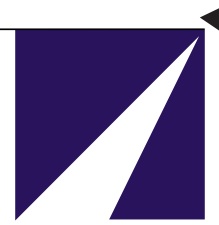


ReVision



PROJECT
YES

re (ri) *n.* 1. anew, again **vision** (vizh 'ən) *n.* 1. the manner in which one sees or conceives of something.

Making our world safe for ALL youth

The mission of Project YES is to prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth by initiating dialogue, providing information and creating support systems.

State PTA Platform Ready To Go

We are hoping for a history making year involving the PTA. Betty Noe, the Florida PTA State Platform Chair, returned from the Approval Committee meeting with some exciting news: the gay and lesbian platform item obtained consent from the committee, and will be presented for debate at the Florida State PTA Convention at Orlando in November.

RESOLVED: That Florida PTA, county councils and local units support inclusiveness by educating their members and communities regarding the safety of gay and lesbian youth while addressing the safety concerns of all youth.

RESOLVED: That Florida PTA urge PTAs at all levels to create an atmosphere of safety and support for families with children struggling with orientation issues.

RESOLVED: That Florida PTA encourage PTAs at all levels to work with educators, parents, and communities to provide suicide

Town Park Partnership



Town Park neighborhood network center is part of a United States HUD initiative that encourages property owners and managers to create on-site computer access for underserved communities. Project YES initially discovered Town

Kristopher Smith, Director of the Non-Violence Project and Coordinator of Town Park

Park when we donated our used computers to the community after our last office equipment upgrade.

This community is home to some startling living conditions: 60% of Town Park's residents live in poverty, 30% of the residents are unemployed, and its 750 residents are all housed in a 169 unit complex.

The Computer Center initiative was spearheaded by Project YES Community Voices Speaker Kristopher Smith. At the Center, kids living in Town Park can gain computer skills and learn how to access resources through the internet. The Center was created after a study showed only 2% of the 750 residents have home computer access. 60% of the residents live below poverty level, having an average median income of \$11,000. Over 60 youth are currently served weekly, with interactive edutainment

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There is now a precedent for state PTAs to take action on gay and lesbian youth issues.



Betty Noe, Florida PTA Platform Chair and MDCPS School Board Candidate (District 9), with Allison Tinney, Community Voices Youth Speaker, and Orlando Calderin, Office Assistant



The Oregon PTA has included in their legislative action program for 2000 - 2002 to: "Oppose all legislative attempts to suppress information about family diversity and sexual orientation." It is our hope that the Florida PTA will adopt the following three items to be placed before the statewide membership. Be it therefore,

prevention services and prevent emotional and verbal abuse, and violence directed against gay, lesbian and all youth in schools, communities, and homes.

The GALYIC Committee of the Dade County Council PTA/PTSA brings these resolutions before the state conference. We invite you to join the PTA, become involved in the

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Broward Schools Summer Workshop



Summer Teacher Academy participants at the Project YES presentation

In July, the Broward County School Board sponsored its Summer Teacher Academy 2000, Diversity Sensitivity Training for Teachers. For two days, Martha, Joe and Carolyn presented a training based on the Safe Schools, Healthy Families model to participants representing many facets of the educational community. The material was well received, and the teachers particularly enjoyed Joe's presentation, and his competent handling of diverse questions. The two-day workshop culminated with the development of a Personal Action Plan by each teacher. This was the first of what is anticipated to be a series of trainings with Broward County educators.

During one workshop, the Haitian Liaison for Broward Schools introduced a teacher visiting from the Port-Au-Prince School District in Haiti. Both shared that the presentation was an epiphany for them. They were each raised in Haiti with a traditional Catholic upbringing, which stated unequivocally that this was a sin. After the workshop, they realized it is not about sin, but children and families suffering

Broward County is the nation's fifth largest school district, following Miami-Dade, the nation's fourth largest.



The Broward Teacher Union building was an ideal location for the workshop.

with no resources. They began strategizing ways in which they could begin the conversation in Haiti's Schools and asked if we would consider bringing a presentation to the Haitian Community in Port au Prince.

PTA Platform

continued from page 1

community, and vote with us on these important issues. Any PTA members who plan to attend the conference in Orlando, please contact GALYIC Chair Eva Leivas-Andino at 305-663-7195. If you are not a member of the PTA and would like to join, please contact your local PTA chapter or visit your local school's office.

Town Park

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software, complementing other health initiative programs conducted at Town Park.

They must learn to carefully share one internet line and 6 Pentium computers that were donated to the Center. They are in need of more high-end computers, software (especially educational or edutainment packages) and transportation for the youth.



Meet the Town Park kids!

For more information, please contact Kristopher Smith at the Non-Violence Project at 305-358-6643.

Communication Course Speaks Volumes

By Allison Tinney, Sophomore at MAST Academy

"We're giving you a sword to fight back, a sword of generosity." This statement sent my young motivations soaring. I attended a Communications Course at Project YES that taught participants how to be effective communicators and speakers.

Dealing with my own sexuality has been an interesting and frankly frightening journey. God knows it took every ounce of courage I could muster to even wake up the morning of the Course. However, upon entering the first time

"... for the first time, in front of more than one person, I truthfully proclaimed "I am bisexual" out loud. It was a big step for me, one that was frightening but rewarding. The second after I said it, I looked timidly around at the faces in the room and not a single one attacked me. Smiles. Warm smiles were all I saw. After that, no question seemed too hard to answer."

- Allison Tinney



Graduates of the June Communication Course.

that day, an indescribable peace overcame me. I felt a sense of belonging, one that I had never experienced before. Here, I was able to be me.

Martha and Eva began their talk defining a few terms we would use throughout the course. Motion, resistance, and give, was among them. In a nutshell, we were taught that resistance is a force against motion. You must give up your fight

to allow the motion to exist. So much of our lives are spent talking at people, not to them. In our daily lives we all put up screens and barriers. We all hear solely what we want to hear. Martha taught us how to tear down our shields and truly listen.

Not only was this course designed to teach communication, it was a window into ourselves and how we operate. We all put up defenses, which only deny the progress of our cause. So often we get into fights over who's right and who's wrong and we forget what our purpose was in the first place. Taking the Communication Course at Project YES gave me the knowledge and the strength to know when to give up a useless fight for the good of my cause. Now I know I must use that power to lend my voice in assistance to youth everywhere. No longer will I be fighting with a fist but with the power of communication.

REGISTER NOW! For the next Communication Course, August 26 and 27. Call 305-663-7195 or click on www.projectyes.org/courses.html

Welcome to Rev. Dr. Marta Burke!

By working with Project YES, I am finding the extraordinary in the ordinary. In the "God As Love" program, rooted in the mission and vision of Project YES, I believe that the extraordinary can happen, in the ordinary, even in the dog days of summer. The following are some ideas I have to include faith communities as partners in our effort to fulfill the mission and vision of Project YES.



The Rev. Dr. Martha Burke, Religious Liaison at Project YES

In building relationships with individual faith leaders:

- Obtain 50 new signatures from the faith communities for the Project YES Affirming Stand covenant.
- One-on-one visits, cluster gatherings and presentations to various faith meetings.
- Schedule and host a clergy dialogue Communication Course for local faith leaders.

In building relationships with institutional faith community ministries city-wide, state and national offices:

- Obtain names and addresses of the individuals and groups that work with young people and family ministries.
- Participate in the December, "Journey Toward Community: One Miami" ecumenical meeting.
- Create intentional networks in South Florida with African American, and Caribbean - West Indian communities of faith.

If you have any ideas that you would like to share about my work with Project YES, please call 305-663-7195 or email marta@projectyes.org. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and collaborating on new projects that will impact the physical and spiritual health of our young people and their families.

Kiaora Society Donor Update



We have so much to be thankful for this summer, with renewals of support from existing contributors, as well as many new Kiaora members to welcome.

Renewing their Kiaora membership at the Visionary level are **Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez** and **Jonathan Lewis & Roberto Posada**. We appreciate their continued generosity and support. We were particularly touched by Jonathan and Roberto's note, "Our contribution to Project YES has proven to be one of the most rewarding gifts we have made in the past three years. Your continued hard work and enthusiasm is clearly reflected in the success you have achieved in such a short period of time."

We thank **Bob Cole, Jacques Soukup**, and **William Vaughan** for renewing their support at the Leader level.

We particularly want to welcome our new Kiaora members, who have all joined at the Mentor level: **Judy Mercier, Lori Weens-Hertz, Wendy Reiner & Paula Xanthopoulou, Howard Perry Rothberg II & Paul A. Scolieri, Jr., Kathleen Wells & Donald Dillport**, and **Steve Yeager**. Judy and Lori contributed through **United Way**, and their donations were matched by **Holland & Knight**. Kathleen & Donald's contribution was matched by **JPMorgan**.

We want to thank you for making Project YES your designated **United Way** choice. Be sure to include your name, and request acknowledgement from Project YES. Otherwise, we receive your funds as "anonymous", and are unable to acknowledge your support.

The sin of respectable people reveals itself in flight from responsibility.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Community Voices Speaks Out

Project YES reached over 500 people this summer.

West Palm Beach - Annual Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar; over 250 students.



Dr. Marilyn Volker hosted Marie Ortiz and Orlando Calderin for a presentation to her class of counselors and social workers.



At St. Thomas University, Lourdes Agostini and Joseph Zolobczuk addressed Dade County Public School Teachers.

The MetroTown Workshop welcomed Orlando Calderin and Marie Ortiz to conduct a training for 30 youth participants.



Rev. Laurie Kraus, Richard Sherman, and Tony Prado facilitated dialogue about campus violence at three workshops for the entire FIU Police Department.



David Canellas, a new Communication Course graduate, bravely spoke at Robert Morgan Vocational Institute to counselors and administrators at the Victim Advocacy Center, and to future teachers at a Miami-Dade Community College Diversity in Education class.



Kiaora Society Members

Kiaora Society members donate \$1,000 or more to Project YES annually.

Visionary \$10,000 or more

Gill Foundation
A.D. Henderson Foundation
Collin Higgins Foundation
Ittleson Foundation
Jonathan Lewis & Roberto Posada
John T. Macdonald Foundation
Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez
New World Symphony
Peacock Foundation
Ruth Anderson Foundation

Champion \$5,000 or more

Greg Baldwin & Jose Castro
Espirito Santo Plaza
North Dade Medical Foundation
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Carol & Ed Williamson

Leader \$2,500 or more

Kate Adler & Pam Reynolds
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Bob Cole
Colonial Bank
Cordis Corporation
Dwina Gibb
Health Foundation of South Florida
Robert Oldakowski & Luis Mendoza
Pink Palm
Karen Raben and Andrea Pernick
real.life.basic
Jacques Soukup
TIDES Foundation/Kicking Asssets Fund
William Vaughan

Mentor \$1,000 or more

ADAM Fund
Nancy Allen
Lang Baumgarten
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Coral Gables Congregational Church
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Howard Perry Rothberg, II & Paul A. Scolieri, Jr.
Joan Schaeffer
Janice & Howard Scholl
Lee Brian Schrage
Scott Sittler
Chesterfield Smith
The Rev. Frank Smith & Isabelle Hill
Howard Snoweiss and Lin Childress
South Florida Tennis Club
Mark Steinberg & Dennis Edwards
The Rev. Marta S. Weeks
Lori Weens-Hertz
Kathleen Wells & Donald Dillport
Steve Werner
Robin Wheatley and Jeffrey Newton
Steve Yeager



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Upcoming events

Register NOW! Project YES Communication Course: Sat/Sun August 26 & 27.
Please call 305-663-7195 to receive an application, or click on www.projectyes.org/courses.html
Project YES Community Meetings: September 14, 3:30 PM and October 12, 3:30 PM.

Special announcements

Dr. Raben, Medicine Woman



Dr. Karen Raben, Board Member and outstanding supporter of Project YES, deserves special recognition this month for her relentless care and support of the Project YES staff. Her utmost professional attention to every detail of her patients' health and well being makes her a truly exceptional physician and caring individual. Thank you Dr. Raben!

"How to Cope Training" for parents in October: Learn about gay youth issues. Call Eva @ 305-663-7195 to register.

Look for Eva Leivas-Andino's article in www.LaVox.com (in Spanish)

What's Your Sign?

We would like to thank Chris Padgett of C. Padgett Signs for making three new professional signs for Project YES.

Willie Logan Visits Project YES



Willie Logan

Willie Logan, candidate for the United States Senate (Ind.), stopped by Project YES to learn about issues facing gay and lesbian youth. He is on a motorcycle tour of Florida as part of his campaign for a seat in the Senate. We were delighted to

welcome him and share our views about the specific problems that affect our youth. Martha Fugate gave a brief overview of the mission of Project YES, which was followed by a lively question and answer session. We want to thank Willie Logan for including gay and lesbian youth issues in his efforts to better understand the needs of his constituency.

Miami's Got Sol

We were excited when our partnership began with the Miami Sol. So far, the new WNBA hometown team has had a phenomenal opening season (9-15), currently ranking sixth in the country. The Miami Sol has developed into an opportunity for Project YES beyond our expectations. At five home games, announcements were made referring game-goers to the Project YES table. We distributed information, stickers, and posters to hundreds of fans. It was almost surreal to walk around the American Airlines Arena during intermission and watch scores of people sporting Project YES stickers, t-shirts and posters. This enables us to



Project YES volunteers catch Sol fever and lend a hand at our table.

reach many different facets of the community. Many families, youth, grandparents, students and teachers, dropped by to visit our table.

Beacon of Hope

We are proud of Project YES speaker George Gibson, B.A., C.D.A., Sp. Ed., for founding Beacon of Hope. This organization works with incarcerated people, providing a needle exchange program that will benefit many people struggling with life-challenging illnesses. For more information, call 305-245-8492.

