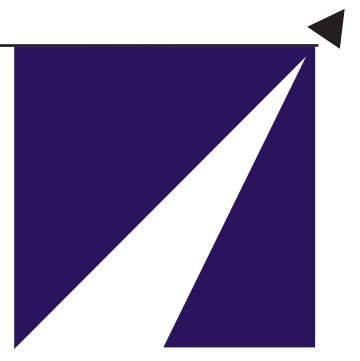


# ReVision



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*

## New Heartbeat for Health

*“There are times when all it takes is information to create transformation. I say this workshop transformed me and I feel blessed to have participated in it.”*

– Jariatu Sesai, staff member



Eva Leivas-Andino and staff of the Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Ft. Lauderdale.

As part of Project YES outreach in Broward County, and in response to an invitation by Jamie Blood of the Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Ft. Lauderdale, Joseph and Eva visited their facilities in early July. About 40 members of the center's staff, including nurses, therapists, doctors and research associates, greeted them. Assistant director Ana Calderon introduced Eva and Joe, who opened the dialogue by sharing the work of Project YES. The power of communication and education became apparent in the free-flowing question and answer session that followed.

*“I was impressed, the presentation was just too short. I'm hoping they will get back soon for an in-service training.”*

– CDTC staff member

As Ana and Jamie reiterated their commitment to bring Project YES back to the Center for training of their medical and nursing staff, Joseph and Eva received word that the State of Florida Board of Nursing had approved Project YES as a continuing education provider. What a fitting ending to an extraordinary day, to see the many opportunities opening up for nursing professionals in Florida. Project YES looks forward to a continued collaboration with the Children's Center.

## Florida Nursing Board Accredits Project YES

Less than 24 hours after submitting our application for accreditation as a continuing education (CE) provider for Florida nurses, Project YES was approved! This accreditation opens doors for Project YES as a valuable resource for nurses to receive training on gender, orientation and communication. Everyone in the community relies on a nurse's care at some point in his or her life. Nurses rarely receive education on gender and orientation, and they can potentially make a monumental difference for both youth and families.

A research survey revealed that 44% of student nurses were uncomfortable working with lesbian patients, 43% reported discomfort working with bisexual patients, and 35% reported discomfort working with gay male patients (*Journal of Nursing Education*, 2000, 39(4), 161-5).

LPN, RN, and ARNP Nursing Professionals



Board Approved CEU Provider 1827-097 Exp. 10/2004

through the Association's most recent *Heartbeat* newsletter. The report includes an announcement of our CE provider status for RNs, LPNs, and ARNPs, as well as descriptions of our courses. We would like to thank Marcia and Barbara Russell, Director of Infection Control at Baptist Health Systems, for sharing this exciting development with District 5 nurses.



Eva Leivas-Andino moves the crowd by powerfully sharing her experience.

Yet research also showed that the more nurses have an opportunity to interact with members of minority groups, the less discomfort they feel. Workshops offered by Project YES provide effective clinical techniques and resources, as well as teaching a model for generating dialogue that begins to dissolve fears and produce actions to protect all youth.

Marcia Hacker, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor of Nursing at Barry University and President of the District 5 Florida Nurses Association, circulated the news of our accreditation

Project YES board member and co-founder Connie Barden, RN, MSN, CCRN, communicating to education directors and nursing officers in Florida hospitals, said, "It distresses me to think that there is a vital health-related topic that even our most professional nurses may be unprepared to address. I recommend Project YES to all nurses as a resource in our community and hope nursing and education leaders will make this information widely known and encourage nurses to participate."

Visit [www.projectyes.org](http://www.projectyes.org) to access upcoming speaking engagements, educational workshops, and online donations.

# OutPACE-ing Their Fears

Exhibiting courage is one of the guiding principles of PACE Center for Girls. These students were very courageous as they joined in for dialogue about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth.



PACE students and staff discuss their school climate with YES director Martha Fugate.

*“I'm new at PACE and I didn't want to be here at first, but this is the first school I have ever been to where we discussed this. It makes me feel safe at this school.”*

– PACE student

*“I have discovered how many girls are okay with it, and I can be too. It was wonderful.”*

– PACE student

Middle school and high school girls participated, along with some faculty and staff.

*“I learned how hard it is for gay people to open up to their families.”*

– PACE student

The group's discussion generated not only insight and energy, but scores of ideas about how to make their school a safer, more welcoming place for all students. One idea immediately adopted by the staff present was to begin a support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning and allied students next school year. Students also requested that Project YES return to PACE to do a faculty training, and an education workshop for parents.

# Library Checks Out Gender

The Ft. Lauderdale Library invited Project YES to present a three-part Gender Continuum series open to the public. Participant Irene Pilinger remarked:

*“Even though I thought I knew that there are two very different sexes, girls and boys, I was encouraged to attend this series on gender presented at the library. I learned that gender is not always that simple, and that through science there is a growing body of knowledge that can greatly help people who struggle with gender identity, and hopefully help society understand that not everyone is born with a recognizable gender. Once again, through Project YES, I have been given seeds with which to grow into a more knowledgeable and understanding person.”*

We would like to thank the Broward County Friends of the Library for making this possible.



Irene Pilinger, Asher Pilinger, Rajindra Narinesingh, Joseph Zolobczuk and Maria James at the Broward Library.

# Great Communicators are Made

Our June Communication Solutions course was filled with many amazing people who will become great ambassadors for Project YES. We are happy to welcome Susan Hakanson, president of the Roaring Fork school board, visiting from Colorado especially to do this course. Susan is working with the Stepstone



Emilio Vazquez, Glen Gray, Joshua Johnson and Danny Morales in the course.

*“As a person who works in communication, I wasn't sure just how much I'd get out of a communication course. Now, I know I got much more than even I could have imagined. Knowledge, insight, hope, energy – these are the blessings of this course. You more than changed my life; you changed my purpose.”*

– Joshua Johnson,  
reporter for the Miami Herald

Center and Colorado Mountain College to bring Project YES programs to Colorado in the fall. Another special guest was Priscilla Dames, Safe Schools coordinator for Miami-Dade Public Schools.

*“I went with the preconceived idea I'd get a plethora of facts/figures and practice with difficult questions. Yes, I got practice. More importantly, I got to be part of an awakening. This type of education was even more valuable than facts/figures.”*

– Priscilla Dames

She brings enormous energy and enthusiasm to her participation and continues to amaze us with her dedication to young people.



Jimmy Lopez with Susan Hakanson on day two.

*“I discovered that I am special, that I can make a difference, and that I'm not alone.”*

– Keonti, youth speaker



Joshua Johnson leads discussion.

# Kiaora Society Contributions

We welcome **Adrienne Arsht**, Chairman of Total Bank, as a new Kiaora Society **Champion**. We thank **Warren Schaeffer** and **The Schaeffer Family** for renewing their contribution as **Leaders**, and we also thank **Jose Luis Pere** and **Laura White**, renewing Kiaora Society **Mentors**, for their ongoing support. We are very grateful for the continuing

partnership with **Coral Gables Congregational Church** and thank them for the recent grant award in support of our work. The commitment and leadership of Kiaora Society members allows Project YES to continue to grow and create cutting edge programs to make our world a safer place for youth.



## Kiaora Society

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

### Visionary

\$10,000 or more

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

### Champion

\$5,000 or more

Adrienne Arsht  
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  
The Schaeffer Family

### Mentor

\$1,000 or more

Nancy Allen  
Gary Bremen & Roger Boone  
Daniel J. Carriazo  
Jorge R. Centurión  
Jerry Chasen & Mark Kirby  
Bruce A. Christensen  
City National Bank of Florida & the Abess Family  
Rosa & Carlos de la Cruz  
Scott Dansky & John Dawson  
Joseph F. Fitzgerald & Kenneth G. Rau  
Victor Garcia & Tim Wagoner  
Carlos Garcia-Velez & W. Kent Davis  
Randall R. Gluss  
Arlene Gómez & José Rodriguez  
Dr. Isabel Gomez-Bassols & Eric Vasallo  
Ernesto Gonzalez  
Walter F. Goodman & Robert A. Flanders  
Barbara T. Gray  
James C. Hanrahan, Jr.  
Marty Harris & Nikki Korval  
Lawrence R. Hyer  
Jan Kirchoff  
Joseph M. Kraus  
Ellen L. Leesfield & Pamela Peny  
Eva Leivas-Andino, her Children & Grandchildren  
George L. Lindemann, Jr.  
Larry Luig & Dario Espinosa  
Ralph Lutrin & Alan Lewis  
Dr. John J. Martin, Jr. & Forrest McSurdy  
Edward McIntyre & Jojo Corvaia  
Kevin Miller & Allan Hunter  
Richard Milstein & Eric Hankin  
Glenn L. Minton & Eddie Eskdale  
Elsie Miranda & Lourdes Cuervo  
Rachelle Monchik  
Magda Pantaleon  
José Luis Peré  
June Raben  
Karen Raben & Andrea Pernick  
Harry Rimm  
Bill Ross  
Howard Perry Rothberg II & Paul A. Scolieri-Rothberg  
Marty Schildhouse  
Janice & Howard Scholl  
Lee Brian Schragger  
Mark Scott  
Martin H. Smith  
Hortensia V. Soriano  
Scott Lewis Stanton  
Mark Steinberg & Dennis Edwards  
Andrew Tobias & Charles Nolan  
Juan Carlos Urquiola  
Jose Valdés-Fauli & Shed Boren  
William Vaughan  
Cynthia & Emilio Vazquez  
Kevin Veilleux  
Patricia & Milton Wallace  
Rev. Marta S. Weeks  
Jennifer Weise  
Robin Wheatley & Jeffrey Newton  
Laura White  
Trae Williamson & Daniel Carter  
Robin Wolff & Kathy Gregory  
Stephen I. Yaeger, Ph.D.

## Money Smarts

The Project YES yearly audit of financial statements was completed by the CPA firm of Berenfeld, Spritzer, Shechter & Sheer. We are proud to report that in 2003, for the fourth year in a row, 92% of Project YES income went directly to programs, and 8% went to administration and management. This is a superlative standard for a non-profit organization.

By law, non-profits must undergo an audit every three years. Project YES has been audited yearly since its inception in 1997. Please call Eva at 305-663-7195 or visit



[www.projectyes.org/donate](http://www.projectyes.org/donate) to make your contribution today!

## Leaders in Action Thanks to YES



TwentySomethings Board has a productive retreat, taking full advantage of the new technology in the Education Center of Excellence.

TwentySomethings (2S), a new local youth organization, recently held their board retreat at Project YES. Several board members from 2S, including President Kevin Pastor, recently completed the Project YES Leadership in Action and Communication Solutions workshops. This collaboration is a natural fit for Project YES. TwentySomethings offers gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth a healthy alternative to the local club scene. They provide leadership,

educational workshops, support groups, and social skills development and include and welcome people of all orientations and gender identities.

Their first board retreat, held in the newly renovated and wireless Project YES Education Center, proved to be very productive. See for yourself how these young leaders are emerging in our community: [www.twentysomethings.net](http://www.twentysomethings.net).

## Women's Heartfelt Experiences

*"I have learned that to come out of the closet is not an easy step and more support and understanding from family members will make it a little easier."*

— FIU Student



Magda Pantaleon speaking with students.

Project YES speakers Magda Pantaleon and Keren Pilinger visited Professor Sheri Smith's Social Work Class at FIU. The class wanted to hear about the challenges lesbian women face, and how their experiences compare with those of all women. The YES speakers shared the impact of orientation in their lives, their families and the friendships they had lost or

abandoned over being openly lesbian. When Magda spoke of the conflict she would feel balancing her career and motherhood, many in the class could relate. Students enjoyed hearing about gender dynamics in same-sex relationships and talking about the power of gender in their own relationships.

### Foundations & Corporations

Abbot Laboratories  
Citigroup Foundation  
Cobb Family Foundation  
Coral Gables Congregational Church  
Dade Community Foundation  
Gay & Lesbian Foundation of South Florida  
Funding Exchange  
Gilead Pharmaceuticals  
Goldstein Foundation  
Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation  
Matthew Shepard Foundation  
North Dade Medical Foundation  
Ruth Anderson Foundation  
SE Florida Episcopal Foundation  
Shepard Broad Foundation  
Women's Fund of Miami-Dade



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### Board of Directors

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**Paula Black**, Vice Chair  
**Robert Oldakowski, MBA**, Treasurer  
**Nancy Allen**, Secretary  
**Connie Barden, RN, MSN, CCRN**  
**Doug DeBoer**  
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**Jan Kirchoff**  
**Bill Ross, MBA**  
**Karen Raben, MD**  
**Emilio Vazquez**

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## Our *Vision*

A community in which 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, transgender and ALL youth by initiating dialogue, providing education and creating support systems.

### Educational Accreditations



Florida State Board of Nursing providing continuing education to LPNs, RNs, and ANRP Professionals



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



North Georgia College and State University Professional Learning Units (PLUs)



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



Roaring Fork Valley School District (RE-1) Teacher Education

# URGENT Presentation in Overtown



Joseph Zolobczuk and Keren Pflinger (right) engaging in dialogue with summer camp interns.

that this was not their everyday course. The interns worked on and discussed the complex concepts behind the research, then applied theory to real life when Joseph and Keren shared their personal stories of growing up gay.

“ I think the presentation overall gave me an idea of what gay, bisexual and transgender people go through in life. I saw it through their eyes.”

– URGENT Inc. camp intern

URGENT Inc. sent in an emergency call for a Project YES engagement at their summer camp in Overtown. Project YES was invited by Ms. Thinn Aung to train the new summer interns hired as camp counselors. As soon as we began to present historical facts about orientation and gender, the student interns realized

“ At first, I thought it was going to be boring. But it got more and more interesting.”

– URGENT Inc. camp intern



Florida Nursing  
Accreditation  
Approved!

In addition to Florida therapists and Miami-Dade counselors and teachers, nurses are now eligible to receive CE credit for attending our workshops. Read more about it on the front page inside.

## Be on the Lookout!

By *Martha Fugate, Director*



Martha Fugate and Matt Bross of GMP Companies.

You can see from the headlines that growth and change are happening quickly at Project YES. In addition to national requests, we have recently been contacted by health educators outside of the USA who found us through the web. They had searched everywhere for an organization that could provide needed education on gender and orientation, and were excited to learn about our proven models. As we seek to fulfill the requests we receive, we must find new ways to expand our reach.

Appropriate to our growth and service, in early October we will launch a new name, a new look for ReVision, a new web site and the next direction for Project YES. We are grateful to Matt Bross and GMP Companies for our new web site. This is an exciting time of growth with many breathtaking possibilities to make the world safer for our youth. Thank you from everyone at Project YES!