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## Letter from Nikki Flionis

In 2019 MissionSAFE expanded its work with young people in multiple Boston neighborhoods and across gang boundaries to decrease violence and retaliations. Staff identified neighborhood influencers in areas hit by violence and have begun to bring them together around job and community volunteer training. **We continue to work with Boston Police, Boston Public Health Commission, and Suffolk County District Attorney partners to divert young people from the criminal justice system and, with courts and probation, assist in successful re-entry. Our YLSC/EA programs are expanding** as we work with youth in the Timilty Middle School, begin girls' groups and parenting programs in Mission Hill, Timilty, and at 18 John Eliot Square, and engage our YLSC youth more deeply in volunteer, horizon-broadening and civic engagement activities with various partners. **We continue to expand and strengthen staff and board, and will be introducing a vibrant Advisory Board in 2020.** We complete this year grateful for all our youth and staff have been able to accomplish!



**Nikki Flionis**  
Executive Director, Founder  
MissionSAFE

## Summer Horizon Broadening



Our YLSC and Futures programs experienced many new activities over the summer that broadened their horizons and made them believe they can do things they never imagined. Through our great partnerships with City to Saddle and Teen Adventures with Paddle Boston, many of our youth had first time experiences riding horseback and paddling kayaks. The Futures program also started an entrepreneurship project using a partnership with T-shirt company, QRST, to help participants learn the fundamentals of the T-Shirt business. Our Futures young people designed, created and sold specially-designed T shirts at the Cambridge Jazz Festival. Throughout the entrepreneurship project, our Futures program focused on decision-making, budgeting, and teamwork.

## YLSC Success in the Classroom



We would like to congratulate all of our 2019 YLSC school-year participants who this year *all* moved to the next grade level, with no one held back! Additionally, one of our YLSC youth received a Civic Award. For our Futures program, a record number of young people obtained driver's permits and HISET/GED certificates!

## Our Board of Directors

- |                   |                                 |                   |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ronald Koning Jr. | Nancy Galloway-Jones            | Solange Blanchard |
| Anne Carrabino    | Florence Koplow                 | Judy Leff         |
| Maria Marzilli    | David Leathers, <i>Emeritus</i> | Carlos Gomes      |

**DONATE**

Please become a sustaining supporter of MissionSAFE youth by donating \$10 per month.

MissionSAFE is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization (federal tax identification number 04-3457195), gifts are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



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Phone: 617-427-0377

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## Staff Highlight: Brandi Artez



MissionSAFE is thankful to have Brandi Artez as staff and mentor for our youth in the YLSC and EA programs. A member of Roxbury Community College, Class of 2009, Brandi has worked at Brookline High School as the Homework Center Coordinator and at

Department of Youth Services as the Youth Service Coordinator. Brandi explains why she enjoys working at MissionSAFE: "I love working with young people from the communities that I am from. I'm also a MissionSAFE alum, so I understand the need for safe spaces in underserved communities. Every day with the kids is something brand new that I cherish. They're amazing young people and hysterically funny." The impact on the community is extremely important for Brandi. "I see our young people's grades improve over the school year, see them going out and being able to obtain and maintain employment and building friendships with other youth that they thought they had nothing in common with. MissionSAFE has a great impact on their lives and they bring the lessons learned here into their communities and schools."

## Summer Internship Program

Our Summer Internship Program was a huge success this year, with MissionSAFE YLSC and Futures interns serving in placements ranging from internships at the State House and City Hall with Reps. Nika Elugardo, Liz Miranda and City Council President Andrea Campbell, to hospitals, health clinics,



Roxbury Community College, other non-profits and businesses. We also offered our on-site Arts in Action internship, with Spoken Word, photography, painting and drawing. Simmons University hosted us once again this year, providing classroom and training space as well as computer lab access and audio/video support. MissionSAFE's Summer Internship Program provides our youth with job readiness, leadership and other training as well as experiential placements in different career possibilities. We thank all of our partners for providing youth with these great opportunities.



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## Fall Volunteering and Turkeys

**THANK YOU FOR A HAPPY THANKSGIVING,  
STATE ELECTRIC CORPORATION!!!**



*Proven Experience. Powerful Performance.*

Thank you to State Electric for **donating 90 Turkey Dinners for MissionSAFE youth** and their families! Along with State Electric employees, **our new Futures recruits pitched in** to help stuff 90 Thanksgiving bags, then joined MissionSAFE staff in distributing them to families. **Futures youth also pitched in** to collect hundreds of toys to be distributed to children for the holidays and two of our Futures youth started full-time jobs at State Electric!

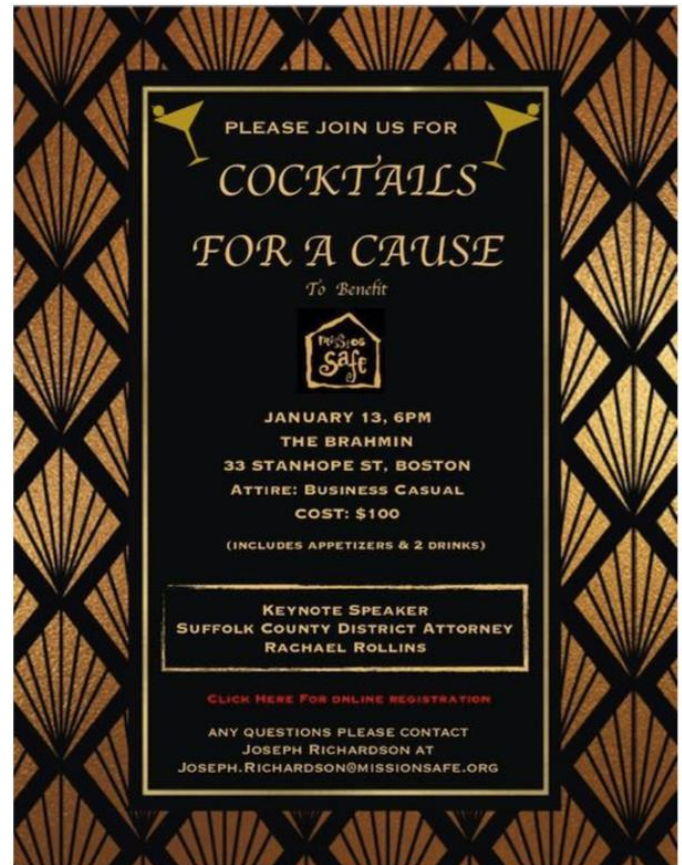
## MissionSAFE Trauma Training

MissionSAFE is teaming up with **InVision Institute's Trauma Transformation Project**, created by **MissionSAFE co-founder, Anne Carrabino**, to begin a series of trainings to make sure we are a fully trauma-responsive program and that our youth and staff understand trauma's impacts and how to create conditions for resiliency in our program and the community.

## Save the Date!

Please join us for "Cocktails for a Cause" on January 13th! We are excited to welcome Rachael Rollins as our Keynote Speaker. It will be a great night!

**Click below to register!**



*MissionSAFE's annual fundraiser impacts the lives and safety of at- and high-risk youth in Boston. Your contribution is a catalyst of hope for hundreds of youth served by MissionSAFE.*

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