

Volunteer of the Month: AHNA

We began this feature last month with the story of a young volunteer living here in Asylum Hill, and knowing that there must be hundreds of volunteers whose stories we don't know. So we'd like to reach out to you our readers, to let us know about the volunteers that you know, who are doing good work to help their neighbors and whose story needs to be told. So this month we'd like to feature not one individual but rather 18.



They are the AHNA Board of Directors.

They are the volunteers I work with most closely and whose dedication inspires me so much. Most of them live here in Asylum Hill, but all of them who don't are still connected to Asylum Hill in their hearts. Either through their church or their work, they spend a lot of time here and care about the richness and diversity of this neighborhood.

They are; Dean Amadon, a long time member of Asylum Hill Congregational Church, now retired serves on the board and tutors students at West Middle School. David Ambrose, a young father of three school age children who moved to AH 3 years ago as a homeowner, he is vice chair of AHNA. George Annan-Kingsley, a refugee from Ivory Coast whose wife and son were only able to join him here last year. He is a painter & sculptor and teacher at Trinity Day School. Nancy Caddigan, a long time resident and employee of HPL, Nancy works extensively with the immigrant community to help them integrate into the community. Jennifer Cassidy, a very long time resident and tireless volunteer, she has served twice as chairperson for AHNA and simultaneously chaired several committees. Sekienna Ellis, a property manager at Capitol View Apartments, Sekienna is the treasurer of AHNA, chair of the finance committee and our most dedicated environmentalist. Dulcie Giadone a resident in the only house in Asylum Hill that moved; she has chaired the housing committee and is a dedicated volunteer for many arts organizations, most recently, the Hartford City ballet. Frank Hagaman recently returned from the mid-west with a wealth of real estate knowledge and a passion for historic buildings, he is the Exec Dir of the Hartford Preservation Assoc. Ken Johnson, the Exec Dir of NINA and a homeowner in the West End works tirelessly to turn vacant and derelict properties into beautiful historic homeownership opportunities for Asylum Hill residents. Luwannia

Johnson-Martin a resident of Sargeant St has been a champion for Sigourney Square Park and Asylum Hill in general. Mike Marshall as VP at Aetna has shared his vast real estate and business experience, his unerring common sense and the considerable resources of Aetna to combat blight and create stable homeownership throughout Asylum Hill. Yvonne Matthews our newest chairperson currently working at the Urban League has worked her whole career with various non-profit organizations to help those in need succeed. Michelle McFarland as head librarian at the Mark Twain Branch returned to the neighborhood where she previously lived and rejoined AHNA after nearly a decade away. Jackie McKinney for many years AHNA's Vice Chair continues to represent AH at H2K where she is the co-chair. Dr. Marcus McKinney, VP at St. FrancisCare Center for Health Equity is the experienced voice of reason at our meetings and the contact for all things related to healthcare. Paul O'Mara, our resident historian since 1973 is also the chair of our Communications Committee and creator of much of each newsletter. John Prescod Executive Dir of Connectikids is our expert on all things educational. Nancy Rion, a member of Immanuel Congregational Church is the champion of the children and parents living on S. Marshall St. All together we are the AHNA board and together with the AHNA members and our many friends and colleagues, we dedicate countless hours to making Asylum Hill the neighborhood people are proud to call home.