

# Urban Leaders Live



Urban Leaders live a different life....this newsletter will help keep you up to date and in the loop!

January 2015

Volume 2, Issue 4

## Inside this issue:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Letter           | 1 |
| Important Dates  | 1 |
| Upcoming Events  | 2 |
| Follow Us        | 2 |
| Member Spotlight | 2 |
| Member Spotlight | 3 |

## Important Dates

- 1/2 Timesheets Due
- 1/2 ULT Training
- 1/9 ULT Training
- 1/16 ULT Training
- 1/19 MLK Day of Service - All day service project
- 1/23 ULT Training
- 1/27-1/29 ULT Mid-Year Retreat
- 1/30 ULT career training (optional)

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM URBAN LEADERS IN TRAINING!

### Letter from the Program Assistant:

Hope you all had a wonderful holiday!

In the season of giving, Urban Leaders in Training made the most of December. Many of our organizations celebrated the holiday season, and it took a lot of organization and collaboration before the festivities could begin. Our service project this month was at the Tacoma Rescue Mission's Adams campus where ULT members wrapped presents for parents in the Rescue Mission program who selected gifts for their children. A vast number and array of gifts were donated for the children and no parent went away without a good sized bag or two full of wrapped presents to make their kid's Christmas holiday. This month ULT members also started trainings about Wounded Leadership facilitated by Melissa Monroe and Dave Hillis from the Leadership Foundation. There were difficult discussions to understand what it means to be a wounded leader who sees and tends to their wounds. Seeing and addressing the wounds we all carry is a hard thing to wrap our minds around. Bringing in the New Year we hope you all the best and that we continue the enriching conversations and engagement as we get to know one another and the city we have chosen to serve.



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## Follow Urban Leaders in Training every step of the way



“Like” and invite your friends to “Like” the Urban Leaders in Training Facebook page for more updates and photos throughout the year.



Visit <http://northwestleadership.org/urban-leaders-in-training/> for blog posts about our recent service projects.

## Upcoming community engagement opportunities

### 1/1 Polar Bear Plunge 2015

- \* 12 pm
- \* Point Defiance boat launch. 5912 N. Waterfront Drive in Point Defiance Park

### 1/2 Biggest 12th Man Rally: Tacoma

- \* 5 pm
- \* 1-5 Overpass At the Tacoma Dome

### 1/8 January Green Drinks

- \* 5 pm Pacific Plaza (BLRB Office)
- \* Free film screening of *Biophilia* followed by drinks at Tacoma Cabana

### 1/9 The Distinguished Writer Series: Patty Kinney

- \* 7 pm

- \* King's Books, 218 St. Helens Ave

### 1/11 The Power of Determination: Achieving Our Goals

- \* 10 am
- \* Tushita Kadampa Buddhist Center, 1501 Pacific Ave S, Suite #301

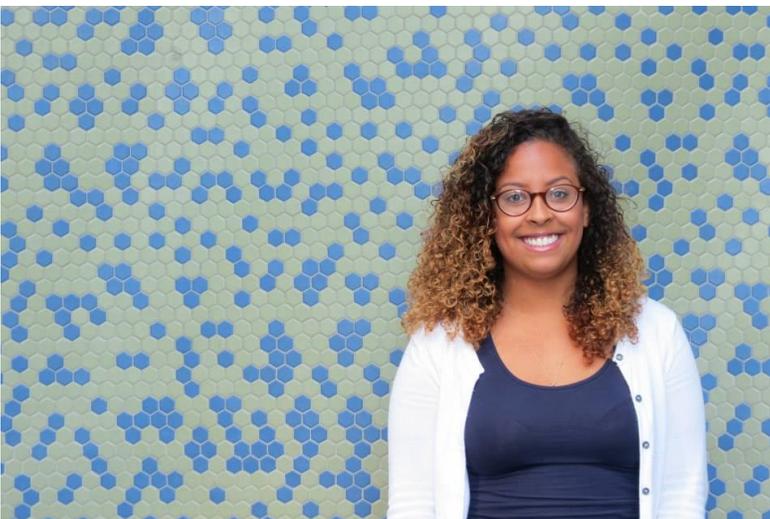
*“When I look into their eyes I can see me.”*

*- Prescott-Jennings*

## Shanessa Prescott-Jennings

Shanessa Prescott-Jennings is a Rescue Mission Teen Youth Program Specialist. She is the liaison for the Rescue Mission at Truman Middle School. She supports the students at lunch time and in some of their classes. Prescott-Jennings also provides evening programming, community group work and homework help. She enjoys when the kids open up to her and ask her for advice. “When I look into their eyes I can see me,” said Prescott-Jennings. She was proud of the preschoolers who sang at the Rescue Mission fundraiser this fall. She does not spend a lot of time with them and said they were so precious. Prescott-Jennings explained that the Rescue Mission seeks to help others to help themselves through God. She has found it challenging having to see the young

people she has connected with either kicked out or leaving the Rescue Mission. Overall these three ULT members have found it challenging to see kids leave due to the quick turnover. Most times they recognize that these kids’ lives beyond their time at the Rescue Mission will be ok and sometimes they know that they may be heading into worse situations. She said, “I want to be the person for them that I didn’t have at their age.” Prescott-Jennings wants to continue to work with youth beyond ULT. She said that ULT is helping her see the good in herself.





## Leilah Korbines

Leilah Korbines is serving as a Rescue Mission Youth Program Coordinator.

She works with kindergarteners through fifth graders at Adams Rescue Mission campus and DeLong Elementary. She is a familiar face for the students at lunch time and liaison between the parents and teachers. Korbines also provides evening programming activities and field trips for the kids. Korbines said she likes to go to FABITAT (a space for creativity on MLK Jr. Way). Korbines said, "These kids don't have a lot of control over their own lives." Being in the space has enabled the kids to have self-guided exploration through drawing and dance. Korbines has found it challenging to recognize that she can only do so much and has to create good boundaries with the kids. She likes working with them and creating a safe place because they are all going through a lot. They are able to learn, have fun and just be kids. Korbines said, "I'm trying to approach each kid as a unique person." In the back of her mind she knows they are homeless but is also letting them teach her something too. Korbines has appreciated the ULT has been a space for being vulnerable and that members were able to share aspects of themselves from the beginning. It has been an opportunity for her to learn from a lot of different people. After ULT Korbines is planning to go to graduate school in Public Health Nutrition with the hopes to share a specific knowledge and benefit people in that way.

## Aaron Konsker

Aaron Konsker is serving as a Rescue Mission Youth Program Coordinator this year.

He teaches preschoolers and leads homework help for students at Tyler Elementary. Tuesday evenings he is also the resident staff member for a group of Boy Scouts. Recently Konsker had a volcano day for the preschoolers where they made a paper mache volcano and watched volcano videos. When he gets the chance, he incorporates fun programming. On Tuesdays he has open jam sessions and invites his friend who played with him in a reggae band to provide live music and instruments for the kids to play. Konsker said, "I've been very fortunate to get to work with people who generally care about the people in the community that they live in." Konsker has enjoyed working and listening to other ULT members. "The beautiful thing about people," he said, "is that they are like snowflakes. They are all different." Konsker graduated with a creative writing degree. Thinking beyond ULT, he said the environment this year has given him the opportunity to look through the eyes of somebody else and get to feel what makes them feel. "As a writer," said Konsker, "you study people and try to find a way to parse out what is the human experience." Konsker added, "At the end of the day we are here to make the community better and I know that when I walk into the room."



*"The beautiful thing about people is that they are like snowflakes. They are all different."*

*- Konsker*