

**THE
NEW
JEWISH
HOME**

**GERIATRIC CAREER
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

CLASS OF 2016

GRADUATION CEREMONY

June 16, 2016

- I. Welcome & Opening Remarks
Audrey Weiner
President and CEO
The New Jewish Home

- II. Keynote Speaker
Denise Cherenfant BS, RN
1199 SEIU

- III. Student Recognition
Ramata Fofana
Student Class of 2016

- IV. Special Recognition
Ramata Fofana
Student Class of 2016

- V. Presentation of the Class of 2016

- VI. Closing Remarks
Ramata Fofana
Student Class of 2016

Deborah Ofosu
Student Class of 2016

BRONX CLASS OF 2016		COLLEGE
Yvette	Adrakor	Buffalo State
Afsana	Akther	Medgar Evers
Shakile	Aristy	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Samima	Beauti	York College
Somaiya	Bhuiyan	Lehman College
Camille	Boswell	Bronx Community College
Yendy	Campbell	Hostos Community College
Jennifer	De La Cruz	University of Bridgeport
Fatoumata	Drammeh	University at Buffalo
Ramata	Fofana	Lehman College
Shande	Gordon	CUNY Staten Island
Astrid	Guity	SUNY Oswego
Sah	Hanif	Hunter College
Makaila	Hart	SUNY Brockport
Linda	Hernandez	Lehman College
Ashley	Jainarine	SUNY Brockport
Symphoni	Johnson	Hostos Community College
Janique	King	SUNY Brockport
Suborna	Koli	York College

BRONX CLASS OF 2016		COLLEGE
Natasha	Kusi	SUNY Brockport
Bryan	Leal	Bronx Community College
Haddy	Lemon	SUNY Stony Brook
Jocelyn	Mejia	Lehman College
Sonia	Mellado	SUNY Brockport
Perla	Mendez	Fisher College
Rasheed	Morshed	Lehman College
Salma	Munoz	Providence College
Rubina	Noorie	Medgar Evers
Deborah	Ofosu	Lehman College
Yosiamin	Ortega	New York University
Jimmy	Perpina	Lehman College
Sherlyng	Polanco	Lehman College
Dailyns	Rodriguez	CUNY Staten Island
Ernestina	Sasu	City College
Fatoumata	Sillah	Mount St. Vincent
Fatima	Souane	Lehman College
Ericka	Tavera	St. Johns
Wilson	Tejada	Lehman College
Wahida	Yeasmin	Lehman College

MANHATTAN CLASS OF 2016		COLLEGE
Maritza	Arellano	Lehman College
Tammy	Baez	John Jay College
Juan	Batista	CUNY Staten Island
Emmanuel	Borrell	CUNY Staten Island
Alize	Burgess	Hostos Community College
Ivanny	Cuevas	Syracuse
Alpha	Daniel	Gettysburg
Dara	Desrosiers	St. Joseph's College
Maimouna	Diakite	City Tech
Heisy	Francisco	Bronx Community College
Jennifer	Francisco	St. Johns
Monica	Franco	CUNY Staten Island
Geraldyn	Gomez	York College
Jan Michael	Guzman	City College
Luisanny	Hidalgo	John Jay College
Haddyjatou	John	SUNY Binghamton
Daniel	Jumelles	SUNY Old Westbury
Jonathan	Maria	SUNY Plattsburgh

MANHATTAN CLASS OF 2016		COLLEGE
Arabelis	Martinez	Bronx Community College
Melina	Martinez	John Jay College
Daribel	Mata	CUNY Laguardia
Crismari	Mateo	Baurch College
Jonathan	Miller	CUNY Staten Island
Viviana	Nava	CUNY Hostos
Chalia	Orellana	SUNY Geneseo
Josdary	Peralta	SUNY Old Westbury
Larry	Pineda	CUNY Laguardia
Alyze	Rodriguez	SUNY New Paltz
Yordy	Rosario	City College
Hawa	Saho	New York University
Allen	Salazar	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Luxmi	Sivasakthy	Lehman College
Brayan	Suriel	CUNY Laguardia
Kadijat	Sylla	University of Pennsylvania
Yorgely	Veras	Bronx Community College

CLASS OF 2016 HIGHLIGHTS (as of 6/3/16)

- 99% of students applied to college
- The class of 2016 submitted 640 college applications
- To date, the class of 2016 has received over 200 letters of acceptance
- As a group, students contributed over 8000 hours with the residents at The New Jewish Home
- This is the largest class in the history of the program
- 93% of students who took an allied health profession certification passed
- 51 Certified Nursing Assistants
- 12 Medical Coders and Billers
- 16 Patient Care Technician

STUDENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Somaiya Bhuiyan

Ramata Fofana

Shande Gordon

Ashley Jainarine

Jocelyn Mejia

Wilson Tejada

The Geriatric Career Development Program is deeply grateful to all of The New Jewish Home departments, department heads, directors, and staff who have mentored, provided internships, and department lectures to the students.

- Adult Day Center
- Corporate
- Food and Nutrition
- Kittay House
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Religious Life
- Research Institute on Aging
- Safety and Security
- Social Work
- The ALP
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Volunteer

The New Jewish Home and the Geriatric Career Development Program are deeply grateful to the organizations and foundations listed below for their ongoing support.

FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS

- Altman Foundation
- Carl Marks Foundation
- JE & ZE Butler Foundation
- Judy & Fred Wilpon Family Foundation
- Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund
- May & Samuel Rudin Foundation
- New York Community Trust
- NYC Council Member Mark Levine
- NYS DOH Child Nutrition Reimbursement
- The David Berg Foundation
- The George Link Jr. Foundation
- The John P. & Constance Curran Charitable Foundation
- The NYC Center for Economic Opportunity NYC Work Progress Program
- The Pinkerton Foundation
- The Price Family Foundation, Inc.
- The Tiger Foundation

HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERS

- A. Philip Randolph
- Bronx Bridges
- Community Health Academy of the Heights
- DeWitt Clinton
- Frederick Douglas Academy 2
- Health Opportunities
- Marie Curie for Nursing, Medicine, and Allied Health Professions
- Opportunity Charter
- Thurgood Marshall Academy
- Urban Assembly Wildlife
- Wadleigh

COMMUNITY BASED PARTNERS

- A List Education
- Chase Bank
- Columbia Center for Professional Education of Teachers
- Columbia University School of Nursing
- Columbia University School of Social Work
- Cents Ability
- Endometriosis Foundation of America
- Fordham University- School of Social Work
- Generations United
- Goddard Riverside Community Center: OPTIONS Program
- Hostos Community College Continuing Education and Professional Studies
- Hunter City University of New York- School of Social Work
- Mosholu Montefiore Community Center
- New York City Housing Authority- REES
- Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center

The New Jewish Home and the Geriatric Career Development Program would also like to recognize the following individuals who went above and beyond to show support and provide encouragement to the students.

Special Recognition

The New Jewish Home Nursing Staff

Parents with Perfect Attendance

Gina Alva

Sahodra Jainarine

The New Jewish Home and the Geriatric Career Development Program are deeply grateful to the parents and guardians for their ongoing support.

The Geriatric Career Development Program Team:

- Audrey Wathen – Senior Vice President of Human Resources
- John Cruz – Program Director
- Nicole King – Program Manager
- Ramon Reeves – Program Manager
- Kerrie Martin – Alumni Coordinator
- Lashima Goshine – Program Specialist
- Moustapha Mbaye – Program Specialist
- Zachary Weisbrot – Program Specialist
- Richard Burgess – Junior Youth Coach
- Alixmery Caminero – Junior Youth Coach
- Kadija Ceesay – Junior Youth Coach

Tonight's dinner is made possible by the generosity of
Alice Cutler and Carmine's Restaurant.

The Class of 2016 in Their Own Words

What does GCD mean to me?

GCD, to me, means a safe zone area where you can be yourself and learn new things every day. I feel safe because, at the beginning of program, I was shy and not as social as some people. In time, I became accustomed to those new faces which helped me come out of my comfort zone. Learning to socialize with my mates helped me learn new things because the more people you talk to, the more you learn. It felt really good too. I see GCD as my family. I enjoy GCD; they really try to help you as much as they possibly can, and you never know when you'll need their help in the future. I'm grateful for experiencing my first internship with GCD. I was provided with unforgettable memories that have and will continue to benefit my future.

**Sherlyng
Polanco**



How has GCD changed my life?

Coming into this internship, I did not know what was ahead of me. Throughout this journey, I stepped out of my comfort zone and was able to obtain skills that will further my health/science career. Not many people can say they are a Certified Nursing Assistant, at the age of 16, and certified in CPR at the age of 15. During my time at GCD, we watched healthcare related movies and had discussions afterwards. I looked forward to these movies every Saturday. GCD made me realize the different aspects of life and going about your career. They truly showed an interest in my life and they helped me every step of the way.

**Sonia
Mellado**



The Class of 2016 in Their Own Words

How has GCD changed my life?

Joining GCD has been the best decision I have made in my life thus far. I had no idea what I wanted to do as a career until I joined GCD. Not only did I explore many careers but I also found the right path for my future. I had never thought of becoming CNA and PCT while being in High School was possible. Also I am now going to college with a fixed career goal to become a Nurse Practitioner. GCD has shaped me and my future.

**Somaiya
Bhuiyan**



I never really thought much about how GCD has changed my life. Thinking about it now I realized this program has, in fact, changed my life in more ways than one. I wasn't always sure of where exactly I was heading in terms of future goals, and I didn't know what I wanted to pursue. Being a member of the program for three years enabled me to grow immensely. For example, I am now positive that I want pursue a career in the medical field. Through the experiences of volunteering in a nursing home and interacting with the elderly, I have learned to be grateful and sensitive to the needs of others. It helped me to realize that my life will always be meaningful if I devote myself to helping others. Through my experiences, I now know how to act in professional settings. Being a part of GCD compelled me to start making my own decisions. All the experiences and knowledge I am walking away with, will make me a stronger candidate for any future position than I would be if I wasn't a member of GCD.

**Shande
Gordon**



The Class of 2016 in Their Own Words

How has GCD changed my life?

GCD has changed my life significantly and I'm thankful. They taught me there are people who want to help you succeed in life. When I started high school, I already knew I wanted work in a health related field, but I had no idea exactly where I wanted to be. Starting GCD provided me a broad insight into the healthcare system by interacting with pharmacists, social workers, dieticians, etc. It helped me understand the amount of dedication and energy it takes to take care of someone who is dependent on your support. This program has helped me become more mature, understand time management and also helped me receive my C.N.A certification. I've realized there is room for improvement and you should never be afraid to ask for help. This is just the beginning of my path to success and I would not be where I am at without GCD's help.

**Yvette
Adrakor**



GCD has changed my life in so many ways. It has taught me to step out of my comfort zone and become more social with the people I meet, along the way, in life. It has also helped advance my career in the medical field by providing me with the opportunity to participate in CNA, EKG, Phlebotomy, and PCT certifications. Plus, they supported me throughout my college application process. I am grateful to have received opportunities such as the ones provided to me by the GCD program.

**Jimmy
Perpina**



The Class of 2016 in Their Own Words

How has GCD changed my life?

GCD has positively changed my life. Being part of GCD has taught me multiple things. While participating in the GCD program, as an intern, I learned about life, health careers (especially C.N.A.), and compassion from the staff and my mentors. I have also discovered a new personality in myself. I am friendlier, my communication skills have improved, and I care for those not related to me, and more. Through the GCD program, starting at age 16, I have gained my certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant (C.N.A.). Having this certification makes me feel like a special person in my family because my Aunties come up to me, now, to find out more information about CNAs. My mentor, Robert, was like a grandfather to me. He was talkative and gave me insight on his own personal life. I was so devastated when I found out about Robert's passing; I went home that day crying. I will never forget about Robert, may he rest in peace. I was supported by GCD in so many ways; I cannot find the words to explain it. I am truly thankful to have been part of the GCD program.

**Ramata
Fofana**



How has GCD prepared me for the future?

GCD has helped me prepare for my future by giving me the chance to take the Certified Nurse Assistant course over the summer. Now, I have some experience in the nursing field which will help me get a job and move ahead in the future. I was also taught how to write my resume and other professional skills which will prepare me for any interview I will have. I have also been given the opportunity to take the Patient Care Technician (PCT) class which gives me three different certifications including EKG Technician, Phlebotomy, and Patient Care Technician credentials.

**Fatoumata
Sillah**



The Class of 2016 in Their Own Words

How has GCD prepared me for the future?

GCD has prepared me for the future in the best way possible. It has given me vibrant exposure and opportunities I won't take for granted. I have had experiences while volunteering at The New Jewish Home and I gained medical/ ethical knowledge from the seniors and nurses. I was also able to obtain certifications which I will use in the future. GCD has given me a lot to be thankful for. As a senior, I can say GCD has given me a better understanding of what I want to do in the future, and that is supporting others, in the best way possible, by helping to maintain their health and happiness.

**Luxmi
Sivasakthy**



GCD has prepared me for the future because I have always wanted to pursue a career in the medical field. With the help of GCD, I was able to take my first step into the medical field by becoming certified as a Certified Nursing Assistant (C.N.A.) and Patient Care Technician (PCT). When I fulfill my dream of being a doctor, I will be able to say that I have worked my way from the bottom to the top. GCD's vocational program provided me with experience in patient interaction, infection control, and skilled nursing facility protocol. Additionally, it helped to reaffirm my belief that people are more than their illnesses or flaws. They are all individuals deserving of love and care.

**Fatoumata
Drammeh**



Welcome New Alumni & GCD Family!

My name is Kerrie & I am the GCD Alumni Coordinator. I CONGRATULATIONS to GCD's Class of 2016! You guys made it! I'm sure many of you are filled with excitement, pride, nervousness, and a little bit of bitter sweetness as you prepare to leave behind everything you have come to know and love. The bad news is, in order to become the skilled, versatile, and all-around fierce adults you're destined to be, you must leave your comfort zones behind.

The good news is, I am here to assist you with that! I can answer questions you have about how to succeed in college; I can connect you with resources on-campus. I can assist you in finding a job, building a competitive resume, preparing for an interview, and I can help you sort out difficult issues in the workplace. At least twice a year, I will be reaching out to all of you via Facebook, email, or phone to make sure you're doing well and to see what you've been up to. You and your parents are always welcome to reach out for assistance or to update GCD on what amazing accomplishments you've had in school or at work.

Another one of my duties is to help keep the #GCDFam together by hosting monthly Alumni events and workshops and by building up our online community via GCD's Facebook page. (Give us a like to stay updated at <http://www.facebook.com/GCDProgram/>) Stay tuned for our upcoming summer Alumni event and please don't be strangers.

GCD will always be your second home!

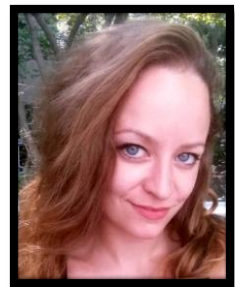
With joy and pride in your accomplishments,



Kerrie Martin, MSW

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CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS

OF

2016