lively, outgoing and energetic but sometimes she's also shy. The other day, I stopped by her house to see if she was coming to Girls Group. She wasn't sure because it was Eid, a Muslim holiday, and she needed to wear special clothing and thought she might not fit in. She was crying and uncomfortable. I told her she could wear whatever she wanted and not worry at all. The activity we had planned for the day was to make friendship bracelets. During the activity other girls gave her bracelets and we all made her feel comfortable and part of the group. Now she tells me she feels safe and accepted and her Dad told me he's glad we're here for her!

This is exactly what YouthCARE does! YouthCARE's mission is to promote *respect* for self and others, develop *future leaders*, and provide positive *multicultural activities* and relationships with caring adults. YouthCARE accomplishes this through three programs, **Camp Sunrise**, **YouthLEAD**, and the **Young Women's Mentoring Program**.

We are Youth Mentors in the Young Women's Mentoring Program and we live and work in three communities; the McDonough Homes Community in St. Paul and the Glendale Townhomes and Little Earth of United Tribes Communities in Minneapolis. ***Everyday we invest in our community and today we are asking you to invest in your community by giving at whatever level you can.*** Give what feels right and you'll help YouthCARE continue to have great programs for youth.

Last summer, YouthCARE helped **34 youth like us** learn new skills by working and participating in training as Junior Counselors, Counselors-In-Training, Community Service (CS) Stars Crew Members, and Youth Mentors. The CS Stars are a crew of 14 youth who worked on service projects and learned about "Green Careers" all over Minneapolis; they even went to Camp Sunrise and built new railings on the Camp showers.

YouthCARE has lots of stories like Ariana's and great programs like the Community Service Stars, but we want to share **our story** with you, **because we are today's leaders!**



We're the McDonough Youth Mentors, Iris, Anquetta and Youa. We're 16 and 17 years old and we go to Highland Park and Central High Schools. Being Youth Mentors has helped us see life beyond ourselves. At the after-school groups we run and at trainings, we meet new people, learn about other cultures' food, holidays, dances and customs. We have learned not to judge people and like hearing other people's opinions because we want to know what they think. Working with the girls in our community has taught us to be more patient and has taught us how to manage our time between school, home, being involved in the community and work. ***This job shows us how to function and do real things in the real world - it gives us a taste of life after high school and options like college and careers.*** Being a Youth Mentor gives us purpose - it's our chance to show the girls they can be leaders and be positive in life.



Hi, we're the Glendale Youth Mentors, Sharmine and Lul. We're 15 and 17 years old, and we go to Roosevelt High School and Patrick Henry High School. Being a Youth Mentor helps build our communication skills while we help our girls learn. ***We show leadership every day when we recruit girls to the program, role model positive living, are active listeners and are accepting of the differences in people.*** This job has taught us how to be leaders, how to count on ourselves, not just rely on other people, and how to make connections and stay positive about different cultures. Being a Youth Mentor is amazing because we get to show young girls how to be themselves and how to be leaders.

We're the Little Earth Youth Mentors, Tawhnee, Nikki and Ashley. We're 15 -18 years old and we go to South High School and Nawaayii "Center" School, a Native American Charter School. We work with younger Native American girls in our community. ***All three of us have been in the Young Women's Mentoring Program since we were young girls and now we work for them!*** YouthCARE has taught us organization, how to work with our community, how to stay positive, have responsibility, and we've met new people. We take what we've learned and that's what we teach and show the girls.



We want you to know that we really appreciate your contributions in the past, present, and future! They make YouthCARE's programs better and help youth like us create a more positive future for ourselves. We know that times may be difficult right now, but we're grateful that you understand how important your contribution is to the youth who love Camp Sunrise, YouthLEAD, and the Young Women's Mentoring Program. If you would be so kind and make a contribution this year, it would make such a difference!

From all of us,

Iris *Anquinetta* *Youa* *Sharmine* *Lul* *Tawhnee* *Nikki* *Ashley*
Iris Anquinetta Youa Sharmine Lul Tawhnee Nikki Ashley

The 2008 Youth Mentors

PS. We are very proud of the work of YouthCARE's 2008 Youth Mentors and all of the youth leaders in YouthCARE's programs. **Please consider making a contribution today to support YouthCARE's up and coming leaders and help us reach our goal of \$25,000 this year!**

Warmest wishes to you and your family for a happy, safe and joy-filled year.
All our best,

Wang Hedemann

Executive Director

Nate Dunning

YouthCARE Board Chair &
President and Founder of Share, Save, Spend

YouthCARE is a non-profit organization that promotes *respect* for self and others, develops *future leaders*, and provides *positive multicultural activities* and relationships with caring adults.

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Thank You for your support!