



## **Laura McCargar joins Perrin Family Foundation as Program Officer**

The Perrin Family Foundation is happy to announce that Laura McCargar will be joining its team! As the Perrin Foundation's new Program Officer, Laura will be responsible for managing our social change grantmaking activities and developing strategies to support, strengthen, promote and expand youth organizing practices throughout Connecticut.

Laura comes to the Foundation with extensive knowledge of Connecticut's youth landscape, demonstrated experience as a community organizer and youth development practitioner, and a deep commitment to empowering young people as agents of change. "I am delighted to join the Perrin team," explains Laura, "because I firmly believe that young people develop most profoundly – and our communities become the strongest – when young people are engaged as leaders, decision-makers and change agents in the issues that most impact them. Youth-driven social change has the potential to fundamentally reconstitute young people's realities and the landscape of opportunities available to them."

Prior to joining the Perrin Foundation, Laura was awarded a Soros Justice Fellowship from Open Society Foundations, where she engaged in research and organizing work around Connecticut's school to prison pipeline. She also previously served as the founding Executive Director of Youth Rights Media, a New Haven-based nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youth to use media and organizing strategies to create both individual and community change. In 2007, Laura was awarded the international Reebok Human Rights Award in recognition of her outstanding work with and on behalf of marginalized youth. She graduated from Yale University Magna Cum Laude in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies.

December 5, 2011