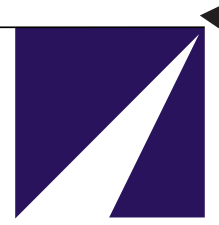


ReVision



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.

Changing Our World

By Martha Fugate, Director

“Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world, indeed it is very often the only thing that does.”



Dahlonge, GA

I thought about this quote flying back from our second trip to Dahlonge, Georgia. When Project YES began, we used this quote to

inspire us at times when our mission seemed so improbable. What is happening in Dahlonge is exactly what we dreamed could happen, a small group of committed people, changing their world.

During our first trip, we conducted two full day workshops, one for local clergy, and one for faculty members at North Georgia.

The Gill Foundation awarded Project YES a grant to begin replicating our model for Safe Schools nationally, and Dahlonge would be our first location. The political environment and local laws did not permit the trainings to be done in the local high schools. The solution, which always comes from commitment, not facts, was to reach teachers and conduct the workshops in their last few months of training at North Georgia, before they enter classrooms in September.

Picture Dahlonge, Georgia, a rural town with a population of 4,000, hosting an educational environment dealing with the most cutting-edge topics. That is exactly what North Georgia State

College and University staff and students undertook in the two days they spent working together with a team from Project YES.

This community of educators has taken on the challenge of having a campus where diversity is not merely a slogan but a

promise they give to the well-being of each person who joins their team. We were inspired by the action plans they created involving

faculty, administrators, and students of North Georgia connecting to the schools and community of Dahlonge.

Looking for Your Support

Third Annual Benefit to Support Project YES - "From Russia with Love"

By Marty Schildhouse, Event Chair



Mark your calendars for Friday evening, March 30, 2001. It's an evening you won't want to miss!

In collaboration with the OutReach Committee of the New World Symphony, Project

YES has been selected once again as beneficiary of an amazing evening of music and community. The black tie optional event has become one of the most beautiful and important events in South Florida. The concert at the Lincoln Theater will feature the full New World Symphony orchestra with selected works from Russian masters.

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NGCSU Teacher Education Intern Students

It began with calls from Rev. Frank Colladay asking Project YES to come and make a presentation to a small group of rural clergy in his ministerial association. Frank persisted until one day some funding came in that allowed us to make the trip. By this time Frank had enlisted the partnership of North Georgia College and State University and the Dean of Education, Dr. Bob Michaels.



Faculty members and department heads at NGCSU

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Looking for Your Support Third Annual Benefit to Support Project YES - "From Russia with Love"

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Internationally acclaimed Michael Tilson Thomas will conduct this year's concert. The culinary students from Johnson & Wales University will be returning this year, as only they could surpass the beautiful cuisine from last year's event.

TICKET PACKAGES

\$150 - Entire evening, cocktail party, concert, and elegant buffet.

\$75 - Cocktail party and concert

\$50 - Concert only

The evening will also include a silent auction and raffle. Net proceeds of the event will be given to Project YES to support new and ongoing programs.

AUCTION / RAFFLE

We are currently seeking donations for the auction and raffle. Auction items can include trips, weekend getaways, dining, sports and entertainment venues, jewelry, art, gift

certificates and personal services. Auction items should have a minimum value of \$100. Raffle items should have a value of at least \$25.

We need to secure all items by the end of February. If you are able to donate items or can secure items for the Auction and Raffle, please contact Eva at 305-663-7195 or Eva@projectyes.org.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the heart of our organization, and this night is no exception. Help will be needed with setting up the event and greeting guests, among other tasks. Call our office today and speak to Joseph at 305-663-7195 or email Joseph@projectyes.org.

If you have any leads for corporate sponsorships (available from \$500 to \$5,000) please contact them or call us to pursue. Our goal is to have corporate support enable every ticket sold to go directly toward programs for gay and lesbian youth.

Formal invitations will be mailed mid-February, however you can reserve your seat today! If you plan to attend with friends, please spread the word. We anticipate a sold out event and tickets will be reserved on a first come first served basis. I look forward to seeing you Friday, March 30.

Knight Foundation Funds Community Care



Our ground breaking program to provide shelter and support for homeless gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth is closer to becoming a reality. The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation has committed

\$56,000 on the condition that this amount be matched within one calendar year. As soon as the match is pledged, the money will be awarded and the program begun. We now need people willing to open their homes to become Community Care caregivers. Potential Community Care caregivers need to complete a short training course given by Children's Psychiatric Center to learn the basics on foster care as well as the resources available both to you and the youth who may come into your care. Singles and couples are both eligible, and a small stipend is provided for each day of care. If you have an extra room in your home and you wish to help care for youth who become homeless due to their orientation, call Project YES today at 305-663-7195. Please help us in finding donations to match the \$56,000 from the Knight Foundation in order to secure this funding and create another first for Miami, and America - a model program to provide shelter for our youth.

PTA Story Creates New Buzz

Education reporter Analisa Nazereno for the *Miami Herald* wrote a story about the Project YES heroine Marie Ortiz and her triumphant speech at the State PTA Conference. This article generated more responses than some 30 media stories about Project YES in the past four years. Obviously, Marie's courage and willingness to use her voice to make a difference continues to inspire people. We heard from three PTA past presidents, many PTA parents, and received

emails, phone calls, and faxes, all sending encouragement and support. We were also contacted by two radio shows, one in Washington D.C., and one in Colombia, South America, asking for interviews with Marie. The show in Colombia broadcasts to Cuba and many parts of South America. Marie, we are so proud of you!



Article as it appeared in the newspaper

TEC Workshop Report



DCPS teachers with Dr. Garwood

Dr. Carolyn Garwood and a team of Project YES speakers and volunteers did a fantastic job with the TEC (Teacher Education Center) workshop offered in December for Miami-Dade County Public School Teachers and Counselors. This particular workshop was most effective because it was conducted over two different Saturdays. Concepts explored on the first Saturday could be observed in the real school setting throughout the week, only to have more reflection and in-depth processing take place on the second Saturday.

“I walked in here thinking I couldn't possibly do anything, it was too difficult a topic. But after this TEC, I feel I am more sensitive and confident that I can do something for these kids.”

- A middle school P.E. teacher

Kiaora Society News



The Wonderland setting

We are moved by the continued support and generosity of Marty Schildhouse who has now become a Kiaora Mentor through his United Way contribution. Marty Schildhouse has championed Project YES for three years as producer of our NWS benefit and his extraordinary efforts enabled this event to raise close to \$100,000.

Our guardian angel, Jan Kirchoff, is once again coordinating the food service for our New World Symphony benefit with the Johnson & Wales culinary student team extraordinaire. Jan, and co-owner Mike Malen, also committed the resources of Deli Lane Café by becoming Kiaora Mentors.

We would also like to welcome Robin Wolff & Kathy Gregory, Carol Amaya King, Dr. John J. Martin, Jr., & Forrest McSurdy, and Kevin Veilleux & Jimmy Mourra as new Kiaora Mentors, as well as the IBM Community Partners Fund made possible by Joseph's father, Stanley Zolobczuk, IBM Global Services.

We thank our partners Judy Mercier, J. Bryan McCullar, Kevin Miller, Stephen E. Herbits, Robin Wheatley & Jeffery Newton, Paul Xanthopoulos & Wendy Reiner, and Ralph Lutrin & Alan Lewis for their Kiaora Mentor membership expressing their ongoing and sustaining commitment.

Citibank Florida and Coral Gables Congregational Church have all become Kiaora Leaders with \$3,000 each in contributions.

Board Member Greg Baldwin and partner Jose Castro continue their tremendous support by renewing as Kiaora Champions. We thank them for their exemplary commitment to our youth and dedication to Project YES.



Lang Baumgarten raising a toast

We would like to thank Kiaora Mentor Lang Baumgarten for hosting the beautiful holiday Kiaora Evening at his home in Coconut Grove. The wonderland setting and the very special evening he created made this a memorable event for all our guests.

Counselors Show Their Commitment



Students at Southwest Senior High School

If you happen to run into a Miami-Dade Public School Counselor, give them a hug. They'll smile, and understand why. The student to counselor ratio is currently 4000:1. With so many different problems our young people face today, the job of a counselor is simply gargantuan.

We applaud all our school counselors, and give special thanks to Jenevieve Maignan for inviting Project YES to participate on the panel at the November monthly student focus group discussion. The students were full of questions about gay and lesbian students that were fielded by exceptional student facilitators.

It's A Go!



We have received the final stamp of approval from the South Florida Center for Theological Studies. Our Communication Course for Ministers

was approved to receive one unit of continuing education credit when a student completes the 6-hour course. Rev. Dr. David Gasperson, the Academic Dean of the Center shared these words:

“We will be happy to provide continuing education credit for any person who completes your Communication Course. I am pleased that SFCTS will be able to partner with Project YES in this way.”

The next Communication Course for ministers will take place on Thursday, April 26, 2001. Please call Rev. Dr. Marta Burke at 305-663-7195 or email marta@projectyes.org.

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
Ittleson Foundation
Jonathan Lewis & Roberto Posada
John T. Macdonald Foundation
Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez
New World Symphony
The Ruth Anderson Foundation

Champion \$5,000 or more

Greg Baldwin & Jose Castro
Espirito Santo Plaza
North Dade Medical Foundation
Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation
Carol & Ed Williamson

Leader \$2,500 or more

Kate Adler & Pam Reynolds
Connie Barden & Martha Fugate
Nellie Barrios
BellSouth
Citibank Florida
Bob Cole
Colonial Bank
Coral Gables Congregational Church
Cordis Corporation
Health Foundation of South Florida
Robert Oldakowski & Luis Mendoza
Pink Palm
Karen Raben & Andrea Pernick
Jacques Soukup
TIDES Foundation/Kicking Assets Fund
William Vaughan

Mentor \$1,000 or more

Nancy Allen
Lang Baumgarten
Paula Black
Jerry Chasen
City National Bank of Florida & the Abess Family
Douglas DeBoer & Howard Kurzweil
Deli Lane Cafe
Dupont Pharmaceuticals
Robert A. Flanders & Walter F. Goodman
Randall Gluss & Fernando Mendez
James C. Hanrahan
Stephen E. Herbits
Holland & Knight, LLP
Dr. Robert Hosmon
Larry Hyer
IBM Funds For Community Service
Carol Amaya King
Jim Kitchens & Edward Lee
John S. & James L. Knight Foundation
Robert Longstreth
Luminaire
Ralph Lutrin & Alan Lewis
Boris Marchegiani
Dr. John J. Martin, Jr. and Forrest McSurdy
J. Bryan McCullar
Edward McIntyre & Fernando Anes
Judith Mercier
John Messer & Michael Lee
Kevin J. Miller
Richard Milstein
Bernard Oxman
Wendy Reiner & Paula Xanthopoulos
John C. Roettger & Brian P. Molloy
Bill Ross
Howard Perry Rothberg, II & Paul A. Scolieri, Jr.
Marty Schildhouse
Joan Schaeffer
Janice & Howard Scholl
Lee Brian Schragger
Chesterfield Smith
The Rev. Frank Smith & Isabelle Hill
South Florida Tennis Club
Mark Steinberg & Dennis Edwards
Kevin Veilleux & Jimmy Mourra
The Rev. Marta S. Weeks
Kathleen Wells & Donald Dillport
Steve Werner
Robin Wheatley & Jeffrey Newton
Dr. Michael Wohlfeiler & Albert Eldridge
Robin Wolff & Kathy Gregory
Steve Yeager

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- Joseph Zolobczuk**, Director's Assistant
- Betty Noe**, Liaison

Special announcements
**NEW WORLD SYMPHONY
BENEFIT CONCERT**
"FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE"
FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2001
TICKETS: CALL 305-663-7195



Upcoming events

Communication Course for New Volunteer Speakers
Sat. and Sun., February 24/25
Please call Joseph at 305-663-7195 to register

Project YES Community Meeting: Thurs., March 8, 2001
at 3:30 PM in Project YES office

Welcome Betty Noe!



Betty Noe, Media Specialist and PTA Liaison

One has to choose what one likes to do and can do well. That's why I'm here at Project YES. I've spent ten years in PTA, the last five on the Florida PTA Board of Directors and will continue to work in PTA, on a local level. My involvement at

Project YES started out as an assignment from Florida PTA. I was told to intervene in a "devious plot" to start a gay and lesbian PTA. Yes, "devious plot" is an exaggeration, however, Florida PTA had made it clear in the past that it would not sanction

a separate PTA. That makes sense as PTA is designed for all children and while it's designed that way, that's not always the reality.

After meeting with those "devious plotters", Martha, Joe, Eva and Marta, we decided on another course of action, but did not succeed with our efforts toward a platform item for Florida PTA. Though I initially showed up to put out a fire, I ended up staying to actually fan the fire. While I will still work in PTA, on a local level, I am volunteering at Project YES because I feel it's here that I can make a real difference in the lives of children...children not embraced by the PTA, yet. I'm enjoying my work at Project YES and will continue to work with it and Dade County PTA/PTSA on our platform item, asking PTA to embrace all children.

Kristi House



youth from endless interviews and processing. Our presentation was well received by this dedicated and professional staff and they are interested in following up with a full training.

Amy Beaulieu, Program Director for Kristi House, invited Project YES to make a presentation to their staff. They are a one-stop resource for children who are victims of sexual abuse. Housing all appropriate resources under one roof saves traumatized

In Memory

On January 10, MTV premiered "Anatomy Of A Hate Crime," a made for TV movie which details the 1998 murder of Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student, whose death has become a national symbol of the rise in hate crimes in America. After the movie, a question and answer session followed, and Project YES was mentioned to the studio audience as a possible resource for people to get involved with locally. We applaud the efforts of the network in bringing awareness about these issues to the "MTV generation".