

On the President's Mind

Navigating Life's Transitions: Bridging the Gap

In my professional life, I have emphasized the importance of positive transitional strategies in the lives of young adults. Whether they needed to prepare for college, for work or for life, I have been a part of a community solution designed to make young people more confident and ready to navigate life's transitions. Today, I find myself reviewing those lessons as I transition from one phase of my life to another.

Since 1984, I have had a hand in supporting and guiding more than 22,000 young people as they gained the skills needed for the world of education and employment. Many of us take for granted the supports we have, including our families, other caring adults, our communities and our schools, to guide us towards our future. For many youth today, these supports are lacking or nonexistent. In our society, wherever there has been no coherent social or public policy approach to support young people as they navigate these transitions, I have worked to change the ways adults, youth and systems work together to bridge the gap for our disconnected youth.

Guiding and directing my team of dynamic and compassionate staff over the years has enabled me to see many young adults transition into successful men and women. As doctors, City Councilors, social workers and laborers, MY TURN graduates are making an amazing impact on the future of our economy.



Barbara A. Duffy

Now it is time for me to transition from advocate and provider for thousands of young people to advocate and provider of my own four children, one of whom is visually impaired.

I am delighted with the Board's decision to employ Stephen M. Pratt as my successor. His years of experience, his strategic insight into how to continue this organization's aggressive growth trajectory, and his compassion for the population we serve will make him highly successful in his work as the Chief Executive Officer of MY TURN.

Steve has at his side the knowledge and wisdom of a deeply talented senior management team, the passion and energy of an extraordinary front line staff, and I know he will have the support of those of you who have stood at our side advocating and cheering us on towards our incredible success.

Please know that I am grateful to everyone who has had a part, great or small, in my collage of memories of MY TURN. I am reminded of Jane Adams:

"Time is a traveler. Where did it go? It left, but it did not leave you empty-handed. No. It left with the gift of beautiful memories that you can keep in your heart for safe keeping, to cherish forever, and ever."

May our paths of compassion and commitment for this invaluable work cross again. I am humbled and can only say a sincere "thank you" for your part in the fabric of my journey.

Did You Know?

About Preparing for Successful Transitions to Higher Education and Employment

- Students placed in a college-preparatory program are more likely to attend college than those assigned to general and vocational tracks.
- Only about one-half of all college-qualified students from low-income families enter a four-year college, compared to over 80% of similarly qualified students from high-income families.
- Only 28% of students from low-income families were enrolled in college-preparatory courses, compared with 65% of students from high-income families.
- The shortage of basic literacy skills costs U.S. businesses, universities and under-prepared high school graduates as much as \$16 billion per year in decreased productivity and remedial costs.

SPOTLIGHT on Youth

David Duong

Congratulations to **DAVID DUONG**, from North Quincy High School, who earned honors at the regional National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) business plan competition, and was invited to compete at the nationals in New York City in June. David earned the title of "Young Entrepreneur of the Year," a \$500 check, recognition at the annual gala, and a trip to New York City. David turned his love of computers into a business plan for



Machtech, a service company that helps consumers set up their home computers. "Families need affordable, quality computers," he says. "Quincy needs a place to buy a computer that offers good, personal service." He credits his MY TURN instructor, Jean Auguste, with teaching him how to take risks to achieve success. David plans to major in business at college and hopes that he will be able to use his entrepreneurial skills to start his own company.

SPOTLIGHT on the Board's Newest Members

Frederick W. Clark, Jr.



FREDERICK W. CLARK, JR., brings considerable experience to the table. Mr. Clark earned his B.A. in Political Science from Bridgewater State College, and has a J.D. from Suffolk Law School. As a graduate of public higher education, he knows the importance of adequate preparation in high school for

success in college and the world of work. Mr. Clark envisions the MY TURN programs as the bridge for connecting our future leaders to the resources that will contribute to their success. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education.

Jack T. Yunits, Jr.



JACK T. YUNITS, JR., served as the Mayor of Brockton from 1996 to 2006. During his historic five terms, Mr. Yunits revitalized business and promoted substantial investment in educational priorities. Mr. Yunits was chosen to serve as the Chairman of the Workforce Development

Committee for the U.S. Conference of Mayors. He is a graduate of Boston College, and earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the New England School of Law. Mr. Yunits currently serves as President of Yunits Associates, P.C. and the Brockton Rox Professional Baseball team.

SPOTLIGHT on Alumni

MY TURN—It's a Family Affair

Siblings Lamar and Tyrone Callahan and Renee Strong are all graduates of the MY TURN Workforce Development program in Brockton.

RENEE STRONG is a graduate of the first MY TURN class of 1984. She faced many challenges to her success including dyslexia, but she overcame and was the first in her family to graduate from high school. Renee went on to earn her degree from Gibbs College. Today, she is an

Executive Administrator for the Department of Industrial Accidents. Renee has said, "In today's society, our children need all the love and help they can get, and I pray that this program is available to those who need it. More importantly, I hope that there will always be someone there like Barbara Duffy who can help them in the same manner my brothers and I were helped."

SPOTLIGHT on Staff

Q & A with Steve

We are excited to welcome our new CEO, **STEPHEN M. PRATT** to the MY TURN family. We asked him a few questions to introduce him to all of our supporters in the community.



(Photo: S. JOHNSON)

What are some of the biggest obstacles youth face today, and how can we work to counteract them?

The biggest obstacle is defeatism, the belief that is reinforced in the media and sometimes even in the community that because a young person has made a bad decision, there is no

way to turn it around, no way to reverse that defeat. We counteract those messages by relentlessly reminding young people that success is always a reasonable goal. I believe the core message of MY TURN is that it is never too late to make the right decision for your life.

What brought you to MY TURN?

MY TURN's commitment to helping young people in gateway cities make gateway decisions.

What will be the 2 greatest challenges in leading MY TURN?

Broadly, its filling Barbara Duffy's shoes and building on her legacy. In the near term, this is a challenging economy to grow any sort of business. We're going to have to be extraordinarily creative and disciplined in order to continue to make our programs available to more and more young people. I'm not the least bit worried that we will realize that promise. Just as we tell our kids that their success is a reasonable goal, I believe success is a reasonable goal for MY TURN.



Congratulations to **SOLANGE ANTUNES-ALVES**, who received the Excellence in Human Services Award from the Community Services of Greater Brockton at an event at Stonehill College on June 4th. For the last 7 years, Solange has provided services to more than 100 first-generation college-bound seniors at Brockton High School each year. She helps

these students make the connection between the importance of higher education and long-term success. Solange follows up with the youth for a minimum of one year following graduation, and teaches them to incorporate and seek out learning and increased knowledge throughout their adult lives. One of Solange's students was selected by the Posse Foundation to receive a full scholarship to attend Hamilton College. Solange not only represents the type of enthusiasm that leads to success at MY TURN, but she is also leading by example in the greater Brockton community.

Congratulations to **BRIGITTE BOWMAR**, Employment Brokering Specialist in New Hampshire, who received the first MY TURN Staff Leadership Award for her hard work in planning the Employer and Partner Appreciation Night. From scouting venues to inviting community leaders, she rolled up her sleeves and produced a wonderful experience for all that attended. Brigitte embodies MY TURN's core value of empowerment and she inspires staff in her region and beyond.

Congratulations to **JEAN AUGUSTE**, Career Specialist at North Quincy High School, who received MY TURN's Chairman of the Board Award. He provides services to hundreds of youth each year and has earned himself a devoted following of individuals who recognize the important impact he has had on their lives. Jean also interacts with key stakeholders and school leaders on a daily basis. His endless dedication and positive attitude help spread MY TURN's message of hope.

SPOTLIGHT on Alumni (continued)

In high school, **TYRONE CALLAHAN** lacked the focus to succeed in his classes. After connecting with MY TURN staff, he graduated with his class and went on to serve in the army for 10 years. Tyrone now works for the Transportation Security Administration at Logan International Airport. He is an ordained minister and is involved in the prison ministry system. Tyrone is a firm believer in the importance of giving back to the

Congratulations to **SHARICE FERRIS**, Project and Referral Coordinator of the Charles E. Shannon Grant, who received MY TURN's CEO Award. Over the last 18 months, Sharice has referred more than 300 Brockton youth to MY TURN GED classes and supportive services programs. Sharice is a member of the Plymouth House of Correction Prison Re-Entry Panel, and makes monthly visits to inform inmates about MY TURN programs available to help them transition successfully into their communities.

(continued on page 7)

News from Our Regions

On February 15, SENATE PRESIDENT THERESE MURRAY and REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS J. CALTER visited the WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM at PLYMOUTH NORTH HIGH SCHOOL. Senator Murray has singled out MY TURN for its success in helping youth transition successfully into the world of work. Youth in the program have become involved in several Community Service Learning projects, including building a safe skate park, that have earned the attention of Senator Murray.



The NEW HAMPSHIRE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS held a professional clothing drive to address the attire needs of MY TURN youth as they prepared for the Conference and employment opportunities. It was a huge success thanks to the generosity of the members of the Greater Nashua Human Resources Association, the employees of Triangle Credit Union and supporters in the community.



Cameron Ford, NH Regional Director; Katie Cane, Human Resources Administrator for Triangle Credit Union; and Brigitte Bowmar, Employment Brokering Specialist.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TIMOTHY P. MURRAY visited the new BROCKTON YOUTH CENTER on April 11. Throughout his career, Lt. Governor Murray has dedicated his efforts to improving public education systems for our youth.



Though it was just introduced last January, the SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAM AT MOUNT HOPE HIGH SCHOOL in Bristol has been attracting attention in the community, and was the subject of two recent articles by the East Bay Newspapers. Five students, four of whom were not on track to graduate on time, gathered to share their experiences of the program. Though school had not been a focus in their lives, now "My number one priority is the diploma," said one student. They all became leaders in the program, and as of June have all graduated.



(Photo courtesy of EAST BAY NEWSPAPERS)



Nearly 30 YOUTH from FITCHBURG and LEOMINSTER'S YOUTH PROGRAMS visited the New England Aquarium in Boston.

News from Our Regions (continued)

MY TURN YOUTH FROM THE BROCKTON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM attended a financial literacy workshop offered by the North Easton Savings Bank. The presentation covered banking basics such as opening and maintaining checking and savings accounts, managing payment, and how a bank operates.



Eleven YOUTH FROM THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN BROCKTON went on a fieldtrip to the New York Life Headquarters in Westwood. The youth took a guided tour, participated in resume-writing and employment interviewing workshops, and finished the day off with a sundae bar.



Over the Memorial Day weekend, youth from the SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAM IN MANCHESTER, NH participated in a Bed Race to benefit local charities.



On June 23rd, staff, youth and guests attended the Grand Opening of the MY TURN Youth Center at 156 Main Street in Brockton. MAYOR JAMES E. HARRINGTON,

BAMSI CEO ANTHONY SIMONELLI, and MY TURN REGIONAL DIRECTOR LORRAINE ALBERT and CEO STEPHEN PRATT presided over the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Exceptional youth participating in MY TURN programs were awarded Certificates of Recognition for their hard work and dedication. For more information about the Youth Center, please contact Sharice Ferris at (508) 580-2659 ext. 213.

ANDRE RAVENELLE, Superintendent of Fitchburg Public Schools, poses with students from the FITCHBURG AND LEOMINSTER YOUTH PROGRAMS during the North Central Appreciation Breakfast celebrating MY TURN's local collaborators and partners.



Youth College and Career Development Conference

On May 7, 270 youth participated in the Annual Youth College and Career Development Conference at the Holiday Inn in Mansfield. For many of the youth, this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to compete in academic events and receive recognition and trophies for their efforts. It was also a chance for youth to connect with employers and college admissions staff at the College and Career Exposition.

The conference showcases all the hard work and preparation these youth have put in all year. In order to make the event a “real world” experience, business, education and community leaders were invited to judge the events. More than 70 individuals specializing in different careers and professions volunteered to judge this year. The judges were impressed by how well-prepared and confident the youth were during their presentations. Participation in the competitive events shows the community that these youth have what it takes to go to college and get great jobs.

Youth also met with employers from different industries and college admissions officers at the College and Career Exposition held throughout the conference.

Ms. Judy Cantino, a Regional Trainer for CVS, managed the company’s booth at the Expo, and she had great reviews of her experience. Judy commented that “The overall quality of the participants was impressive; the program was inspirational and highly motivational.” Ms. Cantino considers the conference an effective and fun way to connect with qualified, professional young applicants, and she plans to participate next year.

Highlights of the conference included the Awards Ceremony, Luncheon, and the “Dress for Success” Fashion Show. Youth who placed first, second or third in an event were presented with trophies by Barbara Duffy and Paul Protentis, MY TURN’s co-founders. Exceptional youth were also honored for their work throughout the year: 21 received the Most Outstanding Award, 19 received the Most Improved Award, and 21 youth received the Leadership Award. “Each youth’s success is a reflection of his or her hard work and also of the support, guidance and encouragement that MY TURN staff provides to these individuals throughout the year,” said Barbara Duffy.



Lincoln Technical Institute booth in the Career and College Exposition



Judges Lisa Priest, Shanna and Chris Gray (both MY TURN alumni), prepare to judge events at the conference.

Judge James Barbieri of Holbrook Cooperative Bank interviews Ulrick Beon from the Workforce Development program in Brockton during the College Interview Event.



MY TURN graduate and motivational speaker Lamar Callahan presents to youth.



Youth College and Career Development Conference (cont.)



Top far left: Co-founders Barbara A. Duffy and Paul Protentis present the Chairman of the Board Award to Career Specialist Jean Auguste.

Top center: Jeff Thomas from the STEP program in Brockton showcases his look in the Dress-for-Success Fashion Show.

Top right: Shakihra Richardson-Span, Veronica Gomes and Jillian Danielczyk display their trophies from the Corporate Essay Competition. First, second and third place youth were awarded scholarships from the New England Technical Institute for \$2,000, \$1,500 and \$1,000.



Bottom Left: MY TURN Clinical Coordinator Glenn Meunier and Sandie Allsopp present students Jasmin Mulder-Grant of the Brockton Youth Center, Marissa LeGay, graduate of Plymouth North High School, and Leanne Hogan, graduate of Plymouth South High School with the Brittany W. Allsopp Memorial Scholarship award of \$1,800 each to contribute to their post-secondary education plans.

Spotlight on Alumni *(continued from page 3)*

community, and he thinks we should give youth every opportunity to succeed in work and in life.

As a young man, LAMAR CALLAHAN struggled socially and academically in school. After numerous suspensions and on the verge of being kicked out without a diploma, he joined MY TURN. After graduation, Lamar founded his own business. As a motivational speaker, hip-hop recording artist and teen mentor, he has traveled throughout New England and abroad spreading his message of hope. On May 7, Lamar gave a moving presentation to hundreds of youth at the MY TURN Youth College and Career Development Conference.

Investing in Youth

MY TURN is thankful to the many foundations, corporations, public agencies, local businesses, schools and individuals who serve as volunteers, provide financial support and donate goods and services. If you would like more information about how you can support MY TURN, please contact Sylvia Salas at 508-580-2659 x205 or ssalas@my-turn.org.

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Special thanks to Sandie Allsopp and everyone who participated in the Brittany Allsopp Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament on May 2.



for Opportunity and Success

156 Main Street, Brockton, MA 02301
Ph: 508-580-2659 • Fax: 508-580-3483
info@my-turn.org • www.my-turn.org



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Founded in 1984, **MY TURN, Inc.** is a community-based non-profit youth development agency working with 14 to 21 year-old in-school and out-of-school youth who are at a crossroad in their lives. MY TURN's mission is to help youth develop goals, skills and the confidence needed to transition successfully into post-secondary education or training and the world of work. Since its inception, MY TURN has helped more than 22,000 youth further their education and obtain career ladder jobs.

Upcoming Event

Mark your calendars for the **MY TURN GALA on Thursday, October 23 at the Marriot in Quincy, MA at 7pm.**

Visit www.my-turn.org for tickets and online registration (coming soon).

For more information, contact Margo Macphail at mmacphail@my-turn.org or at (508) 580-2659 ext. 206.

**SUMMER
2008**