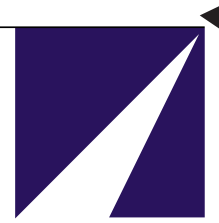


# ReVision



PROJECT  
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*

*The mission of Project YES is to prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth by initiating dialogue, providing information and creating support systems.*

## Communication Course

By **Betty Greene**, Graduate Assistant for North Georgia College & State University

Thank you for the wonderful weekend of training I received at Project YES. You have distilled basic principles of human communication into a simple, comprehensible package. A strong sense of integrity comes across in everything you share. It is compassionate without ever compromising basic principles. Regardless of the paths opened by dialogue, the focus stays on purpose.



*The communication course with Betty Greene*

This training was a great gift to use back in my "real world" at North Georgia College & State University. We have established a suicide prevention task force to create a more tolerant environment on the university campus and create support for students struggling to come to terms with their sexual orientation. The training will be very helpful to me in this currently very homophobic campus. Many are concerned about the three suicides that occurred last year, but have not included the possible connection of sexual orientation.

Thank you for the insightful, empowering training. I will stay in touch with you about how things develop in North Georgia.

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## New World Symphony Benefit

It was a joyful representation of Project YES to see the blending of artists, family, clergy, politicians, librarians, poets, moms, dads, babies, and teachers, coming together to celebrate at our third annual fundraiser, "From Russia With Love". The evening started with cocktails and delectable creations from culinary students at **Johnson & Wales University**. It was followed by incredibly beautiful music from the Russian Masters, served up by the incomparable **New World Symphony**, under the artistic direction of **Michael Tilson Thomas**. While that would have been a full plate for anyone's evening, the gourmet dishes served after the concert, prepared by chefs from Johnson & Wales, left



*Martha Fugate and Michael Tilson Thomas*

**Dr. John Martin, Jacques Soukup & Aaman Crane, Kevin Veilleux & Jimmy Mourra, Williamson Cadillac, Robin Wolff & Kathy Gregory, City National Bank of Florida, EWM Realty, Thomas Healy & Fred Hochbert, Ivax Pharmaceutical, and**



*The reception following the concert*

*NWS Musicians joining the Project YES reception*

no doubt in anyone's mind that the evening was both a culinary and symphonic success.

Many people expressed their commitment to the safety of all youth and worked hard to ensure this success. The Presenting Sponsors were: **Espirito Santo Plaza, Citibank FSB, Cordis Corporation, Architectural Alliance, Brickell & Partners, Dupont Pharmaceutical, Frameworks, Pink Palm,**

**The Miami Herald.** We thank them for their support.

We are also grateful to our Patron Sponsors, **Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez, Christopher Dunworth, Akerman & Senterfitt-Attorneys at Law, Peter Pilotti, Bob Cole, and Jacqueline Simkin** who generously added their support. **Jan Kirchoff of Deli Lane and Sunset Tavern** once again

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# New World Symphony Benefit

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Jan Kirchoff with Carol and Ed Williamson

stepped in as our guardian angel. **Marty Harris of SCP Printing** is another champion for Project YES, continually enabling us to present the issues of gay and lesbian youth in a powerful way. We would like to recognize **Tatiana Herrera** and **Sebastian Wells** of Johnson & Wales who graciously stepped in and added their professional expertise along with the dedicated and talented students. We want to thank the host committee members who worked hard to share about the benefit. A special thanks for making this evening special goes to: **Always Flowers, Bacardi USA Inc., Swank Audio Visuals, Kendra McGuire,**

**Rick Rubin of Artis-Tech and Bob Martin of Martin Gardens** who provided the palm trees for our tropical setting. We cannot begin to enumerate the many gifts that **Marty Schildhouse** gives to support the mission of Project YES. He has relentlessly worked and masterfully produced the past three annual benefits for Project YES. We thank him for his many talents and his enormous heart.

Again, we want to thank **Michael Tilson Thomas** and the **New World Symphony** for giving us this opportunity and for their partnership in making the world safe for all youth.



Paula Xanthopoulou and Greg Ullman



Johnson & Wales culinary student

## Community Care Begins!

By Dr. Deb White, Clinical Psychologist

We have long dreamed of a solution that would provide safe homes, family reunification, and counseling services to our youth at risk of homelessness because of their parents' reaction to their orientation. Our **Community Care Project** is finally becoming a reality. The **Rosie O'Donnell Foundation** has awarded Project YES \$20,000 towards matching funds for the **Knight Foundation** challenge grant awarded to our partnering organization, **Children's Psychiatric Center.**

With this funding we have begun the first step in actualizing this program—finding, empowering, training and supporting caregivers

to ensure that we have safe homes in which to place youth.

Last week we held the first introductory meeting to share with interested people the steps involved in becoming Community Care Caregivers. The stories, motivations, and commitment displayed were inspiring. We hope to soon schedule the first training classes for interested caregivers.



Community Care Orientation Meeting

If you are interested in learning more about the program and what it takes to become a safe home provider, call Project YES at **305-663-7195.**

## Community Meeting Surprise

It's all about giving back to the community and Arvida Realty showed its commitment to doing that with a most generous donation of \$2,500 to Project YES. We used the money to purchase an LCD projector. Thank you Arvida Realty and Douglas DeBoer for helping us create a safe community for all youth.



Arvida Realty presenting Project YES with an award

## Leave a Legacy Luncheon



Bob Oldakowski, Martha Fugate and Jerry Chasen

The **Leave a Legacy Foundation** invited Martha Fugate, Director of Project YES and Bob Oldakowski, Chairman of the Board of Project YES to present, "Creating the Right Board to Move Ahead" to leaders of the South Florida philanthropic community. The outstanding work of the Project YES Board of Directors was highlighted as a model for powerful board development.

## Kiaora Society



The **Rosie O'Donnell Foundation** has awarded Project YES \$20,000 towards matching funds for the **Knight Foundation**

challenge grant to fund our **Community Care** program. The **Dade Human Rights Foundation** has committed \$10,000, and **Brian McCullar** \$3,000 towards this challenge grant. **Carol and Ed Williamson** continue being champions renewing their Kiaora contribution through United Way at the **Champion Level.**

We want to thank **Janice and Howard Scholl** and **James C. Hanrahan, Jr.** as renewing Mentors in Kiaora, and welcome new Kiaora Mentor **Robert Leon Yates.**

# Presentations and Workshops



Homestead and South Miami Police Officers - First turns

## Homestead Police Workshops

**Officer Antonio Aquino** invited Project YES to speak with the Chiefs of Police, Sergeants, and Officers at the **Homestead and South Miami Police Departments**. The presentations were provocative, and surprisingly well received.

“I’ve never had this training before. It was very enlightening.”  
- **South Miami Chief of Police**

“This ‘hands-on’ approach worked well with all participants. I left with a much better understanding.”  
- **South Miami Officer**

“I believe the honesty demonstrated by the speakers opened the eyes of most of the employees.”  
- **Homestead Officer**

## Nautilus Middle School

Project YES was invited by **Ms. Deborah Bodden** to present a diversity workshop to a class of students at Nautilus Middle School. The young students sent an oversized thank-you card: “Dear Project YES, Thank you for teaching me to accept people who are different from me. I appreciated it, come back to see us.”

## Memorial Regional Hospital

**Lorrie Rivera, Patient Advocate** at the **Behavioral Health Department** at **Memorial Regional Hospital** invited Project YES to conduct a second workshop for their staff. The Project YES Welcome Posters are now displayed in both the **Adult and Adolescent Behavioral Health** departments.



Memorial Regional Hospital Staff

## Florida International University

One of our newest community speakers, **Coco Lindao**, along with **Rev. Marta Burke**, spoke to the **Prof. Belote’s** diversity studies class at FIU. Coco brought a new dimension to the presentation as she shared her experience growing up as a transgender teenager and young adult.

## The Starting Place and Regis House

By Memo Alvarez



The Counselors at Regis House

I observed my first Project YES presentation at **The Starting Place** in Broward, a jail-like rehabilitation facility for youth in the Juvenile Justice System. I didn’t know what to expect...very much a “hope for the best, prepare for the worst” situation. The reception area had security glass and the elevator was key operated. Not exactly comfy.

We soon met **Lauren Lapon**, the counselor who invited Project YES to speak, and she nervously informed us that a fight had broken out just before our arrival. Once in the room, the group of teenagers was very quiet. Joe spoke and gave information. It was great to see the communication course in action. The tricky questions came up and Joe handled each one. The counselor smiled nervously from her seat. She seemed to be expecting some kind of outburst from the kids. It didn’t happen. Most of the youth were open to the subject matter, even relating some stories of how they had experienced discrimination. The presentation finished without a glitch. Joe is a pro, and seeing his presentation has assured me that I want to contribute, helping and participating in more presentations. The Starting Place was a perfect start!

## Kiaora Society Members

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



### Visionary \$10,000 or more

Dade Human Rights Foundation  
Gill Foundation  
A.D. Henderson Foundation  
Ittleson Foundation  
Jonathan Lewis & Roberto Posada  
John T. Macdonald Foundation  
Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez  
New World Symphony  
Rosie O’Donnell For All Kids Foundation  
The Ruth Anderson Foundation

### Champion \$5,000 or more

Greg Baldwin & Jose Castro  
Dade Community Foundation  
Dade Human Rights Foundation  
Espirito Santo Plaza  
North Dade Medical Foundation  
Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation  
Carol & Ed Williamson

### Leader \$2,500 or more

Connie Barden & Martha Fugate  
Nellie Barrios  
Citibank FSB  
Bob Cole  
Coral Gables Congregational Church  
Cordis Corporation  
J. Bryan McCullar  
Robert Oldakowski & Luis Mendoza  
Karen Raben & Andrea Pernick  
Jacques Soukup  
William Vaughan

### Mentor \$1,000 or more

Nancy Allen  
Architectural Alliance  
Lang Baumgarten  
Paula Black  
Brickell and Partners  
Jerry Chasen  
City National Bank of Florida & The Abess Family  
Douglas DeBoer & Howard Kurzweil  
Deli Lane Cafe  
Dupont Pharmaceuticals  
Robert A. Flanders & Walter F. Goodman  
FrameWorks  
Randall Gluss & Fernando Mendez  
James C. Hanrahan, Jr.  
Stephen E. Herbits  
Highsmith & Company  
Holland & Knight, LLP  
Dr. Robert Hosmon  
Larry Hyer  
IBM Funds For Community Service  
Carol Amaya King  
Jim Kitchens & Edward Lee  
John S. & James L. Knight Foundation  
Robert Longstreth  
Ralph Lutrin & Alan Lewis  
Boris Marchegiani  
Dr. John J. Martin, Jr., and Forrest McSurdy  
Edward McIntyre & Fernando Anes  
Judith Mercier  
John Messer & Michael Lee  
Kevin J. Miller  
Richard Milstein  
Bernard Oxman  
Pink Palm  
Antonio Prado  
Wendy Reiner & Paula Xanthopoulos  
John C. Roettger & Brian P. Molloy  
Bill Ross  
Howard Perry Rothberg, II & Paul A. Scolieri  
Marty Schildhouse  
Janice & Howard Scholl  
Lee Brian Schragger  
Chesterfield Smith  
The Rev. Frank Smith & Isabelle Hill  
Mark Steinberg & Dennis Edwards  
Kevin Veilleux & Jimmy Mourra  
The Rev. Marta S. Weeks  
Lori Weens-Hertz  
Kathleen Wells & Donald Dillport  
Steve Werner  
Robin Wheatley & Jeffrey Newton  
Dr. Michael Wohlfelder & Albert Eldridge  
Robin Wolff & Kathy Gregory  
Robert Leon Yates  
Steve Yeager

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Hispanic Coordinator  
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Religious Liaison  
**Joseph Zolobczuk**,  
Director's Assistant  
**Betty Noe**,  
Community Liaison

## Upcoming events

**April Community Meeting**  
Spotlight Agency - VITAS Hospice, Inc.  
**Thursday, April 12 at 3:30 PM—Project YES Meeting Room**

**Next Community Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 10 at 3:30 PM—Project YES Meeting Room**

## Special announcements

### Next Communication Course

Discover the effectiveness of powerful communication skills and learn more about purpose-driven dialogue. Course graduates are certified to be Project YES speakers.  
**Saturday, April 28 (9PM-4PM), and Sunday, April 29 (Noon-6PM)**  
Call Joseph Zolobczuk or Rev. Marta Burke at 305-663-7195 to register.

Recent school shootings have called attention to the importance of creating dialogue on safety for all students. If you would like to invite Project YES to speak to your faculty, students, church group, business, or community agency, please call Project YES at 305-663-7195

## "GOD AS LOVE" Program Report

### A New Partnership



Rev. Dr. Marta Burke, God As Love Liaison

On June 1, the Florida Annual Conference of the **United Methodist Church** is entering into a partnership with Project YES. The United Methodist Church has appointed **Rev. Dr. Marta Burke** as Minister

to the **God As Love** program until May 2002. We thank and acknowledge **Bishop Lloyd Knox**, the Cabinet and the Conference Relations Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry of the UMC for their support of the partnership with Project YES. This is an outstanding example of our work to create dialogue in faith communities.

### Center for Sexuality and Religion

The **Center for Sexuality and Religion** recently published an article about Project YES. The Spring Edition of the CSR Connections



Newsletter connects our work to a whole new audience of clergy and ministers.

### A Gift In Memory

Keeping the memory of a loved one alive is the purpose of a \$1000 gift to Project YES from **Rev. Paul Mullholand** and the members of the **Christ Metropolitan Community Church**. We are grateful to the Church and its members for their generosity and the opportunity to share in their memory.



Participants of the Ministry Communications Course