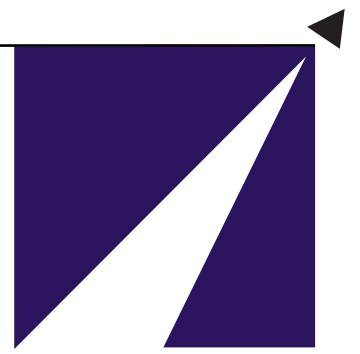


ReVision



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

Matrix Workshop

There is a sharp turn in the road ahead winding around the topic of gender. Our society is learning to view an old topic in brand new ways. This head-spinning shift has surfaced in our work over the past six years, leading to the inescapable conclusion that our youth are discriminated against not because of their orientation, but as a result of their gender expression.



Deciphering the Matrix workshop.

Our new Gender Continuum workshop incorporates a wide scope of gender perspectives and is designed for participants to view the intricacies of this topic through their own experiences.

“This extremely professional training created a safe and comfortable learning environment to explore and question these emerging issues. This material has been sorely absent from clinical / academic curricula and continuing education courses. It is most refreshing to discover an organization and colleagues who are currently addressing it with such focus and dedication.”

- Angela Rodriguez, LCSW, Ph.D.

After passing through the eye of the needle in the Gender Continuum, people find themselves at the edge of new questions. Previously held concepts are shaken and sexual orientation seems particularly perplexing. Where and how does orientation fit in this new gender paradigm? New questions and concepts come together in our advanced gender workshop called Deciphering the Matrix, the first of which was held on May 22.

“I have an unmistakably strong sense of wonder for Project YES’ daring and compassionate drive to get at the heart of

why youth are discriminated against, harassed, and made to feel wrong for expressing difference. This workshop gave me room to express, discuss, and ask questions about things that are often frowned upon even in the ‘safe and supportive’ confines of the gay community. I think it is also a brave leap into exploring what simultaneously makes us human and keeps us from understanding and accepting each other.”

- Chris Prado, Workshop Participant

Broward Schools Peer Counseling Faculty Workshop

Peer counseling teachers grapple with orientation and gender issues on a daily basis in schools, yet professional education on these topics is scarce. In April, Broward County Schools invited Project YES to train all 80 middle and high school peer counseling coordinators.

Broward’s peer counseling program trains student leaders in communication, problem solving, and decision-making. In addition to working with students individually and in groups, the peer counselors provide conflict mediation, classroom presentations, and outreach programs.

Peer counseling coordinators added the following evaluations:

“I especially learned not to argue the ‘choice’ philosophy, even though I find that will be difficult. If a conversation stays focused simply on whose beliefs are right, the needs of the students who need help get neglected.”

- Teacher, South Plantation High School



Martha Fugate addressing the counselors.

“Excellent information was given. I would like my peer counselors to also receive similar information. The topic needs to be covered in all schools with administration, faculty, staff, and students.”

- Teacher, Walter Young Middle School

We enjoyed working with Stephani Weaver, Resource Specialist, and the peer counseling coordinators in Broward.



Broward County peer counseling coordinators.

Visit www.projectyes.org to access upcoming speaking engagements, educational workshops, and online donations.

Project YES Community Meeting
Thursday, August 14, at 3:30 PM
Everyone invited!

MacArthur South Senior High School

The entire faculty of Miami Douglas MacArthur High School South participated with Project YES in a new dialogue on sexual orientation and gender. After our visit, we received the following note:

“The presentation was an excellent educational tool. The discussion on gay and lesbian youth was facilitated without bias and allowed our staff the opportunity to begin this important dialogue.

I would also like to thank Joseph for his courageous speech. It was helpful for the staff to hear Joseph's story and ask him questions. I look forward to working together in the future.”

- Suzanne Curtiellas,
TRUST Counselor



Joseph Zolobczuk, Education Coordinator, addressing the faculty.

SAFE-T Course for Miami Country Day

For the second consecutive year, Miami Country Day School participated in a Student SAFE-T Course at Project YES. The students were eager to learn ways to respond appropriately on the topic of gay and lesbian youth. They gained skills for managing constructive dialogue among students who have differing points of view.

“Learning how to respect everyone's views without losing a friendship was most beneficial.”

- Country Day Student



Peer counseling students from Miami Country Day.

“I learned a lot about how to communicate with others and how to accept others for who they are.”

- Country Day Student

“I really learned how to listen to others.”

- Country Day Student

We thank Ms. Kelly Pierce, Guidance Counselor, for her leadership in providing educational opportunities every year for the students of Miami Country Day.

Felix Varela High School Presentation

In April, over 30 students from Felix Varela Senior High School participated in a gender workshop led by Project YES.

Participants were members of the school's Gay-Straight Alliance, a club that works to break down barriers and increase awareness among students in an effort to reduce harassment and bullying.

“This really brought forward a lot of issues we deal with. If you are an athletic girl like I am, students will immediately think you are a lesbian. It was a relief to see you are educating about this, because students' misconceptions let them think it's okay to harass other students.”

- Felix Varela Student

The presentation concluded with two special guest speakers: Tony Prado, a father, and Leticia Carrazana, a mother and Citibank businesswoman. Their personal stories of



Leticia Carrazana, Relationship Manager with Citibank, and Tony Prado, volunteer parent speaker.

overcoming struggles and learning to love people in their families inspired the students.

“I really enjoyed having Leticia come in and talk to us. She is a role model for me because she's a hard-working woman and a mother, and that makes me feel better about what my life could be like when I grow older.”

- Felix Varela Student

We thank Ms. Michelle Uzari, TRUST Counselor, for inviting us.

Miami Bridge Training Workshop

Did You Know? Up to 42% of homeless youth are gay or lesbian.*

Miami Bridge is the oldest youth shelter in Miami-Dade with locations downtown and in Homestead. The Bridge is among the few places



Miami Bridge youth activity counselors with Wendy Phillips, volunteer speaker.

in South Florida where homeless gay and lesbian youth can turn to for shelter.

At the request of Miami Bridge staff, we conducted educational workshops at both shelter locations for the youth activity counselors. We followed up with a dialogue with youth residents in the Homestead shelter. The youth shared raw and authentic experiences from their lives and were open to learning about the mistreatment of gay youth.

We thank Stephanie Solovei, Joan Davis, Richard Ferguson, and Anna Gispert for making this educational opportunity possible.

*(1990) Kruks, Journal of Adolescent Health: Vol. 12.7, pp. 515-518

Gender PAC Conference



Gina Reiss, GPAC Managing Director, Riki Wilchins, GPAC Executive Director, Judith Butler, Gender Theorist, and Patty Chang, President of the Women's Foundation.

The Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GPAC) is a national organization that works to change public attitudes and raise awareness of discrimination and violence caused by gender stereotypes. We recently attended their annual conference and met with national gender theorists, leaders, and advocates doing work across the country. They were particularly intrigued with our accreditation as a CEU provider through the Florida Department of Health.

Many new ideas were shared about the theoretical, practical, and political applications to gender advocacy. A few startling facts from the conference:

- **6 of the last 7 hate crime murders occurred to transgender youth.**
- **5 of these murdered youth were black or Hispanic.**

These alarming statistics underscore the need to examine gender as we look to uncover the source of harassment and discrimination.

July Course

“There is no problem communication cannot solve.”

If you wish to observe the Communication Solutions course or use your voice to speak on behalf of all youth, we invite you to participate. The July 12 & 13 course is filling quickly. Please register as soon as possible to reserve a space.



New exploration in communication.

“The course has helped enormously in my work. The aspects of ‘purpose,’ ‘not having to be right,’ and incorporating others’ beliefs and values are BRILLIANT! It has allowed many conflicts to resolve by returning people to their purpose. It gave each of us access to taking action in a gentle, inclusive way increasing acceptance of difference.”

- William Turner, LMFT, CAP

Kiaora Update

Our annual Kiaora membership drive opened at the Tropical Chinese Restaurant in May. The mystique of the Orient was the perfect setting to welcome new members and give them the opportunity to learn about our work.

Guests enjoyed a gourmet dinner, a Project YES staff presentation, and the heartfelt account of a Project YES youth speaker who shared her challenges and triumphs as a gay teenager.

We thank Tim Dugan and Meredith Birrittella for underwriting this event, and also for hosting a Kiaora Society evening in their beautiful home. Their extraordinary commitment to making the world safer for our youth is an inspiration to the staff and board of Project YES.

Project YES welcomes **Jorge R. Centurión, Ken Huff, George L. Lindemann, Jr., Larry L. Luig & Dario Espinoza, Rachelle Monchik, Andrew Tobias & Charles Nolan, Jose Valdés-Fauli & Shed Boren, Cynthia & Emilio Vazquez, Milton & Patricia Wallace, Trae Williamson & Daniel Carter, and Joseph M. Zolobczuk** to the Kiaora Society as **Mentors**. We appreciate the ongoing support of inaugural donor **Ed McAmis** and his partner **Gerson Gonzalez** as **Visionaries**, and we thank **Bill Ross** for increasing his contribution as a **Champion**. **Peter Pilotti & Joseph Rodano** renewed as **Champions**, and **Jerry Chasen & Mark Kirby, Ralph Lutrin & Alan Lewis, Lee Brian Schrage, Laura White, and Dr. John J. Martin, Jr., & Forrest McSurdy** renewed as **Mentors**.

We appreciate the commitment of our supporters to creating a world safe for all youth to express themselves freely. The continuation of Project YES programs depends on the generosity of our private donors. To make a contribution, visit our website at www.projectyes.org/donate, or call Eva Leivas-Andino, Program Manager, at 305-663-7195.



Nakle Nazar and Michael Blakeney from the Bronx Educational Alliance (BEA), Bob Oldakowski, Eva Leivas-Andino, and José Hernandez, Project Enlace of the BEA.

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
Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez

Champion

\$5,000 or more

Greg Baldwin & Jose Castro
Stephen E. Herbits
Peter Pilotti & Joseph Rodano
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\$2,500 or more

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Mentor

\$1,000 or more

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REGISTER TODAY!

The Gender Continuum

Friday, June 20: 9AM – 5PM
\$100 CEU / \$50 Standard / \$20 Student
7 CEU Credits

Deciphering the Matrix of Sex

Friday, June 27: 9 AM – 1 PM
\$50 CEU / \$25 Standard / \$20 Student
3.5 CEU Credits

Communication Solutions Course

Sat. & Sun., July 12 & 13: 9 - 5, Noon – 6
\$200 CEU / \$100 Standard / \$20 Student
12 CEU Credits

Project YES offers accredited workshops available to students, parents, and professionals. Visit www.projectyes.org for upcoming course dates and times.



Boy Scouts Update

NBC Channel 6 News, the Miami Herald, and other media outlets contacted Project YES about the withdrawal of Miami-Dade United Way funding from the Boy Scouts. We regret that the ongoing community dialogue with the South Florida Boy Scout Council did not conclude in a more productive manner. Once again, young people will suffer from the actions of adults ill-prepared to deal appropriately with youth in our changing world.



NBC 6 reporter Alycia Lane interviewing Martha Fugate.

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

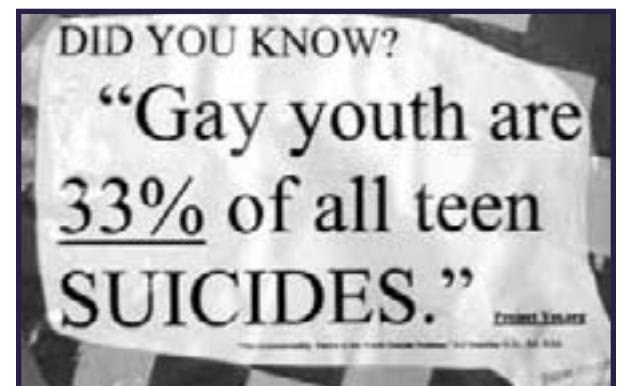
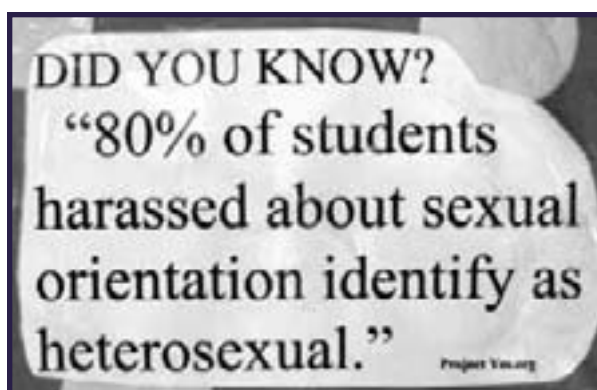
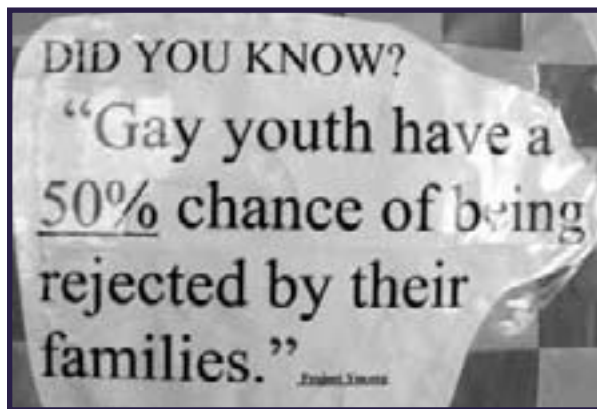
To prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth by initiating dialogue, providing education, and creating support systems.

Youth Leaders



Natalie Guillen and Sara Kaplan, Palmetto High students.

Hearing of hurtful and homophobic comments made by a substitute teacher in their school, youth leaders and Project YES speakers Natalie Guillen and Sara Kaplan went into action. Using the Project YES model of dialogue and education, they responded to this adversity by posting over 200 leaflets with statistics from our website throughout their school.



They also created beautifully designed placemats that included these statistics, had them approved by the Palmetto Student Activities Office, and laminated each one for use in the teacher's lounge.