

Syda Segovia Taylor has close to 20 years of experience bringing opportunities to youth in Chicago's under-served communities and prides herself of being a social justice advocate: promoting race unity, gender equality, and oneness of humankind, health and food access, the arts, harmony between science and religion, and quality education.

She received her M.A. Community Development & Social Justice degree from Loyola University, has a B.S. in Kinesiology from the University of Illinois at Chicago (with an emphasis on teaching health and fitness to children), and carries a Youth Development Practitioner Certification from the Chicago Area Project.

A former dancer and elementary physical education/health teacher, Taylor has devoted herself to improving the holistic health of young people. She is currently using her health passion to rebuild the 24-year-old Bahá'í inspired non-profit, Health for Humanity, which connects health practitioners to local and global service opportunities.

Before her life at Health for Humanity she was the Director of Programs & Community Relations for Project Exploration where she helped revive the organization to earn national recognition. Syda served as the Education Program Officer for Local Initiatives Support Corporation and managed the nationwide Elev8 initiative in addition to overseeing three New Communities Program neighborhoods: Greater Auburn-Gresham, Logan Square, and Albany Park. Prior to that she served as the Elev8 Director at Reavis Elementary for Quad Communities Development Corporation and implemented the \$4 million plan with a multitude of community partners in Bronzeville. Preceding that, she was a Program Specialist for After School Matters (ASM) where she co-created the values statement and annual citywide showcase. Previous to ASM, she served as Interim Center Director for South Shore Cultural Center and before that role she started dance programs on the south, west and north side for the Chicago Park District.

Syda is a 14-year resident of Bronzeville and resides with her husband of 19 years and their 17-year-old daughter. They are all active members of the Chicago Bahá'í Community and strive to bring justice to every situation. Her journey as a breast cancer survivor motivates her to help others be centered on the greater purpose of life. With her mom from Columbia and dad from Honduras, she considers herself a global citizen and promotes the oneness of humankind.



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