

## Youth Call to Action

### Panelists:

**TeKeidra Masters**, JMG alumna, Benton Harbor High School Class of '20, student at Valparaiso University

**Delann Pillivant**, JMG alumna, Pershing High School Class of '20, student at University of Michigan

**Dominique Clay**, JMG Specialist with GST Michigan Works

### Co-moderators:

**Kristin Harrington**, Executive Director, Youth Solutions

**Charmae Sanders**, Director of the Start to Finish Program, Lake Michigan College

### Personal Change

- Understand that whatever you see in your house, is not what the world looks like.
- Realize the barriers youth of color face.
- Choose your words carefully and think before you speak. It's important to understand words have meaning and affect people differently.
- Be respectful of all people and all cultures.
- Treat people equal and fair.
- Reflect and adjust.
- Live by example.
- Don't feed into stereotypes.
- Listen to different perspectives.
- Racism is negative, talking about it is not.
- Be careful what is said around children.
- Become more aware and realize how differently some people live and are treated.
- Start at home and with your friends; help educate others.

### Organizations - Get involved and volunteer

- Boys and Girls Clubs - become a mentor or volunteer; in [Benton Harbor](#), or to [find a location](#) in your community
- BFF (Becoming Future Friends) - volunteer to be brought into the conversation teens are having, contact TeKeidra Masters, [tmasters@bcgbh.org](mailto:tmasters@bcgbh.org)
- [Youth Solutions, Inc.](#), learn how you can get involved and impact the lives of Michigan's youth
- [Women of Tomorrow](#),
- Our Sisterhood: No Boundaries program through the Detroit Police Department, 313.596.2200

### Change Through Education

- Teachers should receive adequate training in diversity and inclusion.
- Teachers and school counselors, get to know your students and listen to them.
- Celebrate different cultures and diversity in the classroom.
- Students need to be built up, not pushed down.
- Celebrate differences.
- Teach all young people that they have a place and are important.

### Community Involvement

- Listen to teens as they are the future.
- Engage with non-minority groups to educate them; help them understand and promote differences.
- Become leaders and mentors who will guide youth to do better and be better.
- Parents should talk to their children about racial inequity, other cultures, and how to be a good human. They should seek community support to help the conversation.
- Bring the community together with different people and different voices. Make sure there is equal representation at the table.
- Keep talking about it. "Conversation leads to action; action leads to change." - Charmae Sanders
- Community book reads.
- Help the next person. "When my community pours into me, it's only right that I give back." - TeKeidra Masters
- Communities need to work for the benefit of each other.