



## New Hampshire Health & Equity Partnership

August 2016 Newsletter

### Mary Georges: Bridging the Divide Between Schools and Families in Manchester



*Mary Ngwanda Georges, serves on Manchester School Board and is leader of Victory Women of Vision.*

In November 2015, Mary Ngwanda Georges became the first African immigrant to be elected to the Manchester School Board. She won by a close margin to represent Manchester's Ward 3. "I didn't really see myself on the school board," said Mary, "but people were telling me, 'Mary, you'd be good.'"

From her perspective, she's there for the kids and the families, and to be a liaison between the immigrants and the receiving community. She is proud to be an advocate and a voice for those who are often "voiceless". With every decision she makes, she considers, "will this benefit the students and parents?"

Originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mary immigrated by herself to the U.S. in 1990. After marrying Morel Georges in 1993, she moved to New Hampshire and they had three children, Jacob, Sarah and Tirzah. Her NH family also includes her first child, Gloria, who joined her from the Congo in 2003, and her niece, Angel.

As part of her School Board duties, Mary serves on the Committee for Student Conduct. She is helping to bridge the divide between schools and families, in particular new American families. More than once, her peers on the committee have said to her, “Mary, you opened my eyes!” Mary’s academic training gave her a strong foundation for this role, having earned a bachelor's degree in human services and a master's degree in organizational management and leadership. Back in her undergraduate program at Springfield College, she learned to look for the root of problems. This is why she asserts the importance of starting at home and supporting families to address the challenges there.

For immigrant and refugee families in particular, parents and kids have trauma histories, and the struggles in school, the struggles to find work, and the struggles to learn English and culture are what Mary calls “secondary trauma”. She points to these root causes as underlying reasons for drug use and other challenges among immigrant youth.

Mary serves the community as a minister and leader of ***Victory Women of Vision***. She is also an alumna of NH’s Emerging Leaders in Communities of Color (ELCC) leadership program and currently serves on the Steering Committee for the newly formed ***NH Alliance for Healthy Aging***. Many people recognize her on the street and in grocery stores because they’ve seen her on Manchester Community Television (MCTV, Channel 23) for her weekly show, Victory Women of Vision. Since 2003 she has been preaching on a show which is prerecorded and then broadcast several times per week, usually airing Tuesdays at 7:30pm, Wednesdays at 9:30am, Thursdays at 9:30am and 12:30pm, and Saturdays at 1:30pm (check the ***station schedule*** for “Victory Women” for exact days and times). Says Mary, “You don’t know who is out there watching and whom you can help.” Her show has been notably one of the most viewed on MCTV and in 2008 she received an award from Manchester Community Access Media.

When asked what motivates her to her life of community service, Mary shared, “On the day I die, what will people say? I have a lot to give, and I don’t want to bring that to the cemetery.”

# Spotlight on Cultural Festivals and Celebrations in NH: Nashua Went MAD!

*New Hampshire summer – a great time to come out and celebrate community!*



*Community members displayed items and pictures from their countries of origin.*

The 2nd annual Nashua Goes M.A.D. (Multicultural Awareness Day) was held on Saturday, June 4 in Greeley Park. This event, organized by the Emerging Leaders in Communities of Color (ELCC) Class of 2016, in collaboration with the Adult Learning Center and City of Nashua, kicked off Nashua's Summer Fun series and celebrated the city's cultural diversity.

It featured food, entertainment and cultural activities from around the world.

As part of their curriculum, students enrolled in the ELCC nine-month leadership program must complete a culminating project where they partner with a local organization to address an important need in the community. Many of the participants were students from the Adult Learning Center. This event allowed them to practice their language skills, show pride in their heritage, and feel empowered in a low-pressure and fun environment.

Nashua Goes M.A.D. was a great opportunity to meet new people and increase one's level of global awareness. It was our hope to promote unity as we celebrated our differences.



## Upcoming Opportunities for People to Come Together – Don't Miss Out!

“We Are One” African Caribbean and Latino Festival:  
Saturday, August 13



The annual We Are One (WAO) Festival in Manchester, New Hampshire will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2016 in Veterans Memorial Park from 11:00am to 7:00pm.

We Are One (WAO) Music/Culture Festival brings together the oldest Latino and African-centered cultural festivals in New Hampshire. Latinos Unidos established the Latino Festival in 2000 and Ujima Collective founded the African/Caribbean Celebration in 2001. We combine our efforts to celebrate our unique ancestry, our common cultural heritage and our shared interests because we are “better together.”

Have fun! Increase your community engagement! Enhance your civic presence! Bolster your cultural participation and even your contributions to community building! For more information call (603) 627-4631 or email [ujima@netzero.com](mailto:ujima@netzero.com)

## Celebrate Indian-American Culture with Downtown Dinner & Movie: Wednesday, August 17

Come celebrate the rich heritage of greater Nashua's Indian-American community. Join us two days after Indian Independence Day for a fun Bollywood-style film from Gurinder Chadha, the director of Bend It Like Beckham! *Bride & Prejudice* is a Bollywood retelling of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*! Delight your taste buds with food from Taj India and drink from Stella Blu while we shut down a section of East Pearl Street and have dinner and watch a movie right in Downtown Nashua! Delight your eyes, your ears, and your heart as we celebrate Indian-American culture!

Wednesday, August 17, 2016 (\*Rain Date August 18\*). Movie Begins at 7 pm with an expected end time of 10:45 pm.

## Mahrajan Middle Eastern Festival: August 19 - 21

At Our Lady of the Cedars Church, 140 Mitchell Street, Manchester, NH

Hours: Friday 8/19 5-10 pm, Saturday 8/20 12-10 pm, Sunday 8/21 12-5 pm.

## BrasilFest:

### Saturday, August 20

Hosted by One Greater Nashua (OGN) at Greeley Park, 100 Concord Street in Nashua, NH, on August 20 from 11am to 5 pm.

## Greefest 2016:

### August 27-28

At Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 111 Island Pond Road in Manchester. From Saturday August 27th 11am-10pm to Sunday August 28th 11am-7pm.

## Laconia Multicultural Festival:

### Saturday, September 10

The Festival takes place in Downtown Laconia on September 10 from 10 am to 4 pm. This includes the City Hall parking areas, Rotary Park, the Belknap Mill (25 Beacon St. East), the Mall in front of the Soda Shoppe and the Healthlink parking lot.

**If you know about another cultural festival that we can help spread the word about – send us something (25 words or less) to [nayhi@healthynh.com](mailto:nayhi@healthynh.com).**

# Elections in New Hampshire – Get Out and Vote!



New Hampshire State primary elections – when we choose the nominee for each major political party – will be on September 13 this year. This is a very important election for our state as we will be choosing the candidates that will go to the final election in November.

We will choose the final candidates to run in the November election for the 1st Congressional District, NH Governor, State Senators and other offices.

Our state uses a hybrid primary system. This means that you can only vote for the candidates on the ballot of the party (either Democrat or Republican) with which you are currently affiliated. You can change your party affiliation before an election, however the deadline to change your affiliation before the upcoming elections has already passed. You can also choose not to affiliate with a party when you register to vote. People who do not affiliate with a party are considered “undeclared.” These voters can vote in the primary by asking for either a Democratic or Republican ballot when they arrive at the polls. This changes their status from unaffiliated to affiliated with the party of the ballot they chose. People who wish to return to undeclared status after voting in the primary must fill out a card which one can do before leaving the polling place.

It is important for citizens to vote in this process to make sure their voices are heard when choosing the final candidates. Primaries are an important step in the process of choosing who will be our voice in government. The future of our state depends on having leaders that represent the views and interests of their constituents. Democracy works when we all get involved. Ensure your voice is heard. Vote! Be counted!

For more information visit the *League of Women Voters of New Hampshire*.

# Project Inclusion NH: Assessing and Enacting a Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity on Campus



*Keynote speaker, Dr. Samuel D. Museus, Associate Professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs at Indiana University, Bloomington*

Over the past year, Campus Compact for New Hampshire (CCNH) and The New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE) have worked together to advance inclusive excellence and student success in New Hampshire's colleges and universities through **Project Inclusion**.

This project concluded with a symposium on June 2, 2016 at Keene State College.

Dr. Samuel D. Museus, Associate Professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs at Indiana University, Bloomington offered an inspiring keynote address at the symposium.

Author of numerous books, publications, and presentations, Dr. Museus created the **Culturally Engaging Campus Environments (CECE) model** to cultivate campuses where diverse students thrive.

Symposium attendees also learned from the lessons and experiences shared by four NH institutions of higher learning that participated in the Project Inclusion pilot: Antioch University New England, Keene State College, Rivier University, and University of New Hampshire.



*Dr. Dottie Morris, Chief Officer of Diversity and Multiculturalism for Keene State College*

Among the presenters, was NH Health and Equity Partnership steering committee member, Dr. Dottie Morris, the Chief Officer of Diversity and Multiculturalism for Keene State College. Dr. Morris noted the importance of “asking ourselves the hard questions.” The hard questions include: “Can we discuss inclusion without talking about power, privilege, and colonization?” and “How do people who have historically controlled spaces give up power to truly have equity?”

Each of the schools in the pilot worked over the last academic year to implement NERCHE’s ***Self-Assessment Rubric for the Institutionalization of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in Higher Education***. The rubric is an assessment tool, developed by a workgroup of higher education multicultural affairs professionals, to assist members of the higher education community in gauging the progress of their diversity, inclusion, and equity efforts on their campuses. Each institution received a \$3,000 grant, consultation to assist with the process, and the opportunity to participate in a learning community with the other schools. They were selected based on their efforts to assess the extent of their respective cultural engagement, and their willingness and readiness to undergo broad-based structural change in order to sustain and expand these efforts beyond the grant period.

Project Inclusion was supported by the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation and Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, and created in partnership with Campus Compact for New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Inclusive Excellence Advisory Board, and UMass Boston.

# Community Health Workers: Partnering with Patients for Success!

*The NH BCCP Program at HealthFirst Family Care Center in Franklin*



*Sheryl Russell, RMA, HealthFirst Family Care Center, Breast and Cervical Cancer Coordinator and Patient Care Coordinator*

A woman arrives for her appointment at HealthFirst Family Care Center – she is 6 months past due on a mammogram that needed to be done 4-months following a previous appointment.

She also has had difficulty accessing transportation to even get to her appointment, and English is not her primary spoken language.

In some settings, these challenges might delay her needed care even further.

Fortunately, the HealthFirst Family Care Center in Franklin NH has a Community Health Worker (CHW), Sheryl Russell, to ensure this particular patient receives quality and timely care, and who works with the patient to address her particular barriers to care.

Sheryl has been the HealthFirst on-site coordinator for the **NH Breast and Cervical Cancer program (BCCP)** for 9 years, to outreach and enroll women into the BCCP. The BCCP provides free breast and cervical cancer screening, and diagnostic services to women who qualify – specifically, women who do not have health insurance or have insurance with a very high deductible. For the past several years she has been working as the center’s community health

worker. In this role, she is working with patients who may have barriers to accessing recommended screenings, for example, breast, cervical, or colorectal cancer screenings.

There are many reasons a patient may not schedule a mammogram or pap test – for some patients it may be an intentional choice, but for some it could be lack of transportation, for others it could be lack of understanding of the importance, and others may just need that gentle personal touch of a reminder. That's where Sheryl comes in. In the past 12 months, with Sheryl's personal calls and mailing reminders, the center has seen their mammography screening rate rise from 26% to 52% and their Pap test screening rates rise from 45% to 59%. Sheryl has personally reached 1745 women.

The biggest barriers reported by Sheryl's patients include: no transportation, no appointments available late in the day, unable to get time off from work, no baby sitter (unable to afford), and no gas money.

"The work done by the community health workers is a big part of what makes the Federally Qualified Health Center so different from other practices. It's all about the personal connection" said Rick Silverberg, Director for HealthFirst Family Care Center.

Now what happened to Sheryl's patient who was overdue for her 4-month follow-up? With Sheryl's help and follow-through, the patient received her follow-up and education. Sheryl already has this patient on her radar to reach back out to in 6-months.

Sheryl is just one of many CHWs throughout the state who are improving health outcomes and reducing barriers to health care. The **NH Community Health Worker Coalition** was established in 2015 to provide a forum for CHWs and CHW supporters to advocate and educate about the role of CHWs in patient care. Participants at the first Coalition meeting discussed alignment with the **CHW Core Consensus (C3) Project** to build consensus on CHW core roles, skills and qualities. "It was exciting to host a meeting where CHWs working in NH had the opportunity to share their thoughts and experiences to support national initiatives" said Paula Smith, Director of the Southern NH AHEC. Coalition members have also joined together to discuss social determinants of health, return on investment, and ways of measuring CHW activities. Future meetings will provide an opportunity for discussion on future workforce development, financing, and sharing amongst CHWs about engaging with patients.

Planning is underway for a CHW Summit to be held in the fall of 2016. For more information on the CHW Coalition or the Summit, contact Paula Smith at the **Southern New Hampshire Area Health Education Center** by emailing [psmith@snhahec.org](mailto:psmith@snhahec.org).

More information about free screenings offered through the **NH Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP)** can be found on the website, [www.getscreenednh.com](http://www.getscreenednh.com), or call 1-800-852-3345 x4931.

**I WANT TO  
ACT**

You can make  
a difference.  
Get Involved.  
Make your  
voice heard.

[Learn More](#)

**I'D LIKE TO  
LEARN**

Resource materials  
health & equity, the  
determinants of health  
and other related topics

[Learn More](#)

## About Us

The New Hampshire Health and Equity Partnership is a public-private collaborative effort of philanthropic organizations, public health agencies, community based organizations, advocates and others concerned with health equity. The Partnership is guided in its work by the Plan to Address Health Disparities and Promote Health Equity in New Hampshire. The goal of the plan is to define statewide priorities and prepare recommendations to advance health equity for NH's racial, ethnic, and linguistic minority communities.

The New Hampshire Health and Equity Partnership is an initiative of the [Foundation for Healthy Communities](#).

[Subscribe to our newsletter!](#)

