

ReVision

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



Check out our new website!
Secure online registrations and
donations are now available.

Groundbreaking Gender Workshop

How do you feel when you cannot immediately determine someone else's gender? How do you display your gender to others? What things don't you do because of gender expectations?



Jan Kirchoff.

Catching a glimpse of the controlling influence of gender, participants in our first Gender Continuum Workshop discovered their own captivity to the arbitrary gender rules of our culture. Thirty people including priests, youth, business leaders, healthcare professionals, educators, and parents eagerly explored new possibilities for self-expression.

“...opened up a whole new perspective for me...made me reflect on everything I thought I knew.”

- Teresa Lyles, LCSW

Jan Kirchoff, Project YES Board Member, shared her experience growing up transgender and spoke movingly on the powerful role of gender in our lives. A trans-identified youth in attendance remarked: **“This workshop is all about my life, and even I learned a lot!”** - Raj Narinesingh

This pioneering workshop unravels gender and presents a new way of thinking about how all people relate to themselves and each other.

Project YES Expands to Central Florida

Lissa Curtis-Weakley is realizing her dream of replicating Project YES programs. Project YES staff recently traveled to Orlando to begin training the charter members of Central Florida YES.

Inspired by Lissa's vision, twenty people participated in the weekend Communication Workshop. Participants included business leaders, mental health professionals, students,



Lissa & Karen Curtis-Weakley with Joseph Zolobczuk.



St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

and numerous clergy and religious leaders. The workshop began with strong voices articulating their commitment to creating safe environments for all youth in Central Florida.

Having that focus, participants eagerly practiced new skills in communication to use in beginning their work for youth and families in Central Florida.



Some Central Florida YES members.

“ The model for communication facilitates the creation of a healthy, open atmosphere for dialogue! The doors to communication remained open at the end of each situation, proving that this model is a valuable tool for opening dialogue of any kind. We've been empowered to empower others! ”

- Phyllis Schwarz

Continually challenging and supporting one another, the members of Central Florida YES left the workshop planning future practice sessions and designing specific action steps. We are inspired by their commitment and partnership, and we look forward to hearing updates about their achievements.

We thank Rev. Bill Barnes and the inclusive congregation of St. Luke's United Methodist Church for hosting the workshop and demonstrating courageous leadership in Central Florida.

Upcoming events

For upcoming events and speaking opportunities, go online to www.projectyes.org/calendar.

Project YES Community Meeting
Thursday, December 12, at 3:30 PM
Everyone invited!

Enthusiastic August Communication Workshop

Unity among remarkable diversity generated a contagious enthusiasm in our August Communication Workshop. Participants connected across generations and viewpoints, demonstrating the power of our communication model.

It was a special treat for us to have Mary Ann and Buck Barden, Connie's parents, drive down from North Carolina to participate in the course.



Debby Wuhl and Buck Barden as presenters.



Course exercise during the first day.

“ Absolutely made a difference for me... I would like to be part of the dynamic energy of this organization. ”

- Bobbi Henry

“ It was incredible what kept happening ...a privilege to share the weekend with these open, courageous people. ”

- Margy Edmunds

Community Presentations



Dr. Marilyn Volker's University of Miami class at Project YES.

Dr. Marilyn Volker brought her graduate level counseling class from the University of Miami to Project YES. The 30 students who attended expressed great interest in becoming familiar with our work and learning about available resources on these topics.

New Project YES speakers Margy Edmunds and Tim Wagoner inspired students at



Margy Edmunds (center) with Johnson & Wales students.

Johnson & Wales University, where they discussed the impact of discrimination on their lives.

New Friends

Gustavo Rodriguez and Jorge Roa joined us for the first time at our August Community Meeting. Speaking in Spanish, they introduced themselves and shared in the excitement of meeting new friends and learning about our work. They recently sent us the following note, inspiring us with their pursuit of authentic self-expression:

“ We thank everyone for the warm welcome we received. Our friends at Project YES showed us that a different language is not a difficulty to communication. There are new frontiers for helping each other. Many thanks to all members of the Project YES family for believing in us and for welcoming us so generously. ”

- Gustavo Rodriguez & Jorge Roa

CHARLEE Homes for Children

Over 50 youth and staff at CHARLEE Homes for Children uncovered common myths about gender and sexual orientation in an interactive presentation with Project YES speakers Magda Pantaleon and Krystal Perez.

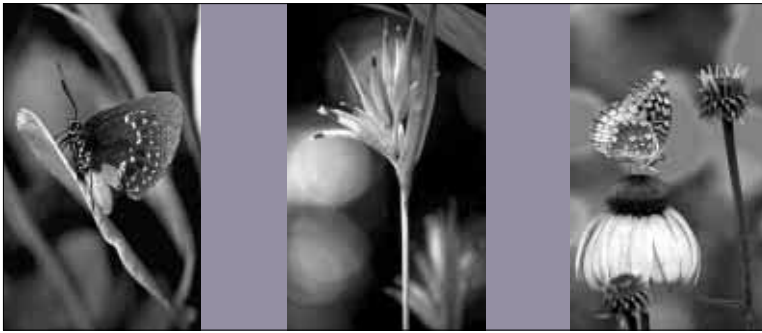
Many youth asked questions with notable bravado, but later revealed their gratitude silently in written evaluations after the presentation.

“ ...helped me a lot because I have been afraid to tell my friends that my parents are gay. ”

- CHARLEE youth



Krystal Perez and Magda Pantaleon with CHARLEE youth.



Fairchild Tropical Gardens, site of Project YES Signature Event.

Don't Miss Out on Project YES Signature Event!

We are creating what will become our singular annual fundraiser and signature event. The purpose of this event is twofold. First, we are dedicated to being impeccable stewards of monies invested in the future for our youth. Therefore, we are enlisting Ambassadors and Sponsors to generously underwrite the costs of producing this evening. Every dollar our guests invest will go directly to the educational programs of Project YES.

The other purpose, equally important to us, is to provide a social opportunity to experience the unique relationships that develop at Project YES. Partygoers will see a glimpse of our work in action, and they will experience the authentic and invigorating spirit of our diverse supporters. Please invite your parents, co-workers, and friends to share this spectacular evening.

Save the date! Join us on **Saturday, April 12, 2003, at Fairchild Tropical Gardens** for the time of your life. Awaiting us in the garden is great music, moonlight, and a special night full of celebration, love, and communication among friends.

Human Rights Ordinance Upheld



On September 10, the people of Miami-Dade County voted to uphold the human rights ordinance that bans discrimination based on sexual orientation. Now the question of "What's next?" lingers.

Involving the entire community in making our world safer and more inclusive is more evident than ever before. As we redirect our energies, let's carry forward the drive to educate the community about sexual orientation and gender to create a future where all are welcome and supported.

Kiaora Society Donor Update

Project YES is grateful to the **Matthew Shepard Foundation** for supporting our work with Central Florida by awarding us a \$1,000 grant. We thank **Robert Longstreth, City National Bank of Florida & the Abess Family, Tim Wagoner & Victor Garcia, and William Vaughan** for renewing their commitment as Kiaora Mentors.

Living Endowment Kiaora Drive

Individual donations make up half our budget and allow us to create cutting-edge educational programs on topics not often championed by foundations. Our latest workshop, The Gender Continuum, is an example of the groundbreaking work we share throughout the community.

Within two years, we anticipate funds from CEU workshops and individual donations growing sufficiently to make us independent of market outcomes and foundation priorities. To ensure that reality, we must bolster our donor base, thereby creating a living endowment for the educational work of Project YES. If you or someone you know would like to invest in creating a stable foundation for our pioneering work, please contact Eva at 305-663-7195 or eva@projectyes.org.

“To look backward for a while is to refresh the eye, to restore it, and to render it more fit for its prime function of looking forward.”

- Margaret Fairless Barber

Kiaora Society

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

Visionary

\$10,000 or more

Tim Dugan & Meredith Birrittella
Eva Leivas-Andino
Jonathan Lewis & Roberto Posada
Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez

Champion

\$5,000 or more

Greg Baldwin & Jose Castro
Stephen E. Herbits
Peter Pilotti & Joseph Rodano
Jacques Soukup
Rev. Marta S. Weeks
Rev. Hugh Westbrook & Carole Shields
Carol & Ed Williamson

Leader

\$2,500 or more

Connie Barden & Martha Fugate
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J. Bryan McCullar
Robert Oldakowski & Luis Mendoza
Pink Palm
Karen Raben & Andrea Pernick
Dennis Rodriguez

Mentor

\$1,000 or more

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Dade Human Rights Foundation
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Matthew Shepard Foundation
North Dade Medical Foundation
North Georgia College & State University, Dept. of Education
P.F. Chang's China Bistro
Rosie O'Donnell For All Kids Foundation
Ruth Anderson Foundation
South Florida Center for Theological Studies
Triangle Foundation, Detroit, MI
United Teachers of Dade County
United Way of Miami-Dade

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CEU Provider Status Approved!

Project YES is now accredited by the Florida Department of Health as a Continuing Education Provider! Clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and mental health professionals can now receive CEU's by participating in our programs.

Project YES is the only local accredited organization providing education on sexual orientation and gender. Reaching healthcare professionals with accurate information and skills to generate powerful dialogue will make a difference for all youth who enter their care.

For workshop offerings and to register online, go to www.projectyes.org/ceu or call 305-663-7195.



2002 CEU Offerings

Workshop	Dates	Times	CEU's
Sexual Orientation & Gender Communication Solutions	Fri., October 25 Sat., November 2 Sun., November 3	9am-1pm 9am-5pm Noon-6pm	3.5 12 12
Sexual Orientation & Gender Sexual Orientation & Gender	Fri., November 15 Sat., December 14	9am-1pm 9am-1pm	3.5 3.5

Our Vision

A community in which gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and all youth develop as healthy individuals free of suicide, violence, and discrimination.

Our Mission

To prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth by initiating dialogue, providing education, and creating support systems.

Our Work

Our educational programs and workshops open dialogue that safely explores fears or misinformation and gives people tools to respond appropriately in constructive ways. The model of communication at the core of all our programs includes every diverse opinion. Transforming the context of discussion from one of the right/wrong to one of purpose and commitment empowers people to create communities that support all youth and families.

Programs & Services

- Communication Workshop
- Dialogue for Action Workshop
- Gender Continuum Workshop
- Student SAFE-T Workshop
- God As Love
- Community Meetings

CEU Workshops

- Sexual Orientation & Gender
- Gender Impact
- Communication Solutions

Did You Know?

Gay and Lesbian Youth

- 33% of teen suicides.
- 50% of male youth suicides.
- 50% risk of being rejected by their families.

Heterosexual Youth

- 80% of students harassed about being gay identify as heterosexual.
- 93% of all students hear anti-gay comments in school each day.

School Violence

- 1 school-related killing occurs every 7 school days.
- Every recent publicized school shooting contains reports of perpetrators being bullied with anti-gay epithet.
- 160,000 youth skip school out of fear of being harassed each day.
- #1 reason students bring weapons to school is protection against bullies.