

TOBACCO
FREE RHODE
ISLAND

MEET THE 2022-2023
TOBACCO-FREE YOUTH
AMBASSADORS

 American Lung Association®

Armina Parvaresh Rizi | Lincoln, RI



Meet Armina Parvaresh Rizi! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from Lincoln, RI and this is her third year as an Ambassador. Armina graduated from Lincoln High School and is now a freshman at Northeastern University in Boston. She has been involved with TFRI, the Blackstone Valley Prevention Coalition, and the Herren Project since her sophomore year of high school. Her biggest goal is to spread awareness about the impacts of substance misuse and help decrease the rates. Fun fact about Armina: She can speak five languages!

Emely Padilla Duran | Providence, RI



Meet Emely Padilla Duran! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from Providence, RI and this is her second year as an Ambassador. Emely is a senior at the Rhode Island Nurses' Institute in Providence and was recently accepted into the Rhode Island Department of Health's (RIDOH) Youth Health Ambassador Program where she will work with a team to find solutions to a health issue in her community. She wants to educate herself on tobacco prevention and share this knowledge with her community to stop the use of tobacco. Fun fact about Emely: She can run super fast when she gets scared!

Emily Jedson | West Greenwich, RI



Meet Emily Jedson! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from West Greenwich, RI and this is her fourth year as an Ambassador. Emily graduated from Exeter West Greenwich High School in 2021 and is now a sophomore at the University of Rhode Island (URI) in South Kingstown. She plays on the URI Women's Ice Hockey team and is very passionate about sports and helping athletes stay away from tobacco and other substance misuse. She also loves talking to incoming freshmen about the dangers of tobacco and substances, as she believes that early intervention can help save lives. Fun fact about Emily: She has an orange cat named Charlie.

Emily Rojas Patzan | Providence, RI



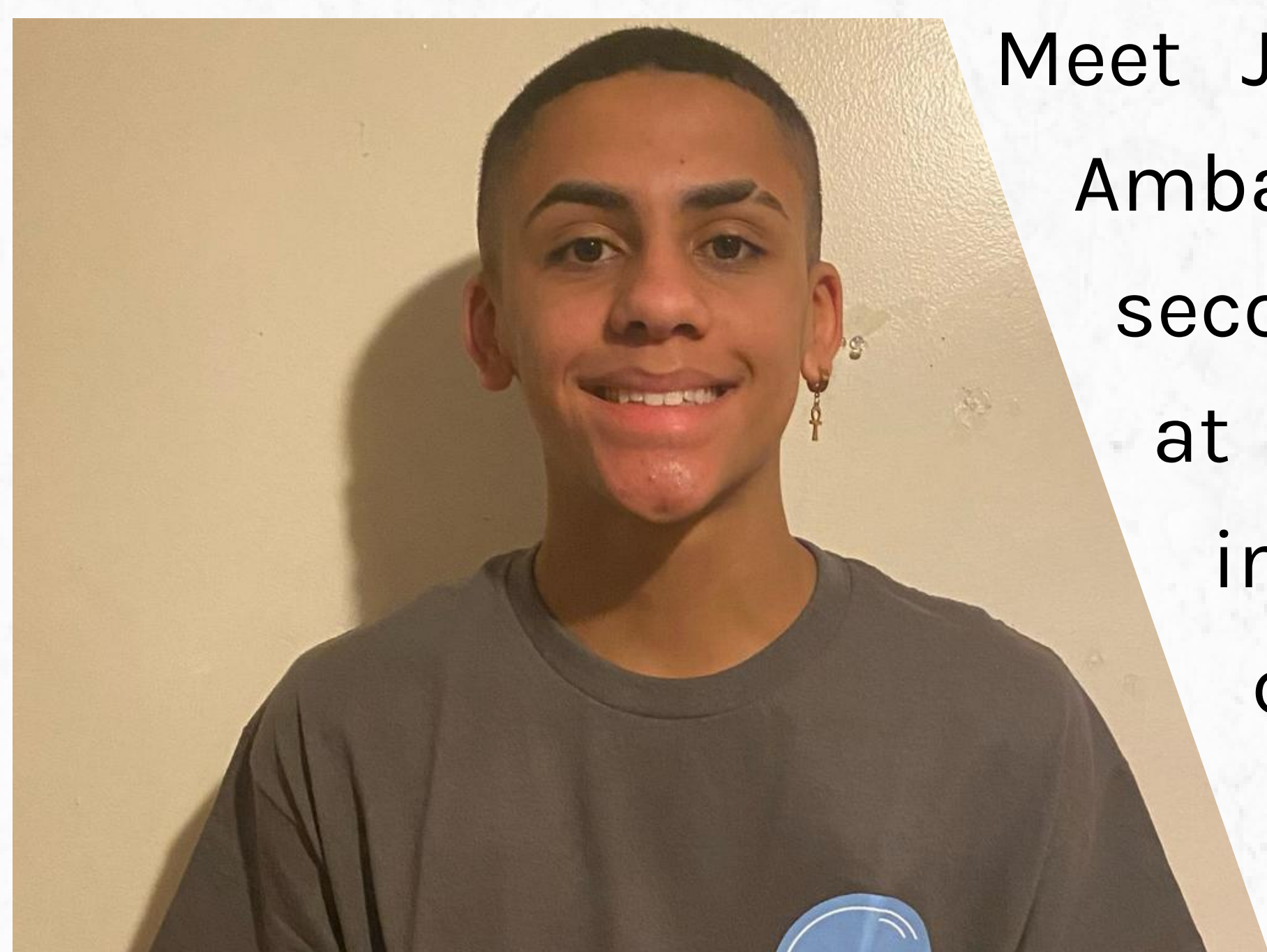
Meet Emily Rojas Patzan! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from Providence, RI and this is her second year as an Ambassador. Emily is a senior at the Rhode Island Nurses' Institute in Providence and is a part of the National Honors Society and student council. She also recently became a part of the Rhode Island Department of Health's (RIDOH) Youth Health Ambassador Program. Emily wants to help bring more awareness about tobacco use to underrepresented communities. Fun fact about Emily: She enjoys taking singing lessons.

India Gaffney | Smithfield, RI



Meet India Gaffney! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from Smithfield, RI and this is her first year as an Ambassador. India is a senior at Smithfield High School and plans to pursue a career in Computer Science; she is passionate about working towards equality in STEM spaces. She is a member of the Smithfield Youth Council and is interested in learning about the impacts tobacco use has on marginalized communities.

Joshua Ramirez | West Warwick, RI



Meet Joshua Ramirez! He is a Tobacco-free Youth Ambassador from West Warwick, RI and this is his second year as an Ambassador. Joshua is a freshman at West Warwick High School and his goal is to impact the next generation so that drugs are as close to being erased from the market as possible. Fun Fact about Joshua: He speaks English and Spanish!

Kaya Gaffney | Smithfield, RI



Meet Kaya Gaffney! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from Smithfield, RI and this is her second year as an Ambassador. Kaya is a freshman at Smithfield High school and plays field hockey. She wants to help lower the use rates of e-cigarettes in her high school. Fun fact about Kaya: She loves to take day trips to New York City!

Kealy Concepcion Santos | Providence, RI



Meet Kealy Santos! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from Providence, RI and this is her first year as an Ambassador. Kealy is a senior at the Rhode Island Nurses' Institute in Providence and is part of the Rhode Island Department of Health's (RIDOH) Youth Health Ambassador Program. Her biggest goal is to help lower the rates of teen tobacco use. Fun fact about Kealy: She loves chickens!

Kyla Angell | North Providence, RI



Meet Kyla Angell! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from North Providence, RI and this is her first year as an Ambassador. Kyla plays varsity softball and hockey at Ponaganset High School, plays travel softball, and participates in the Skills USA criminal justice competition. She wants to learn more about advocacy and helping to stop Big Tobacco from targeting her generation. Fun fact about Kyla: She was on Channel 10 news once and in her local newspaper for a school project she led!

Kyle Alberg | Smithfield, RI



Meet Kyle Alberg! They are a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from Smithfield, RI and this is their first year as an Ambassador. Kyle is a freshman at Smithfield High School and has been involved in the A World of Difference (AWOD) Program. They are also one of the founders of their school's Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA). They want to help stop the Tobacco Industry from targeting youth. Fun fact about Kyle: They have a beagle named Zara!

Lexi Hurley | Lincoln, RI



Meet Lexi Hurley! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from Lincoln, RI and this is her first year as an Ambassador. Lexi is a junior at Lincoln High school where she helps run the Herren Project for drug and alcohol prevention. She wants to see vaping use in teenagers go down. Fun fact about Lexi: She runs all year round, as well as hurdling and pole vaulting for a sport.

Lia Tavaréz Sobalvarro | Cranston, RI



Meet Lia Tavaréz Sobalvarro! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from Cranston, RI and this is her first year as an Ambassador. Lia is a freshman at the Rhode Island Nurses' Institute in Providence and this is her first time participating in a tobacco prevention program. Her biggest goal is to educate her peers about e-cigarettes in order to reduce student use rates. Fun fact about Lia: She was born in the Dominican Republic and has lived in a total of 3 different countries throughout her life!

Mia Caprara | Warwick, RI



Meet Mia Caprara! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from Warwick, RI and this is her second year as an Ambassador. Mia is a senior at Pilgrim High School in Warwick and was a part of her school's Students Taking Action Against Negative Decisions (STAAND) club before COVID hit. She wants to make a positive difference in the health of Rhode Island teens. Fun fact about Mia: She recently started learning Mandarin Chinese!

Sadie Hurley | Lincoln, RI



Meet Sadie Hurley! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from Lincoln, RI and this is her first year as an Ambassador. Sadie is a junior at Lincoln High School and is a member of her school's Above the Influence Club (now named the Herren Club) leadership board! Her biggest goal is to inform the youngest members of the community how bad tobacco use is. Fun fact about Sadie: She is left handed and has a dog named Larry!

Sahara Genao | West Warwick, RI



Meet Sahara Genao! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from West Warwick, RI and this is her first year as an Ambassador. Sahara is a member of the Choose Love committee at John. F Deering Middle School in West Warwick. Her biggest goal this year is to educate herself and the people around her about the dangers of using tobacco products. Fun fact about Sahara: She's played the piano for six years!

Sarah Ilgenfritz | Cranston, RI



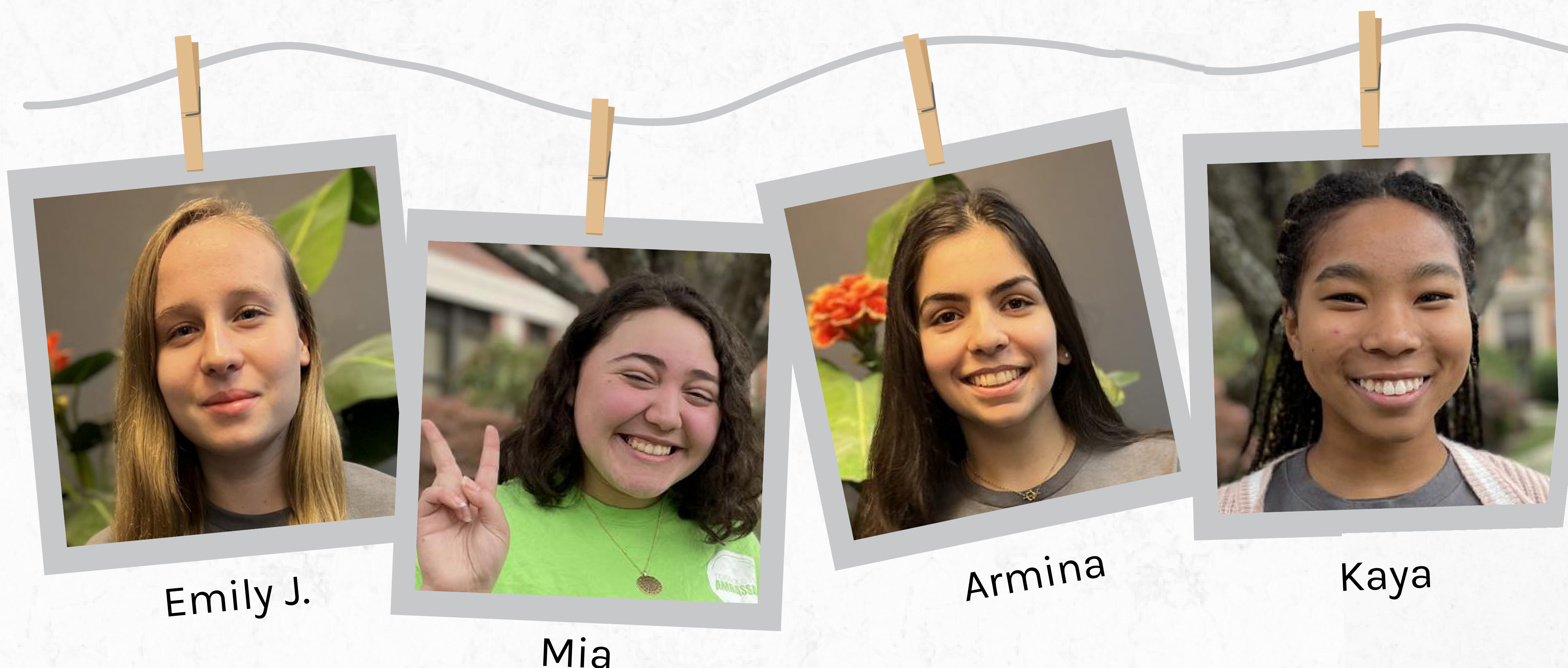
Meet Sarah Ilgenfritz! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from South Kingstown, RI and this is her fourth year as an Ambassador. Sarah graduated from South Kingstown High School and is now a senior at the University of Rhode Island (URI) in South Kingstown studying psychology. She also works with the American Lung Association as a student on the Leadership Board. Her biggest goal is to educate youth in her community about the dangers of e-cigarette use. Fun fact about Sarah: She is expecting her first child in February of 2023!

Skylar Lamontagne | Woonsocket, RI



Meet Skylar Lamontagne! She is a Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador from Woonsocket, RI and this is her third year as an Ambassador. Skylar graduated from Woonsocket High School in 2020 and attended the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI). Her biggest goal is to go back to her high school to help run the Above the Influence (ATI) program so she can continue to spread awareness and positivity in the community!

Leadership Team



Emily J.

Mia

Armina

Kaya