

## **Natasha Ray**

Natasha Ray is the Core Services Manager for the New Haven Healthy Start Initiative, a program of the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. In her previous position as, Consortium Development Coordinator for the Initiative, she spent over 15 years increasing the involvement of community residents in the project, engaging local communities as partners, as well as the medical professionals who deliver care in New Haven. Prior to joining The Foundation, Ms. Ray worked as a case manager for the Maternal and Child Health Division of the City of New Haven Health Department and spent 5 years as a Residential worker at Life Haven Shelter.

A native of Norwalk CT, Ms. Ray is a graduate of Springfield College of Human Services, where she earned her Master's degree in Organizational Management. She is a former commissioner on the City of New Haven's Homeless Advisory Commission, the Co-Chair of the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar Steering Committee at Yale University, Secretary of the New Haven Diaper Bank and a council member of the City of New Haven's Early Childhood Council.

In February 2002, she became the first person to receive the Pillar of the Community award established by the Christian Community Action agency. This award recognized Ms. Ray's efforts in the New Haven community, her leadership as the former president of Mothers for Justice, and her work with New Haven Healthy Start.

In January 2010, she co-lead a research study on "The Relationships between University and Community Based Organizations" with Dr. Karen Wang, a former Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar and has served in an advisory capacity on various Clinical Scholar projects at Yale University. In 2013, Ms. Ray was awarded the Yale University Seton Elm-Ivy Award.