



POSITIVE EXPOSURE

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IMAGE DESCRIPTION: Four square pictures on a black and blue background. From left to right: (1) A young Asian boy is sitting on the floor against a yellow background. He is smiling and looking into the camera. (2) Two women are sitting next to each other. One of them is kissing the forehead of the other woman. (3) A young toddler is sitting on a counter. She has a hightop ponytail and is wearing a tan fur vest and pink pants. She has a red dot on her left cheek. (4) A man with dark skin is looking into the camera and laughing. He is wearing glasses and a blue shirt.

POSITIVE EXPOSURE IN FOCUS

With spring now in full swing, we are excited to share the happenings at POSITIVE EXPOSURE since the start of the new year, as well as what lies in store for the future – all of this made possible by your continued support!

In early January, we participated at the launch of University of Pennsylvania Dental Medicine's Care Center for Persons with Disabilities and the celebration of a permanent installation of POSITIVE EXPOSURE images.



IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A lady is standing in a room with light aqua walls. She is wearing a long white physician's lab coat. She has short red hair and is looking into the camera smiling. Another lady is sitting in a chair and is also wearing a white physician's lab coat. Six images hang on the wall behind them.

This was followed by a series of educational presentations and workshops at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine's Genetic Counseling Program, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Cornell University Pre-Med, Case Western University's Schubert Center for Child Studies and the 2021 Cochrane Skin Annual Meeting.

POSITIVE EXPOSURE CONNECTS

Facebook LIVE
WITH
Rick Guidotti

#BetterTogether

positiveexposure.org

Brain Injury Awareness with



Mauricio Blandino
NYC Chapter Chair
Brain Injury Association



Raelani Hartnett
Student at Washington
University, St. Louis



Toni Hickman
Hip Hop, Rap Artist
Singer, Songwriter



Dylan Keusch
Boston Children's
Hospital



Anthony Ptak
Artist, Composer NYC

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: Black, white and blue background. On the left side wording reads, "POSITIVE EXPOSURE Connects, Facebook LIVE with Rick Guidotti, #BetterTogether. On the right there are six square images of people who are all ages and races who are looking into the camera and smiling. Wording at the top reads, "Brain Injury Awareness." A round green and blue logo for MORE THAN MY BRAIN INJURY is at the bottom.

POSITIVE EXPOSURE Connects — community conversations on Facebook Live and other social media platforms — was chock full of important information and lively chats with friends from the Marfan Foundation, The Moebius Syndrome Foundation and GiGi's Playhouse — New York City. Other episodes featured Understanding Audio Description Narrative with Voiceover Artist and Advocate Michele Spitz, the Future of the Beauty Industry with Disability Advocate Xian Horn and round table discussions on Rare Disease and Brain Injury Awareness.

With the inability to conduct in-person interviews for our FRAME (Faces Redefining the Art of Medical Education) films, we transitioned to the ZOOM platform where medical students from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, SUNY Downstate, Temple University and Yale had the opportunity to interview both specialists and families from all across the United States and the UK. The resulting films — Costello in FRAME and Tetrasomy 18p in FRAME — were met with great success, providing the inspiration for future FRAME and educational films in the virtual setting.



IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A matrix of 18 images created by a screen shot from a ZOOM call. Each image includes one to two people who are all facing the camera. They are smiling, talking or listening to the conversation.

In collaboration with the Wilhelm Foundation, the Mayo Clinic and the Undiagnosed Diseases Network International, POSITIVE EXPOSURE created a virtual exhibition of images from Australia, India, Mali, the Netherlands and Sweden which will be released for public viewing on April 9TH. Stay tuned for the link! It's going to be AMAZING!

Meanwhile, the POSITIVE EXPOSURE Gallery at 109TH Street and NYC's Museum Mile has been safely humming with activity! Not a week goes by without one photo shoot!

In late January, POSITIVE EXPOSURE called upon our community to come together and create a public art installation for Valentine's Day as an extension of POSITIVE EXPOSURE's "East Harlem Wall of Love" by Marco Santini. For his mural — which is located in the courtyard POSITIVE EXPOSURE shares with The Church of St. Edward the Martyr and the New York Common Pantry — Santini used an array of geometric shapes and colors with the word LOVE written in over 100 languages to symbolize that, "There is more that unites us than divides us." Building on this concept, POSITIVE EXPOSURE requested that the community submit artwork addressing the theme of LIGHT, LOVE, UNITY and INCLUSION.



IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A large collection of paper bag luminaries sit on the ground. Each is covered with artwork. Several hang from at the top. The background is a brightly colored wall with geometric shapes with the word LOVE written in different languages. It is nighttime.

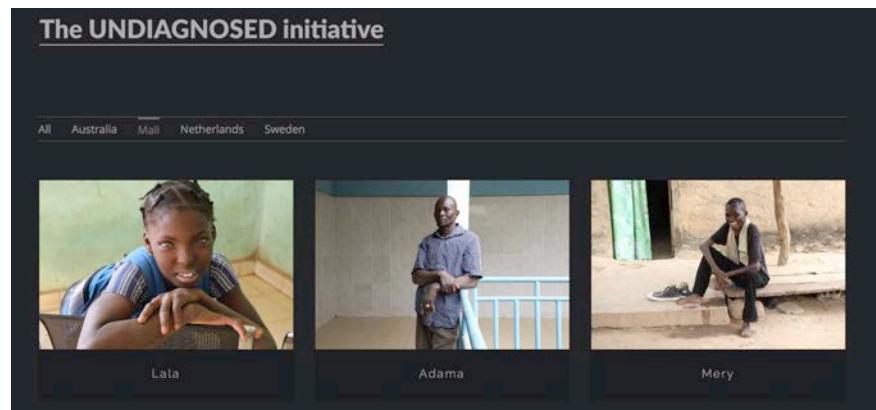


IMAGE DESCRIPTION: An image with a dark gray background and wording in light gray that reads "The UNDIAGNOSED initiative. Below are the pictures all featuring people with dark skin. From left to right (1) A young girl with bright blue eyes is looking into the camera. She is wearing a blue top with a light green background. (2) A gentleman is standing against a railing, looking into the camera with a slight smile. (3) A young teenager sits on a step, smiling. He is wearing a dark top.



The community response and submitted artwork was exquisite, kicking off the first in a series of collaborative public art installations based on the theme, "Fill the World with Love." This inaugural installation — entitled "Light Up the Night with Love, Unity and Inclusion" — showcased and illuminated more than 250 pieces of art from around New York City and the globe! It was truly spectacular!

Other artists who have been busy at work in the POSITIVE EXPOSURE Gallery include:



IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A woman with dark skin and long dark hair stands in front of a green backdrop. She is wearing a silver dress. A man with black clothing is facing her and filming. A tall speaker is off to the right. Behind the setting images and art hang on the wall

Lachi, an award nominated recording artist, songwriter, author, model and diversity inclusion advocate based in New York City.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Lachi.

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Zazel Chavah O'Garra, Founder and Artistic Director of ZCO/DANCEPROJECT, a physically integrated dance company whose goal is to create performances that are witty, soulful, intelligent, powerful and intriguing. ZCODP seeks to encourage the integration and inclusion of people with disabilities in dance and in society, to present new, exciting, challenging, and inspiring contemporary dance performances to the widest possible audience.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about DANCEPROJECT.

Wendy Ann Powell, Professional Dancer, Choreographer and Disability Advocate. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Wendy.



IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A large peace symbol created out of crocheted flowers hangs on a tall chain-link fence. A basketball court is in the background and an individual with dark skin is walking in front of the art.

Naomi Lawrence, a NYC Fiber Artist based in East Harlem, works with acrylic yarn to create oversized two-dimensional crochet flowers, trees and wildlife. Site-specific installations are sewn onto chain-link fences in parks and public spaces.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Naomi.



IMAGE DESCRIPTION: Two women with dark skin are smiling and looking into the camera. (Wendy, left, has long, curly hair & Zazel, right, has very short dark hair.) Both are wearing white blouses and black pants. A brightly colored geometric wall is in the background.

PEARLS (POSITIVE EXPOSURE Ambassadors' Real Life Stories) Ambassadors in the Community

In partnership with Case Western Reserve University's Schubert Center for Child Studies to celebrate the 2021 Cleveland Humanities festivals, PEARLS Ambassadors were invited to speak on a panel entitled, "In Our Own Words: PEARLS Ambassadors & Youth Advocacy," discussing their own journeys and what inspires them to speak out.

During the fall, Cornell University's Cameradery Club adapted their "in person" photography program to a virtual experience for interested PEARLS Ambassadors, creating a safe, creative space where both Cornell students and PEARLS Ambassadors explored the art of photography together in teams. Each week revolved around a

different theme and each week inspired participants to express themselves through the lens of the camera. As PEARLS Ambassador Charlotte exclaimed, "I had so much fun hanging out with Kayla and Georgia and taking lots of crazy photos!! I love them — they are sassy and awesome." The resulting photography exhibition — which is spectacular — will be on display at the POSITIVE EXPOSURE Gallery, as well as online, beginning this month!

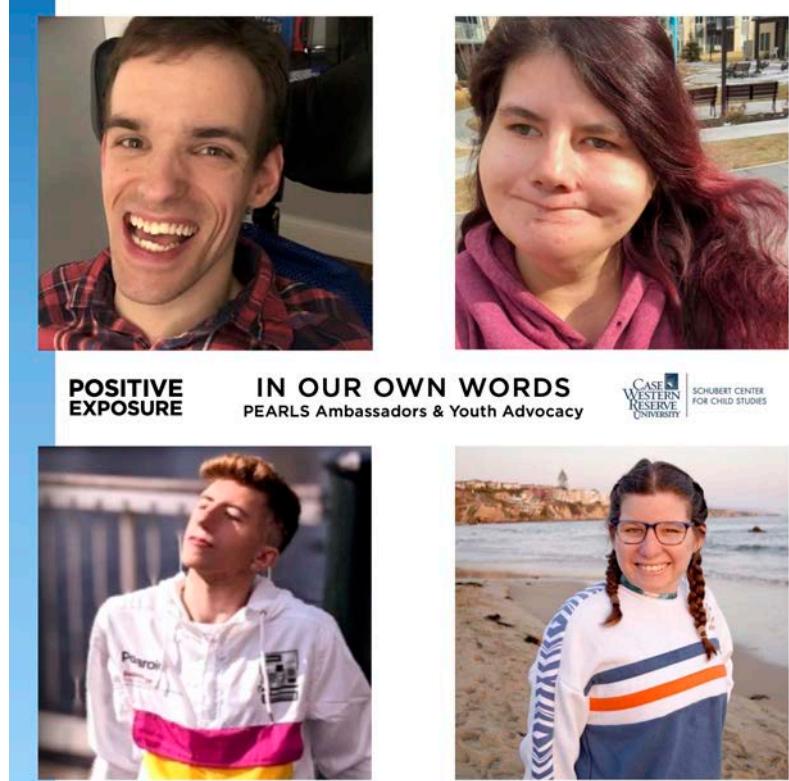


IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A white background with blue line on left. Four square images of young adults — two guys and two girls. They are all smiling. Wording in black font reads, "In Our Own Words, PEARLS Ambassadors & Youth Advocacy." Logo for POSITIVE EXPOSURE is on the left and logo for Case Western Reserve University is on the right.

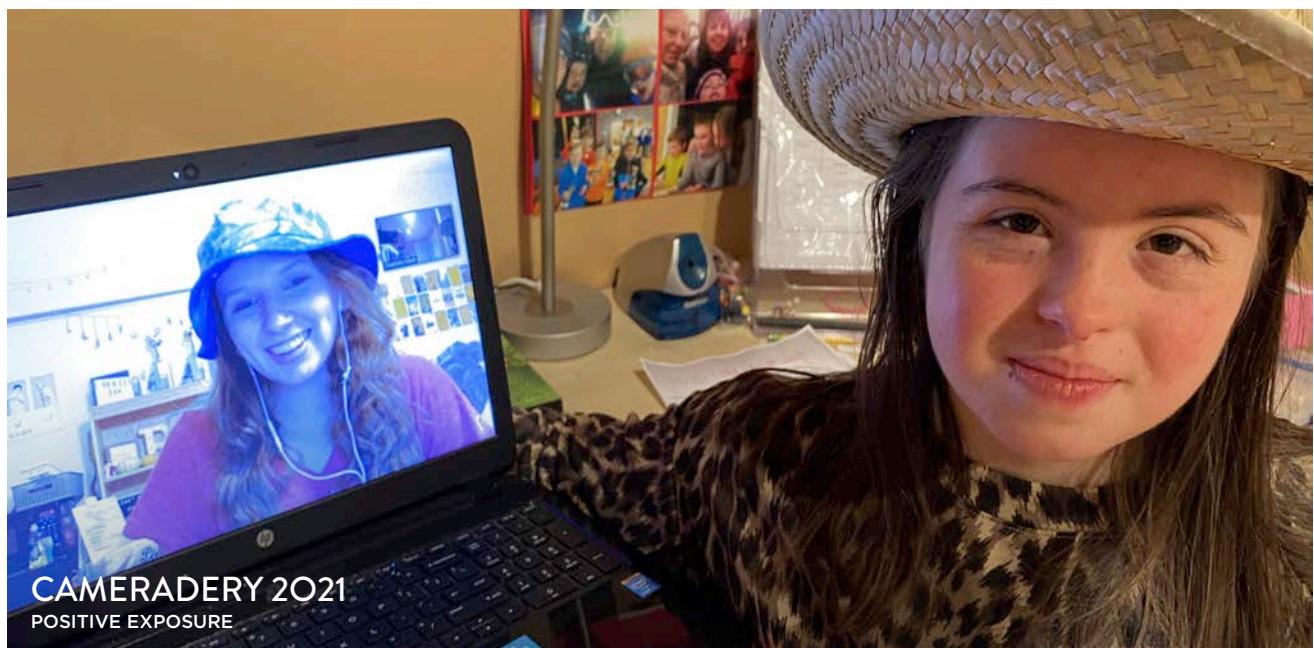


IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A young girl with brown eyes and light skin is wearing a hat and a leopard print top. She is looking into the camera and smiling. Next to her is an open laptop computer. On the computer screen is a lady on a video call. She is smiling and looking into the camera and also wearing a hat. She has earphones in each ear.

Looking Ahead!

Thanks to the generous support of the WITH Foundation, and in collaboration with American Academy of Developmental Medicine & Dentistry (AADMD), the Child Neurology Foundation (CNF) and the National Task Group on Intellectual Disability & Dementia Practices (NTG), POSITIVE EXPOSURE will create three FRAME films featuring Aging in the Intellectual and Developmental Disability Community and the Supported Decision-Making Process. The mission of the WITH Foundation is to promote the establishment of comprehensive healthcare for adults with developmental disabilities that is designed to address their unique and fundamental needs.

With a grant from NYC Department of Health and Mental Health, we are in the process of installing an Extra Large Flat Screen, Smart TV and Virtual Reality for the POSITIVE EXPOSURE Gallery and Educational Programs.



IMAGE DESCRIPTION: Two men are standing on either side of a large screen TV and are hanging it on a black wall. Both men are wearing dark clothing and masks. A box from the TV sits in the lower right corner. Plastic is covering the wood floor for protection.

We are in the midst of creating a vibrant exhibition schedule complete with activities to kick off what we hope to be an exciting summer and fall season that includes “in-person” and virtual events at POSITIVE EXPOSURE!

We are also developing an artist-in-residence program, a mental health initiative working to address stigma associated with psycho-social disabilities and a billion new collaborations.

A Message from Kathleen Cail, Chair of the Board

Happy Anniversary! We just reached the one-year mark of the official naming of the COVID-19 Pandemic. It has been a year like no other in several generations. There is no need to describe the year in detail, as we have all experienced it “together” — masked, socially distanced and separate!

For us, 2020 was a year of learning and new beginnings. In January, we stumbled across the perfect house and neighborhood for our daughter Grace. We moved into our new house in August and were living among renovations. By Christmas, we were unpacking boxes and settling in.

With the pandemic, we knew it would be hard to meet neighbors. What could we do to get to know people, when we can't gather?

As the mother of a nearly 22-year-old daughter with a disability, social isolation wasn't new to us. Grace has spent many weekends and after-school hours at home. I have been working in building a more inclusive community for people with disabilities for a while, and I knew that we had an opportunity to continue that journey in our new neighborhood. “Create” was the operative word here, as the pandemic forced all of us to think outside the box.

To meet our neighbors, we took advantage of good weather, our corner lot, with a wide-open front and side yard, and Grace's interests. We installed a Little Free Library for the neighborhood, with Grace as the library steward. This library has become an attraction and is getting a lot of book traffic. We celebrated Harry Potter's birthday, by setting up a table outside, with Grace's handmade (pretzel) wands, dipped in chocolate and decorated with colored sprinkles for each Hogwarts' house color. Each person who stopped by, got to pick his/her/their “house.” On the centennial anniversary of women's suffrage, Grace decorated her wheelchair with purple, white and yellow balloons and rolled around, giving out yellow roses to anyone who said she (he, they) supported women's rights. We held a political meet and greet in our front yard, and for Christmas, Grace hosted a neighborhood carol-sing, with self-serve hot chocolate, cookies and a fire pit. Throughout all of this we have met neighbors and feel connected in our community.

The data is clear, social connections and friendships lead directly to better health. We all want to be invited in, valued, allowed to contribute, celebrated and loved for who we are. For this to happen, we have to SEE each other. When we truly SEE each other, social connectedness begins.

POSITIVE EXPOSURE's images, videos, stories and programs have allowed our family and so many teachers, doctors, peers, neighbors, friends, and leaders in our greater community to SEE Grace. Wishing all of you a wonderful spring — as we SEE each other!



IMAGE DESCRIPTION: Four people, all with light skin, are sitting on the floor against a gray sofa. From left to right: (1) A young adult gentleman is wearing a white shirt and purple sweater. He has auburn hair and a beard. (2) A lady with shoulder-length brown hair is wearing a black turtleneck and jeans. (3) A young lady with long brown hair is wearing glasses and a rose colored velvet dress. (4) A gentleman with little hair is wearing a blue top and navy sport coat. All are facing the camera with pleasant expressions.

GET READY!

Last year people from around the globe joined us for our first virtual Change How You See, See How You Change Celebration. We hope you and your friends and families will join us for our 2021 Celebration. It will be a stellar night you won't want to miss!

For additional information or questions, please contact
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SAVE THE DATE

POSITIVE EXPOSURE 2021 CHANGE HOW YOU SEE CELEBRATION

September 22, 2021
7:00 PM EST
Virtual Celebration

POSITIVEEXPOSURE.ORG

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: Three images on the left in a vertical row. Background of black, gold and white. Wording on the right in gold and black reads, "Save the Date, POSITIVE EXPOSURE 2021 Change How you See Celebration, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM EST, Virtual Celebration."