



**Phillip Robinson Joins City Year Cleveland as New Executive Director**



On December 13, 2010, City Year Cleveland, a youth service organization, announced that its Board of Directors named Phillip M. Robinson, Jr. to serve as the organization's fifth Executive Director.

In his first six months, Robinson has met with staff, corps members, alumni, numerous community leaders and supporters to discuss the future of the site. In the months to come, Robinson hopes to work with various internal and external stakeholders to achieve the organization's long-term goal of deploying corps members to the six high schools and 20 feeder schools that generate more than 50 percent of the dropouts in Cleveland. Robinson will lead the organization as it seeks to demonstrate its impact potential by reaching 25 percent of the off-track students in Cleveland, getting over 1,000 students back on track to graduation.

"City Year is an outstanding organization dedicated to uniting diverse young leaders with the students and schools in Cleveland who need them the most. It's a great honor to join its leadership team and have the opportunity to raise the number of high school graduates," said Robinson. "Education is truly the civil rights issue of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I am excited about the role City Year Cleveland will play in helping to transform the Cleveland public school system into the gold standard for education."

Robinson recently served as a Cleveland Executive Fellow at the Cleveland Leadership Center, where he conducted an audit of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's strategic plan, developed business growth plans and co-authored a study on improving local neighborhoods. Prior to being selected as a fellow, Robinson was a senior account executive for Marcus Thomas LLC.

Robert W. Gillespie, Jr., Co-Chair of the City Year Cleveland Board, said that the Board "unanimously selected Robinson because of his grasp of the issues facing the Cleveland public school system, experience managing budgets and staff and his passion for public service and education."

A graduate of Gilmour Academy, Robinson grew up in Bedford Heights. He returned to Greater Cleveland in 2007 after earning a bachelor's degree in finance from The George Washington University. He has worked as a legislative aide to U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-California) and for two Fortune 500 global communications firms.

Robinson currently serves on the Boards of Directors for the Centers for Dialysis Care (CDC), the Cleveland Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP), FutureHeights and Citizens Leadership Academy. He was named one of *Inside Business Magazine's* 2010 25 Under 35 Movers and Shakers.

Robinson can be reached via e-mail at [probinson@cityyear.org](mailto:probinson@cityyear.org) or by telephone at (216) 373-3408.

City Year unites young people of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service, giving them the skills and opportunities to change the world. As tutors, mentors and role models, these diverse young leaders help children stay in school and on track, and transform schools and communities across the United States, as well as through international affiliates in Johannesburg, South Africa and London, England.

Founded in Boston in 1988, City Year has established programs in Boston; Chicago; Cleveland; Columbia, SC; Columbus; Detroit; Little Rock/North Little Rock; Los Angeles; Louisiana: Baton Rouge; Louisiana: New Orleans; Miami; Milwaukee; New Hampshire; New York; Greater Philadelphia; Rhode Island; San Antonio; San Jose/Silicon Valley; Seattle/King County; and Washington, D.C.; and international affiliates in Johannesburg, South Africa and London, England. City Year is a proud member of AmeriCorps.



