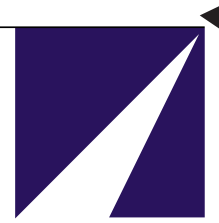


# ReVision



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*

*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.*

## Project Dignity in North Georgia

### Miami Jackson Sr. High School

On April 25, Martha Fugate and Nina Topp spoke with 130 teachers and administrators at Miami Jackson Senior High School. In a compelling introduction, Counselor Patricia Manson shared a student paper written only hours before the faculty meeting. The student disclosed 2 suicide attempts and strong feelings of isolation, even from her closest friends.

Nina shared her own high school experience, bringing the reality of insufficient resources for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth to life. At the completion of the presentation, over 30 faculty requested a Project YES workshop for Miami Jackson in the fall.



Miami Jackson High School

“ I studied for 6 years to be a counselor, and this is the first time I've learned anything about this topic. ”

- Patricia Manson, School counselor



NGCSU campus

On our fourth trip to Dahlonega, Georgia, we were inspired by the accomplishments of our partners at North Georgia College & State University (NGCSU). When we first visited in 2000, Dahlonega had no resources for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth. By our third visit in 2001, faculty at NGCSU had created Project Dignity, a campus organization providing support for students who experience harassment or discrimination related to gender, sexual orientation, or other characteristics. Using the Project YES model of communication, they have trained over 65 volunteer listeners for students in distress.

A Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) was started through Project Dignity, and the group now meets twice weekly. We met with Project Dignity and the GSA to share ideas about reaching out to students and becoming powerful community resources.

NGCSU, mirroring our Community Coalition model, has partnered with neighboring schools. Our workshops included students and faculty from both NGCSU and nearby Piedmont College.

We are proud of our partners in Dahlonega, and we look forward to more results in 2003!



Faculty workshop



PTA rainbow pin for Dr. Shirley Holmes

### Honors from North Georgia

Our Director, Martha Fugate, was inducted by North Georgia College & State University into Pi Sigma Alpha (National Honor Society in Political Science) and Pi Gamma Mu (International Honor Society in Social Science). Martha is grateful for this tribute and for our partnership with the esteemed and distinguished Dr. Barry Friedman.

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# Delaware Training for Religious Leaders a Success

Breaking the historic silence on gender and orientation issues takes tremendous courage. A group of ecumenical clergy and lay ministers in Wilmington, Delaware, practiced beginning this dialogue in our Communication Course.

Determined to reach out to youth and families who might feel alienated from the church, participants explored the Project YES communication model.

“ It was very difficult for me to let go of the concept of right and wrong, but now I see how quickly this model moves people beyond that battleground. ”

- Scot Stetka, Lay Minister

Rev. Tom Davis of Hanover Presbyterian Church hosted the weekend course. The following Sunday, he preached about his experience to his congregation. His sermon was selected for

“ ...the way to a just and lasting peace will not be by out-maneuvering or converting our adversaries. Rather it will be by identifying our common hopes, then common objectives... I don't think it's too much to hope for, because I have seen Project YES identify common hopes and make them blossom into astounding win-win results. ”

- Rev. Tom Davis



Clergy group

publication on the Witherspoon Society website ([www.witherspoonsociety.org/why\\_hope.htm](http://www.witherspoonsociety.org/why_hope.htm)), which addresses concerns related to the Presbyterian Church USA.

We congratulate Tom on the publication of his sermon, and we are excited to learn about other developments in Delaware after our visit.

“ ...an effective tool for discussing safety and security for all our children. I am so enthusiastic about the possibilities. ”

- Pastor Lyle Dykstra



Training at Hanover Presbyterian Church

## SAFE-T Courses Open Hearts & Minds



Krop High School group

We asked participants in our Student Alliance for Empowerment Training (SAFE-T) Course what they would do if someone harassed them with anti-gay epithets. Mitch, a sophomore, gave the first response: "I'd just ram my fist into his face." His comment quickly received nods of agreement.

Students at Turner Technical Arts High School and Michael Krop High School were initially wary of how they could remain generous in such hostile situations. However, as the course progressed, Mitch spoke up again.

“ Oh! I see... this way cools down the fight instead of heating it up. ”

- Mitch, High school sophomore

Mitch's insight as he began to recognize new possibilities in communication led the way for others. Soon all students began practicing the new model of communication. Some of their comments follow:

“ ...made a positive impact on my outlook on life. The way in which I deal with people will definitely be different. ”

- Turner Tech student

“ This is the best experience I've ever had. It showed me a different way of thinking and expressing myself to other people. ”

- Krop student

## April Communication Course

We are always delighted by the diversity of participants in our Communication Course. Representatives from United Way, The Village, Dade Community Foundation, Miami Beach Community Health Center, and SAVE Dade were among those who joined us for a fun and challenging weekend.



Communication Course participants

Both youth and adults were dazzled by the synergy created in the unique atmosphere of our weekend course.

“ ...very empowering... so fantastic to explore these concepts in such a loving, safe space. My life is touched and changed. ”

- Chris Prado



Department of Children & Families staff

## Reaching Out to the Community

In 3 Project YES workshops at the annual Gender Equity Conference for Miami-Dade County students, 150 students, teachers, and counselors explored gender and orientation issues. Youth speaker Mario Fuentes led discussions about challenges students face in school.



CHARLEE workers



Mario Fuentes leading Gender Equity workshop

Staff at Kristi House, The Village, CHARLEE Homes for Children, and Department of Children & Families participated in our Dialogue for Action workshop. Project YES volunteers also opened dialogue with students at Miami-Dade Community College, Florida International University, and Killian High School.

## Ed McAmis Kiaora Party



The Decotones – harmony in the garden

Ed McAmis and Gerson Gonzalez graciously hosted a party for our Kiaora Society and friends.

In a brief PowerPoint®

presentation, Martha Fugate highlighted Project YES work. Nina Topp and Eva Leivas-Andino shared the power of our work from their own experiences.

Both newcomers and longtime supporters were invigorated by a renewed commitment to making our world safer for all. We are deeply grateful to Ed and Gerson for opening their home and creating a magical evening for Project YES.



Kiaora members and guests

## Kiaora Society Donor Update

Project YES celebrates and welcomes **Eva Leivas-Andino** as new Visionary. We are grateful to **Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez** for their continued commitment as Visionaries. We also thank **Jonathan Lewis & Roberto Posada** for generously renewing their Visionary status. **Peter Pilotti & Joseph Rodano** have stepped up as Kiaora Champions and designated their contribution to fund a future Community Coalition. We welcome **Dennis Rodriguez** as new Kiaora Leader through his United Way pledge. **Bob Oldakowski & Luis Mendoza** and **Nellie Barrios** renewed at the Leader Level. New Kiaora Mentors include **Samuel Spencer Blum & Milenko Samardzich, Bruce A. Christensen, and Alex Kozak. Nancy Allen, Paula Black, Jan Kirchoff, Ralph Lutrin & Alan Lewis, John J. Martin, Jr., & Forrest McSurdy, Bill Ross, Lee Brian Schragger, and Kevin Veilleux & Jimmy Mourra** generously renewed their Mentor status. We thank **Richard Milstein, Marty Schildhouse, Juan Carlos Urquiola, and Lori Weems** for pledging their contributions to Project YES through United Way. We further appreciate the ongoing support of **Dade Human Rights Foundation** at the Champion Level and **Coral Gables Congregational Church** at the Leader Level.



### Kiaora Society

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

#### Visionary \$10,000 or more

A.D. Henderson Foundation  
Citibank FSB  
Tim Dugan & Meredith Birrittella  
Eva Leivas-Andino  
Jonathan Lewis & Roberto Posada  
Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez  
North Dade Medical Foundation  
Rosie O'Donnell For All Kids Foundation  
Ruth Anderson Foundation  
United Way of Miami-Dade

#### Champion \$5,000 or more

Greg Baldwin & Jose Castro  
Dade Human Rights Foundation  
Stephen E. Herbits  
Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation  
Miami Beach Police Department  
Peter Pilotti & Joseph Rodano  
Jacques Soukup  
Southern Country South Florida, Inc.  
Rev. Marta S. Weeks  
Rev. Hugh Westbrook & Carole Shields  
Carol & Ed Williamson

#### Leader \$2,500 or more

Connie Barden & Martha Fugate  
Nellie Barrios  
Barton G  
Lang Baumgarten  
Coral Gables Congregational Church  
Douglas DeBoer & Howard Kurzweil  
J. Bryan McCullar  
North Georgia College & State University,  
Dept. of Education  
Robert Oldakowski & Luis Mendoza  
Pink Palm  
Karen Raben & Andrea Pernick  
Dennis Rodriguez  
Triangle Foundation, Detroit, MI  
United Teachers of Dade County

#### 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  
Dade Community Foundation  
Scott Dansky & John Dawson  
Gill Foundation  
Randall R. Gluss & Fernando Mendez-Villamil, MD  
Walter F. Goodman & Robert A. Flanders  
James C. Hanrahan, Jr.  
Marty Harris & Nikki Korval  
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Alex Kozak  
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Janice & Howard Scholl  
Lee Brian Schragger  
Chesterfield Smith  
Martin Smith  
South Florida Center for Theological Studies  
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Juan Carlos Urquiola  
William Vaughan  
Kevin Veilleux & Jimmy Mourra  
Tim Wagoner & Victor Garcia  
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- Nina Topp**, Director's Assistant
- Carolyn S. Garwood, Ph.D.**, Educational Specialist Liaison, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- Eva-Leivas Andino**, Hispanic Coordinator
- Rev. Dr. Marta Burke**, Religious Liaison
- Joseph Zolobczuk**, Community Liaison

**Special announcements**

**Project YES Community Meetings**  
Thursday, July 11, at 3:30 PM  
Thursday, August 8, at 3:30 PM  
Everyone invited!

**Communication Course**  
Saturday & Sunday, June 22 & 23  
Saturday & Sunday, August 24 & 25  
Call Marta at 305-663-7195 to register.

**Dialogue for Action Previews**  
Wednesday, June 19, at 1:30 PM  
Wednesday, July 24, at 1:30 PM

**Upcoming events**

For upcoming events and speaking opportunities, go online to [www.projectyes.org](http://www.projectyes.org) and click the Calendar link.

**Our Own Heroine**

The Colin Higgins Foundation awarded their 2002 Courage Award to our own Eva Leivas-Andino, recognizing her outstanding commitment to educating others about gender and orientation issues.

Eva generously donated her entire \$10,000 award to Project YES. We are deeply grateful for her immeasurable contributions to Project YES.



Eva Leivas-Andino & family

“ All of us together can truly move the community forward by making a path as we walk – Movemos la comunidad hacia adelante, haciendo camino al andar. ”

- Eva Leivas-Andino

**Coral Gables Congregational Church**

We held a Communication Course for staff from Coral Gables Congregational Church at the request of Rev. Donna Schaper.

“ We have a long way to go in the church. This model will definitely move us forward. ”

- Sandra Cleland, Youth Coordinator

**Let's Go SOL!**

Project YES is a proud sponsor of the Miami SOL. We staff an information booth at all home games to reach out to other basketball fans in the community. Call Nina at 305-663-7195 to get in on the action!

“ Real generosity toward the future consists in giving all to what is present. ”

- Albert Camus