



November 20, 2024

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"My wish for you  
Is that you continue  
Continue  
To be who and how you are  
To astonish a mean world  
With your acts of kindness  
Continue  
To allow humor to lighten the burden  
Of your tender heart  
Continue  
In a society dark with cruelty  
To let the people hear the grandeur  
Of God in the peals of your laughter..."

Maya Angelou

”

Beloved Community,

At Vital Village Networks, we remain dedicated to our mission of fostering community-driven solutions to promote health, equity, and justice. During this time of transition in national politics, we are steadfast in our commitment to address social and structural injustices, to value and honor our shared humanity, uphold human dignity, defend human rights, and lean into deep listening and authentic relationships. Together, we will continue the work to build a just world and ensure an equitable future is the birthright of every child, standing by our core values with resolve.

Welcome to the November 2024 edition of the [NOW Innovation Forum Newsletter](#). We are excited to share additional opportunities and resources with you this month. In this edition you're invited to:

- Learn more about the National Birth Justice Fellowship, and apply or nominate a fellow before the application closes on November 22
- Save the Date for this year's final webinar on December 5, *Building Community Power through Food and Education Systems Transformation*
- Listen to episode 1 & 2 of our *In the Arena with NOW* podcast
- Explore the NOW Resource Library featured resource, *Building Blocks for Success*
- Support Our Giving Tuesday Campaign, *Together We Thrive*

Thank you for your commitment to children, families, and communities and for joining us as we journey through another year together.

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Amada Comunidad,

En Vital Village Networks, seguimos dedicados a nuestra misión de fomentar soluciones impulsadas por la comunidad para promover la salud, la equidad y la justicia. Durante este tiempo de transición, somos firmes en nuestro compromiso de abordar las injusticias sociales y estructurales, de valorar y honrar nuestra humanidad compartida, defender la dignidad humana, defender los derechos humanos e inclinarnos a la escucha profunda y las relaciones auténticas. Juntos, continuaremos trabajando para construir un mundo justo y garantizar que un futuro equitativo sea el derecho innato de todos los niños, al mantener nuestros valores fundamentales con determinación.

Bienvenido a la edición de noviembre del 2024 del [Boletín Informativo del NOW Innovation Forum](#) (Foro de Innovación NOW). Nos complace compartir oportunidades y recursos adicionales con usted este mes. En esta edición está invitado a:

- Aprender más sobre la Beca Nacional de Justicia de Nacimiento, y solicitar o nominar a un becario antes de que cierre la solicitud el 22 de noviembre
- Guardar la Fecha para el taller virtual final de este año el 5 de diciembre, *Construyendo Poder Comunitario a Través de la Transformación de los Sistemas Alimentarios y Educativos*
- Escuchar los episodios 1 y 2 de la temporada 3 del podcast *En la Arena con NOW*
- Explorar el recurso destacado de la Biblioteca de Recursos de NOW, *Bloques de Construcción para el Éxito*
- Apoyar Nuestra Campaña Martes para Dar, Juntos Prosperamos

Gracias por su compromiso a los niños, las familias, y las comunidades, y por acompañarnos en nuestro recorrido ante otro año juntos.

## Network Highlights

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## National Birth Justice Fellowship: Now Accepting Applications

Applications are open for the [National Birth Justice Fellowship](#)! This 18-month fellowship supports local changemakers who are actively engaged in initiatives aimed at reducing health inequities and injustices experienced by birthing families, particularly among populations that have been historically marginalized. Be a part of building a national, community-led birth justice network. Applications close on **Friday, November 22 at 11:59 pm ET**.

[Apply Here](#)



## Next Webinar: Building Community Power through Food and Education Systems Transformation



Throughout the year, we've explored the critical question: What does it look like to harness, activate, and build community power? What can we learn from resident-led advocacy movements and their strategies toward self-advocacy, collective action, and legislative change? Join us on **Thursday, December 5 at 1:00 pm ET** for our closing webinar of the year to learn from local leaders who are centering healing and community power sharing by transforming food and education systems. Featured speakers include **Ashley Rouse**, Executive Director at The Edible Schoolyard Project, and **Tailor Coble**, FoodPrints Early Childhood Program Manager at FRESHFARM.

[Register Here](#)

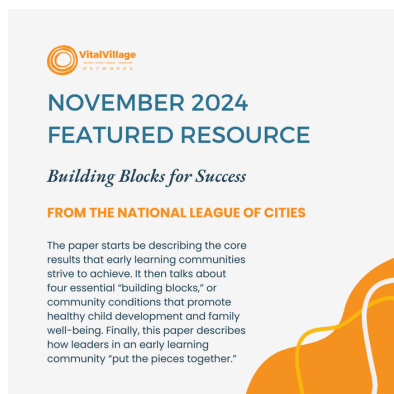
## In the Arena with NOW: Listen to Episodes 1 & 2

The first two episodes of season 3 feature long-time Vital Village Networks leader and founding circle member, **Josette Williams**. As Director of Boston Public Schools' innovative Countdown to Kindergarten program, Josette asks us to rethink the often-asked question, "Who has a seat at the table?" and consider the historical and systemic processes that shape who has access and opportunity to decision making power within communities. We learn about critical strategies to engage parents in processes to develop city priorities and embed restorative justice practices within family-facing systems and institutions. Tune in to hear Josette highlight the important roles that we all play in the movement to transform systems and build collective community care.



[Listen Here](#)

### NOW Resource Library Feature: *Building Blocks for Success*



From the National League of Cities, *Building Blocks for Success*, outlines the four "building blocks," or community conditions, for Early Learning Communities that promote healthy child development and family well-being. Leaders can learn how to "put the pieces together" in order to achieve the desired result of Early Learning Communities. Read more and check out other resources in the [NOW Resource Library](#).

[Access the Resource Here](#)



This Giving Tuesday, we invite you to join us in building healthier, more connected, and equitable communities for children and families. *Together We Thrive* embodies our shared commitment to uplift one another, recognizing that we're all part of a larger community of change-makers.

**Our goal is to reach our highest participation ever.** Your contribution, regardless of amount or type of service, is vital to the power of our collective.

As one of our cherished network members shared: *"We are not simply an island but one body, many members... with hope, courage, and strength to keep moving forward."*

Give Together, Give Today

The NOW community hopes to stay connected and lift up the work and stories of all of our members. Follow and tag us so that we can virtually highlight the community-led transformation you are leading

#VillageInMind



[www.networksofopportunity.org](http://www.networksofopportunity.org) 

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