



TOBACCO
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MEET THE 2023-2024
TOBACCO FREE
YOUTH AMBASSADORS



THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Meet Coco Liu from Newport!

This is her second year as an Ambassador and first year on the LT. Coco is a junior at St. George's School in Middletown. She is also an active advocate for brain injury communities and a VLOGer (video influencer). Her biggest goal is to spread tobacco awareness in the Newport area and investigate its impact on the marine environment. Fun fact about Coco: She has never been to a nail salon.

Meet Joshua Ramirez from West Warwick!

This is his third year as an Ambassador and first year on the LT. Joshua is a sophomore at West Warwick High School and his goal is to impact the next generation so that drugs are as close to being erased from the market as possible. Fun Fact about Joshua: He speaks English and Spanish!

Leadership Team shadow



Meet Kaya Gaffney from Smithfield!

This is her third year as an Ambassador and second year on the LT. Kaya is a sophomore at Smithfield High School. She is also a Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Youth Health Ambassador, the secretary for her school's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Chapter, and the Smithfield Youth Council Secretary. Her biggest goal is to improve tobacco prevention education programs at her local schools. Fun fact about Kaya: She has two cats, named Winston and Max.

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Meet Lia Tavarez from Cranston!

This is her second year as an Ambassador and first year on the LT. Lia is a sophomore at Rhode Island Nurses' Institute (RINI) in Providence. She is also a Youth Health Ambassador at RIDOH, an Explorer with the Providence Police Department, student council vice president, and National Honor Society member. Her biggest goal is to mitigate the usage of vapes in school settings. Fun fact about Lia: Her favorite subject has always been history!

Meet Sarah Ingenfritz from Cranston!

This is her 5th year as an Ambassador and first year on the LT. Sarah is also on the Leadership Board for the American Lung Association. Her biggest goal is increasing awareness and education about the social disparities of tobacco. Fun fact about Sarah: She has a pet chinchilla and bunny!



See the rest of the Ambassador cohort below!

THE AMBASSADORS



Meet Aillyn Ospina from Central Falls!

This is her first year as an Ambassador. Aillyn is a sophomore at Rhode Island Nursing Institute (RINI), where she is in the National Honors Society and is interested in web development. Aillyn's two biggest goals are to minimize tobacco use in Kennedy Plaza and to stop the tobacco industry from targeting youth. Fun fact about Aillyn: She knows how to play the piano and has never failed a class.

Meet Alexis Vieira from North Providence!

This is her first year as an Ambassador. Alexis is a junior at North Providence High School, where she plays the french horn in the school's band. She has also been playing for the All-State Band for the past two years. Her biggest goal is to spread awareness and help stop her generation from being affected by tobacco. Fun fact about Alexis: She plays on the football team at her school and they won the superbowl this year!



Meet Angel Aponte from Providence!

This is his first year as an Ambassador. Angel is a Sophomore at The Met High School in Providence. He is interested in volleyball, entrepreneurship, and graphic design. His biggest goal is to bring awareness to as many people as he can about the harms and effects of tobacco. Fun Fact about Angel: He is starting his own business soon!

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Meet Anna Lancellotta from West Warwick!

This is her second year as an Ambassador. Anna is a freshman at West Warwick High School, where she participates in multiple sports and school activities, such as: tennis, track and field, chess club, and model legislature. Her biggest goal is to learn more about tobacco and teach people about how dangerous it really is. Fun fact about Anna: She plays the flute.

Meet Emmanuel Madrid from Central Falls!

This is his first year as an Ambassador. Emmanuel is a senior at Blackstone Academy Charter School in Pawtucket. He is a mentor at his school and has facilitated projects with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. His biggest goal is to learn more about teen vape use and how to combat it. Fun fact about Emmanuel: He loves to play soccer for fun!



Meet Jayden DeLa Cruz Pena from Providence!

This is his first year as an Ambassador. Jayden is a sophomore at the Met High School in Providence. Jayden also is an intern at Oliver Hazard Perry, where he works as the engineers assistant; Jayden is an Aspiring Aerospace engineer. His biggest goal is to lower the use of vapes in teens. Fun fact about Jayden: He is a die-hard Boston Celtics fan and can speak English and Spanish.

THE AMBASSADORS

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Meet Kyle Alberg from Smithfield!

This is their third year as an Ambassador. Kyle is a sophomore at Smithfield High School. They are also involved in their school's music department, tech team, and soccer and track teams. Their biggest goal is to help prevent younger children from starting to use tobacco products. Fun fact about Kyle: They love to read!

Meet Lexi Hurley from Lincoln!

This is her second year as an Ambassador. Lexi is a senior at Lincoln High school. She wants to see vaping use in teenagers go down. Fun fact about Lexi: She runs all year round, as well as hurdling and pole vaulting for a sport.



Meet Maggrey Volcimus from Providence!

This is her first year as an Ambassador. Maggrey is a senior at Providence Career and Technical Academy. She was a former youth leader at Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians For Education (ARISE) which is a leadership training program involved with community organizing to mobilize Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) education justice. Her biggest goal is to reach out to as many Providence students as she can who are affected by substance use. Fun fact about Maggrey: She is a cosmetologist in PCTA and working on opening a salon dedicated to curly/coily hair.



THE AMBASSADORS

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Meet Natalia Perez from West Warwick!

This is her first year as an Ambassador. Natalia graduated from West Warwick High School and is now a freshman at The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. She is a double major in psychology and neuroscience, volunteers in local healthcare centers, and works at a biology lab at her college. Her biggest goal is to inform others of the negative consequences tobacco and nicotine have on their mental and physical health and spread resources to those who are struggling with addiction. Fun fact about Natalia: Her biggest dream is to travel the world!

Meet Reese Rossi from Smithfield!

This is her first year as an Ambassador. Reese is a sophomore at Smithfield High School, where she is on the Girls' Soccer Team, Basketball Team, the Track and Field Team. She is also Vice President of her class, media officer for the Youth Council, in Sentinel Advisory Council, Smithfield Youth Driven, and in the Rotary Club. Her biggest goal is to obtain information about tobacco and vaping products and bring that information into her community to raise awareness. Fun fact about Reese: She just took up the position of goalkeeper two years ago and is already starting on her high school varsity soccer team.



Meet Sadie Hurley from Lincoln!

This is her second year as an Ambassador. Sadie is a senior at Lincoln High School where she is Student Body President and a runner for the Cross Country and Track teams. Her biggest goal is mitigating the effects of tobacco in the environment. Fun fact about Sadie: She's left handed!

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Meet Simone Punchak from Providence!

This is her first year as an Ambassador. Simone is a junior at Classical High School in Providence. She is also involved in Girl Scouts, runs a Youth Economics Initiative Chapter within her school, and is a member of numerous committees within her communities dedicated to mental health. Her biggest goal is to understand the root causes of why people use tobacco so that she can work to prevent individuals from turning to it as a coping mechanism. Fun fact about Simone: She knows a lot of Korean-her knowledge of the language and culture is always growing!

Meet Stephanie Lopez Socop from Providence!

This is her first year as an Ambassador. Stephanie is a Sophomore at Rhode Island Nurses' Institute (RINI) in Providence. This is her first time participating in a program like TFRI. Her biggest goal is to be able to educate those her age and older who don't know much about tobacco or e-cigarettes. Fun fact about Stephanie: She loves the rain, and when it rains, she loves to go out and play in it, even if there's thunder.



Meet Tomasa Gutierrez Perez from Providence!

This is her first year as an Ambassador. Tomasa is a sophomore at the Rhode Island Nurses' Institute (RINI) in Providence and this is her first time participating in a tobacco prevention program. Her biggest goal is to help bring more awareness in her communities. Fun fact about Tomasa: She enjoys watching korean drama (k-drama).



Reach out to learn more about another Ambassador in Cranston that goes to RINI!