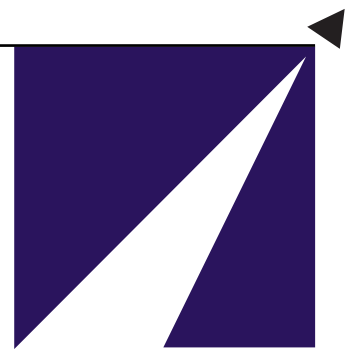


ReVision



P R O J E C T

YES

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

Making our world safe for ALL youth

Save the Date!



Florida Suicide Prevention Expert Panel

Project YES was invited to be part of an expert panel to assist with statewide suicide prevention efforts. We met Katherine Lazear, who is spearheading the effort, when her team was conducting the Florida Youth Suicide Prevention Report, which named Project YES one of the most promising community-based suicide prevention models in the nation. Kathy is Principal Investigator with the University of South Florida's Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI).



Kathy Lazear coordinating discussion from Florida advocates.

The first session in Tampa began with the evaluation of a working draft of the school-based Suicide Prevention Toolkit. The Toolkit will be a one-stop resource for school administrators, counselors, and teachers and will cover critical aspects of suicide prevention, including myths and facts, school climate awareness, risk and protective factors, as well as cultural, ethnic, and diverse population concerns.

Project YES' participation lends expertise and awareness of youth who are struggling with orientation and gender, identified by researchers as elevated risk factors for suicide. We suggested that diversity of youth be addressed throughout the tool kit rather than relegated to a small section in the margins. The researchers were grateful for these observations, and because of this valuable input, they plan to expand the scope.

Haitian and Hispanic Episcopal Presentations

By Eva Leivas-Andino



The Freedom Tower in Downtown Miami.

As Martha and I traveled down Biscayne Boulevard, she stopped in the middle of road, got out of the car and started taking pictures of the Freedom Tower draped in the Cuban flag on the day it held the body of Celia Cruz. I thought, "What an American day this is," a Cuban-American middle-aged mother of

four and a North Carolina lesbian with a dream standing together, on our way to make an educational presentation to the Episcopal Haitian clergy of Miami.

The Haitian clergy were at first very silent. It is hard to speak about something when your language doesn't even include appropriate words. Still they recognized that their families and children are

put at risk by their fear of speaking and the vacuum that silence creates. Slowly they started to ask more questions, share more stories, and request more information.

Later in the month we also met with the Episcopal Hispanic clergy for a presentation entirely in Spanish. The ministers were visibly apprehensive at the start but became fully engaged when I shared my experience of my family's struggles to accept my gay son.

In both presentations, clergy members' initial hesitation turned into dialogue about how to move forward, learn more, and better serve youth and their families. Their willingness to take on this challenging topic for the congregations they serve truly inspired me.



Hispanic Episcopal clergy listening to Eva speak.



Haitian Episcopal clergy.

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

Project YES Community Meeting
Thursday, December 11, at 3:30 PM
Everyone's invited!

Johnson & Wales Residential Advisor Training

Project YES opened a conversation about gender with Residential Advisor Student Leaders at Johnson & Wales University in North Miami. Project YES speakers Paul Bishop, Ricki Jara, Chris Prado, and Joseph Zolobczuk shared their experiences and interacted with participants. One student commented,

// *We could talk about this all day.*

*Gender plays a big part in our interpersonal relationships, yet this is the first opportunity we had to discuss these issues. *

- Residential Advisor and Culinary Student



Project YES speakers led an energetic discussion with students.

// *Several students stayed after to either encourage me or to ask one final question, and as one student put it, 'More than a training session, it was a lesson on love'. *

- Ricki Jara, Project YES Transgender Speaker

Project YES Presentations

If you would like a speaker to come where you work, play, or learn, call Joseph at 305-663-7195 or joseph@projectyes.org



Gender Continuum Workshops



Jan Kirchoff sharing about her experiences of gender.

Gender continues to open new venues and find new horizons. Participants in the gender workshop share that new ideas and insights about gender emerge long after the course is over. We learn from each course and the varied experiences of all participants.

// *Very helpful for my own personal development and professional work at a university counseling center and a middle school. *

- Ischaji Robertson,
University & Middle School Counselor

Come see what all the buzz is about. The next two-part workshop will be:

Friday, October 17, 2003:

9AM – 5PM -- Gender Continuum

Friday, October 24, 2003:

9AM – 1PM -- Deciphering the Matrix

Project YES is accredited by the Florida Department of Health, and all courses can be taken for CEU credit (BAP# 697 Exp. 3/2005).

The *Gender Continuum* is a prerequisite to the *Matrix* workshop.

Broward County Library



Robert Dawson, Teen Coordinator, Lucia M. Gonzalez, Assistant Department Head, Sydna Wexler, Youth Services Specialist, and Olga Kuharets, Department Head, Broward Main Library Youth Services, Joseph Zolobczuk.

In September, Project YES received a call from Sydna Wexler, Youth Services Specialist at the Broward County Main Library. Sydna had come

across our newsletter and envisioned the possibility of the library becoming a support system for youth in need of information and resources on the topics of orientation, gender, and safety.

Sydna's vision is quickly becoming a reality. After an exciting meeting with Project YES, the Youth Services Department staff has asked Project YES to conduct an anti-bullying and harassment presentation at the **Broward Downtown Library on Saturday, February 21, 2004** from 2PM – 4PM in the **Bienes Ceremonial Room, 6th Floor**. This presentation is open to parents, teachers, youth, and community members.

Episcopal Leadership Dialogue

By Martha Fugate



Retreat held at enchanting Spanish Monastery in North Miami.

I was honored this month to participate in conversations with Episcopal clergy struggling to lead a church stepping into the mid-air of change. It was moving to hear them speak of loving their

church and feeling simultaneous pain as they struggle with reactions and challenges resulting from the recent approval of a gay man as bishop. Although many viewpoints were similar, they did

diverge in opinions and observations. There were also repeating themes, not unlike the comments we hear throughout the community. Some thought it was just the wrong decision, some were concerned about the consequences to their church, and some questioned the aspect of fairness. Would he have been confirmed had he been a black gay man? If a heterosexual priest were unmarried and living with a woman for twelve years, would he be confirmed? These and many other thoughtful comments were made in this crucial dialogue. We are proud to be consulting with these clergy as they take this extraordinary step that will not only impact their own church but also lead the way for other faith communities.

Match Challenge a Success!



Project YES Board member **Tim Dugan** and his partner **Meredith Birrittella** issued a generous donor challenge match up to \$20,000 for Project YES. A total of \$24,550 was pledged, exceeding the match amount. We

would like to thank the following individuals that made our Matching Challenge a success.

Douglas DeBoer **Cathy Cline**
Robert Oldakowski **Colin and Bettina Veitch**
Paula Black **The Goldstein Foundation**
Harry Rimm **Peter Pilotti & Joseph Rodano.**
Greg Baldwin
Ed McAmis

THANK YOU!

Las Vegas Spectacular April 3, 2004

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable night of Vegas-style entertainment, blackjack, slot machines, gourmet dining, and an open bar. Tickets go on sale for \$100 each beginning November 1, 2003. Order tickets at **305-740-6952** or online at: www.projectyes.org/vegas

A limited number of tickets are available, so order early! Special patron packages will be offered. For more information, please contact **Tim Dugan** at **305-740-6952**.

Auction

Auction items will be available at the event and also online. Simply visit our website, enter your contact information and bid, and hope your offer tops the rest! Auction will close on the evening of the event.

Cadillac XLR



The star of the auction is the new **Cadillac XLR Convertible!** This roadster has created quite a stir in the automotive world. The XLR includes a Northstar V8 engine, automatic retractable hardtop, keyless starting, heated and cooled seats, a state-of-the-art media system, and every imaginable luxury. This offer is made possible by the generosity of **Williamson Cadillac**.

www.projectyes.org/auctions

All event and auction proceeds go directly to fund the work of Project YES.

Breakfast with the Admirers



Ruth & Jack Admire with Martha Fugate.

Ruth and Jack Admire, long-time friends and supporters of Project YES, hosted a breakfast to introduce new friends and potential supporters to our work.

We welcomed Reverend Luther Jones of the P.L. Dodge Foundation, Ann Bussell of the Shepard Broad Foundation, Amanda Jackson-Willey of the Kennedy Family Foundation, and Gianne Ewing-Chow of the Dade Community Foundation.

We are always energized by the public service and commitment Jack and Ruth express in every area of our community. We thank them for their ongoing support of our work.

Kiaora Update

Kiaora Society Members donate \$1,000 or more annually to Project YES. Without their support the results you read about in this newsletter would not happen.

Tim Dugan & Meredith Birrittella continue their generous and extraordinary commitment to Project YES with the Matching Donor Challenge. **Peter Pilotti & Joseph Rodano** responded to this challenge, increased their contribution, and are now **Visionary** Kiaora members. **Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez**, longtime **Visionary** members, also pledged support for the challenge. We welcome the matching pledge from the **Goldstein Foundation** and add them as our newest **Kiaora Leaders**.

We also welcome new **Kiaora Leaders** **Paula Morabito & Maria M. Yip** and new **Mentors** **Scott Lewis Stanton** and **José Luis Peré**. We thank **Carol & Ed Williamson** for renewing their commitment as **Champions**, and thank **Cathy Cline, City National Bank and the Abess Family, Larry R. Hyer, Robert Longstreth, Hortensia V. Soriano, William Vaughan, and Steven I. Yaeger** for renewing their commitment as **Kiaora Mentors**.

Citibank has been working double-time to support the work of Project YES. **CitiMortgage** joins the Kiaora Society as our newest **Corporate Sponsors**, and the **Citigroup Foundation** has renewed their support and our shared vision for a safe and healthy community for all youth. We also thank **Coral Gables Congregational Church** for a grant award.



Ron Baumgardner, CitiMortgage, Ana M. Bendana, Citibank Florida, Eva Leivas-Andino, and Alfredo F. Barbery, Citibank.

Kiaora Society

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



Visionary \$10,000 or more

Tim Dugan & Meredith Birrittella
Jonathan Lewis
Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez
Peter Pilotti & Joseph Rodano

Champion \$5,000 or more

Greg Baldwin & Jose Castro
Stephen E. Herbits
Bill Ross
Jacques Soukup
Rev. Marta S. Weeks
Carol & Ed Williamson

Leader \$2,500 or more

Connie Barden & Martha Fugate
Lang Baumgarten
Paula Black
Douglas DeBoer & Howard Kurzweil
Victor Garcia & Tim Wagoner
Goldstein Foundation
Paula Morabito & Maria M. Yip
Robert Oldakowski & Luis Mendoza
Pink Palm Company
Karen Raben & Andrea Pernick
Dennis Rodrigues
Kevin Veilleux

Mentor \$1,000 or more

Nancy Allen
Samuel Spencer Blum & Milenko Samardzich
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joseph@projectyes.org



REGISTER TODAY!

The Gender Continuum
Friday, October 17: 9 AM – 5 PM
\$100 CEU / \$50 Adult / \$20 Student
7 CEU Credits

Deciphering the Matrix
Saturday, October 24: 9 AM – 1 PM
\$50 CEU / \$25 Adult / \$20 Student
3.5 CEU Credits

Essentials of Orientation
Friday, November 7: 9AM – 1PM
\$50 CEU / \$25 Adult / \$20 Student
3.5 CEU Credits



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

Fellowship House

Fellowship House currently serves 600 members and is an established psycho-social rehabilitation center. Project YES was invited to open a dialogue with both staff and residents. Issues of gender and orientation surface in all aspects of their work, including vocational, social, case management, and outpatient services.

“ I was surprised to hear about the statistics of suicides. This will enrich the services I provide to my clients.”
- Fellowship House staff



Joseph Zolobczuk at Fellowship House.

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

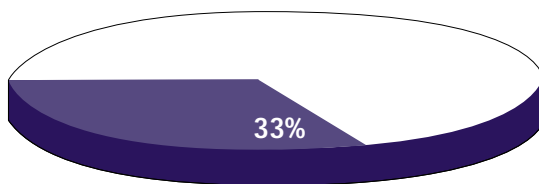
To prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth by initiating dialogue, providing education, and creating support systems.



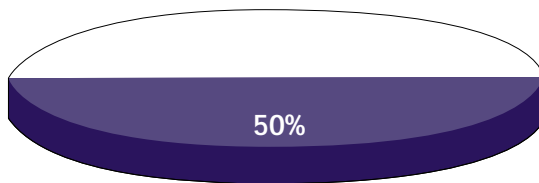
Join us for our next Community Meeting on Thursday, December 11 at 3:30 PM. Everyone's invited!

Children's Trust Presentation

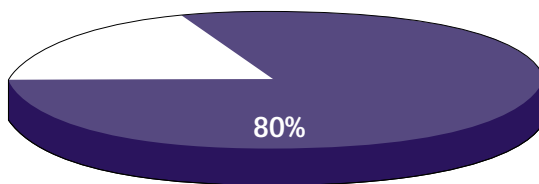
The mission of the Children's Trust is to improve the lives of all children and families in Miami-Dade County by making strategic investments in their futures. Their strategy is to begin with prevention and early intervention programs and fund the efforts that will have the greatest impact for children. They recognized that education for teachers, youth workers, health care personnel and faith community leaders on orientation and gender is essential to the healthy development of all kids, not just those who may be gay or lesbian. Project YES was asked to participate in planning meetings to offer our expertise in educational work around orientation and gender. We look forward to working closely with the Trust and all of the dedicated youth care providers in Florida.



33% of all teenage suicides are committed by gay and lesbian youth.



50% of gay youth are rejected by their parents when their orientation is discovered.



80% of all youth harassed in school for being perceived as gay are heterosexual.

For citations and additional statistics:
www.projectyes.org/research