

Whitney M. Young, Jr.: A Legacy to Remember

How much do you know about our namesake, **Whitney Moore Young, Jr.**, and his amazing legacy of leadership, vision, and service?

Born in Kentucky on July 31, 1921, he was a civil rights leader who, as head of the [National Urban League](#) from 1961 to 1971, spearheaded the drive for equal opportunity for African Americans in U.S. industry and government service.

After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, Young switched his career track from medicine to social work, earning an M.A. in the field from the University of Minnesota in 1947. He was director of industrial relations for the Urban League chapter in St. Paul, Minnesota, from 1947 to 1950, and from 1950 to 1954 he was executive secretary of the organization's chapter in Omaha, Nebraska. Young became dean of Atlanta University's School of Social Work in 1954, where he was instrumental in improving relations between the city of Atlanta and the university.

Although his name is not as well known, Young is enshrined as one of the Civil Rights Movement's "Big Six" activists. Alongside other prominent figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., John Lewis, A. Philip Randolph, James Farmer, and Roy Wilkins, Young was a catalyst for social change in the United States during the Civil Rights Movement. Young, often referred to as the "Powerbroker" of the Civil Rights Movement, would frequently participate in meetings with government officials, including United States presidents, to advocate for African Americans and people of color across the country.



Whitney M. Young, Jr.



Whitney M. Young, Jr. with his wife Margaret Buckner Young and their two daughters

Named executive director of the Urban League in 1961, Young became known as an influential Black activist who helped bridge the gap between white political and business leaders and disadvantaged Black Americans and those advocating for their rights. Under his direction, the Urban League grew from 60 to 98 chapters and shifted its focus from middle-class concerns to the needs of the urban poor. He almost single-handedly persuaded corporate America and major foundations to aid the Civil Rights movement through financial contributions in support of self-help programs for jobs, housing, education, and family rehabilitation.

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Above: Young with President Kennedy.

Below: L-R: Martin Luther King, Jr., President Lyndon Johnson, and Whitney Young, Jr.

On March 11, 1971, at the age of 49, Young tragically drowned while swimming with friends in Lagos, Nigeria, where he was attending a conference sponsored by the African-American Institute. President Richard Nixon sent a plane to Nigeria to collect Young's body and traveled to Kentucky to deliver the eulogy at his funeral.

The impact of Young's commitment to fighting for equal access to employment and healthcare for Black Americans can still be felt today. His work has inspired countless others to pick up the mantle of advocacy and justice for people of color and marginalized communities - making his name a natural choice when the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Center was founded the same year he died.



To learn more about the life and legacy of Whitney M. Young, Jr. , please watch the documentary, **'The Powerbroker: Whitney Young's Fight for Civil Rights'** on YouTube at the link below.

<https://youtu.be/lwKw37t5NnE>

National Health Center Week 2023

Every August, the [National Association of Community Health Centers \(NACHC\)](#) sponsors [National Health Center Week \(NHCW\)](#) to celebrate and increase awareness of America's 1,400 Community Health Centers (CHCs). NHCW is an opportunity to highlight the commitment and passion of CHC staff, board members, and supporters who make it possible to provide quality, comprehensive healthcare services to more than 30 million patients across 14,500 communities annually.

Whitney Young Health is participating by highlighting different issues and topics through our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn) on each of the seven days:

Sunday 8/6 - Highlighting WYH's service in the community: Discussing what makes WYH's services unique and how WYH addresses the complex needs of our community.

Monday 8/7 - Healthcare For All: Spotlighting WYH's commitment to providing healthcare for people experiencing homelessness.



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August 2023

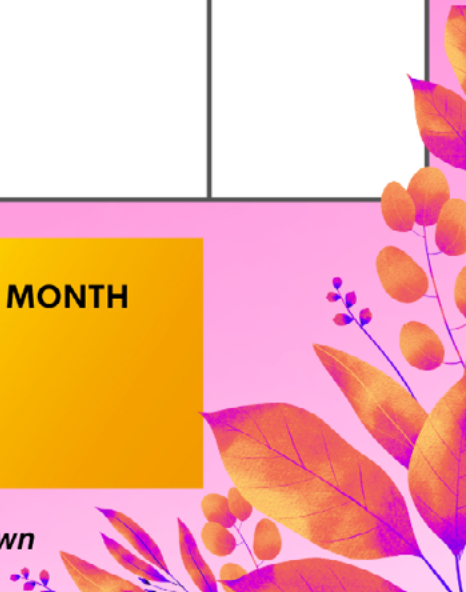
Diversity, Equity & Awareness

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Lughnasadh Pagan/Celtic	2	3	4	5
6 National Health Center Week Begins	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Feast of the Assumption Christian/Catholic	16	17	18	19 World Humanitarian Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Raksha Bandhan Hindu/Jain/Sikh	31 Overdose Awareness Day		

Monthly Observances:

- NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH
- MINORITY DONOR AWARENESS MONTH
- NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING MONTH

**All Jewish and Muslim holidays start at sundown*



July
2023

New Hires



Welcome, New Staff!

Les Johnson	Licensed Practical Nurse
Sara Grozenger	Health Home Care Coordinator
Triscia Ghirdharie	HR Coordinator
Ashley Dillard	Licensed Practical Nurse
Kelsey Mohl	SUD Counselor
Isaac Bluschke	Director of IT Network Operations & Security
Liz Bailey	Information Associates
Rachell Orozco	Information Associates
Tyronsa Watkins	Health Home Care Coordinator

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Tuesday 8/8 - Patient & Stakeholder Appreciation Day: Celebrating and recognizing WYH's patients, stakeholders, and supporters.

Wednesday 8/9 – Pediatric & School-Based Services Recognition Day: Featuring WYH's pediatric services, school-based services, and back-to-school immunizations as part of the "Sleeves Up" Campaign focusing on August as National Immunization Month.

Thursday 8/10 – Innovations and Commitment To Excellence: Introducing WYH's new renovations project at its flagship health center in Albany - (Potential Groundbreaking Ceremony at 920 Lark Drive) and **Ice Cream Trucks for staff at all locations! (See below)**

Friday 8/11 – Staff Appreciation Day: Honoring and spotlighting the work of WYH's dedicated staff.

Saturday 8/12 – Reflecting On National Health Center Week 2023.

Who wants ICE CREAM?!



Free Ice Cream for all staff on Thursday, August 10!
See below for times and locations!

1:45	10 Dewitt Street
2:20	920 Lark Drive - <i>(for Albany HC, 900LL and Dental)</i>
3:00	526 Central Ave - Swinburne HC
2:00	849 2nd Ave. - Troy HC
2:00	Watervliet HC & Admin

All staff must show their ID badge to driver to get free ice cream!

WYH & EQX Affiliation Update



Hi Team Whitney,

The summer is moving along at warp speed, and we are settling into the new cadence of activities associated with the Equinox (EQX) affiliation. Whether it be managing IT, Facilities, Marketing & Development, or Health Home, we are beginning to see some of the long-awaited fruits of the team's labor surrounding the affiliation. This month, we'll be discussing the transition of the EQX Health Home staff and services to Whitney Young Health (WYH) and talk about the progress.

I've asked **Susan Rago, Director of Health Home Care Coordination**, to lead the discussion below on Health Home.

"The Whitney Young Health Home Care Coordination Program was delighted to welcome and transition two EQX Health Home Care Coordinators to our team on June 14th. In addition, we have added 70+ members (patients) to our program! This specialty Care Coordination provides support to our members with complex medical and mental health needs. This Program allows for them to receive a higher level of Care Coordination services, such as multiple face-to-face visits a month and additional collaboration with their support team. With the combined Health Home programs, we now have 275 patients enrolled in Health Home Services.

With these new members joining our program, we work to connect them with the medical, dental, and behavioral health services here at WYH. This transition provides the opportunity for members to have all their providers in one place and offers a collaborative model of care. This level of care is essential for these new members to achieve their goals of attaining optimal health and wellness.

The two Specialty Care Coordinators have joined the rest of the Whitney Young Health Home program in routine meetings at the 920 Albany Health Facility. In addition, they will be joining in on other collaborative meetings across WYH. The newly congealed team enjoyed a summer staff retreat where they were able to spend time learning about their new coworkers and the future goals of the Health Home Program.

Our team looks forward to the continued growth and opportunities this merger has provided."

Over the next few months, we look forward to discussing more of the integration of staff from EQX into various programs at WYH.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Best,
Will

Do you have something to share in the next issue of Whitney Wire?

The Marketing & Development Team is always looking for stories, photos, info about programs and services, upcoming events and more!

Please contact Susan Lovelock at ext. 4472 or slovelock@wmyhealth.org or Jeff Watson at ext. 4471 or jwatson@wmyhealth.org



Construction is now underway at our Albany Health Center!

Please be aware that traffic patterns and entrances will be altered during construction. For the latest updates, please visit our [RENOVATIONS](#) webpage and on our social media.

Good oral health is about more than just avoiding cavities, The condition of a person's mouth is often a window to their general health, as it is closely tied to overall well-being. Poor dental health can have a profoundly negative affect on areas outside of the mouth, including the heart, diabetes, pregnancy and chronic inflammation, such as arthritis — to name a few.

Whitney Young Health (WYH) Dental is dedicated to providing comprehensive dental services to members of the Capital District community. In an effort to provide patient-centered care, our dental providers take the time to talk with patients, so that they can tailor treatment plans that help patients achieve their goals, improve their oral health literacy, and become motivated to improve their oral - and overall - health.

As access to care in the Capital District narrows, the WYH Dental team is finding ways to expand dental services and minimize the need to refer patients to other clinics for dental care. Our services include exams and cleanings, scaling and root-planing therapy, basic restorative care, prosthetic care (dentures, crowns, bridges), extractions, and basic root canal therapy and surgical extractions. In the next year, our team will be working to offer nitrous oxide to patients with disabilities, dental anxiety, and behavior management challenges.



Our Dental Practice at 900 Lark Drive

SEAL A SMILE (SAS):

Since 2003, Whitney Young Health (WYH) has collaborated with the [Healthy Capital District \(HCD\)](#) to offer the [Seal a Smile \(SAS\)](#) program that provides preventive dental care to elementary school-aged children in schools where over 35% of the children are eligible for the federal free lunch program. The SAS program serves over 75 schools across the Capital Region, from Columbia County to Saratoga County. Children are able to receive dental screenings, cleanings and dental sealants as part of their school day, preventing them from missing valuable learning time and eliminating the need for parents to take off a day of work. For children who present with dental caries (cavities) or dental pain, the HCD team coordinates with WYH Dental and other local dental partners to connect children to a dental home to receive the advance dental care they need.

TRANSFORMING ORAL CARE IN FAMILIES:

is a project started by **Health Efficient** to create greater integration of oral health education and services in primary care departments in Federally Qualified Health Centers in the Northeast. Over the past 18 months, members from WYH Dental and Pediatrics have been working together to develop a new workflow to integrate caries risk assessment, oral screenings, and fluoride varnish application during the well child visits for children 0 – 40 months.

DENTAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM:

In March 2023, WYH's Dental Department was awarded a \$500,000 Teaching Health Center Planning & Development Grant by the Health Resources & Services Administration to establish a **Dental Residency Program** in the Capital District by 2025. With the recent closure of the St. Peter's Hospital Residency Program, the Capital District only has two residency programs remaining, bringing four residents annually to the area. The WYH Dental Team is excited to have Dr. JP Gonzalez-Torres join us as our Dental Residency Director, leading the development of the Program. He comes to WYH with nearly 15 years of experience serving as the Dental Director of the Callen-Lorde Dental Department and Residency Site Director for the NYU Langone Dental Residency program.