



THE SOURCE FOR KNOWLEDGE ON GENDER & ORIENTATION*

Impact & Outcomes

January–June 2022



Mission

To prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of all youth through powerful communication and education on gender and orientation.

Dear Friends,

This spring our team kicked into high gear as in-person, virtual, and hybrid requests increased throughout the nation. Our work continues to be recognized as the source for knowledge on gender and orientation. Schools, hospitals, university classes, businesses, and community organizations sought our leadership, education, and guidance.

Our work with K-8 schools and universities is now bicoastal. Hospitality industry leaders scheduled YES Institute for employee training across the Eastern Seaboard. Equity and inclusion workgroups within multinational corporations booked us for professional education and workplace dialogues.

Locally we are experiencing an increase in support calls from families and youth. Parents who reach out are requesting assistance to better understand and support their children and refer them to trusted medical and mental health professionals. Therapists and physicians are requesting clinical trainings on inclusive patient care.

With high demand for our work we welcome our newest staff members, Terrance TJ Johnson, MS Ed., Education and Inclusion Specialist, and Nikolas Montolio, Youth Empowerment Coordinator.

TJ was born and raised in Miami, Florida and identifies as a proud transgender man. He graduated from the University of Florida with a BA in Political Science and a BS in Psychology. TJ also holds a M Ed. in College Student Affairs Administration from the University of Georgia. He is passionate about engaging in courageous conversations that help to broaden people's views of themselves and the world.



TJ and Nikolas.

Nikolas Montolio is a passionate leader eager to share wisdom gained from his gender transition to help younger generations feel seen and empowered. Nikolas is a graduate of Acceleration Academy High School. For two years Nikolas served as a dedicated volunteer with our Youth Advisory Leadership Council.

Welcome to the team TJ and Nikolas!



Staff from The Standard Hotel & Spa with YES Institute education team.

Businesses are reaching out seeking ways to genuinely deepen their engagement with their clientele and employees. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) initiatives are increasingly becoming a strategic focus in leading companies. YES Institute is sought for our unique communication and education approaches which further DEIA initiatives and support socially responsible practices within HR departments and employee affinity groups. We thank Board Member Jonathan Drucker and YES Institute volunteers Bill Dewald and Noah Pantaleon for being guest speakers.



Joseph Zolobczuk, MS Ed. and Lilliana Torres, DLA Piper Global Law.

Employee Affinity Workgroup Clients

- DLA Piper Miami Global Law Firm
- Getaround Car Share
- Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC
- Pride Miami SAP Software
- Somos and Out Loud SONY Music
- Tech Hub South Florida

Hospitality & Tourism Clients

- Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau
- The Standard Hotel & Spa

“Loved seeing the impact of this dialogue on my colleagues! I learned different perspectives about these topics. I truly appreciated the respect and open discussion YES Institute created with us. Highly educational.”
 – SAP Miami participant



YES Institute with Pride employee affinity group SAP employees.

Private and public school faculty and parents are reporting pandemic-related concerns in the areas of student social and emotional skills, academics, and mental health. Our team led multiple sessions for school communities and curated specific trainings for faculty and parents on the topics of unconscious bias, gender stereotypes, bullying prevention, and communication skills.

School Communities:

- A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts
- Broward County Public Schools Equity and Diversity Summits
- Campbell Drive K-8 Center
- C.O.P.E. Center North
- Coral Gables High School
- Edelcup Sunny Isles Beach K-8
- FAU High School
- Gardens School of Technology and Arts of Palm Beach
- Miami Killian Senior High School
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools Social Workers
- Miccosukee Indian School
- NSU University School
- Ridgeline Montessori Public Charter School in Oregon
- The Cushman School
- Unity School of Delray Beach
- William T. Dwyer High School



Faculty and parents at Unity School in Palm Beach County, Florida. We thank Tori Gabriel for speaking at numerous parent dialogues this spring!

“We learned awareness of just how much our kids are struggling and dealing with in today’s time, as opposed to our time growing up as children.”
– Broward County Public Schools Equity Summit participant



YES Institute with students at Killian Senior High School in Miami-Dade.



YES Institute youth and community agencies with US Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy.

The Office of the US Surgeon General invited YES Institute youth to a roundtable discussion on youth mental health and gender and orientation topics at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida.

“As I was the only openly transgender student at my school, administrators would send students to talk to me. I really felt it should have been other professionals they referred my peers to.”
– Nikolas Montolio, Youth Empowerment Coordinator

Youth Advisory Leadership Council (YALC) members Neptune, Felix, and Nikolas shared testimonies about structural barriers to care and lack of provider knowledge in Florida with the US Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy.



Neptune, Youth Advisory Leadership Council member, leading a peer-to-peer session for Kindness Anywhere virtual program.

Neptune and Felix led a peer-to-peer conversation on gender across three states to our partners at Kindness Matters 365.

Young people are standing for their truth, being the catalyst creating opportunities for their peers. Our YALC program develops the inherent leadership of young people.

Citrus Family Care Network hosted three YES Institute training sessions reaching over 130 case managers and other Miami child welfare professionals. We also produced a training video for case managers enhancing competency skills on gender, orientation, and racial inclusion.

Affirming Medical Care

How can medical providers ensure their patients are acknowledged and welcomed authentically? Gender and orientation affirming care doesn't require anyone to personally agree with a person's identity or actions. It supports medical professionals treating others with humanity and understanding.

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine ensured over 100 of their medical students were well equipped to affirm the experience of their future patients, and relate to clients in ways that reduce escalation of harm or stigma.



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
MILLER SCHOOL
of MEDICINE

South Florida Transgender Medical Consortium invited us to conduct a workshop on community-informed best practices for supporting transgender youth and young adults.



Dr. Shelley Slapion-Foote and YES Institute co-facilitated a clinical CE session on transgender affirming care through Nova Southeastern University College of Psychology.



YES Institute is offering complimentary grant-funded trainings and CE sessions for Palm Beach and Martin County medical and mental health professionals and students.

Send requests to: info@yesinstitute.org



YES Institute with University of Miami Miller School of Medicine students.

In April 2022, a CDC report found that rates of suicide in Florida had grown faster than much of the nation between 2019 and mid-2021. State health officials have acknowledged that Florida gay, transgender, and questioning youth face elevated rates of mental health challenges and suicidal thoughts.

To address this increase, YES Institute is working with university mental health training programs, mental health clinics, and individual therapists including education sessions for:

- Arizona State University, Counseling Psychology Program
- FIU Department of Psychology, Clinical Science PhD Students
- University of Miami Department of Psychology, Department of Family Science & Social Work, College of Education



Buxani Counseling Care event for Mental Health Awareness on behalf of youth in the pride community.

*“I learned how to better support youth in my therapy sessions.”
– FIU psychology student*



Miccosukee Indian School counselors and faculty.



Youth Advisory Leadership Council members Ryan, Caleb, and Nikolas are practicing self-care and mindfulness by “unplugging” at a Saturday meeting at the park.

Hotlines

9-8-8 New national self-harm prevention hotline

Black Lifeline
800-604-5841

Trans Lifeline
877-565-8860

Trevor Project Lifeline
866-488-7386

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We thank our amazing Kiaora Society and Professionals Society of Donors for their incredible support of our mission. Contributions to YES Institute are vital to sustain our vision and fulfill our purpose. YES Institute invests 91% of every dollar directly into our educational programs. Your donation is going directly to support the work you care about.

Inspired? We invite you to share about our work and invite your friends to consider donating.

yesinstitute.org/give

Donor contributions through July 15.

Faith-Based Communities

St. Martin's Episcopal K-8 School in Atlanta, Georgia hosted YES Institute at their school for a PTA dialogue on gender stereotypes and youth bullying prevention. Parents were appreciative hearing and interacting with Board Member Belkis Moreno about her personal journey towards unconditional love with her own children.

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church is creating a welcoming and inviting faith family within the Miami Gardens community. We led two sessions for church leaders, staff, and parishioners to better understand unconscious bias and cultivate welcome and belonging in their congregation.



Camillus House case managers and therapists.

Our team led a gender and orientation workshop for staff at Camillus House, a Catholic-founded agency that is feeding, clothing, and sheltering 33,000 people annually. Case managers have reported increased housing and food insecurity among gay and transgender youth and adult clients and their families.



Palmer Trinity Episcopal School faculty with YES Institute.

“Aprendí a respetar a las personas aunque sean diferentes o piensen diferente.”
(I learned to respect people even if they are different or think differently.)
– Children’s Village participant

The Children’s Village, a program with the Archdiocese of Miami, houses unaccompanied children who recently arrived to the US. We led two gender and orientation inclusion sessions in Spanish and English languages.



Teresa Montolio, a grandmother, and Noah Pantaleon, a father, are volunteer speakers with YES Institute and serve as peer resources for Spanish-speaking families and parents.



MCCJ MetroTown youth summer program with YES Institute facilitators.

YES Institute's model of communication is interwoven throughout all our work, allowing diverse participant perspectives to be shared and included in open and authentic conversations.

Participants frequently share their gratitude for our inclusive educational approaches that rapidly cultivate trust, listening, and vulnerability.

Spring Dialogues

- HOBY Youth Leadership Summit
- MDC Kendall & Main Campuses
- Miami Recovery Project
- Miami Children's Museum
- UC Santa Barbara Women's Ultimate Frisbee team
- UM Law School First Star Academy
- MCCJ Metro Town
- US National Parks – Biscayne, Cypress, Everglades, Dry Tortugas

2022 Mid-Year Impact

3,885 people

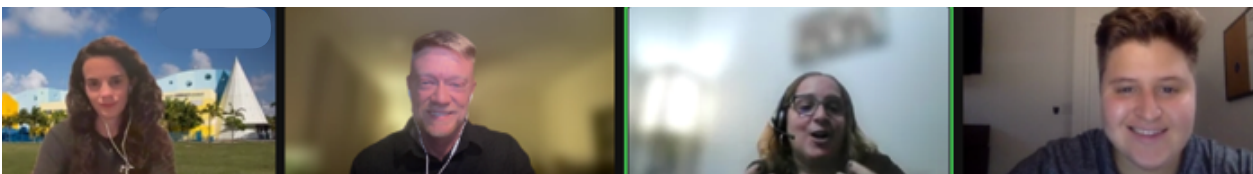
including students, parents, and professionals who attended YES Institute education and prevention-in-action sessions.

96 sessions

delivered virtually, in-person, or in hybrid formats.

30% increase

intake calls for mental health, peer and family support, and medical referrals, compared to last year.



Miami Children's Museum participants engaging with parent speaker Milagros Del Valle.

Upcoming Courses

yesinstitute.org/upcoming-courses

CE units available

Deciphering Gender & Orientation

(Zoom)

Saturday, August 27

9am-1pm ET

Communication Toolbox™

(Zoom)

Saturday, September 17

9am-1pm ET

A Communication Called “Bullying”

(Zoom)

Wednesday, October, 5

9am-2pm ET

Bowling with a Purpose!



Sunday, August 21, 2022

11am–1pm

Bird Bowl

9275 SW 40th St., Miami, FL 33165

Purchase sponsorship or tickets:

yesinstitute.org/bowling

- \$540 Group Lane sponsorship (up to 6 people)
- \$90 Individual tickets

All proceeds benefit YES Institute. Tickets include shoes, bowling ball, lunch, beverages, silent auction and raffle drawings.



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