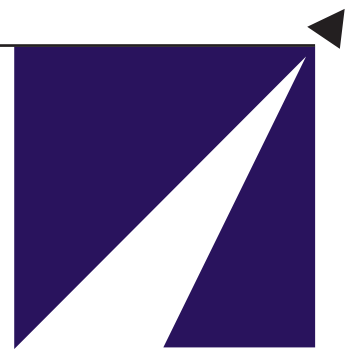


ReVision



P R O J E C T

YES

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

Making our world safe for ALL youth

Holiday Gifts



Without your generosity and support, Project YES could not accomplish our task of making the world safer for our youth.

Thank you.

Recognition from Conversations with God Spiritual Center

J.R.E. Lee Middle School Faculty Presentation

At the invitation of Principal Claire Warren, Project YES visited J.R.E. Lee Opportunity School to open a dialogue and share information with teachers, counselors, faculty members, and parents who are struggling to respond appropriately to gay students.

Joseph Zolobczuk and Nina Topp answered questions and introduced participants to resources available for youth and families struggling with a child's sexual orientation and gender expression.

// I learned a lot of things I didn't know before. I recommend establishing a support group at our school. //

- Teacher

Many faculty members requested a full educational workshop, and we are coordinating a date for the workshop with other schools in Miami-Dade County.



Joseph Zolobczuk at J.R.E. Lee School.



Peace Medal awarded to Martha Fugate.

The Conversations with God (CWG) Spiritual Center of Miami recently honored Martha Fugate, Director of Project YES, for her contributions toward developing a global culture of peace. CWG presented Martha a Peace Medal at a reception with Neale Donald Walsch, author of the New York Times best-selling book series *Conversations with God*.

Global Heart, Inc., an organization dedicated to promoting peace and spiritual fulfillment, coordinates the Peace Medals program. To complement the presentation of medals, Global Heart planted a Peace Pole at

Miami-Dade Community College's Kendall Campus. The Peace Pole, featuring the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 13 languages, serves as an international symbol of peace.

At the Peace Pole Planting Ceremony, Eddie Rodriguez, Director of CWG, praised Martha for her work at Project YES and spoke about his moving experience of our Communication Course. Project YES thanks CWG for their acknowledgement and partnership in creating a safer, more inclusive community.



Martha Fugate with Jack Kassewitz, co-founder of Global Heart, Inc., and Eddie Rodriguez, Director of CWG of Miami.

// The way in which you walk through our world affects our world, perhaps more profoundly than you might ever have guessed. A pebble dropped into the water creates ripples that extend beyond our imagining. //

- Neale Donald Walsch

Upcoming events

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

Project YES Community Meeting
Thursday, February 13, at 3:30 PM
Everyone invited!

Reflections on the Communication Course

By Diane Bowers

Believing myself an experienced and talented public speaker, I attended the course with great interest but low expectations that there were new skills to learn. These perceptions were thoroughly shattered.

Time spent at the podium, armed with a win/lose communication model, does not



Martha Fugate with Richard Milstein.

guarantee success in connecting with your audience. There are those who tune in and many more who tune out given their mindset before the first words are uttered. Project YES has proven that I can connect with every person in any audience if I relinquish the notion that I am "right," affirm the validity of another's contrary opinion, and speak from my heart.

Speaking from the heart, passionately exposing me in the context of the message, will captivate an



Participants at the November Communication Course.

audience. They will at least tune in. Once that is accomplished, a constructive dialogue is possible. That, I now know, is true power at the podium.

Community Presentations

Project YES speakers met with the youth group at Coral Gables Congregational Church and discussed ways discrimination impacts their lives and the people they love. Students at Felix Varela High School were moved by the authentic sharing of Project YES speakers Magda Pantaleon and John Swalina. Many students revealed that they remain silent about their lives rather than risk rejection by their families and friends, and they were thrilled to meet two role models in the community to whom they could relate.



Youth at Coral Gables Congregational Church.

Students in an English as a Second Language class at Miami-Dade Community College lingered well beyond class time to hear from Project YES speakers Chris Prado and Jose Luis Pere.

// I have four years left of stupid comments in my school. Please make sure you have this open forever for others who are in the same situation as me and my friends. //

- Felix Varela Student

// I could not have this open discussion in my home country. Thank you for coming to speak to us. //

- Miami-Dade Student

Alliance for Human Services



At the invitation of Cali Garcia-Velez, President of Citibank Florida, Project YES participated in the First Annual Institute of the Alliance for Human Services, a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of a Health and Social Services Master Plan for Miami-Dade County.

Representing Project YES, Eva Leivas-Andino spoke passionately about her concern that the voices of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth in our community are not being heard.

Thanks to the powerful voice of a mother, a proposal to address gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth issues is now included in the Social Services Master Plan.

Media Outreach

In recognition of our outreach to religious leaders, the Florida Conference Council on Ministries recently featured Project YES in their biweekly publication of the Florida United Methodist Review (available online at <http://www.flumc.org/comline/102502s4.htm>).



Eva Leivas-Andino introduced Spanish-speaking listeners to the work of Project YES on Radio Mambi 710 AM, WQBA 1140 AM, and Radio PAZ 830 AM. The broadcasts reached people throughout Latin American, the Caribbean, Central America, and the U.S.



Jonathan Kelly, Vibe Connection Host; Rajindra Narinesingh, transgender speaker; and Joseph Zolobczuk, Project YES Community Liaison.

One of the television programs on which Eva appeared last year for Mun2 Television recently won a SHINE (Sexual Health In Entertainment) Award from The Media Project. On Cable-TAP/WLRN, Joseph Zolobczuk and new Project YES speaker Raj Narinesingh shared insights from our new Gender Workshop. They distinguished sexual orientation from gender identity and gave viewers a new perspective on the experience of being transgender.

Southeast FL Episcopal Foundation

The Southeast Florida Episcopal Foundation has funded a partnership between Project YES and St. Christopher's by the Sea Episcopal Church in the Village of Key Biscayne. We will begin this exciting initiative by providing educational workshops on gender and orientation to families in the Village.

At a luncheon meeting, Project YES shared our work with the Rt. Rev. Leo Frade, Bishop of the Diocese of SE Florida, and other Diocesan leaders. We thank Charlie Ring, President of the SE Florida Episcopal Foundation, for his support, and we acknowledge Fr. Gabe Sinisi of St. Christopher's for championing this initiative with his incredible commitment to making a difference.



Eva Leivas-Andino with the Rt. Rev. Leo Frade.

Central FL YES



Lissa and Karen Curtis-Weakley, co-founders of Central Florida YES.

Our partners from Central Florida continue to gain momentum in their quest to replicate Project YES programs. Three people traveled from Orlando to participate in our

November Communication Course and left Miami energized to produce results in Central Florida.

Rev. Barton Buchanan, senior pastor at Windermere Union Church, took part in our Communication Course in Orlando a couple months ago. He recently sent us the following note:

// The course made me reflect on what kind of difference I am making in this world. Can it be that I am adding to the pain and suffering of this world, or am I part of the healing?

I now feel empowered to achieve a higher purpose without losing myself in the debate over who is right or who is wrong. I am learning how to authentically be with others and listen in a new way that allows me to connect with people who at first seem hostile, but in reality are scared. I am working to respond more generously to others by praising their courage for sharing their thoughts and questions.

The course generated an incredible creative energy, and I witnessed the birth of Central Florida YES. The Director, Lissa Curtis-Weakley, is a member of my congregation, and I proudly join her in making Central Florida a safer place for all people. Together we are committed to transforming a hostile world into one that is safe for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and all people. //

- Rev. Barton Buchanan

Kiaora Society Donor Update

Project YES acknowledges **Tim Dugan & Meredith Birrittella** at the **Visionary Level** for their extraordinary commitment to our youth. We thank **Stephen Herbits** for generously renewing his membership as a **Champion**. **Bill Ross** increased his contribution to the **Champion Level**, and **Kevin Veilleux** stepped up as a **Leader**. **Glenn Minton & Eddie Eskdale** and **Randall Gluss & Fernandez Mendez-Villamil** renewed their **Mentor** status through the United Way. **Walter Goodman & Robert Flanders**, **Jimmy Mourra**, **Samuel Spencer Blum & Milenko Samardzich**, and **Tony & Katia Prado** also renewed at the **Mentor Level**. We welcome **Charlton Hines** and **Hortensia Soriano** as new **Kiaora Mentors**. We further appreciate the ongoing support of **Dade Human Rights Foundation**, **North Dade Medical Foundation**, **Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation**, **Rosie O'Donnell For All Kids Foundation**, and **Ruth Anderson Foundation**.

Vaudeville Show at Lyric Theater

Tap dancers! Folk singers! Tango dancing team! Join us for a Christmas show that harkens back to the days of vaudeville entertainment. Cabaret entertainer David Leddick is having a benefit performance for Project YES at the Lyric Theater on Friday, December 20, at 8:00 PM. Call 305-358-1146 for tickets.

School Counselors Meet at Project YES

Counselors from Miami-Dade County Public Schools gathered at Project YES for their regional meeting on October 24. Guest speaker Dr. Debra Pepler, one of Canada's leading researchers in the area of school bullying, spoke about the impact bullying has on children and the school environment as well as prevention and intervention strategies.

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
Bill Ross
Jacques Soukup
Rev. Marta S. Weeks
Rev. Hugh Westbrook & Carole Shields
Carol & Ed Williamson

Leader

\$2,500 or more

Connie Barden & Martha Fugate
Nellie Barrios
Lang Baumgarten
Douglas DeBoer & Howard Kurzweil
J. Bryan McCullar
Robert Oldakowski & Luis Mendoza
Pink Palm
Karen Raben & Andrea Pernick
Dennis Rodriguez
Kevin Veilleux

Mentor

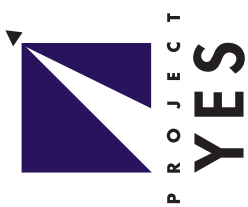
\$1,000 or more

Nancy Allen
Benjamin Beach
Paula Black
Samuel Spencer Blum & Milenko Samardzich
Gary Bremen & Roger Boone
Jerry Chasen & Mark Kirby
Bruce A. Christensen
City National Bank of Florida & The Abess Family
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Kevin J. Miller
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Jimmy Mourra
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Leslie Sadur & Karen von Bergen
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Dade Community Foundation
Dade Human Rights Foundation
Health Foundation of South Florida
Holland & Knight, LLP
James G. Pepper Fund of Stonewall Community Foundation
Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation
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
United Teachers of Dade County
United Way of Miami-Dade

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Project YES Hispanic Outreach Highlighted at LLEGÓ Conference

Representatives from

dozens of Hispanic gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender organizations throughout Latin America and the U.S. recently gathered in Miami for the Ninth Encounter of LLEGÓ, the National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Organization.



Eva Leivas-Andino with the Premio Aliado award.

Project YES board member Elsie Miranda, as a

panel presenter on family issues, emphasized the importance of reaching out to Hispanic parents

with educational resources.

LLEGÓ honored Eva Leivas-Andino, Program Manager and Hispanic Coordinator at Project YES, with the Premio Aliado award for being an outstanding ally to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth.

Eva is taking the lead in making an impact in the Hispanic community through dialogue and education. She has begun hosting regular meetings for parents of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth in both English and Spanish. Please call Eva at 305-663-7195 for information about the next Dialogue for Parents.

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 right/wrong to one of purpose and commitment empowers people to create communities that support all youth and families.

Programs & Services

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

CEU Workshops

- Sexual Orientation & Gender
- Gender Impact
- Communication Solutions

Online registration for CEU's available:
www.projectyes.org/ceu

Did You Know?

Gay and Lesbian Youth

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

Youth Harassed as Gay

- **80%** identify as heterosexual.
- **97%** of all students hear anti-gay comments in school each day.

School Violence

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

Find out more: www.projectyes.org/research