



# Keep Calm and YAC On

## Race Relations Forum

**By: Zach Skillings**

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, students from every high school in Forsyth County gathered at Parkland High School to discuss the important matter of race relations. The event, put together by the Human Relation Department of Winston Salem, consisted of a diverse group of students. At a time when race relations are such a crucial issue in our nation, it is important that such events as the Race Relations Forum are held in order to initiate conversation regarding this matter. Students on the panel voiced their opinions about race issues in America and how race comes into play during their daily lives.

Key points were made by several members of the panel, including Nonnie Egbuna of Parkland, who emphasized that discussion is an important aspect of dealing with matters of race. Egbuna, who started a social justice club called the Mandela Society, felt better about race relations at Parkland compared to other schools. Other students discussed the need for more diversity in AP and Honors classes. Overall, the discussion demonstrated that young people in our community are aware of race issues and are ready to take action. The Winston Salem Youth Advisory Council is pleased to have had several members attend and participate in such an important event. 🐾



Race Relations participants pose with Council Member Vivian H. Burke and Human Relations Director, Wanda Allen-Abraha.

**By: Isabella Rico, Chairperson**

## 2015-2016 YAC Chairperson

The Youth Advisory Council is the leading edge of Winston-Salem for high school students. We are an organization composed of two high school representatives from all private and public schools in Forsyth County. We are the youth voice to the Winston-Salem City Council and are advised by the Human Relations Department. We attend and volunteer at other various opportunities around Winston-Salem. We create an annual project each year that is unique and impacts Winston-Salem positively. This year we are bringing a national event to Winston-Salem, Everyone Matters Day on April 2.

When I first joined the Youth Council I had a sense of excitement and couldn't wait for things to start. Now, as the current chairperson, I get to see new members come in with the same excitement I had. By the time this YAC year is over, I know our bonds with each other and the impact that we share with Winston-Salem will inspire the next year to come. 🐾

### CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Allen Joines; Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Northeast Ward; Denise D. Adams, North Ward; Dan Besse, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; Molly Leight, South Ward; Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward; Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward;

### CITY MANAGER: Lee D. Garrity HUMAN RELATIONS STAFF

Wanda Allen-Abraha, JD, Human Relations Department Director; Tonya McPhatter, Administrative Assistant/Intake Specialist; Jayme Waldeck, Specialist/Outreach; Adolfo Briceño, Specialist/Hispanic Outreach; Jelani Biggs, Specialist



Youth Advisory Council Members before the State Youth Conference hosted by Winston-Salem in October.



## Annual Project

### Everyone Matters Day

By: Aditi Pilani

This year, the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council plans to base their annual project on “Everyone Matters Day.” “Everyone Matters Day”, hosted annually by the American College Personnel Association, is an attempt to advocate and support every individual’s right to express themselves regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, ability, worldview, or faith. The campaign empowers students to take a stand against unfair inequality and promote inclusion as well as individuality. The council will attempt to further promote “Everyone Matters Day” throughout Winston-Salem by hosting a festival on April 2, 2016.

The purpose of this event is to push both children and adults to develop their own sense of self-acceptance and then extend this acceptance to include others. As members of Winston-Salem Youth Council, we have recognized the invaluable impact every member of a society plays in the betterment of the community. “Everyone Matters Day” is a unique opportunity for this year’s youth council to spread this message to the rest of the community.



### International Village

By: Robert Ganzert

International Village is a festival celebrating the diverse cultures in the local area. A variety of diverse food throughout different countries was offered, as well as a variety of dances were presented. It amazes me how many cultures are presented in our community. All were welcome to enjoy the diversity in the Winston-Salem area.

This year, the Youth Advisory Council offered a selection of face painting, free coloring, and the bouncy houses. Many kids had a great time in the bouncy house, and they were able to color sheets to show off their creativity. Face painting was also appreciated. I worked at the coloring station, and many children enjoyed coloring on papers to represent those of different cultures. These children could earn candy for their coloring, and they get to keep their own coloring. Many kids had a great time at not only the coloring station, but also the face painting station, and especially the bouncy houses. International Village is a great way to enjoy the diversities in our area.

#### YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 15-16 OFFICERS:

Isabella Rico, Chair; Victoria Rivera, Vice-Chair; Ross Hickman, Secretary; Abdull Mosley, Historian

**15-16 YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Devika Ghosh, Atkins; Robert Ganzert, Bishop; Ross Hickman, Calvary Baptist Day School; Logan Short, Calvary Baptist Day School; Dakota Pinckney, Carver; Harley Magno, Early College; Isabella Rico, Early College; Victoria Rivera, East Forsyth; Jack Dew, Forsyth Country Day; Nuri Park, Glenn; Abdull Mosley, Kennedy; Makiya Stewart, Kennedy; Jaya Mishra, Mt. Tabor; Jacquelyn Sullivan, Mt. Tabor; Marc Bertoni, Paisley; Avionna Burns, Paisley; Zach Skillings, Parkland; Kirsten Smith, Parkland; Aditi Pilani, Reagan; Naomi Aaron, Salem Academy; Omsai Meka, West Forsyth; Natalia Ortiz, West Forsyth; Jalisa Lumpkin, W-S Prep