



Caregiving Youth Project Newsletter

The Caregiving Youth Project (CYP) helps identify, recognize, educate, and support students who care for chronically ill, injured, elderly, or disabled family members. This allows caregiving youth to achieve success, have fun, and make new friends, while promoting academic and personal growth.

[Visit our Website](#)

A Note from Dr. Connie

Dear CYP Students,

In science classes we learn about metamorphosis - how a caterpillar makes a cocoon and becomes a butterfly. Without that chrysalis time in the cocoon, transformation would never happen. We have been in a COVID cocoon!! How can we use our personal chrysalis time as one of being, learning, and growing into the butterfly we are meant to be?



*Connie Siskowski, RN, Ph.D.
Founder and President*

Save the Date for May 7 to Connect with Caregiving Youth Across the USA!

American Association of Caregiving Youth PRESENTS
USA CAREGIVING YOUTH CONNECT
FIRST EVER CONNECTION EVENT!
 ZOOM WITH AACY YOUTH AMBASSADORS
 CHARLIE & KAYLIN
FRIDAY, MAY 7th AT 7 PM EASTERN
 ALL MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL CAREGIVING YOUTH WELCOME!
WIN PRIZES!
 HEAR & SHARE STORIES OF KIDS WHO ARE CAREGIVERS JUST LIKE YOU
 REGISTER: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/usa-caregiving-youth-connect-tickets-152393624433>

What are you thinking, learning, feeling?
 USNews
 More Than 3 Million Youth Play a Caregiving Role. They Need Our Support.

Camp Corral ... Hope Loves Company ... Kids Are Caregivers Too... USA

We are excited to plan this **First Ever Connection Event via ZOOM**, on **Friday, May 7, at 7 p.m. EST**. All middle and high school Caregiving Youth are welcome to attend.

Play games, win prizes, and hear stories of other caregiving youth (just like you). The event will be co-hosted by Caregiving Youth Ambassadors Charlie and Kaylin.

This is a **FREE** event. To register, please

visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/usa-caregiving-youth-connect-tickets-152393624433>

We look forward to **Connecting** with you and many other Caregiving Youth from across the United States on May 7!



Monthly Contest!



Save the Date! for a special celebration on **June 11** for the **CLASS OF 2021!** Details to follow.

Be the **first to email** the correct response to Kelly kelly@aacym.org and win a \$15 Gift Card, when you **unscramble this phrase:**

tcnihdareniena

Good Luck!

Welcome New Activities Manager



New Activities Manager, Gaby Alvarez

Scholarships and Contests



Attention High School Juniors and Seniors! There are **scholarships** available to you, a Florida student. **Please visit the [AACY website](#)** for more information, as many deadlines are fast approaching!

If you are looking for an alternative to college, there are options! **[Click here to learn more about the TradeUP](#)** award or to **[apply!](#)**

This award is designed specifically for you, an AACY Caregiving Youth Project (CYP) student! If you are considering a trade or technical school, this is a great opportunity for you to receive financial help. The **deadline has been extended.**

For questions or any assistance with applications, please Kelly: kelly@aacym.org

My name is **Gabriel Alvarez-Mulero** but go by the name of Gaby. I was born and raised in the island of Puerto Rico on a coastal city with beautiful beaches.

I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from the University of Puerto Rico while being a student manager for the men's and women's basketball teams. I earned my Master's degree from Universidad Metropolitana in Recreation & Leisure Management.

I previously worked at the Boys and Girls Club of Puerto Rico as the Sports & Recreation Coordinator. In 2017 after Hurricane Maria destroyed the Island, I decided to move to the United States for a better quality of life.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family, going to the beach, playing video games, watching TV and playing catch with my furry best friend, my dog Max.

I am excited to be your Activities Manager and for all of the fun times we will share!

Welcome New Employees: Autumn and Japhe



Activities Recap and Preview



AACY is excited to welcome back one familiar face, and introduce a new one!

Autumn Rogers-Vasquez, MSW (pictured at left) interned with AACY in 2020, while obtaining her Master's degree from Florida Atlantic University (*she JUST graduated on Thursday, April 29, Congratulations Autumn!!*). She is a new **Family Specialist**.

"My passion in life is to help children however I can/they need and here at AACY, I get the opportunity to fulfill my dreams," said Autumn. "I love everything AACY provides for the children such as counseling, tutoring, respite, events and so on! I can't wait to learn and grow from my experience here, create relationships with my families, and I am so thankful to have this opportunity working with caregiving youth."

In her spare time, Autumn enjoys her family, friends and music; loves meeting new people; and can't wait to meet you!

Japhe Jean-Claud, MSW is AACY's new **Care Manager**. He earned his Master's degree from Ashwood University, where he was awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Sociology.

Japhe has more than 15 years experience in Social Work, and has previously worked for the Sickle Cell Foundation. He was presented with the Navigate PBC Lighthouse Award for his passion and dedication to serving and empowering lives.

"I tirelessly demonstrate my commitment to positively make a difference in everything I do," Japhe said. "I deeply believe I was called to serve."

Welcome Autumn, Gaby and Japhe!



April was a month filled with field trips and fun. Many of you traveled to **Sawgrass Recreation Park for a boat tour of the Everglades!** You experienced an airboat and got up close and personal with wildlife and reptiles. We received great feedback from you, that it was a great way to interact and connect with other caregiving youth!

Our CYP's first ever **two-day VIRTUAL Camp Treasure** will be held on April 30 and May 1. Thank you to the 49 campers who signed up. You will participate in activities like painting your own unique plant pot, tie dye a facemask, create a treasure box, enjoy exercise & yoga, and enjoy time with other caregiving youth. Can't wait to see all the pictures!

In May we plan to have a Mother's Day craft activity; and host a First Aid and CPR training class so we know what to do, in case of an emergency.

Stay tuned to learn more about our new Alumni Program.

All invitations for events and activities are sent via text so please sign up when you receive that invite text, as spots are limited!

If you believe your parent/guardian or you are not receiving these texts, email Gaby@aacys.org or call 561-362-2532 to be added to the list. We hope to see you at our next event!

Featured School: Congress Middle School



From our Family Specialist Richane Etienne, MSW:

Japhe Jean Claude, MSW Care Manager

**Featured Community Partner:
FastSigns, Boca Raton**



As Graduation 2021 is approaching, AACY would like to thank, and recognize **Boca Raton Fast Signs**, for their generous donation of lawn signs (*shown above*) for our 2020 high school graduates!

Especially during COVID-19, thoughtfulness and generosity such as this, helped to make an important and special event like Graduation, much more meaningful.

We are so grateful and pleased that FastSigns has once again offered to make and donate these lawn signs, to help us recognize and **congratulate our 2021 graduating high school seniors!**

Thank you FastSigns in Boca for your ongoing partnership and generosity to AACY. We appreciate you!

With genuine appreciation to Resource Teacher/Behavior Coach Mrs. Cynthia Laing and 8th Grade Certified School Counselor Mrs. Christina Williams at **Congress Middle School**:

"Mrs. Laing and Mrs. Williams have assisted current and future Caregiving Youth Project (CYP) students by submitting referrals, motivating and educating school staff and parents about CYP, and really taking the time to be available during these challenging times. I am touched beyond words. Thanks for all that you do, it makes all the difference to me, the students, and their families."

Support AACY with AmazonSmile



Did you know that Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice?

Please consider signing up for the American Association of Caregiving Youth (AACY), as you do your shopping.

Support AACY by selecting us as your charitable organization. Sign up today: <https://smile.amazon.com>



REMINDER Please submit your Community Service hours to your Family Specialist for the work you do at home!

[Click here to complete the form.](#)



ARE THERE ANY VETERANS IN YOUR FAMILY?

PBC has services that might be of assistance to your family. [Learn more here](#)

Another resource is [VeteranAid.org](#). Which offers detailed information on a Veteran's pension benefit called Aid and Attendance (A&A).

If a Veteran requires assisted living care in a community or at home, A&A gives the information they need to apply for this benefit for free. Senior Veterans and spouses use this benefit to help them afford quality home care.

**Don't Guess.
Make the Call.**

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or CALL **1-800-222-1222**

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