



NYWUSA News

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Volunteers Save Lives!

By Fareeha Mohammad

National Youth Week began when now-founder Lori Hoff heard of a similar event in Australia. Inspired, she looked into similar programs in the USA and found there wasn't any. She was able to officially start the signature program for OMI in June 2015. In years past, we typically had 10 to 15 volunteers at a time, but with the rise of the coronavirus pandemic and shift to a more virtual format, the count rose to 53 volunteers, creating a 410% increase. We have 5 virtual teams that each promote mental health with a monthly theme in mind in their own unique ways. The Newsletter team sends out a monthly newsletter filled with articles, activities, and a message from the founder. The Social Media team focuses on reaching youth with all platforms for social media. The State Your Case team is working on 21 city campaign to address interpersonal violence and provide resources and help. The Youth team hosts and produces all events like webinars and consists of a sub-team that's dedicated to National Youth Week and has a teen lead for each pillar: Achievement, Community Service, Innovation and Teamwork And finally, the Technology team that focuses on emerging technologies and keeps everything going.



Mission Statement:

"The purpose of OMI is to instill resiliency skills through education and developing life skills to "at-risk" youth in hopes that they will become productive members of society. To provide opportunities that will focus on the entire mind, body, soul and spirit."

Board of Directors:

President/CEO- Lori Hoff

Advocacy Manager-
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Cecil Bundick

Fareeha Mohammad

Gabby Chong

Karen Volker

Joseph Kobeck

Takoda Wells

*When we strive to
become better than
we are, everything
around us becomes
better too.*

Paulo Coelho



New Website by Designer, Inês Benito.

By Gabby Chong

We are proud to announce we have a new website that includes many exciting new features. Our new website was designed by the amazing Inês Benito. Inês has worked with us for over two years now. She is from Portugal, where, she served in the Navy and learned about website design. She decided to put her skills to good use by supporting us and creating a brand new website design. [Click here to check it out!](#)

Highlighting Amazing Volunteers!

By Takoda Wells



OMI is proud to present our volunteer highlight group for the “Volunteers Save Lives” month of April. These special members have been selected for their tremendous endeavors and work within our organization. We thank them for their continuous effort and outstanding generosity. [Click here](#) to hear from our Amazing volunteers.

First on our list is committee lead Jose who states: “It’s great to volunteer since you gain experience firsthand on how you can do more for people and animals who need help”. Next is Gabby who has her own newsletter segment, “Gabby’s Glow” where she shares self-care tips and mental health advice. She is making an impact by putting her voice out there and sharing her ideas through social media engaging **nywusa** followers. Ludjy from our social media team engages with other volunteers in zoom meetings, creates graphics, and comes up with strategies to help others in need”. Volunteering is important to her because it unites people and improves the overall community. Marique, representing the State Your Case team spends time researching communities that have a high risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors.. Volunteers close the gap and help these communities get the help they need. Hannah is on the Youth committee and states that people should be grateful for what they have and use that gratuity to help others who don’t have the same privileges. Finally, Inês from the Technology team, believes in taking a stance against conflicts, “If you find yourself struggling with the negative impact of those things you need to take action. She makes an impact by spreading information on the website and bringing overall awareness to youth violence.

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT:

Our theme this month is Volunteers saves lives and I am extremely Blessed to have an entire organization run by volunteers. It is not always easy because we have to rely on people’s commitment to the cause and if they decide to leave we wish them well and keep pressing towards the dream. It is amazing to have over 50 people working together because they are passionate about the cause and they give their all and for that I wanted to dedicate my note this month to all the amazing volunteers that give up time with their family, the fun things they like to do and spending time with their friends to help the mission and for that I say Thank you. I am reminded of my favorite African proverb “if you want to go quickly go alone if you want to go far go together “. We have much father to go and need everyone love and support to save



Activity of the Month:

- Joseph Kobeck

Using the word search below, see how many words you can find and post a picture on [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) with the tag @NYWUSA.

Word Search

L N I U P T F U Z M Z V P K P
O D T F S U I H H U F Q N W Z
V O E I Y L S T U R X H W G H
E I A T C O M M U N I T Y V V
X L M P E G H E W X O A G G S
H Z W P F R W A T G G L R D H
R F O D A Q M I P H U X K N Z
A J R Y M L P I L P N S I F G
P J K C I P T Y N A I A S Q L
R P H U L W R P B A T N F A T
T G C C Y N U K B Q T C E E I
E H M N Q Y T A Z H R I K S B
F T U T M D H E A R T H O G S
C F W Y W B S U D M L Q V N Y
S X I V O L U N T E E R S N U

determination

team work

love

volunteers

earth

happiness

family

community

truth



UN I U P T F U Z M Z V P K P
O D T F S U I H H U F Q N W Z
V O E I Y L S T U R X H W G H
E I A T C O M M U N I T Y V V
X L M P E G H E W X O A G G S
H Z W P F R W A T G G L R D H
R F O D A Q M I P H U X K N Z
A J R Y M L P I L P N S I F G
P J K C I P T Y N A I A S Q L
R P H U L W R P B A T N F A T
T G C C Y N U K B Q T C E E I
E H M N Q Y T A Z H R I K S B
F T U T M D H E A R T H O G S
C F W Y W B S U D M L Q V N Y
S X I V O L U N T E E R S N U