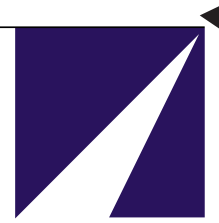


ReVision



P R O J E C T

YES

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

Michigan Training for Triangle Foundation

SAFE-T Courses Reach Students

On December 6, we hosted **Student Alliance for Empowerment Training (SAFE-T) Courses** for students from **Hialeah, American, and Carol City High Schools**. Gaining access to the Project YES model of communication energized students' spirits.



Joseph Zolobczuk leading group of students in the SAFE-T Course.

Accustomed to not having a voice, they began the course hesitant to share even their names. By day's end, they enthusiastically practiced their new communication skills and expressed relief at discovering a way to move beyond debate over right and wrong when discussing their lives.



Nina Topp with SAFE-T Course students.

The students left our offices beaming with their hearts wrapped tightly around the message that they have the power to make a difference.

Across the country, more people are being introduced to our model of communication.

In early December, Martha Fugate and Joseph Zolobczuk left behind the warm weather in Miami to conduct a Communication Course for the **Triangle Foundation in Detroit, Michigan**. The **Triangle Foundation** is a statewide civil rights, advocacy, and anti-violence organization. Seeking to create a **bureau of speakers** trained to address gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues, they contacted Project YES to provide the training.



Martha Fugate demonstrating communication model.

The diverse group of **60 participants** included members of Triangle, Crossroads, P-FLAG, and students from Northern Michigan University and Michigan State University.

People came from all parts of Michigan, and youth speakers drove 8 hours each way for the opportunity to make their voices effective instruments of change.

“...an eye-opener of profound magnitude to me.”

- P-FLAG Dad

“ I am absolutely blown away by the uniqueness of this model.”

- Youth speaker



Participants of the 2-day Communication Course in Detroit, MI.

Inside

Family Resource Center the Perfect Partner	Page 2
Project YES Celebrates 5 th Anniversary!	Page 2
Boy Scouts of America Update	Page 2

Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami	Page 2
Williamsons Host Kiaora Party	Page 3
Kiaora Society Donor Update	Page 3
Miami Country Day School	Page 3

PTA Passes Policy!	Page 4
Dialogue for Action	Page 4
Volunteer Opportunities	Page 4
Special Announcements	Page 4
Upcoming Events	Page 4

Family Resource Center the Perfect Partner

Community Care is finally out of the gates! **Family Resource Center (FRC)** will be serving as the lead mental health agency providing clinical counseling services to both youth and families.

The *Community Care* program provides temporary shelter, counseling services, religious referrals, and community support to homeless gay youth with the ultimate goal of reuniting youth with their families. *Community Care* will start as a pilot program with school counselors screening for eligibility while working in partnership with Project YES. Incorporating a research and evaluation component, we will develop a model for replication for communities seeking to successfully avert crisis situations when gay youth come out to their families.

In partnership with FRC, the program is being funded by **United Way, Knight Foundation, and Rosie O'Donnell's For All Kids Foundation**. We are grateful for their investment in this visionary program. We also thank the leaders who got this program off the ground. **Deb White** gave us clinical guidance



Dr. Carolyn Garwood, Community Care Advisor, Dr. Oren Wunderman, Executive Director of FRC, and Dr. James Pann and Dr. Andrew Wenger, research specialists.

and introduced us to **Barbara Byrne, LCSW**. Barbara trained our first caregivers and courageously kept the program in motion during many challenging periods. Our senior advisor and consultant for *Community Care* is **Carolyn Garwood, Ph.D.** Carolyn also serves on the Advisory Committee with 2 outstanding and

dedicated volunteers, **Bryan McCullar** and **Sally Dodds**. **Oren Wunderman**, Executive Director of FRC, brought his leadership and commitment to our new partnership.

If you would like to support this innovative program, call Eva at 305-663-7195 or send her an e-mail at eva@projectyes.org.

Project YES Celebrates 5th Anniversary!

It's time to celebrate! Project YES opened its doors at Riviera Presbyterian Church just 5 years ago, and today we are a thriving organization in the community.

At this milestone, we are publishing a book about Project YES to chronicle our achievements of the past 5 years and recognize partners who

have played key roles in our history. We will particularly honor outstanding leaders in 4 areas with these awards: **Leadership in Education, Pioneer of Faith, Family Leadership, and Youth Champion**.

We will also try to address the questions we hear most often: "What makes Project YES so different?" and "What is the secret to your success?"

Citibank, our outstanding corporate partner, is underwriting production of the book. We thank them for their generous support, which allows us to apply all contributions directly to programs.

If you would like to be part of this chronicle and express yourself as a contributor to our future work for all youth, please contact us at 305-663-7195.



Lori Duarte-Roberts, Citibank Financial Center Manager, Martha Fugate, Director, and Leticia Carrazana, Citibank at Work Specialist.

Boy Scouts of America Update

The dialogue hosted by **United Way** between the **South Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America** and local community leaders resumed in December. Reviewing past agreements, we reiterated progress points to date: Scouts walked away from all public funding in Dade County and gave up their special allied status with Dade County Public Schools. Also, at the request of the National Boy Scout Office, the local Council ceased plans for the training video they had requested Project YES create for Scoutmasters. National Boy Scouts attributed this decision to their wish to have one unified national response rather than individual regional solutions. Discussion followed about ways to support the Boy Scouts in fulfilling this promise to develop a national training response.

Attendees revisited ideas generated earlier in the year and not yet pursued, including a community-wide educational outreach. Educational workshops on myths and stereotypes could open the local dialogue to more participants, particularly parents and youth affected by Boy Scout decisions. All attendees committed to continuing this dialogue.

In addition to participating in meetings with Boy Scouts locally, we made a connection through our *God As Love* program with the **United Methodist Church** on the national level. We have asked United Methodist leaders to initiate a dialogue among interested Methodist agencies and Scout leaders with the goal of discovering solutions that work for everyone. The Miami District of the United Methodist Church is implementing this plan locally.

Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami (Haitian Women of Miami)

Embracing the spirit of giving, Project YES directed a donation of toys from the Fort Lauderdale Gays and Lesbians Offering Warmth (GLOW) Project to our valued community partner, Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami (Haitian Women of Miami).



Staff of Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami (Haitian Women of Miami).

Williamsons Host Kiaora Party

We could not have asked for a more exquisite setting than the home of **Carol & Ed Williamson** for a memorable evening with our Kiaora members and other Project YES friends. On December 20, we gathered to celebrate our accomplishments, thank our supporters, and invite new guests to be part of our future.

Over 80 guests enjoyed the beautiful surroundings and joyous atmosphere. Clergy,



Martha Fugate, Adrienne Arsh, Donna Shalala, and Carol Williamson.

business leaders, grandparents, and youth celebrated together, reflecting the incredible diversity of Project YES supporters.

Special guests included **Donna Shalala, President of the University of Miami**, and **Trae Williamson**, Carol and Ed's son. All guests were moved by the inspired sharing of **Nina Topp**, Director's Assistant at Project YES, who articulated her experience of the power of our work.

We thank the Williamsons for their generosity and commitment to making the world safer for all youth.



Trae Williamson and his grandmother Betty Williamson with Kiaora Members Dennis Edwards & Mark Steinberg.

Kiaora Society Donor Update

Project YES gratefully welcomes **Citibank Florida** as underwriting sponsor of our 5-Year Anniversary Book. We thank **Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation** for a \$6,500 grant award and the **Gill Foundation** for a special philanthropy gift. We are grateful to **Citibank's Coral Gables Financial Center** and **Emilio Vazquez** for their continued support. Project YES welcomes **Rev. Hugh Westbrook**, Executive Director of VITAS Healthcare, as Kiaora **Champion** after his generous contribution in honor of his family and friends. We also welcome **Steve Herbits**, **Jacques Soukup & Aaman Crane**, and **Rev. Marta Weeks** as **Champions**. New Kiaora **Mentors** include **Scott Dansky & John Dawson**, **Jonathan & Tina Kislak**, **Elsie Miranda & M. Lourdes Cuervo**, **Peter Pilotti & Joseph Rodano**, **Leslie Sadur & Karen Bergen**, and **Marty Smith**. We appreciate the ongoing support of **Greg Baldwin & Jose Castro** as **Champions** and **Connie Barden & Martha Fugate** as **Leaders**. **Kathleen Wells & Donald Dillport**, **Carol Amaya King**, **Edward McIntyre & Fernando Anes**, **Jeff Newton & Robin Wheatley**, **James C. Hanrahan, Jr.**, and **Janice & Howard Scholl** renewed their commitment as **Mentors**. We also thank **Glenn Minton**, our extraordinary office assistant, and his partner **Eddie Eskdale** for renewing as Kiaora **Mentors**.

Miami Country Day School

Many students are afraid to talk about gay and lesbian issues in school. **Kelly Pierce, Guidance Counselor** at Miami Country Day School, is concerned about this silence. Seeking to make dialogue about gay and lesbian issues more accessible, she invited Project YES to make a presentation at her school.

On December 3, **500 students and teachers** gathered to hear about our work. **Elsie Miranda, Memo Alvarez, and Nina Topp** discussed Project YES programs and shared personal experiences with the audience.



Nina Topp, Elsie Miranda, Ms. Kelly Pierce, and Memo Alvarez.

“The information shared was moving. Your message... has left a powerful impact on our student body.”

- *Kelly Pierce,*
Upper School Guidance Counselor

Kiaora Society

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

Visionary

\$10,000 or more

Citibank FSB
Gill Foundation
A.D. Henderson Foundation
Jonathan Lewis & Roberto Posada
Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez
North Dade Medical Foundation
Rosie O'Donnell For All Kids Foundation
Ruth Anderson Foundation
United Way of Miami-Dade

Champion

\$5,000 or more

Greg Baldwin & Jose Castro
Dade Community Foundation
Dade Human Rights Foundation
Tim Dugan & Meredith Birrittella
Espirito Santo Plaza
Stephen E. Herbits
Miami Beach Police Department
Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation
Jacques Soukup & Aaman Crane
Southern Country South Florida, Inc.
Rev. Dr. Marta S. Weeks
Rev. Hugh Westbrook & Carole Shields
Carol & Ed Williamson

Leader

\$2,500 or more

Connie Barden & Martha Fugate
Nellie Barrios
Barton G
Coral Gables Congregational Church
Cordis Corporation
J. Bryan McCullar
Robert Oldakowski & Luis Mendoza
Karen Raben & Andrea Pernick

Mentor

\$1,000 or more

Nancy Allen
Architectural Alliance
Lang Baumgarten
Benjamin Beach
Paula Black
Gary Bremen & Roger Boone
Brickell and Partners
City National Bank of Florida & the Abess Family
Scott Dansky & John Dawson
Douglas DeBoer & Howard Kurzweil
Dupont Pharmaceuticals
Walter F. Goodman & Robert A. Flanders
FrameWorks
Randall R. Gluss & Fernando Mendez-Villamil, MD
James C. Hanrahan, Jr.
Marty Harris & Nikki Korval
Highsmith & Company
Holland & Knight, LLP
Lawrence R. Hyer
IBM Funds for Community Service
Carol Amaya King
Jan Kirchoff
Jonathan & Tina Kislak
Jim Kitchens & Edward Lee
Robert Longstreth
Ralph Lutrin & Alan Lewis
Dr. John J. Martin, Jr., and Forrest Mcurdy
Edward McIntyre & Fernando Anes
Judith Mercier
Kevin J. Miller
Richard Milstein
Glenn Minton & Eddie Eskdale
Elsie Miranda & M. Lourdes Cuervo
Jeff Newton & Robin Wheatley
Peter Pilotti & Joseph Rodano
Pink Palm
Tony & Katia Prado
Wendy Reiner & Paula Xanthopoulos
Gordon Rhodes
William & Nancy Rollnick
Bill Ross
Howard Perry Rothberg, II, & Paul A. Scollieri
Leslie Sadur & Karen Bergen
Marty Schildhouse
Janice & Howard Scholl
Lee Brian Schragar
Chesterfield Smith
Rev. Frank Smith & Isabelle Hill
Martin Smith
Mark Steinberg & Dennis Edwards
Juan Carlos Urquiola
William Vaughan
Kevin Veilleux & Jimmy Mourra
Tim Wagoner & Victor Garcia
Lori Weems
Kathleen Wells & Donald Dillport
Steve Werner
Dr. Michael Wohlfeller & Albert Eldridge
Robin Wolff & Kathy Gregory
Robert Leon Yates
Stephen I. Yeager, Ph.D.

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Miami, Florida
PERMIT NO 81192



Project YES Celebrates 5th Anniversary!

Special announcements

Project YES Community Meetings
Thursday, March 14, at 3:30 PM
Thursday, April 11, at 3:30 PM
Everyone invited!

Communication Course
Sat. & Sun., April 13 & 14
Call Marta at 305-663-7195 to register.

Upcoming events

For upcoming events and speaking opportunities, go online to www.projectyes.org and click the Calendar link.



5275 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143
Ph: 305-663-7195 Fax: 305-663-7197
www.projectyes.org

Board of Directors

- Robert Oldakowski, Chair
- Paula Black, Vice Chair
- Nancy Allen, Secretary
- Bill Ross, Treasurer
- Connie Barden
- Doug DeBoer
- Tim Dugan
- Marty Harris
- Jan Kirchoff
- Elsie Miranda
- Karen Raben, M.D.

Staff

- Martha Fugate, Director
- Nina Topp, Director's Assistant
- Carolyn S. Garwood, Ph.D., Educational Specialist Liaison, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- Eva-Leivas Andino, Hispanic Coordinator
- Rev. Dr. Marta Burke, Religious Liaison
- Joseph Zolobczuk, Community Liaison

PTA Passes Policy!

On November 20, Project YES hosted a press conference to announce the Florida PTA's adoption of the "Harassment-Free Zone" legislative platform item which includes safety and protection for gay and lesbian youth. Only the second State PTA to formally address gay and lesbian youth issues, this is a groundbreaking victory for our youth.



Karin Brown with Marie Ortiz

Voice of America (VOA), the nation's oldest international news network, was one of the media outlets to interview Karin Brown, Dade County Council PTA / PTSA President, Martha Fugate, and Project YES youth speakers. Broadcast in 52 different languages to 91 million listeners, these interviews reached youth and families around the world.

The interview is available online at www.voanews.com.

Dialogue for Action

We have begun hosting monthly Dialogue for Action previews at our office. These quick shows allow people to sample the educational workshops we do in the community. If you'd like to check out our work, join us for the next preview on Wednesday, February 20, from 1:30-3:00 PM. Call Marta at 305-663-7195 or send her an e-mail at marta@projectyes.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Share your talents by assisting in the office or participating in special events. Receive training to become a speaker, and touch the hearts of people throughout the community.

To become a volunteer, call Marta at 305-663-7195 or send her an e-mail at marta@projectyes.org.



Community Voices speakers with Dr. Marilyn Volker's class at St. Thomas University.