



CITY YEAR CLEVELAND E-NEWSLETTER

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September 2011 eNewsletter

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Join City Year and CEO Eric Gordon for Opening Day - October, 14 2011

Come to City Hall for City Year's 16th Annual Opening Day Ceremony

Upcoming Events

October 14, 2011: Opening Day Ceremony at Cleveland City Hall followed by an afternoon of service in the Cleveland neighborhoods of Ohio City and Slavic Village. For more info contact [Mary Fagans](#).

October 22, 2011: Make a Difference Day service. For more information contact [Raymond Martin](#).

November 1, 2011: Next recruitment deadline. [Apply online](#) or contact our Recruitment Manager [Dahlia Cummings](#) for more information.

Donate now and make a difference.

[Donate Now](#)

Applying is easy with our online application process!

[Apply Online](#)

City Year Cleveland by the numbers*

99% - Attendance rate at Martin Luther King, Jr. Career Campus for the week of September 12-16. Congrats to the school staff, students and City Year team!



Please join City Year Cleveland as we celebrate our Opening Day of service to the community! On Opening Day, 50 idealistic young leaders will pledge to serve as tutors, mentors and role models in five Cleveland Metropolitan School District high schools. A ceremony will be held at Cleveland City Hall at

11:00 a.m. with keynote speaker Cleveland Metropolitan School District CEO Eric Gordon followed by an afternoon of service from 1:00-5:00 p.m. in Cleveland's Ohio City and Slavic Village neighborhoods.

WHAT: City Year Cleveland Opening Day

WHEN: Friday, October 14, 2011, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (ceremony) and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. (service)

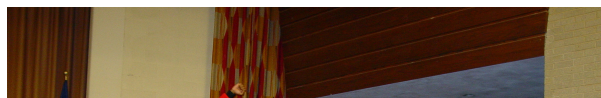
WHERE: Cleveland City Hall Rotunda, 601 Lakeside Ave. East, Cleveland, OH 44114 (ceremony); 5620 Broadway Ave. # 200, Cleveland, OH 44127 (eastside service) and West 24th and Bridge Ave., Cleveland, OH 44113 (westside service)

RSVP: Contact Mary Fagans, Operations Manager at 216.373.3414 or mfagans@cityyear.org

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan Comes to Cleveland

The "Education and the Economy" bus tour comes to East Technical High School

After being greeted by City Year corps members, nearly



25 - Days of Basic Training Academy that each corps member went through to prepare them for service

*As of 9/23/11

Shout Outs

This month we would especially like to thank...

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum for their generous donation of space for our Red Jacket Ceremony.

The Coit Road Farmers Market and Veterans Resource Center of Cleveland for collaborating with us for two great afternoons of service.

Cleveland Metropolitan School District and CEO Eric Gordon

Team Sponsor The City of Cleveland and Mayor Frank Jackson

Team Sponsor CSX

Randy McShepard

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

Robert Velasco II

Michael Robbins

Rev. Brenda Girton-Mitchell

Dr. Ken Bedell

Joshua DuBois

Ulysses Stokes

Chris Larson

Reverend Tracy Lind

Nikki Gentile

Principal Byron Hopkins, East Technical High School

Principal William Davis, Martin Luther King, Jr. Career Campus

1000 people filed into the East Technical High School auditorium in Cleveland on Wednesday afternoon for the third stop, and the largest crowd yet, on the "Education and the Economy" bus tour.

The event "Connecting Cleveland's Communities and Classrooms," featured a panel discussion and audience Q&A with Secretary Duncan and national and local leaders in community service including Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and Cleveland schools CEO Eric Gordon. Secretary Duncan said the goal was simple: "Connecting Cleveland's communities and classrooms – what's working, and what can be done to improve?" And, he noted, "Any time you have an auditorium full of people talking about education, that's a good thing."

City Year and our East Technical High School team is proud that East Tech was chosen for this forum and excited for the new year ahead. City Year was also fortunate to host a delegation of representatives from the Department of Education Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships and take them on a tour of another school with a City Year team, Martin Luther King, Jr. Career Campus. Thank you and congratulations to the two schools teams and school staff for all their hard work leading up to these events.

For more information read the Department of Education's blog post about the visit [here](#) and watch the video that included clips of the discussion. You can also read the same blog's posts about the work of City Year Cleveland [here](#) and the Top 10 highlights of the bus tour [here](#) (Cleveland made #4 and #6)!

City Year Cleveland Welcomes Two New Board Members!

Please join us in welcoming our new board members **Justin Bibb and Karen Thompson**. For an updated roster of the City Year Cleveland Advisory Board click [here](#).

Justin Bibb serves as Special Assistant for Education and Economic Development for Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald. In this role he is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to advance education reform and economic competitiveness for Ohio's largest county.

Previously, Justin was Director of the Civic Health Index at the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC). Prior to this position he served as Associate Partner and Director of Community Strategies with Gallup. Currently, he serves on the Board of Trustees at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio. Justin also serves on the National Advisory Board for YPNation. Justin received his bachelor's degree in urban studies from American University in Washington, D.C. and was a Public Policy & Law Fellow at the University of California-Berkeley.

Karen Thompson serves as the Interim Chief Academic Officer for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD). She previously served at CMSD as the Deputy Chief Curriculum & Instruction where she worked as an integral member of the team creating the Transformation Plan for the district. She looks forward to strengthening the partnership between CMSD and City Year to further the goals of the district's Transformation Plan.

Red Jacket Ceremony

Corps members dedicate their jackets and year of service

Principal Cynthia Hanish,
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Career Campus

The City Year Cleveland
Advisory Board

Bob Gillespie

Mayor Bruce Akers

Jan Roller

Cathy Lewis-Wright

Gina Weisblat

Natoya Walker

Deborah Coleman

Greg Brown

David Abbot

David Landever

Justin Bibb

Karen Thompson

United Way of Greater
Cleveland

The Ohio Commission on
Service and Volunteerism
and Executive Director
William Hall



On Friday, **September 2,** 2011 the 2011-2012 corps members and staff of City Year Cleveland dedicated their red jackets and year of service at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. The City Year red jacket is the signature piece of the uniform our corps members wear every day. It is a symbol of their passion and commitment to the students of

Cleveland. Corps members had an opportunity to dedicate their jacket to a person, idea, or cause that is close to their heart in front of family, friends and colleagues. City Year also welcomed alumni speaker Ulysses Stokes, '09-'11, as part of the ceremony.

This year's corps members are a diverse group of 50 17-24 year olds serving in five Cleveland public high schools. Teams will serve at East Technical High School, Glenville High School, John F. Kennedy High School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Career Campus and Thomas Jefferson Ninth Grade Academy.

Meet Our Newest Staff Members

City Year Cleveland welcomed two new staff members this summer: Toi Comer and Mary Fagans.

Toi Comer - Development Director



Toi Comer, a native Clevelander, joins City Year Cleveland to lead its fundraising team and efforts to support the site's scaled impact growth plan. With more than 10 years of development experience, Comer comes to City Year with diverse skills in fundraising, community and government relations, strategic planning, management and communications. She most recently served as the Development Director for Eliza Bryant Village. Prior to Eliza Bryant, she served as Resource Development Manager for the United Way of Greater Cleveland, where she oversaw the Small Business and Healthcare Division team that raised over \$15 million for various programs and as the Assistant Area Development Director for the United Negro College Fund of Northeast Ohio.

Comer is actively involved in the Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation, Association of Fundraising Professionals, United Way of Greater Cleveland, Shoes and Clothes for Kids and the National Council of Negro Women. She holds a Masters of Public Administration degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Cleveland State University. Comer enjoys spending time with family and friends and resides in South Euclid.

Mary Fagans - Operations Manager



Mary Fagans currently serves as the Operations Manager for City Year Cleveland. In this role, she oversees all office operations, provides administrative support to the Executive Director, plans special events, and assists in managing relationships with board members and external stakeholders. After graduating from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning, Fagans chose to do a year of service with City Year Cleveland. In her first year of service she served as a corps member on a Whole School Whole Child team at Collinwood High School. In her second year with City Year she served as a team leader at John F. Kennedy High School's Freshman Academy and led a team of 8 first year corps members engaged in one-on-one and small group tutoring, after-school programs, and community service projects. In her two corps years she has also helped to lead several City Year projects and service days including Camp City Year, Martin Luther King, Jr. Service, CSX Service Day and Opening Day Service.

Fagans's AmeriCorps service has grown into a commitment to national service, education and the City of Cleveland. As a City Year alumni and now Operations Manager for City Year Cleveland she hopes to continue being a champion for the City of Cleveland and its youth.

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. In communities across the United States and through two international affiliates, these diverse young leaders help turn around high-need schools and get at-risk students back on track to graduation by working to improve their attendance, behavior and course performance. For more information, please visit cityyear.org.

Founded in Boston in 1988, City Year has established programs in Baton Rouge; Boston; Chicago; Cleveland; Columbia, SC; Columbus, OH; Denver; Detroit; Little Rock/North Little Rock; Los Angeles; Miami; Milwaukee; New Hampshire; New Orleans; 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.



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