



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
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LYDIA THACKER

CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

Lydia has been part of the YMCA of Metro Atlanta family since 1995. She started her Y career as preschool director for the South DeKalb Family YMCA and is currently Chief Diversity Officer.

Lydia is the liaison between the YMCA of Metro Atlanta and school districts. She manages and evaluates multi-site childcare programs, works with preschool and after-school activities, and monitors programs that support diversity and inclusion.

Lydia is actively involved in various programs that relate to the Y's mission including the Welcoming Hispanic Families program and the Fulton County Superintendent's Community Council.

She also works closely with state agencies such as the Department of Early Care and Learning and Bright from the Start to ensure all required regulations are met and kept up to date.

Lydia is the project manager for the YMCA partnership with the Atlanta Speech School and Rollins Foundation with Read Right from the Start. This initiative works with YMCA preschools to develop a reading foundation at an early age, so students are ready to read by the third grade.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Lydia received degrees in elementary education and early childhood curriculum from the State University College of New York at Buffalo. She was awarded the YMCA of the USA's Outstanding Child Care Administrator and the YMCA of Metro Atlanta's Outstanding Professional awards. Clark Atlanta University's Department of Education recognized Lydia with an Excellence in Leadership award.

Prior to joining the YMCA, Lydia served in the DeKalb County school district as an elementary school teacher. She taught kindergarten in the Newton County school district. She also worked at Thacker Organization and Contracting assessing minority contracts of DOT projects. Lydia and her husband reside in Conyers and have a son in college.

