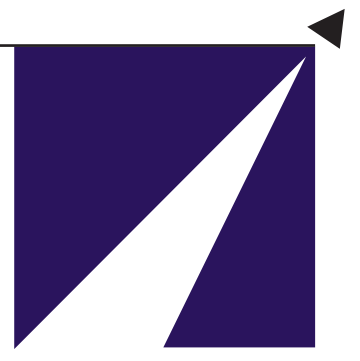


ReVision



P R O J E C T

YES

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

Making our world safe for ALL youth

Reality Collides with Doctrine

Project YES arrived at Ben Lipson Hillel Community High School for our first presentation to a nervous welcome from our hostess Amy Gallup. She reiterated that the Rabbi does not approve of homosexuality, and we reassured her we were not there to argue "rightness" or debate notions of sin. We opened to a packed room containing faculty, religious leaders, and the entire student body. Irene Pilinger spoke movingly of her experience as the Jewish mother of a lesbian daughter.

Contrary to fearful concerns, many hands went up, and the questions and comments followed. A lively dialogue ensued as faculty and clerics joined in. The discussion remained animated and energetic for the entire presentation.



Irene Pilinger lends a mother's voice.

It takes a lot of courage to open a conversation on a topic one considers taboo. We recognize both the courage and commitment to the safety of all youth that motivated this day.

Colorado Calls



Mount Sopris.

Project YES traveled to Aspen earlier this year to begin a dialogue in the Roaring Fork Valley about gender and orientation. Introduced by Scott Chaplin, Director of the Stepstone Center, and made possible by the generosity of Jonathan Lewis, Project YES began reaching another school system.

Susan Hankinson, President of Region I School Board in Glenwood Springs, asked us to open up discussion on these topics for her school faculty who struggle to find appropriate ways to respond to hurtful comments and actions they witness in school each day from both students and faculty.



Jonathan Lewis, longtime supporter of Project YES, Martha Fugate, and Scott Chaplin, Director of the Stepstone Center in Colorado.

Scott and Susan both came to Miami in March to attend our *Leadership in Action* course. While they were here we gave them a preview of our other courses. Inspired by our education models, they are determined to have our courses accredited for Colorado educators. We are proud of Scott and Susan and the vision they have to making a difference in Colorado.



Students, faculty and clergy at Ben Lipson Hillel.



Aspen, Colorado.

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

Miami Students Transform Schools with Dialogue

Italian physicist Galileo once said, "You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him find it within himself." The Project YES SAFE-T Course, conducted at three Miami high schools this semester, works in similar fashion. Through authentic dialogue and truth-telling, students have the unique opportunity to examine fears, myths and notions about who they are and how to relate to one another.



Students at HML High School work with Joseph Zolobczuk, Education Coordinator.

“After today I now respect the gay students. Before, I would pick on them and wouldn’t talk to them.”
- Hialeah-Miami Lakes Student

“Four years ago, harassment incidents against students who were or were perceived to be gay were numerous. Now that almost every Project YES trained peer counselor has made presentations to the school, these incidents rarely occur. We still have more work to do, but without a doubt Project YES has made a difference.”

- Odalys Acosta, MSW, TRUST Counselor

As debates about gay marriage rage on across the country, schools and students are mirroring this upheaval. Words like "faggot" and "dyke" are commonplace epithets and consequences exist for both the user and recipient of these words.

School counselors rate the SAFE-T Course as one of the most effective tools for students to listen and dialogue about problems in schools, from homosexuality to cheating, racism, and personal conflicts.



Students speaking out at Miami Springs High School.

Broward Library Tackles Bullying

The School Bullying Prevention Seminar at the Broward County Main Library drew over 60 parents, teens, and educators from the community. Everyone expressed a desire for more programs that focus on combating the vicious cycle of bullying and harassment prevalent in the schools. Sydna Wexler, Teen Coordinator with Broward County Library, shared, "Project YES played a crucial role in enlisting the support of SUPERB (Students United with Parents and Educators to Resolve

Bullying)." Dr. Anne Rambo, Associate Professor of family therapy at Nova Southeastern University presented intervention strategies and Joseph Zolobczuk shared a deeply moving personal testimony while addressing implications of sexual orientation and gender in school harassment.

"In partnership with Project YES, I envision a series of bullying prevention workshops to make schools safer for teens in our diverse community," said Sydna Wexler.



Project YES speaker Tania Diaz, Psy. D.



Tom Bender, counselor with Turner Tech High School students.

To schedule a Safe-T Course, please call Joseph Zolobczuk or Martha Fugate at 305-663-7195 or e-mail@projectyes.org.

Returning Home

By Allison Tinney

I wanted to see the current atmosphere at MAST Academy and was happy to return with Joseph for the annual Safe Schools symposium. I was impressed that even the younger students participated in the dialogue with honesty and maturity. It was incredible to see the students' response to Project YES's new method of focusing on gender. This tangible and realistic approach makes students so much more aware of safety in schools because it relates to each and every one of them. Gender is something they all experience whether aware of it or not, so instead of being able to marginalize the issue of gay kids' safety, the



Allison with MAST students.

students, through gender, become aware of conditions in terms of their own experience. The dialogue that ensued was much more effective and students suddenly became more aware of their own actions.

The second session revealed the abrasive reality that sometimes happens in high school. One young woman shared how she was harassed by a group of classmates that included one young man who was involved in our session that day. Even though he didn't say anything in the session, at least he was exposed to the information and saw the hurt caused by his actions. I was overwhelmed by her strength in speaking out. It is the bravery of students like her, coupled with the work of Project YES, that allows the dialogues to make such an impact. This proved to me, for the millionth time, how important it is for Project YES to be working in schools, even ones as progressive as MAST Academy. No matter how safe a school may seem, there is always room for more dialogue with both students and faculty.

Kiaora Society Update

We were dazzled by a "Happy Spring!" gift from **Visionaries Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez**, and inspired by the generosity of their ongoing support. We thank **Steve Herbits** for renewing as **Kiaora Champion** as well as his support for our business plan. We welcome new **Kiaora Mentors Rosa & Carlos de la Cruz**, and we are grateful for the continuing support of **Walter F. Goodman &**

Robert Flanders, Dennis Edwards & Mark Steinberg, Janice Scholl, and Kevin Veilleux, all renewing **Kiaora Mentors**.

We also thank **Dade Community Foundation**, the **Women's Fund of Miami-Dade**, the **SE Florida Episcopal Foundation**, and the **Matthew Shepard Foundation** for their recent generous grant awards that will support our work in every area of our community.



Kiaora Society

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

Visionary \$10,000 or more

Lang Baumgarten
Tim Dugan & Meredith Birrittella
Jonathan & Tina Kislak
Jonathan Lewis
Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez
Peter Pilotti & Joseph Rodano

Champion \$5,000 or more

Greg Baldwin & Jose Castro
Stephen E. Herbits
Carol & Ed Williamson

Leader

\$2,500 or more

Connie Barden & Martha Fugate
Paula Black
Douglas DeBoer & Howard Kurzweil
Paula Morabito & Maria M. Yip
Robert Oldakowski & Luis Mendoza
Pink Palm Company
Dennis Rodrigues

Mentor

\$1,000 or more

Nancy Allen
Gary Bremen & Roger Boone
Daniel J. Carriazo
Jorge R. Centurion
Jerry Chasen & Mark Kirby
Bruce A. Christensen
City National Bank of Florida & the Abess Family
Cathy L. Cline
Rosa & Carlos de la Cruz
Scott Dansky & John Dawson
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Carlos Garcia-Velez & W. Kent Davis
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Dr. Isabel Gomez-Bassols & Eric Vasallo
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Joseph M. Zolobczuk
Anonymous Donors

A "Spectacular" Success!



Martha Fugate, Bishop Leo & Diana Frade, Paula Black and Tim Dugan Birrittella.

Project YES launched its first annual fundraiser, "Las Vegas Spectacular," at the beautiful home of **Tim and Meredith Birrittella** in Pinecrest on Saturday, April 3. Thanks to the generosity of our many supporters, close to \$50,000 was raised to support our educational work, making schools and communities safer for all youth.

A full moon above swaying palms illuminated the casino action while friends gathered at each table and venue. In every corner of the gardens, delicious food, drinks, and beautiful "showgirls" entertained more than 200 guests. **Steven Franz** performed a moving tribute that had been specially written for Project YES (www.projectyes.org/music).



Lady Luck smiling down on us as we throw the dice!

We want to thank the dedicated and creative team that produced this evening of magic: **Tim Dugan Birrittella, Paula Black, Cathy Cline, Cynthia Herrmann, Elsie Miranda, Cesar Nivar, Tim Wagoner and Trae Williamson.**



Mom, Laura and Shelly on the poolside portico.



Poolside at the "Casino."

Cathy Cline, with help from Cynthia Herrmann, did extraordinary work putting together our silent auction, the highlight of which was a truly spectacular Cadillac XLR, generously provided by **Williamson Cadillac**. Special thanks to our board members, **Jan Kirchoff** and her team at **Deli Lane** for preparing and serving wonderful food and drinks, **Marty Harris of SCP Printing**, and **Paula Black & Associates**. Thanks to our dedicated supporters, and a special welcome to all the new friends who joined us.



Citibank friends and supporters.

**We look forward to next year,
and another roll of the dice
with Lady Luck!**

**SAVE THE DATE!
April 2, 2005**

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Citigroup Foundation
Cobb Family Foundation
Coral Gables Congregational Church
Dade Community Foundation
Gay & Lesbian Foundation of South Florida
Funding Exchange
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Accreditation



Florida State Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling



TEC-Accredited by the Dade-Monroe Teacher Education Center for Master Plan Points (MPP)

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.

Study: Hatred Sets in Early

A 2002 University of Ulster study found Northern Irish Protestant and Catholic children already know how to loathe the other's community by age three.



Learn more in our gender workshops:
projectyes.org/register

A Provocative New Look at Gender

By Maureen Miller, Archbishop, Curley-Notre Dame Catholic High School

The new Project YES courses *The Gender Continuum* and *Deciphering The Matrix* enticed me to update myself on these topics. The first, *The Gender Continuum*, presented the historical and social development of gender, leading up to a logical explanation of this new way of looking at gender that goes beyond our binary notions. The new orthogonal model – meaning not either/or – opens many possibilities and widens our previously limited view of gender.



Barbara Byrne, LCSW, with clinicians, teachers and students.

Don't Miss the Next Series!
Essentials - Fri, July 16 : 1pm-5pm
Gender - Fri, July 23 : 9am-5pm
The Matrix - Fri, July 30 : 1pm-5pm
Scholarships and TEC credit available for teachers and counselors. CEU credit available for clinicians.
Register at www.projectyes.org/register.

Deciphering The Matrix reinforces the new gender model and continues to delve into gender identity, clarifying some of the questions *The Gender Continuum* generated. For me, being able to vocalize these thoughts during the presentations adds to the effectiveness of the workshop. The more we know the better we understand; the better we understand the better people we become. That's what these workshops are all about.

Training Future Counselors

Every semester, Dr. Carol Clark, professor at Carlos Albizu University, invites speakers to address her Human Sexuality class, where Master's level counseling students can learn first-hand about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals in our community.



Dr. Carol Clark with students and Project YES speakers at Carlos Albizu University.

“CAU students are predominantly Latin and Caribbean where exposure to this topic is often limited or lacking. The evaluations consistently reflect these panels as unique, moving, and the high point of the semester. I want to thank Joseph, Leticia, and all of the wonderful speakers who come and give of themselves so others may have this unique learning experience.”

- Dr. Carol Clark, Professor, Carlos Albizu University