

ReVision

re (ri) *n.* 1. anew, again **vision** (vizh 'a) *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.

JESCA Training

Project YES spoke to the youth and presented a staff training to the **James E. Scott Community Association**, North and South units. JESCA is a community cooperative group offering a variety of services from early childhood development and mental health programs to jobs and educational programs, as well as court alternative day-programs for juveniles.

Speakers Memo Alvarez and Tim Dugan shared their own experiences as gay youth growing up in very hostile environments. Some staff comments:

"An outstanding program..." - **William Ivery**

"Not enough time!" - **Anthony Mortimer**

“ I think every person who deals with teens in a direct care setting – schools, juvenile justice, or community work – should be required to attend this training. ”

- **Terry Joseph, Jr.**

Thanks to **Mr. Greg Davis** for inviting Project YES to JESCA, and the opportunity to work with their dedicated counselors.



Counselors at the James E. Scott Community Association

Miami Beach Police

Project YES recently conducted sensitivity workshops for Miami Beach Police officers and detectives. We led a total of 12 workshops, reaching more than 150 officers and staff. Personal testimonies from youth and parents of gay children were a powerful part of these workshops. A language component explored how even well-intentioned use of certain words could offend gay and lesbian individuals and offered non-offensive alternatives.

Following the workshops, **Lt. Andy Soto** and **Det. Marty Drucker**

attended our July Communication Course. Two other officers have enrolled in the September course. The usual diversity of our course has expanded beyond clergy, youth, seniors, students, and professionals to now include police. Many shared that the participation of these officers

had given them a new perspective on "police" and a new appreciation for their work. We are pleased to have these officers as speakers and role models and even more delighted that they intend to continue this work and become trainers for Project YES.



Police Chief Richard Barreto attended the first workshop



Miami Beach Police officers at Project YES workshop



Joseph Zolobczuk, Community Liaison with Project YES on a "ride along" with the night patrol of the police department

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Community Care

By Amy Rolnick, Dade County Librarian and Community Caregiver

Years ago, when I was 17, I was homeless on the streets of New York City for a brief time. Fortunately, I soon found a safe haven; I was able to complete high school and go on with my life, almost forgetting that time. And then, nearly three years ago, two things happened to bring those memories back. I read an article about Project YES putting together a program to provide safe homes for gay teenagers rejected by their families. Brandon, a young employee of mine, had just come to me in tears telling me that he'd been thrown out of his family's home when he was "outed." I became determined to take part in Project YES and do my part to ensure that no kid would go through what Brandon and I had.

Finally, finally, the time has come. The long



Community Care Program Team – Top: Barbara Byrne, Training Specialist, Martha Fugate, and Bryan McCullar, Advisory Committee – Bottom: Deb White, Program Director, Carolyn Garwood, and Sally Dodds, Advisory Committee.

awaited program is becoming a reality, and I am lucky enough to be a participant.

We've completed questionnaires about our homes, our families, our employment histories, and we've been fingerprinted.

Come the Fall - Come the Kids! A long time coming and we're ready.

Next Community Care Giver trainings:

Orientation meeting:
Monday, August 27th,
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Two day training scheduled for:

Friday, September 7th, 6:00 - 9:00 PM at Project YES office.

Saturday, September 8th,
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM at Project YES office.

This two day training is equivalent to the six previously scheduled evening trainings necessary to approve your status as a Caregiver.

Dignity For All Students Act

During "Youth Lobby Day 2001," hurtful comments were made to a group of gay and lesbian students by Rep. Allen Trovillion. The courageous voices of these youth led Rep.



From left to right: Adam Sander, Aide to Rep. Gottlieb, Martha Fugate, Rep. Kenneth Gottlieb, and Robert Oldakowski, Board Chairman

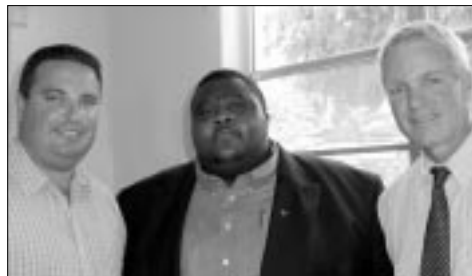
Kenneth Gottlieb and Sen. Walter Campbell to announce sponsorship of the "Dignity for All Students Act" in next year's legislative session.

This bill would require schools to adopt policies, develop guidelines, and report incidences of discrimination, to address bias and unchallenged harassment affecting those who are, or are perceived to be, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or gender non-conforming.

Rep. Gottlieb and his aide Adam Sander were the spotlight presenters at the July Community Meeting where they outlined the Dignity For All Students Act. Project YES will be working to support the bill with Rep. Gottlieb. Reaching out across traditional lines of divisiveness is a cornerstone of all our work at Project YES, and we look forward to bringing our efforts to this bill.

“ Over the next year, I intend to reach out to Republicans and Democrats alike to urge their support of this bill. This is not an issue of party. This is an issue of inclusion and safety - and dignity - Dignity for All Students. ”

- Florida State Rep.
Kenneth Gottlieb



Rep. Gustavo Barreiro is pictured here with Gregory Davis of JESCA and Robert Oldakowski at our June Community Meeting.

BCPS Human Relations Conference

Mercedes Hardisson, and the Office of Diversity of Broward County Public Schools, invited youth speakers Memo Alvarez and Joseph Zolobczuk to participate at the Human Relations Conference in May. The event drew 400 youth from each school's Human Relations Council Club and addressed issues such as racism, homophobia, anti-Semitism, and included discussion of other humanitarian issues. Project YES led the gay and lesbian youth discussion panel.

If you would like to schedule a presentation for your class, church group, club or community group, please call **Project YES at 305-663-7195**.



Speaker Memo Alvarez addressing the conference

Steps To Peace



Nontombi Naomi Tutu

At a recent gathering of women in Miami, Martha Fugate and Rev. Marta Burke met special guest **Naomi Tutu**, the director of Race Relations Institute at Fisk College and daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize winner. It was an extraordinary opportunity to discuss the differences and similarities in political approaches to addressing racism and homophobia.

“ I think the work you are doing is of major importance. Please let me know what I can do or say to support your work. ”

- **Nontombi Naomi Tutu**

Keep your dance card and calendar open for a spectacular evening to benefit Project YES... "early 2002."

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities or donating an auction prize to this event, please call Eva at Project YES 305-663-7195

July Communication Course

By Tim Dugan



Participants at the July Communication Course

Twenty new speakers completed the Project YES communication course in July. I had the chance to participate as a workshop leader-in-training. This course was one of the most inspiring things I have witnessed at Project YES. I am now more excited than ever about being a course leader.

“Very impressive...powerful personal stories! I look forward to working with Project YES on major projects.”

- Jim Clemmons, Founder of OASSIS, Washington, D.C.

“Excellent course...I didn't want the day to end on Sunday.”

- Lieutenant Andy Soto, Miami Beach Police

Kiaora Society

The **Ruth Anderson Foundation** awarded \$15,000 to Project YES for our work in the community. We are grateful for the **Visionary** support of **Ruth** and **Jack Admire** and their outstanding and generous support of Project YES.

We thank our new **Champions Tim Dugan & Meredith Birrittella** for pledging their support of the Kiaora Society. Tim is also now working at Project YES. Stop by and welcome Tim to our team!

We welcome the **City of Miami Beach Police Department** in our Kiaora Society at the **Champion** level. They donated \$5,000 to Project YES as an expression of thanks for our work.

We would like to thank and salute **Leader** Lang Baumgarten for increasing his support to \$2,500 and **Connie Barden & Martha Fugate** for renewing as Kiaora **Leaders**.

We also welcome **Tim Wagoner & Victor Garcia** as **Mentors** to the Kiaora Society. Tim Wagoner is volunteering his Web site expertise to help launch a new design to our site.

A special thanks to **Chesterfield Smith, City National Bank and the Abess Family, Lee Brian Schragger, Walter Goodman & Robert Flanders, Randall Gluss & Fernando Mendez, and Juan Carlos Urquiola** for renewing as **Mentors** and for their continued support.

Note: There has been some confusion with United Way individual and corporate designations reaching Project YES. Please call Eva Leivas-Andino if you have any questions about your donation. We are working diligently to sort this out with United Way.

God As Love



Rev. Dr. Marta Burke, on appointment with Project YES through the United Methodist Church

God As Love is reaching out to communities of faith inviting them to include all youth by signing this declaration.

Affirming Stand

“We are a congregation committed to the spiritual support and nurturing of all children. We are responsible as a religious community for including, supporting, healing and valuing each child of God.

We therefore declare ourselves to be a sanctuary for all youth and their families, agreeing to minister to the spiritual needs of all people, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth. Regardless of distinctions in theology and practice, there can be common ground for all people within the breadth of God's love.”

There are currently a total of 108 individual and 16 congregational stands. We celebrate, knowing the work is not finished, rather just beginning. On Thursday, September 6, we invite everyone who has signed the Affirming Stand to a luncheon celebration. If you know someone who might be interested in participating in the God As Love outreach, please let me know and I will invite them to join us on this day.

Our Newest Affirming Congregation

The First Congregational Church of Orange City, United Church of Christ, is our 16th Affirming Congregation. The Church is lead by **Rev. James Reilly and Roberta Perry**, acting moderator of the community. We welcome them as an affirming community.

A Big Thanks

God As Love now has two new resources for spiritual support: **Rabbi Edwin Goldberg** of Temple Judea in Coral Gables and **Rabbi Jeffrey Falick** from the Jewish Community Center. We want to thank them for their partnership.

If you need other referrals, or if you would like to sign an **Affirming Stand**, please call Rev. Dr. Marta Burke at 305-663-7195 or email her at marta@projectyes.org

Kiaora Society

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
Rosie O'Donnell For All Kids Foundation
The Ruth Anderson Foundation

Champion

\$5,000 or more

Greg Baldwin & Jose Castro
Dade Community Foundation
Dade Human Rights Foundation
Tim Dugan & Meredith Birrittella
Espirito Santo Plaza
Miami Beach Police Department
North Dade Medical Foundation
Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation
Carol & Ed Williamson

Leader

\$2,500 or more

Connie Barden & Martha Fugate
Nellie Barrios
Lang Baumgarten
Citibank FSB
Bob Cole
Coral Gables Congregational Church
Cordis Corporation
J. Bryan McCullar
Robert Oldakowski & Luis Mendoza
Karen Raben & Andrea Pernick
Jacques Soukup
William Vaughan

Mentor

\$1,000 or more

Nancy Allen
Architectural Alliance
Paula Black
Gary Bremen & Roger Boone
Brickell and Partners
Jerry Chasen
City National Bank of Florida & The Abess Family
Douglas DeBoer & Howard Kurzweil
DeliLane Café
Dupont Pharmaceuticals
Walter F. Goodman & Robert A. Flanders
FrameWorks
Randall Gluss & Fernando Mendez
James C. Hanrahan, Jr.
Stephen E. Herbits
Highsmith & Company
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Dr. Robert Hosmon
Larry Hyer
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Robert Longstreth
Ralph Lutrin & Alan Lewis
Boris Marchegiani
Dr. John J. Martin, Jr. and Forrest McSurdy
Edward McIntyre & Fernando Anes
Judith Mercier
Kevin J. Miller
Richard Milstein
Bernard Oxman
Pink Palm
Tony & Katia Prado
Wendy Reiner & Paula Xanthopoulos
John C. Roettger & Brian P. Molloy
William & Nancy Rollnick
Bill Ross
Howard Perry Rothberg, II & Paul A. Scolieri
Marty Schildhouse
Janice & Howard Scholl
Lee Brian Schragger
Chesterfield Smith
The Rev. Frank Smith & Isabelle Hill
Mark Steinberg & Dennis Edwards
Juan Carlos Urquiola
Kevin Veilleux & Jimmy Mourra
Tim Wagoner & Victor Garcia
The Rev. Marta S. Weeks
Lori Weens-Hertz
Kathleen Wells & Donald Dillport
Steve Werner
Robin Wheatley & Jeffrey Newton
Dr. Michael Wohlfeller & Albert Eldridge
Robin Wolff & Kathy Gregory
Robert Leon Yates
Steve I. Yeager

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- Rev. Dr. Marta Burke**, Religious Liaison
- Joseph Zolobczuk**, Community Liaison
- Nina Topp**, Office Assistant

Special announcements

**“From Dream Home to First Home”
August 29, 6:00 pm**



This is the time of year that traditionally brings a surge in home buying. It is the American Dream to own your own home.

Join us for a free seminar hosted by **Project YES** open to all members of our community. Specific questions pertaining to the gay and lesbian community will also be addressed.

For more information, please contact Emilio Yaquez, Vice President, Coral Gables Financial Center at 305-669-5554. Please R.S.V.P. by August 27.

Light meal and refreshments will be served.

Upcoming events

Next Communication Course

September 22 & 23 – Register Now! The September Course is filling up quickly. Call **305-663-7195** or visit www.projectyes.org/courses.html

Next Community Meetings

September 13, at 3:30 PM **October 11, at 3:30 PM**

Let's Go Miami Sol!

By **Nina Topp**



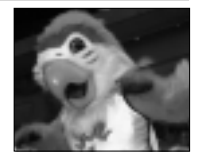
Nina Topp

Hello everyone! My name is **Nina Topp** and I'm the newest member of the staff here at Project YES, and I am so excited to be part of the team! I look forward to being involved in all the fun and challenging events that lie

ahead. Thanks to all the wonderful people who have made me feel so welcome thus far. I couldn't have dreamed of a more friendly work environment – this is a dream come true.

My first task at Project YES was to cheer on our very own Miami Sol team during their June 27

game versus the Utah Starzz. Project YES youth volunteers staffed a booth and shared information about Project YES with people from all over the state. Many expressed their support for Project YES and signed to receive our monthly newsletter. Their positive comments were very encouraging, and although the Sol fell in an overtime loss, the night shined brightly.



Miami Sol Mascot

Come visit us at the Project YES table in the AA Arena, Main Concourse, Section 111. If you want to join us as a volunteer, email me at nina@projectyes.org. The next two games are Sunday, August 5, at 5 PM, and Tuesday, August 14, at 7 PM.

Volunteer Celebration



Tim Dugan, Director's Assistant

Hi! My name is **Tim Dugan** and I've been volunteering for Project YES since February 2001. I'm constantly amazed by the generous contributions, both in time and money, from other volunteers.

With that in mind, we want to Celebrate our Volunteers! You're invited

to attend a special celebration at our office on Wednesday, September 12th, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. We will celebrate the incredible work and discuss some of the upcoming, exciting projects ahead. There are many opportunities for volunteers – no matter where your interests lie. So come join us – whether you're an active volunteer or would like to get active. In the spirit of Project YES, I'm sure the evening will be a blast. Please RSVP by Monday, September 10th, to me (tim@projectyes.org) or to **Marta Burke** (marta@projectyes.org). Or call our office at 305-663-7195. Remember, everyone is welcome to attend, and light food and beverage will be served. Hope to see you at the Volunteer Celebration!