

A portrait of Christian Herbert, a Black man with a large, curly afro, wearing glasses and a blue button-down shirt with a colorful patterned collar. He is smiling and looking slightly to the right. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

“I look forward to completing my master’s program and becoming a BCBA at YCS Sawtelle so that I can continue supporting our students on a higher level and make an even greater impact.”

Christian Herbert

Teacher’s Aide, YCS Sawtelle Learning Center

Gordan Family Trust Employee Scholarship

A THANK YOU FROM YCS RECIPIENTS



“Taking the Rutgers University SHRM-CP Certification Course has been an *incredibly positive and empowering* experience. The course content was practical, engaging, and directly aligned with real-world HR challenges, allowing me to *immediately* apply what I learned to my role at YCS.”

Through this program, I strengthened my skills in employee relations, compliance, and strategic HR thinking—tools that help me better support our staff and, in turn, enhance the quality of service we provide to our clients.

I am deeply grateful to the scholarship donors whose generosity made this opportunity possible. Your investment in professional development not only supports individual growth but also strengthens organizations like YCS that are dedicated to serving our communities with excellence and compassion.

Sheri Brown

Generalist, Human Resources

I was an extern, intern, and post-doc candidate at the YCS Institute prior to becoming a full-time licensed clinician. I am scheduled to take DIR Floortime in March.

DIR Floortime is a comprehensive framework to guide young children’s conceptualizations and treatment through an affirming, interdisciplinary lens. It is an essential step for me to further support the children currently participating in Floortime therapy, in turn allowing for their greater progress.

I am so appreciative of your generosity, especially amidst nation-wide policy changes that are not necessarily supportive. I love the work I do at YCS, and it is motivating to know that there are people who want to support our professional development and ultimately enhance the quality of the services we are providing.

I also feel even more connected to YCS knowing that you have supported my learning in such foundational and transformational ways.

*Giuliana Stillo
Licensed Psychologist
YCS Institute for Infant &
Preschool Mental Health*



“The Gordan Family Trust Employee Scholarship gave my team something rare: We were able to attend a PAT Conference that gave us space to reconnect with why we do the work we do for ourselves and for our families.”

Pia Anjelica Ababon

Program Supervisor, Parents As Teachers Program

Thanks to this scholarship, our Parents as Teachers team attended PATCON 2025, a national conference focused on home visiting and program leadership. As program administrator, I gained new insights on program sustainability, data use, and continuous improvement.

Our team participated in workshops that strengthened family support and staff development. We are truly grateful to our donors for investing in professional learning that directly benefits YCS families.

*Jorge A. Montanez-Murillo, IECMH-E®
Coordinator of Early Childhood and
Community Programming*

The Gordan Family Trust Employee Scholarship gave my team something rare: We were able to attend a PAT Conference that gave us space to reconnect with why we do the work we do for ourselves and for our families.

The shared learning, honest conversations, and fervent energy translated directly into clearer collaboration and has given us more confident decision-making on the job. We all came back grounded, motivated, and better equipped to show up for our work and for one another.

*Pia Anjelica Ababon, Program Supervisor
Parents As Teachers Program*

I am currently participating in Montclair State University’s Intensive Fellowship in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) and Early Relational Health (ERH). This fellowship has strengthened my understanding of early development and directly supports the work I do with families in New Jersey’s Early Intervention system. I am sincerely thankful to the donors whose support makes opportunities like this possible.

Kelly Butryn, Unit Coordinator, YCS Passaic Early Intervention Program

I am currently employed as a Teacher's Aide at YCS Sawtelle Learning Center and thanks to this generous scholarship, I am enrolled in the Master's Program in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. This semester, I am currently enrolled in Introduction to Analysis and Single-Case Design and Principles of Behavioral Analysis.

Through my coursework, I am learning a wide range of ABA concepts that directly connect to my day-to-day work at Sawtelle Learning Center. Being able to understand and apply behavioral principles in real time has made a significant difference in how I approach student behaviors. Concepts that once felt abstract are now much clearer, and this deeper understanding has helped me de-escalate behaviors more effectively and respond with greater confidence and intention. Overall, my coursework has greatly strengthened my practical skills and professional growth.

I would like to sincerely thank the Gordon Trust donors for providing this opportunity and for helping ease the financial stress of pursuing graduate education. Your support allows me to remain focused on my studies and professional development.

*Christian Herbert, Teacher's Aide
YCS Sawtelle Learning Center*

As a Speech Therapist at Sawtelle Learning Center, I was able to complete the first level of PROMPT training in Manhattan. Getting the opportunity to complete this training was career changing.

This program is a highly sought after certification that unlocks the ability to provide specific, tactile prompting to the motor speech areas of the face. Such prompting would promote accurate articulation, vowel production, voice use, and more. There are many students in our school that are non-verbal or minimally-verbal and with implementation of this program, I can now enhance their verbal skills.

By simultaneously addressing their communication needs with their AAC devices, I can target our students' expressive language with a varied communication network that they can use to share their wants, needs, and feelings.

Thank you to the family and I hope to continue to honor the legacy of the Gordan Family.

*Megan Daniels, Speech Therapist
Sawtelle Learning Center*

Thank you so much for your generous scholarship support. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and your kindness has made a meaningful difference in my educational journey. The timing of this support could not have been more perfect!

Receiving this scholarship is incredibly special to me, as it is my first time being awarded one.

Your generosity has motivated me even more to continue working hard and striving toward my academic and professional goals. Thank you again for your support and belief in my future!

*Shani Alexander, Case Manager,
YCS Holley Center, Fisher Hall*