

ReVision

re (ri) *n.* 1. anew, again **vision** (vizh 'u) *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 education, and creating support systems.

Department of Juvenile Justice

The voice of youth speaker Keren Pilinger quieted lively discussion in two workshops for staff of the North Facility of the Department of Juvenile Justice. Keren's authentic sharing tied together theoretical points and shifted the focus of everyone present.

*"...really got me thinking about how young people feel inside. I will carry this with me in my day to day life."
- Cora Jenkins*

Project YES speaker Chris Prado inspired participants to relate the information to both their jobs and their personal lives.

Terria Flakes, managing representative of the North Facility, invited us to return to deliver our workshop to other facilities.

Key Biscayne Initiative Hosted by Churches

Last year a group of Key Biscayne community leaders invited Project YES to make a presentation on safety for all youth and families. As a result of that initial gathering, Fr. Gabe Sinisi recently hosted a follow-up meeting on May 24 at St. Christopher's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church. Participants included the Vice Mayor, Police Chief, Fire Rescue Chief, and other leaders from the Village Council, Police

Department, Recreation Department, Athletic Club, and local schools.

The meeting opened dialogue about how the Village of Key Biscayne could begin making a difference on this topic. One consistent message was the need for both community leaders and agencies to receive more information and training.



Key Biscayne community leaders.



Key Biscayne Community Church.

On July 10, Rev. Charles Schroeder hosted a Project YES Dialogue For Action workshop at Key Biscayne Community Church to continue exploring the topic of safety and inclusion with other Village leaders. Youth speaker Keren Pilinger shared her heart with the audience, moving participants to express regret that more community leaders were not able to attend.

*"...valuable information to use in future discussions in church and school about how we can all work together for the safety of our youth."
- Rev. Charles Schroeder*



DJJ staff.

*"...a great beginning... made a powerful impact on me as a mother in this community."
- Roxy Lohuis
Coordinator of Senior Services*

Inside

Awards Celebration	Page 2
Dade Association of Marriage and Family Therapists	Page 2
"I Wish"	Page 2
Response from U.S. and Beyond	Page 2

Community Outreach	Page 3
Kiaora Society Donor Update	Page 3
New Gender Workshop	Page 3
Welcome Irene!	Page 3

Training Future Course Leaders	Page 4
Rev. Marta Burke	Page 4
Special Announcements	Page 4
Upcoming Events	Page 4

Awards Celebration

Over 100 guests honored Carolyn Garwood, Karin Brown (on behalf of the Dade County Council PTA/PTSA), Dawne Fleri, and Barbara Byrne at our awards luncheon for their outstanding contributions. Each winner received an



Citibank representatives Leticia Carrazona, Emilio Vazquez, and Lori Duarte-Roberts.



Friends and family of the Dade County Council PTA/PTSA.

original, handcrafted glass sculpture engraved with the phrase "Courage in Action."

The magnetic atmosphere at the celebration was a reflection of the powerful influence our winners have as constant voices for our youth.



Award winners clockwise from top left: Barbara Byrne, Dr. Carolyn Garwood, Karin Brown, and Dawne Fleri.

Dade Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

New Project Yes workshop leader Barbara Byrne, LCSW, drew on her professional experience to conduct a Dialogue For Action workshop for the Dade Association of Marriage and Family Therapists.

Project YES speaker Magda Pantaleon inspired everyone in attendance, moving participants to propose future action steps.



Social workers and therapists.

“This information is so important and necessary for today’s society and our entire community. Please come back and offer a training for therapists working with youth.”

- Daisy Navarro
LMFT, RPT

“...really widened my perspective to see how gender and orientation affect kids and society as a whole...very helpful for my practice.”

- Victoria Dickman
LMFT

“I Wish...”

“I wish I could tell the people I love
All the pain I have inside.
I wish they could know how I feel
And love me for who I am.

I wish they could be in my place
And for one moment understand.
I wish they would never be embarrassed
About who I really am.

I wish that for one single second
I could be my family’s pride.
I wish I could be
Who they think I am.”

-Carlos A. Cuza
Hialeah student



Last year, Carlos shared his poem with us at a Student Alliance for Empowerment Training (SAFE-T) Course. He recently sent us the following note and inspired us again with his courage:

Response from U.S. and Beyond

We have had a phenomenal response to recent media features about Eva Leivas-Andino. Newspaper articles and radio interviews highlighting Eva’s commitment to our work reached Latin America, Spain, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the Caribbean, and the United States. People around the world have expressed interest in our programs, and the local Hispanic Community has been particularly grateful to discover a supportive educational resource.



“You are an incredible role model for the Hispanic Community. I know that the effect you have on mothers is immeasurable, and for this I express my sincere appreciation!”

- Roxana Santamaria

“Thanks to the SAFE-T Course I found a way to come out to my family, and the results were awesome! You taught me to communicate about a subject I thought I would never be able to address with my family. Now we have a strong base of communication...”

- Carlos Cuza

“Our children are watching us live, and what we ARE shouts louder than anything we say.”

- Wilfred A. Peterson



St. Thomas University social work students.

Community Outreach

Faculty at Florida International University requested training for all academic advisors after participating in a presentation with 50 social work students. Two diverse groups of St. Thomas University students experienced breakthroughs when Project YES speakers brought to light the impact of existing separations in our culture on gender and orientation issues.

“...shed light on many different issues that before now were of little importance to me.”

- Zandra Higgs
St. Thomas student

“This is the first time I have ever come into contact with gay youth or given any thought to how they feel.”

- Ivette Quintana
St. Thomas student



Miami Beach High School students.

The Miami branch of American Red Cross expressed interest in future trainings after a successful presentation to the Diversity Team. After previewing the Student Alliance For Empowerment Training (SAFE-T) Course, counselors at Miami Beach Sr. High School requested the course for the upcoming school year. Several participants from a presentation at Miami-Dade Community College registered for our August Communication Course to become volunteer speakers.



Maria Ferrer, Joseph Zolobczuk, and host Marky G on 93.1 FM.

New Gender Workshop

How much of your identity is defined by your gender? Have you ever been forbidden to do something because of your gender? In “The Gender Continuum,” our latest workshop in development, we will explore the power gender has in our lives.

On July 13, a group of interdisciplinary professionals including Dr. Marilyn Volker, Prof. Mary Coombs, Dr. Carolyn Garwood, Dr. Karen Raben, Dawne Fleri, and Jan Kirchoff met at Project YES to brainstorm ways to infuse the latest research on gender into an insightful learning experience. This will be a groundbreaking workshop that begins to loosen the knotted constraints gender rules impose on our culture and everyday lives. We anticipate having this workshop ready in early fall.

Kiaora Society Donor Update

Project YES welcomes **Cathy L. Cline** as new Kiaora Mentor. We thank **Manuel Machado** for inspiring the generous contribution to Project YES from **P. F. Chang's China Bistro** at the Mentor Level. We also welcome the **James G. Pepper Fund of Stonewall Community Foundation** to Kiaora as a Mentor. The response to our Five-Year Anniversary Book has been extraordinary. We appreciate the comments and donations from our partners across the nation.

Welcome Irene!

By Irene Danysh

For the past 18 years, I have been teaching at colleges and universities in both the U.S. and Africa. Recently, my passion for education and youth-related work drew me to Project YES. Everyone has welcomed me with open arms, and I am very impressed by the effectiveness of the Project YES communication model.

In past years, I helped create a non-profit organization in the U.S. for Haitians as well as a non-profit organization in Kenya called People Against Torture. Community work related to human rights education is one of my favorite things to do, so I am excited to become more involved at Project YES.

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
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Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation
Miami Beach Police Department
Peter Pilotti & Joseph Rodano
Jacques Soukup
Southern Country South Florida, Inc.
Rev. Dr. Marta S. Weeks
Rev. Hugh Westbrook & Carole Shields
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Leader \$2,500 or more

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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
Cathy L. Cline
Dade Community Foundation
Scott Danksy & John Dawson
Gill Foundation
Randall R. Gluss & Fernando Mendez-Villamil, MD
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Volunteers

- Glenn Minton**
- Sally Dobson**

Special announcements

Project YES Community Meeting
We will now be hosting our Community Meeting every other month to coincide with the publication of **ReVision**.
Thursday, October 10, at 3:30 PM
Everyone invited!

Communication Course
Saturday & Sunday, August 24 & 25
Saturday & Sunday, November 9 & 10
Call Nina at 305-663-7195 to register.

Dialogue for Action Previews
Wednesday, August 21, at 1:30 PM
Wednesday, September 25, at 1:30 PM

Save the Date!
April 12, 2003
The First Annual Project YES Independent Fundraiser

Upcoming events

For upcoming events and speaking opportunities, go online to www.projectyes.org and click the Calendar link.

Training Future Course Leaders

Requests for Project YES workshops and presentations continue to increase both locally and nationally, and we're taking steps to meet that demand. We are beginning a training program for people interested in becoming course leaders for Project YES. In two June trainings, staff coached

participants as they practiced delivering the Dialogue For Action workshop.

If you are interested in becoming a Project YES Course Leader and participating in future trainings, contact Nina at 305-663-7195.



Workshop leaders at the first training session.

“Being a speaker feels so good. I really get a sense of peace I don't get from everyday life when I can just be and share myself with others.”

- Magda Pantaleon

Rev. Marta Burke

Rev. Marta Burke has returned to ministries within the United Methodist Church after serving as our God As Love liaison for the past year. We miss Marta on staff, but we are grateful for her continued commitment to our mission and our work. Marta will be participating at future Project YES events and has already invited us to conduct the Communication Course at her new congregation.



At halftime of a WNBA game on June 30, Project YES was honored by the Miami SOL. SOL staff Maggie Riquelme (left) and Corey Schwartz (right) are pictured with Martha Fugate, Marty Harris, and Joseph Zolobczuk.