

CollegeBound

SAINT PAUL

2024 COHORT

Ambassador Directory

Pathways for Every Child, Family and Future.



Ahmani Curtis

Ahmani is a proud CollegeBound parent with two kids in the program. She is excited to be an ambassador and connect with other parents and help them understand the benefits of CollegeBound. She is a proud Westsider and previously connected to the Promise Neighborhood. One of her favorite resources in Saint Paul is Neighborhood House and the Wellstone Center.

Amira Kemal

Amira is one of our ambassadors who is a parent of a CollegeBound kid! Some of her favorite things to explore in Saint Paul are the Como Zoo, History Center, and Science Museum. She also thinks the Saint Paul Libraries are a great resource. Amira is excited to spread awareness about CollegeBound to her community.





Anel Mendoza

Anel is a former Eastsider and is looking forward to connecting to Saint Paul residents as an Ambassador, particularly connecting with the Latino community. Some of her favorite Saint Paul activities are walking on the high bridge and Harriet Island and eating pupusas at Manana.

Ariel Mendoza

Ariel Mendoza is originally from the West Side, but currently lives in the Rondo neighborhood. As a returning ambassador, she continues to stay involved because of how much she enjoyed connecting with families last year! She wants all families to know what an amazing resource CollegeBound is for babies. Ariel enjoys taking her daughter to different parks and trails around Saint Paul so she can experience all the different seasons.

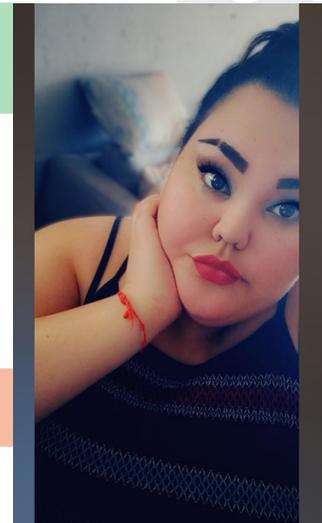


Bao Yang

Bao Yang has connections to the East Side and Frogtown neighborhoods in Saint Paul. Her favorite resources are WIC, the Hmong American Partnership, and the Saint Paul Public School system. Her favorite restaurant is Bangkok Thai Deli, on University Avenue, because “they have the best Thai Food in Saint Paul!” Bao became a CollegeBound ambassador because she thinks it’s a great program that every eligible family should be a part of.

Bella Mendoza

Bella Mendoza (pronounced Bay-ya) was born and raised in Westside Saint Paul. Her favorite restaurant quickly became Boca Chica's Taco House and her favorite store is El Burrito. As a child, Bella would walk to El Burrito for her grandmother or drive to Taco House with her mom to get food. Growing up, it was rare for her to see someone who completed college, which is part of why Bella chose to become an ambassador. She wants to help families start a college fund for their children through CollegeBound.



Cindy Valenzuela

Cindy is a proud CollegeBound parent and enjoys exploring the outdoors with her son! She has lived in Westside and Eastside and currently is in Frogtown. Cindy loves visiting the Saint Paul Farmers Market and checking out new organizations and resources at various community events. She is looking forward to spreading the word about CollegeBound as an ambassador.

Devina Moore

Devina Moore is a passionate educator, dedicated mother of two, and an enthusiastic CollegeBound Ambassador. Growing up in Saint Paul, she was raised in the vibrant communities of Rondo, Frogtown, and on the Westside. Devina has a deep appreciation for the crucial roles played by local resource organizations like Saint Paul Promise (SPP) and the Wilder Foundation in nurturing community well-being. Her personal journey has instilled in her a strong belief in the power of education and community support to transform lives. Devina is committed to sharing these invaluable resources with families, guiding them towards greater opportunities and a brighter future.





Joshua Vang

Josh lives and works in downtown Saint Paul but also spent a lot of time in Frogtown. He loves using the light rail and Evie car share to get around. Josh loves exploring new places to eat and some of his favorites are, Kalsada, Sabrina's, eM que viet, Afro Deli, and Manana.

Keshawn Williams

Keshawn heard about CollegeBound as a grandparent of a CollegeBound kid. Keshawn is a foster parent and is looking forward to giving back to her community as an ambassador. She is part of the Black Business Enterprise in Minnesota and is a professional face painter and owner of Keshawn Characters.



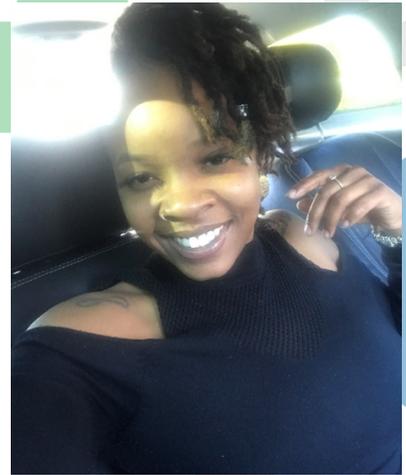
Kindra McGee

Kindra McGee is a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, growing up in Chicago, IL and Compton, CA. Kindra learned at an early age she wanted to work in the medical field; she has been caring for family members since she was five years old. Today she works as a Perinatal Educator and Certified Medical Assistant continuing to care for people.



Krissy Cook

Krissy Cook became an ambassador because she enjoys providing other people with opportunities. She has connections in the Frogtown and East Saint Paul neighborhoods and highly values the libraries, gyms, and overall community. Krissy doesn't necessarily have a single favorite place to go in Saint Paul; she's very spontaneous so however she's feeling in the moment will get her attention – she does LOVE to eat!



LeAndra Estis

LeAndra is a proud Rondo descendent and current homeowner in Frogtown. She is also a CollegeBound parent and is looking forward to meeting people as an ambassador and learning about their experiences in the community; she hopes to connect people to resources that provide them hope. LeAndra is connected to various resources in Saint Paul including Habitat for Humanity, CAPRW, and Prepare + Prosper. She enjoys exploring, nature walks, supporting students at school events and activities, and visiting the Black History and American History Museums.

Lydia Say

Lydia is a connected to Eastside Saint Paul and SPPS. She is looking forward to being an ambassador to meet families in the community and connecting with other ambassadors. Lydia enjoys exploring new cuisines from other cultures and countries in Saint Paul. You can also find her walking in the rain or enjoying crime shows.





Maria Soto

Maria Soto is a special needs teacher assistant for Saint Paul Public Schools. She has three daughters and a son, as well as four dogs! She enjoys walking around the lake. Maria chose to return to being an ambassador in order to help in our community by providing information about different resources the City of Saint Paul has available.

Maryam Fathi

Maryam is looking forward to getting engaged as an ambassador to share the resources CollegeBound has to offer. She is currently working as a housing coordinator and connecting people to housing resources. A resource Maryam benefited from in her own college journey was Breakthrough TwinCities. She also enjoyed biking around Saint Paul!

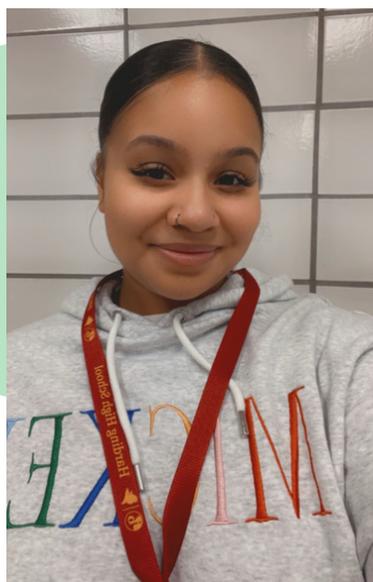


Maureen Nelson

Maureen is an active member of the Eastside neighborhood. Maureen and her family love spending time at the Saint Paul Public Libraries and engaging in all the activities put on by SPPS; she is also a parent to a CollegeBound kid! Maureen loves summer and spending time at the Saint Paul Farmer's Market and visiting parks to see local artists perform.

Munira Esmael

Munira Esmael is from the Frogtown neighborhood in Saint Paul. She enjoys visiting the farmers market and Nina's Café, and values the utility of the libraries all around the city. Munira became an ambassador because she wanted to be an outreach person for her community.



Phoenix Cobb

Phoenix is proud to have been raised in Rondo but now works at Harding High School and sports Eastside pride. She is a CollegeBound parent and is looking forward to connecting families to share her personal experience on how CollegeBound has influenced how she thinks about her child's future. Phoenix also enjoys other resources in Saint Paul like the libraries, Wilder, and Keystone. Phoenix loves music, puzzles, shoes, and visiting Raspberry Island.

Pierre Laban

Pierre is a CollegeBound dad and is looking forward to introducing more families to CollegeBound along with other resources. He is a Eastsider and his favorite resource is the Sunray Library. Pierre loves spending time with his kids, reading, working out, playing and coaching soccer.





Rita Shimeles

Rita grew up in North Minneapolis but now calls Como home. She is the proud parent of a CollegeBound child and is looking forward to meeting new people and helping others as an Ambassador. She loves going to her local YMCA and her family has a tradition of visiting Conny's every summer.

Sandy Velazquez

Sandy was raised in Minneapolis but is now a proud Saint Paul North End resident. Sandy is also a proud CollegeBound parent. She is looking forward to connecting CollegeBound to her network and especially the Latine/Latino community and first generation immigrants. She loves biking to Como Lake and Park during the summer and visiting Lake Phalen and various ice cream shops like La Michoacana and Treats.



Shawnte Allen

Shawnte's ties are to Frogtown and Eastside Saint Paul. She is a grandparent of a CollegeBound kid and is looking forward to giving back to the community. Shawnte enjoys the art and hiking Saint Paul offers.



Tigsti Tsegabrhan Weldemariam

Tigsti got connected to CollegeBound as a parent of a CollegeBound kid! She is looking forward to connecting families to various resources as an ambassador. Some of her favorite things about Saint Paul are all the playgrounds, libraries, Como Zoo, and the Children's Museum

Tracy Jones

Tracy Jones was born and raised in Saint Paul, between the Frogtown, Midway, and Central Village neighborhoods. She has worked with Ramsey County for over 25 years, mostly within corrections. In 2019, she transferred to social services, where she supervises Mother's First, working with pregnant and parenting women. Outside work, she's a season ticket holder for the Timberwolves and is missing in-person games!

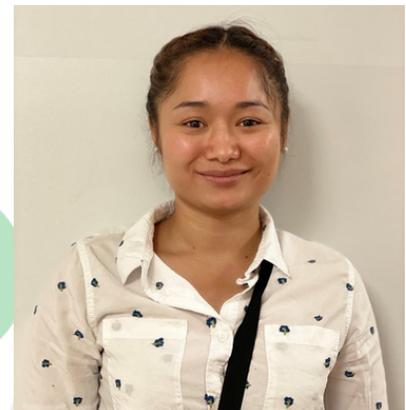


Tsedale Gurmessa

Tsedale is one of our ambassadors who has a child in CollegeBound! She is looking forward to encouraging others to get involved in all the opportunities that CollegeBound offers. She is connected to the Westside and some of her favorite resources in Saint Paul are the public playgrounds and CAPRW.

Wah Paw

Wah Paw is a returning ambassador from the East Side Saint Paul community. Her favorite resources in Saint Paul are the libraries and food shelf, as hubs to access more resources. Wah chose to become an ambassador because CollegeBound similarly acts as a hub, connecting many communities. She likes shopping and exploring the mall!





Yasmin Muridi

Yasmin is connected to the Eastside of Saint Paul and enjoys being an Ambassador because she likes listening and connecting with parents and highlighting local resources. Yasmin's favorite resource in Saint Paul is our great public library system! She also loves to explore and travel when possible.

Yer Moua

Yer got connected to CollegeBound as a parent with a child in the program. She is looking forward to giving back to her community as an ambassador and connecting people to resources. She is from the Eastside and her favorite places in Saint Paul are the Hmong Village and Comotown. She enjoys gardening, visiting the farmers makers in Saint Paul and bringing her son to various activities in Saint Paul.



Zahra Nooh

Zahra is a proud Westsider and Saint Paul Public Schools employee. Zahra appreciates the various community centers and Parks and Recreation programs in Saint Paul. She is looking forward to connecting with parents and ambassadors as an CollegeBound ambassador. Zahra also loves traveling and enjoyed her last trip to Dubai!