



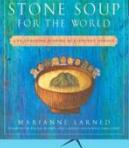
Stone Soup Leadership Institute's
Story of the Week: We Are Moving Forward, Marilyn Concepción
Week of August 18 - 24, 2024



WE ARE MOVING FORWARD

"It wasn't just me up there telling my story. I feel we are all moving forward."

Marilyn Concepción
City Year
Providence, RI/Puerto Rico





[@stonesoupleader](#)

Sunday August 18: Story: Marilyn Concepción

READ how Marilyn Concepción's journey with City Year led her to become the youngest speaker at the 1996 Democratic National Convention.

Marilyn Concepción's City Year experience helped change her life from that of a high-school dropout working dead-end jobs, to a Brown University student with a mission to serve her people. Marilyn now serves as Director of Latin Affairs for Representative Rosa DeLauro (CT).

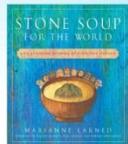
Marilyn Concepción's story is featured in Stone Soup for the World and in the Stone Soup Educational Curriculum.

<https://stonesoupleadership.org/storage/2024/08/story-we-are-moving-forward.pdf>



"I knew from then on that if I set my mind to something, I could accomplish it."

Marilyn
Concepción
City Year
Providence, RI
Puerto Rico



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Monday: August 19: Marilyn Concepción

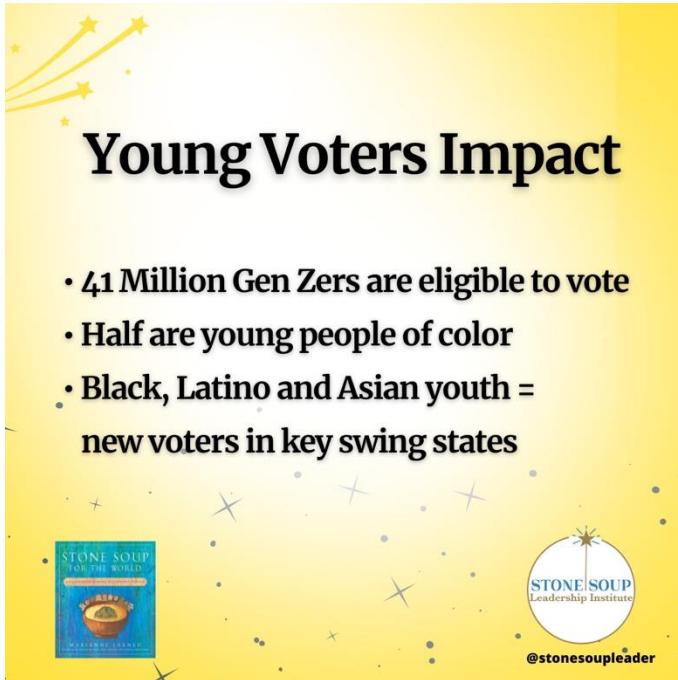
As a City Year Corps member, Marilyn got her GED, a degree equivalent to a high school diploma. She studied so hard that she passed in just one month, becoming the first person in her family to receive a high school diploma.

On that memorable day, she received a standing ovation from the entire City Year team. "I knew from then on that if I set my mind to something, I could accomplish it."

City Year was so impressed by Marilyn's enthusiasm, dedication, and sisterly leadership they chose her to start City Year in San Jose, California at the age of just 19!

Her story is featured in Stone Soup for the World and in the Stone Soup Educational Curriculum.

<https://stonesoupledger.org/storage/2024/08/story-we-are-moving-forward.pdf>



Young Voters Impact

- **41 Million Gen Zers are eligible to vote**
- **Half are young people of color**
- **Black, Latino and Asian youth = new voters in key swing states**

STONE SOUP for the WORLD
A Generation of Leaders
MARGARET LEVINE

@stonesoupledger

Monday: August 21: 2nd Post

The 2024 elections usher in a whole new group of young voters who are turning 18 years old. Born after 1996, Gen Zers represent 8+ Million new voters.

These young people have tremendous potential to influence elections and spur action on issues affecting them – and future generations.

How many of the young people you know are registered to vote? It's a good time to reach out to invite them!

<https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/41-million-members-gen-z-will-be-eligible-to-vote-2024>

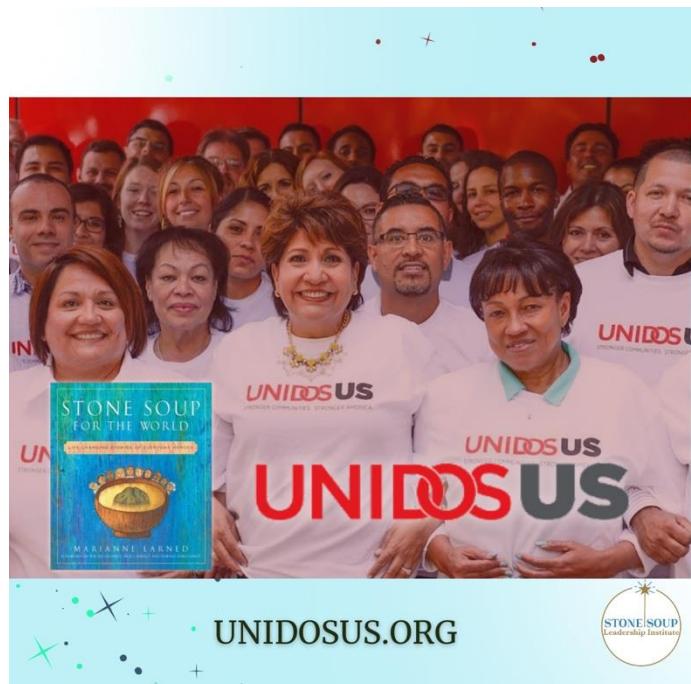


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3iM1TSau1U>

Tuesday: August 20: Marilyn Concepción: Hero Report

WATCH this short video of Marilyn Concepción inspiring millions of people on national TV at the 1996 Democratic National Convention.

Marilyn remembers the many Latina women who reached out to her after her speech. One of those who thanked her with tearful eyes was her high school Spanish teacher, who told her, "Thank you, you don't know what this means to all of us."



Wednesday: August 21: Honor Roll: UnidosUS

UnidosUS (formerly National Council of La Raza) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Through its Affiliate Network of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, UnidosUS challenges the social, economic, and political barriers that affect Latinos at the national and local levels.

Learn more about UnidosUS: <https://unidosus.org>

City Year's Impact

**84.6% national
graduation rate**



Thursday: August 22: Institute Thursday:

The impact of City Year has changed the landscape of education for many children.

City Year believes that all students can succeed and that developing their skills contributes to strong, vibrant communities—outcomes that benefit all of us.

City Year AmeriCorps members serve in schools all day, every day, preparing students with the social, emotional and academic skills and mindsets to succeed in school and in life.

City Year AmeriCorps members gain valuable skills that help them and prepare them to be leaders in their communities and their careers.

Learn more: <https://www.cityyear.org>

City Year's Impact

**2,357+ high schools with
graduation rates of 67%
or less**

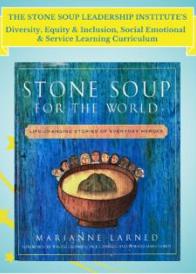


City Year's Impact

**11 point increase in
grades and test scores**



Fridays for Educators



Lesson Plan for the Story of the Week!

Marilyn Concepción
City Year
Providence, RI/Puerto Rico



@stonesoupled

Friday: August 23: Lesson Plan: Marilyn Concepción

EDUCATORS use this FREE Lesson plan to inspire your students to take a step forward in their lives, and help others to move forward too.

Help your students learn about the values of starting with simple beginnings and transforming them into making a big difference.

Do you have youth programs like City Year in your community? How can you introduce your students to similar programs?

Link: <https://stonesoupled.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/lesson-plan-we-are-moving-forward.pdf>

Press

Concepción's City Year route takes her from GED to Democratic National Convention



On the first day of the Democratic Convention, speakers praised President Clinton and talked about various Democratic issues. Marilyn Concepción was a Participant for the AmeriCorps

(August 26, 1996 – United States Capitol)



Saturday: August 24: Press: Marilyn Concepción

Marilyn became a national youth spokesperson – first at the 1996 Democratic National Convention and then many others.

Her enthusiasm, commitment and leadership forged a path for many others to follow. When she traveled to her homeland of Puerto Rico to speak at a major Summit, the Governor was impressed.

"Marilyn's integrity and her dedication to serving others makes her an exceptional human being," he said. "It is a great pride for our island to have a young woman like her working with our youth. I am proud to see that a new generation is taking care of the youth."

"City Year Lesson Plan Printables"
"Lesson Plans High School Drop Out"
"Inspiring Lesson Plan"