



## Emerging Leader Award

---

### **Michaelle Larracuente** ***Co-Chair, Board of Directors*** ***Youth In Action***

A senior at Classical High School, Michaelle Larracuente is already making an impact in Rhode Island. Her accomplishments at 17 are remarkable, and as a first-generation American from a low-income, inner-city family, she has overcome great odds and become an inspiring role model to those around her.

At Youth In Action, a non-profit focused on helping urban youth become life-long leaders, Michaelle ran a critical program known as Youth Educating About Health (YEAH). Through this team, youth teach their peers with an intensive 20-hour curriculum in pregnancy and HIV prevention. Michaelle trained and supervised a team of 18 youth to reach more than 380 teens. She is an inspiring role model for the youth on her team, and showed an amazing ability to empower them to take over the leadership of the team.

Not only has she taken on the challenging role of coordinating the YEAH program, Michaelle also functions as the Co-Chair of the Youth In Action board of directors. She oversees the board, recruits and trains new board members, facilitates meetings, fundraises, and ensures that the organization is fiscally sound.

Michaelle is a determined and very committed young woman. Beyond Youth In Action, she served as a junior counselor for an after school program; was an active member in Helping Hand, a project to coordinate food drives for the hungry; organized a Northeast Leadership Academy for teens through the Black Catholic Ministries; and coordinated a group of youth to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual World Festival of Youth in Venezuela.

In addition to giving so much time to community projects, Michaelle works at the local library 25 hours a week to support her family, and she regularly takes care of her younger siblings.