

Why be a member of ELS?

As a convener for local young professionals, ELS:



Welcome New Leaders

Welcome new leaders, Mackenzie Manning and Sharmaine Tolosa, to the ELS leadership team. Sharmaine will support our social media strategy, led by Stephanie Berman. Mackenzie will lead our event committee for the 3rd ELS *Case Competition*, Spring 2021. Mackenzie's team presented at the final round of the 2019 ELS *Case Competition*.



2019 ELS Case Competition:
Team Glass Case of Emotion



Mackenzie Manning, Program
Integration Manager, Military
Engines, Pratt & Whitney



Sharmaine Tolosa, Stylist, Tory
Burch; Barista, J.René
Coffee Roasters



2020-2021 ELS Leadership Development Opportunities

ELS *Case Competition*, Spring 2021, Event Committee Member:
Join a team of volunteers who help design and lead our 3rd *Case Competition*.

The ELS *Case Competition* is a six-week experience in which teams develop as leaders and apply their talents. Teams will be paired with executive mentors to create and present innovative solutions for the challenges that come with an ever-changing environment. Teams compete before a panel of judges with the winning idea being tested in our region. [See recap video of the 2019 ELS Case Competition.](#)

Email Rebekah Castagno

Looking Back

40 Under Forty

- Congratulations to two ELS superstars who were honored among *Hartford Business Journal's* 40 Under Forty, Class of 2020. [Chef Xavier Santiago](#), celebrity chef of ELS' first *Virtual Cooking Challenge* and [Mackenzie Manning](#), a finalist in the 2019 ELS *Case Competition* and ELS leadership volunteer.

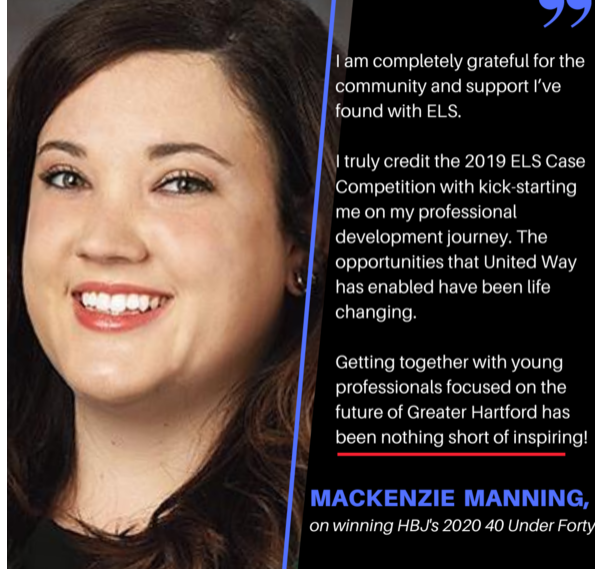


My partnership with ELS through the pandemic really helped me understand my community in more depth and the definition of unity and hope.

The ELS Virtual Cooking Challenge was something that we worked very hard on, but it was so gratifying to see people laughing and just having a great time and forgetting about the everyday struggles.

This has made me not only a better person but more in tune with my community and the people around me.

XAVIER SANTIAGO,
on winning HBJ's 2020 40 Under Forty



I am completely grateful for the community and support I've found with ELS.

I truly credit the 2019 ELS Case Competition with kick-starting me on my professional development journey. The opportunities that United Way has enabled have been life changing.

Getting together with young professionals focused on the future of Greater Hartford has been nothing short of inspiring!

MACKENZIE MANNING,
on winning HBJ's 2020 40 Under Forty

Chef Xavier Surprised *Virtual Cooking Challenge* Finalists with a Special Gift!



Eversource Hartford Marathon

Eversource Hartford Marathon goes virtual! ELS Team members got creative this year. With four days to achieve selected distances, we hiked, walked, ran, danced, etc. Thank you to all who participated.



Looking Ahead



We may not be physically together, but we can step into someone else's shoes.

Event Summary:

You're invited to join us on a three-part journey to gain an understanding of challenges families in our region are currently experiencing related to food and financial insecurity. Our goal is to provide an interactive experience and ongoing dialogue about community conditions and how we collectively can make a difference.

Part One: Do You Know ALICE? | Nov. 16-22, 2020

During this weeklong challenge, you will be asked to live on a specific budget for your weekly meals. You can choose to participate as an individual or family. Throughout the week you will have an opportunity to hear stories from local families and provide your own reflections on the experience.

Part Two: Recipe Challenge | Nov. 23-Dec. 7, 2020

Create a recipe using ingredients commonly used at local food pantries (list to be provided by United Way) and submit form and photo for competition. Winner will be announced at the Community Panel.

Part Three: Community Panel: Food Insecurity | Dec. 15, 2020 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Panel discussion around food insecurity with community leaders and Celebrity Chef Xavier Santiago.

[\[LEARN MORE\]](#)

Engagement Opportunities

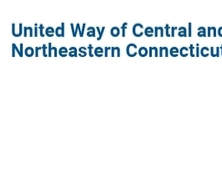
- [Fall Volunteer Experiences \(Virtual and Safely Distant\)](#)
- [United Way Season of Giving](#)

Community Corner

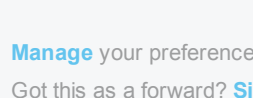
- [Harvest Festival event hosted by our friends at Parkville Market](#)
- National Day of Empowerment hosted by Urban League of Greater Hartford Young Professionals



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