

# Chace Baptista

2008 Emerging Leader Award



Chace Baptista, a 21 year-old student at Community College of Rhode Island, was a high-risk teen just six years ago. He is now Co-Director of Young Voices, an organization he helped found, whose mission is to transform young people into powerful public-policy advocates through training in advanced research, public speaking, and debating. Chace designed the intensive training curriculum and, as a facilitator, helps empower other youth to be leaders.

At 14, Chace was kicked out of school and sent to Providence's Alternative Learning Project. At that time, he became involved with Youth In Action (YIA), where he took on leadership roles, leading workshops for youth and overseeing pregnancy prevention education efforts which served 250+ teens.

Chace also became Co-Chair of the YIA board, and partnered with then Executive Director Karen Feldman, LRI '01 and a recipient of the David E. Sweet Leadership Award, to raise more than \$500,000 in a capital campaign.

Chace was one of two young people selected to sit on the Mayor's Advisory Board, and on the Mayor's Task Force for Work and Opportunity. He also represents Young Voices at public meetings such as the Mayor's Task Force on Poverty, Work, and Opportunity, the RI Civil Rights Roundtable, and RI Kids Count.