



We have more great Y Associate Shout Outs. These Y associates show initiative, compassion, teamwork and commitment to the community and the Y's mission.

Astare Cochran (Aide, Y Before & After School Enrichment at Meadowvale Elementary)

Astare joined the Before and After school team in September 2022 and was quick to jump helping to lead the program! She communicates great with the parents and everyone at the school. She loves our kids and in return the kids love and respect her! Astare is always willing to help other associates cover their shifts, often driving out of her way to do so! She also works the Fun Days at the Ward Y! Astare has an abundance of creativity and a knack for lesson planning. She creates crafts and teaches the kids valuable life lessons in fun and unique ways. A wonderful example of this is when she taught the kids about a holiday not well known, Three Kings holiday! She is currently helping with the Black History Month lessons, and will be teaching the children poetry by Langston Hughes later this month! Keep it up Ms. Astare, your hard work is seen and appreciated greatly! (Submitted by Rebekah Casagrande)

Ashley Kramer (Site Manager Y Before & After School Enrichment at Deerfield Elementary)

Ashley has been making great strides in growing into a confident leader. She is passionate about working with and including all children and it is evident when you visit her site. It is filled with love and acceptance. She is doing a great job! (Submitted by Logan Wilson)

Shannon Martin (Regional Membership Sales Director, Greater Annapolis Y in Arnold)

Shannon helps me with every problem that may arise. I appreciate her! (Submitted by Nikki Weisz)

Natasha Bentzen, Ahmad Collick, Paige Coressel, Ramona Dowdell and Justin Hunt (Associate Executive Directors, Y School Partnerships Baltimore County Technical Assistance Team)

Congratulations to Ahmad, Justin, Natasha, Paige, and Ramona who each recently hosted collaborative network meetings with their Baltimore County Community School principals. Principal engagement and buy-in to the Community School strategy are critical to the success of the strategy, and these five "Community School Coaches" knocked their principal network meetings out of the park! They engaged in meaningful conversations around shared leadership, collaborative decision-making, and the white savior complex in community school work. I applaud their efforts in the thoughtfulness that went into planning

these experiences. We know how hard it is to get principals away from their buildings, but the feedback from principals was that they want MORE time spent collaborating and having these conversations. The work that Ahmad, Justin, Natasha, Paige, and Ramona put into these experiences are creating long-term buy-in that will enhance the Community School strategy in Baltimore County for years to come. Well done, team! (Submitted by Jessica Chiaramonte)

If you have a colleague you'd like to "Shout Out," just fill out the nomination form linked here: [Y Associate Shout Out Nomination](#)

Thanks!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH' with a large loop at the bottom.

John K. Hoey
President & CEO