



Photo credit: Kiritapu Allan

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YES!

Annual
Report

Introduction

DEAR FRIENDS,

We live in rapidly changing times. Yet beneath the tumult of transnational economics, the tide of globalization, breakthroughs in technology, and the shifting landscape of public opinion, some of the most important things never really change. Love. Courage. Commitment. Vision. We need roots deep enough to sustain us, and to help us thrive, through the breakdowns and breakthroughs of our times.

In a world with nuclear weapons, with a resource consumption overshoot that is placing us on a collision course with systemic environmental collapse, and with increasing numbers of people living in states of desperate poverty, the stakes are high. But instead of calling us only to greater haste, we believe the realities of our times are calling us also to greater depth. For what is needed today plays out not only in the spotlight of the media or the drama of politics. It takes place also in the examination of our values, beliefs, and actions. Industrialized or not, whether rich in money, community, or tenacity, people of all race, class, and religious backgrounds are challenged to meet the pain of our times with the highest and best response of which we are capable.

Coumba Toure, a YES! program partner and facilitator from Senegal, said at a recent Jam: *“All violence begins with disconnection. From the moment we disconnect ourselves from one another, it’s all gradients of violence, from not listening to someone fully, to speaking ill of them, to spitting on them, to torturing them, to killing them. So the process of reconnection is among the most vital acts of healing that any of us can undertake.”*

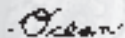
There may be little more important in our world today than the journey from isolation to connection. For as we find the power of our diverse communities, and as we come to know ourselves more deeply in relationship to the emerging global community, we not only become more whole, we also take steps towards giving our essential gifts in this world. We begin to learn how we can unleash all that we have, and all that we are, on behalf of all that we love.

At YES!, we are inspired every day by the power of diverse changemakers joining forces across historic divides, and learning the meaning of real partnership. By creating spaces where young leaders can take off masks and share something of who they really are, and can build friendships and collaborations on real ground, we are helping to lay the groundwork for sustained, large-scale social change.

In the last year, YES! has deepened our commitment to a global network of partners on five continents, we have grown and developed our programs, and we have engaged in a groundbreaking experiment in collaborative organizational leadership. We have neared completion of a strategic plan, helped to move hundreds of thousands of dollars towards transformative social change, and seen collaborations between our alumni touch many millions of lives.

Thank you for your partnership.

With gratitude, and enthusiasm,



Ocean Robbins
Founder & Director



Tiffany Brown
Program Manager



Lorin Troderman
Operations Manager



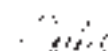
Nga Trinh-Halperin
Development Manager



Jenny Uribe
Program Coordinator



Romy Narayan
Office Coordinator



Julie Pennington
Development Coordinator

ABOUT YES!

YES! is a nonprofit organization that connects, inspires and collaborates with young changemakers in building thriving, just and sustainable ways of life for all through: Global Leadership Programs, the Leveraging Privilege for Social Change program, grantmaking, public speaking, and a global support network. We work at the meeting point of internal, interpersonal, and systemic transformation.

Since 1990, YES! has spoken to more than 650,000 students and organized more than 100 week-long gatherings for visionary young leaders from 65+ nations. Alumni surveys have shown that, among other things, 94% of YES! alumni gained valuable skills and perspectives that enhanced their life and work. You can find more information, videos, and resources at www.yesworld.org.

Our Finances

YES! 2007-2008 MAJOR SUPPORTERS INCLUDED:

Visionary Partners Circle Members (\$1,000 or more per year for five years)

Alexandra Snyder, Amy & Neal Levin, Angela Sevin & Mark Stafford, Anonymous, Ashley & Parker Johnson, Avi Peterson, Barbara & Christopher Wilson, Barbara Green, Betsy & Jack Rix, Bill & Lynne Twist, Brad Black, Carli & Steve Szymanski, Carol & Don Dow, Carol Carlson, Carol Newell, Carolyn Cavalier, Cate Coslor, Claudia Welss, Cory Ritchie, Courtney Hull, Debbie Rennels-Salkind, Deborah Drysdale, Diane Troderman, Elain Seiler, Ellen Furnari, Elrik Jundis, Fiona Pugliese, Geraldine Lopez, Govinda Quish, Greg Cortapossi, Hans Schoepflin, Helen Gemmill, Jamie Jeffries, Jean & Marc Malnati, Jeffrey Leifer, Jennifer & Jay Wood, Jill & Robert C. Hamer III, Joel Yanowitz & Amy Metzenbaum, John Densmore & Leslie Neale, Joni & Russ Pratt, Judith & Michael Bissonnette, Kay Lee, Laura Loesch, Lee Slaff, Leslie Goldstein, Lisl Schoepflin, Margaret Harris, Margo & John Steiner, Marie-Elizabeth Mali, Marion Hunt-Badiner, Marna Broida, Mazal Fdn., Melanie & Mike MacKinnon, Michael Steiner, Mike & Nina Snegg, Miles Smith & Sue Bingham, Nancy Glock-Grueneich, Nancy Stetson, Nuria Latifa Bowart, Olivia Boyce-Abel, One Foundation, Pamela Crawford, Patricia & Rowland Rebele, Patti Breitman & Stan Rosenfeld, Phillip Garrison, Raj Sundra, Rebecca Jones, Robert Foster, Robin Beck, Saori & Mike Kappus, Melissa Stuart, Shirley & Paul Dean, Sophia Bowart, Stephanie Sutton-Flanagan, Susan Griffin Black, Sustainlane.com, Tesa Silvestre, Theo Ferguson, Tom Schulz & Mariana Bozesan, Tracy Gary, Victoria Ayres, Virginia Hughes

\$1,000+

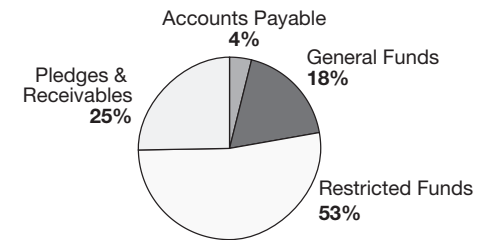
39th Street Giving Fund, AEPOCH, Alabaster Fdn., Amy & Glenn Bacheller, Anandi Paganini—Raise the Bar/Vendor Resource Group, Ani Moss—Moss Fdn., Anonymous (3), Aveda Corporation, Brian & Carole Biro, Bruce Flynn & Associates, Burt Family Fdn., Candice Fuhrman, Claire Kimmel, Arsenault Family Fdn., DEF Fund—a Donor Advised Fund of Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Devaa Mitchell Dinan, Earle Harris, Fetzer Institute, Foster Gamble & Kimberly Carter Gamble, Foundation for Global Community, Fred Gellert Fdn., Grant Abert, Harriet Crosby, Harrison Giveaway Fund of the Tides Fdn. on the recommendation of Roger Harrison & Margaret Harris, Hidden Leaf Fdn., Hull Family Fdn., Jeanne & Michael Morency, Calvert Social Investment Fdn., Jeff Lodas, Jenny Overman, Jewish Community Endowment Fund at the Recommendation of Barbara Meislin—in loving recognition of Andrea & Mitchell Meislin, Jill Stephens TTEE, Joaquin Phoenix, John & Deo Robbins, John Chen, Kalliopeia Fdn., Katz-Lapides Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, Kirk Hardie, Young Donor Organizing Alliance (YDOA), Liz Sheehan, Margaret Carter, Margaret Schink, Marion Weber, Marjorie Fasman, Mel Bankoff, Michael Kilgroe & Patricia Savitri Burbank, Michael Muller, Nature's Path Foods, New Visions Fdn., Nicole Davis, Numi, Peter Buckley, Planetary Metamorphosis, Revi Sechleinger, Roy A. Hunt Fdn., RSF Social Finance, Sandy Gottstein, SAP Matching Gift Program, Seasons Fund for Social Transformation of the Jewish Funds for Justice, Shaman's Fund of Tides Fdn. on the recommendation of Wendy Grace., Southern Partners Fund, Steiner-King Fdn., Steve Fox, Sunflower Fund, SunRidge Farms / The Falcon Trading Co., Sunshine Fund of the Boulder Community Fdn., Susan O'Connor, The Ainsley-Hicks Fdn., The Bright Horizon Fund at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, Thomas & Shelby Reynolds, Thomas & Rachel Odenwald, Tides Fdn., Tom Gegax & Mary Wescott, W. K. Kellogg Fdn., Whitman Institute, Wild Rose Fund, William H. Donner Fdn., Women's Foundation of Minnesota, Youth Development Fdn., Zing Fdn.

Although space does not permit us to thank them all by name, we are grateful to all of the hundreds of people who gave so generously of their resources and love in the last year to help YES!'s work grow around the world. Please visit our web site www.yesworld.org for a complete list of donors in the 2007-2008 year.

— *Thank You!*

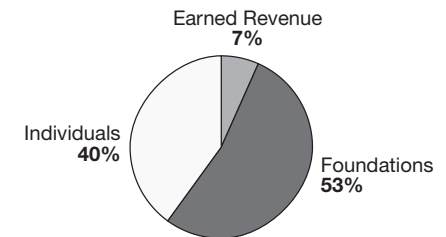
YES! conducted an audit for the fiscal year ending 9/30/07 for which copies are available upon request. YES! will conduct a financial review in the Winter of 2008 for the fiscal year ending 9/30/08. These results will be available in early 2009.

YES! Liabilities & Net Assets: \$1,097,025 As of September 30, 2008



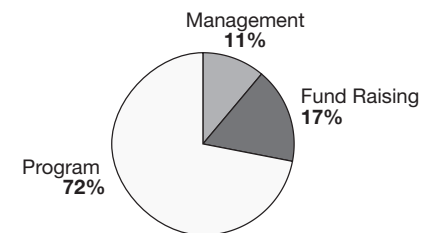
Unaudited numbers indicate a modest general funding budget shortfall of \$9,058 for the FYE September 30th, 2008. YES! continues to operate at a sustainable level and strives towards building our general funds balance to cover one year of basic operating and program costs. Our \$1,097,025 in net assets includes \$116,778 in Seeds of Justice Funds, \$89,300 for the P3 project, \$71,700 for Art in Action and more than \$276,242 in pledges towards future years and/or projects. Our \$199,757 in non-restricted General funds along with other restricted net assets of \$272,794 is held in short term investments aligned with our values.

YES! Operating & Program Revenue: \$754,865 Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2008



This does not include \$480,641 in revenues for Seeds of Justice Fund, P3, Art in Action, and other program partners that received pre-approved grants. Total all-inclusive revenues came to \$1,235,506.

YES! Annual Expenses: \$763,923 Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2008



This does not include \$480,641 in expenses for Seeds of Justice Fund, P3, Art in Action and other program partners that received pre-approved grants. Total all-inclusive expenses came to \$1,244,564, changing the percentage break down as follows: Program 83%, Management 7%, Fundraising 10%.

Global Leadership Programs

WORLD JAM IN CUZCO, PERU, JUNE 1-8, 2008

By Kiritapu Allan, Co-Founder of Conscious Collaborations, Co-Organizer and Co-Facilitator of the World Jam

Hosted by the community of Chinchero at 13,000 feet in the Andes, 30 people from the four winds (from 18 countries including Burma, Turkey, Jordan, Israel, Bolivia, Mali, Australia, Ecuador, New Zealand, Senegal, Cameroon, Chile, Panama, Guatemala, Mexico, US, Brazil, and Vietnam) gathered for eight days to step out of their daily activities to step into a brief moment of sharing of selves, cultures, movements, dances, foods, songs, stories, relationships, struggles, dreams, and lives. From the desert of West Africa fighting against modern day slavery to growing organic food in urban gardens in South America, the participants offered an insight into the world that we live in from the eyes of those who stand in life on the frontline.



“Before coming to the Jam, I was drowning in pressures and stress of my work and what appeared to be a battle promising failure. Being in the midst of overwhelming positive energy, I have acquired deep enlightenment to persevere in achieving the vision for my own community. I have participated in numerous programs and circles for young leaders, yet none have been as intimate and remarkably productive as this Jam. Every moment here helped to transform my emotions of anger and frustration into hope, humility and a closer understanding of the world. The relationships that have been established here are priceless and I look forward to strengthening these bonds of support and genuine human connection.”

—Marcus Briggs-Cloud, 26, Great Maskoke Nation, Florida, United Nations Youth Caucus

2008 MIDDLE EAST JAM PLANNING MEETING, DECEMBER 20-24, 2007

By Shilpa Jain, Shiksbantar: The People’s Institute for Rethinking Education and Development, Jam Alumni and Program Partner

Ten YES! World Jam alumni and allies gathered from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, Pakistan, India, Palestine, and the USA for a four-day planning meeting at Hisham Hotel in Amman, Jordan. Participants explored the challenges and opportunities of the region, shared their stories, struggles and dreams, and laid the groundwork for a Middle East Jam to be held in Jordan at the end of 2008. Meeting participants formed a steering committee, facilitation team, outreach team, and participant selection committee, and developed clarity on the objectives, goals, and intended demographics for the Jam to come.

To be a part of the planning meeting for the Middle East Jam was such a gift and honor. I felt firsthand how much beauty and passion, strength and determination, diversity and complexity, exists in this land. And what it will take for people to open their hearts to each other, to approach one another with the desire to see the humanity, brilliance, pain and wisdom in each person. I felt lucky to bear witness to these kinds of opening this week, and to feel them manifest in myself. I also realized that the Jam was about bringing together those people who choose to see, who choose to feel, who are trying to act, in the face of great odds and often overwhelming pressure to conform to the toxic mainstream. And this is true for all of us, no matter which societies we are coming from. I began to recognize how easy it is to demonize and how easy it also is to humanize, and how we all need support in bringing down those concrete walls and bridging to the other side. So a huge weight was lifted from me.

PHILIPPINES JAM: ENGENDERING HUMAN RIGHTS CAUSE, DECEMBER 13-20, 2007

By Jennifer Awingan, Director of Asia-Pacific Indigenous Youth Network (APIYN), Jam Alumna and Program Partner

Thirty-five youth leaders coming from the different regions of the country participated in Youth Jam 2007 with the theme “Engendering Human Rights Cause.” It was organized in Cebu City, Visayas Region and hosted by the local National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) and Anakbayan, both Cebu City Chapters. As a resulting collaboration, several participants are setting up a youth support system called Youth for Youth Education and Empowerment intending to empower communities by helping young and poor but deserving youth to go to school. Another group of Jammers plan to create the first ever Young Defenders, a human rights club of young people around the country. The formation shall promote, protect and defend human rights for all.

ARCTIC INSTITUTE FOR INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP, AUGUST 2007 AND MARCH 2008

By Cathy Rexford, Director of Native Movement – Alaska, Jam Alumna and Program Partner

In August 2007 and March of 2008, the first cohort of 28 Alaska Native leaders completed the Arctic Institute for Indigenous Leadership (AIIL), held in Chugiak,

Alaska. The goal of the AIIL is to support the personal and professional growth of young leaders while providing an opportunity to build a statewide network. The Institute was effective in building trust, common understanding, and mutual support among the community.



Photo credit: Cathy Rexford

After laying a solid foundation and gaining a shared understanding of our past in August, the second week-long session in March focused on using community based organizing, language, traditional values, art and media as tools for change, as well as strategizing and visioning in our work. The holistic approach involving traditional food, song, dance and stories not only encourages people to examine their surroundings, but empowers our people to recognize that the tools and skills we need to maneuver in our contemporary world rests in our own hands, hearts and minds.

RAJASTHAN, INDIA YOUTH LEADERSHIP JAM, NOVEMBER 17-22, 2007

By Shilpa Jain

High up, in the shadow of the Himalayas, 26 people gathered. Most came from many different parts of India — Delhi, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Bangalore, Mumbai, Pune, Orissa, Ahmedabad — and a few joined from Dubai and the US. They were an intergenerational bunch, the youngest at 19, the oldest at 58. They did not know what would happen, but took a leap of faith and joined together to share their feelings, dreams, hopes, fears, and full selves. What happened exceeded our expectations and lay the foundation for some groundbreaking work in India.

“Sharing Our Gifts and Privileges for Social Change” was hosted at Deer Park Institute, a center for Buddhist and classical Indian studies, in Himachal Pradesh. Through a combination of large and small group conversations, physical work, art, theater, music, silence, meditation, forest walks, massages, secret angels and games, the group explored experiences and ideas around privilege, social change, and what it means to live and create a culture of sharing today. Over 10 projects/proposals for intra-group collaboration emerged, including the effort to start a web site/blog to continue the dialogues.



Photo Credit: Shilpa Jain

Leveraging Privilege for Social Change

LEVERAGING PRIVILEGE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (LPSC) JAM, JULY 13-20, 2008

By Ocean Robbins, YES! Founder/Director and LPSC Co-Organizer and Co-Facilitator

Thirty young changemakers from Brazil, Canada, India, Mexico, Senegal, and ten US States gathered for a week of honest, healing, and transformative dialogue at the sixth annual LPSC Jam. Held at the beautiful Lick Creek Farm in Green Sulphur Springs, WV, surrounded by lush mountainous forests and clear streams, the Jam participants delved into issues of class, race, gender and power, explored the many sides and experiences of privilege, and created an environment of deep honesty and profound love.

Participants brought diverse forms of privilege including generally recognized opportunities like monetary fortunes, prominent professional positions, philanthropic resources, elite educational backgrounds, and public attention, as well as other forms of privilege such as culture, family, community, life experience, freedom, wisdom, and inner strength. The Jam participants, more than 2/3 of whom were people of color, shared their struggles, commitments and dreams, and built a community of healing and support.

Post-Jam participant evaluations show that 100% of Jam participants believe that the Jam will lead them: to a healthier lifestyle; to be more conscious and confident in their life and work; to have deeper relationships with people who are different from them; to be more effective in their organization / organizing efforts; to be more effective in their personal work; to forge social connections and peer networks with other young changemakers; to have a deeper understanding of their privilege; and to use their privilege more effectively for social change.

One of the themes that emerged at the Jam was that of community. With a majority of the Jam participants coming from the United States, a nation where the dominant culture places such value on individualism, many participants commented on feeling deeply moved by a sense of being held and supported by our peers. Jam participants



Photo credit: Evelyn Arco-White

created a community that could catch us when we fell, could help us learn and grow, and could challenge, enlighten, and befriend us.

"I couldn't think of a more timely and relevant time in my life to evaluate, deconstruct and reconstruct. The YES! process is something that has... profoundly impacted and influenced the way in which I live, the way I want my future to look, the way I want my relationships to be, and the way I want to walk in the world. I came in thinking I was acquiring a tool for my tool belt but instead ended up getting a whole new belt!"

—Zahra Ebrahim, 24, Toronto, Canada, founder of archiTEXT and Adaptive Greening Institute

POWER AND PRIVILEGE FOR THE PEOPLE (P3) WISDOM GATHERING, JUNE 9-11, 2008

Excerpted from Wisdom Gathering report which is available upon request

After two years of research and organizing around people of color who have access to resources and a commitment to social change, 18 people gathered in Mebane, North Carolina, bringing P3 to a significant milestone. The discourse revolved around questions such as: What were

brown folks doing to take care of each other at this time? What pieces transcend our identities within this country? What pieces were with us before we came here? At what point will we invest in people? How do we create accountability? What is the balance between being in community and creating space for cross-conversation? How do we bring transformation into “traditional” and “institutional” philanthropy? The P3 project sent representatives to the Leveraging Privilege for Social Change Jam in July 2008, set to work organizing a P3 Jam for the end of 2008, and is hosting local and regional dialogues to allow these conversations to mature and be sustained over time.

SEEDS OF JUSTICE

Four years ago, a YES! alumna established the Seeds of Justice Fund which gave \$238,000 in the last year

(\$675,539 to date) to individuals and organizations working at the meeting point of internal, interpersonal, and systemic transformation. The grant-making team is made up of four diverse YES! alumni who are interested in exploring new forms of partnership in philanthropy and social change. Another YES! Global Jam alumna is documenting the learning, working and giving processes of the team.



Photo credit: Lan Anh Thi Ha

FLOW FUNDING AND PRE-APPROVED GRANTS

As an expression of YES!’s intention to help move money towards positive social change, we have established two effective internal mechanisms. The first is flow funding from which our Director was able to distribute \$20,000 (donated to YES! for this specific purpose) at his discretion to aligned causes. The other is pre-approved grants where YES! serves as fiscal sponsor for domestic and international groups such as Grassroots Democracy Commission in

Alabama, Men’s Story Project and A Thousand Ways to Pray, both based in the Bay Area, Minga Peru in Peru, and the Yawanawa Tribe in Brazil.

LEVERAGING PRIVILEGE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE DAY-LONG WORKSHOP



Photo credit: Devinder Sharma

In April 2008, we organized a day-long intergenerational Leveraging Privilege for Social Change workshop in Berkeley, CA, as part of our YES! to Life: Connecting People, Communities and Movements series.

One of the facilitators, Austin Willacy, was inspired to pen these words after that day:

I want to leave the world with a legacy of love that makes people know that they are sufficient, that they can do enough, that they are smart enough, that if they ever do something they think is wrong it’ll be worked through and talked out in a loving, respectful way. I want everybody to have what they need to thrive, not just survive and I want everybody to know that no matter who they are, where they live, what they wear, how they look, how much they weigh, what color their eyes or hair or what language they speak that they KNOW that they are as important as anybody else, that they are exactly who they are supposed to be and that they are perfect, beautiful and profoundly loved.

I want to leave the world with music that reminds people that they are seen, heard, held and loved whenever they forget their singularity, and songs that remind the singular into a collective so that the injustices visited upon people anywhere cease because people everywhere don’t feel the inclination to abuse their brothers and sisters and because it wouldn’t be tolerated even if they did.

I want to leave the world with time to heal itself.

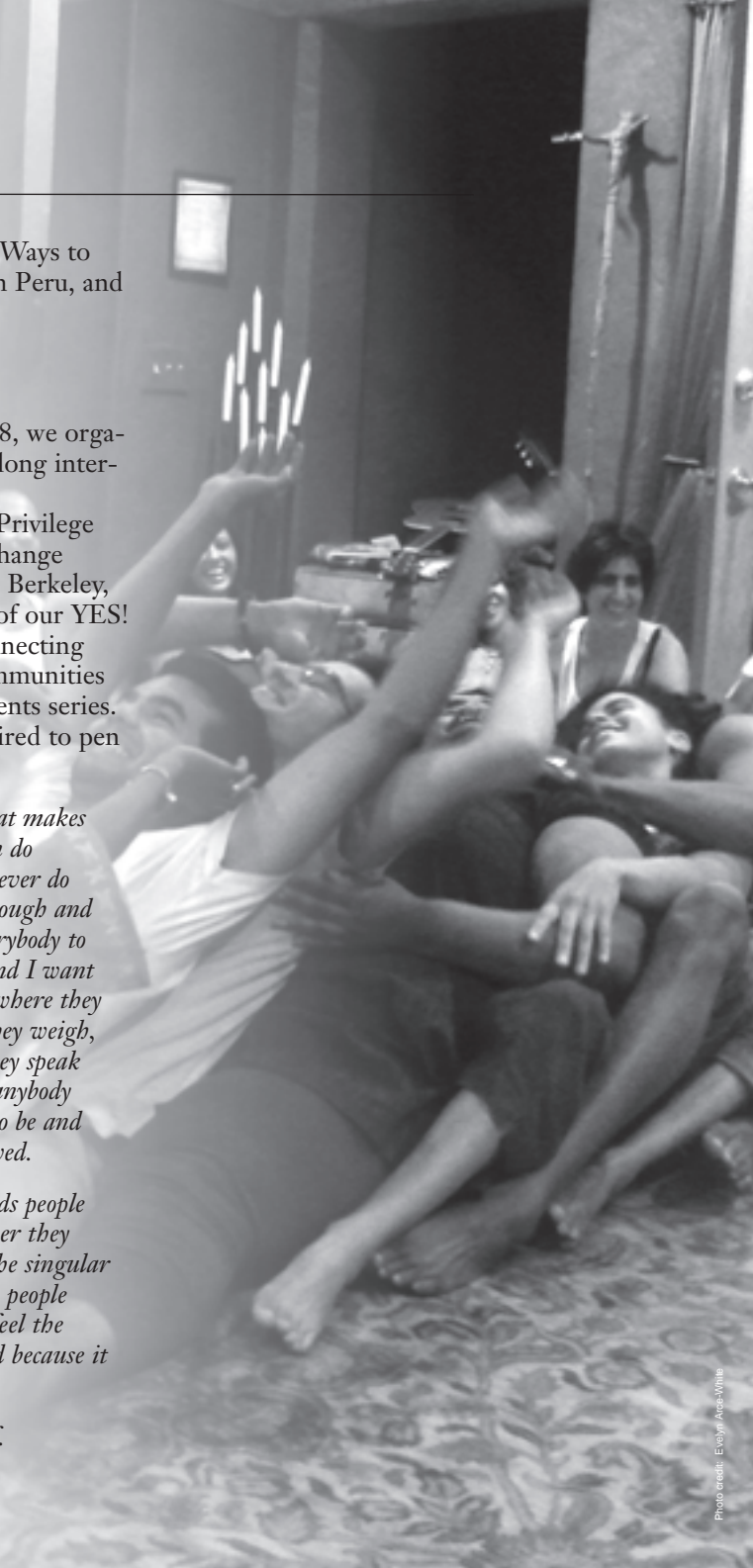


Photo credit: Evelyne Arce-White

Supporting Aligned Movements

GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE (GLOBAL COLLABORATIVE) MEETING, JUNE 11-14, 2008

By Shilpa Jain, Global Collaborative Coordinator

In the shadow of Macchu Picchu, in Aguas Calientes, Peru, we sat together. The solstice was nearly upon us. The sunlight warmed our bodies and filled our hearts with gratitude for this beautiful moment. Our spirits were as high as the altitude. And the mountains reminded us of ancient truths; they held us in their strength, as we held each other in ours.

From June 11-14, 2008, 12 of the 15 members of the Global Collaborative gathered for four days of reflection, visioning, and connection. The Global Collaborative consists of past, present and future World Jam facilitators, who are committed to an on-going dialogue about what is happening in the world and each of our roles in it. We come from 12 different countries and meet once a year to dialogue about what we are creating, exploring, learning and unlearning in our various communities. We also share a flow fund together, in which each member has \$3,000 per year to distribute for events, projects, people and exchanges that are in alignment with the spirit and purpose of Jams.

Our meeting began with sharing our sense of the pains and possibilities that we were seeing in the world. Concerns over food insecurity, oil dependency, the widening gaps caused by capitalism and development, environmental disaster, and communal violence and conflict were shared, as were our hopes for greater localization, cultural affirmation and spiritual guidance. We looked at how we were trying to create balance in our personal lives, so that they reflected the world we want to see, and how important having a community of friends for support and reflection was for us. We talked about the value of slowness, of simplicity and of contemplation, for preparing ourselves for the present moment and for the challenges to come.

As members of the GC, we also spent time looking at what was happening with Jams around the world, and with the larger movements we and they were a part of. The impor-

tance of matching responsibility with authority, of choosing representative leadership, of defining what leadership means to each of us, of setting intentions clearly, and of hosting the Jam in community, was all explored. We saw that Jams have been offering a unique reflective and personal space for people all over the world, and how they are being adapted according to local contexts and participants.

This sense of joy was also palpable, as we shared how we were using our flow funds. Everything from cross-continental Learning Exchanges, to film projects, to unique new Jams, to supporting community activists, was happening. We could feel how the vines of the movement were continuing to grow across the world, and how our linkages were a part of that happening.

JAM ALUMNI JOSH THOME AND SOL GUY TAKE 4REAL GLOBAL

Jam alumni Josh Thome and Sol Guy have co-created the TV series 4REAL that takes celebrity guests on adventures around the world to connect with young leaders who, under extreme circumstances, are affecting real change.

Episodes have included Cameron Diaz, Mos Def, Joaquin Phoenix, M.I.A., Flea from the Red Hot Chili Peppers, K'NAAN, and Casey Affleck along with Jam alumni Salim Mohamed of Kenya, Tashka and Laura Yawanawa of Brazil, Puma Quispe of Peru and Kimmie Weeks of Liberia. Featured leaders are partners in 4REAL and receive half the profits from the shows. More info at www.4REAL.com

"Meeting so many amazing and inspiring leaders at Jams over the years was a big inspiration for me in developing the concept of 4REAL and it's been a dream come true to actually feature some of them in the shows."

— Josh Thome



Photo credit: Kimmie Weeks

OCEAN ROBBINS ACCEPTS JEFFERSON AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Ocean Robbins, YES!'s Founder/Director, received the national Jefferson Award for Greatest Public Service by an Individual 35 Years or Younger at a black tie gala on June 17 in Washington, DC. The Jefferson Awards were established in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and several other prominent philanthropists. Recipients over the years have been leaders who cross a broad range of the political spectrum, ranging from Cesar Chavez to Henry Kissinger, and from Colin Powell to football star Peyton Manning. Each year there are four national winners, and in 2008, other awardees were Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman, Darryl Hammond, and Edward Jagen.

The Jefferson Award came on the heels of another recognition Ocean received along with his wife Michele Robbins in March, the "Couple of the Movement" Freedom's Flame Award in Selma, Alabama. The celebration was included in the 15th Annual Bridge Crossing Jubilee, commemorating a milestone in the Civil Rights movement. In addition, Ocean was the featured speaker for several notable audiences in 2007-2008 including the University of Lima, Peru; American Medical Students Association, CA; Global Philanthropy Forum, CA; and the International Holistic Learning conference, Toronto. He launched a new web site, www.oceanrobbins.com.



Photo credit: Josh Thome

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE INITIATIVE (CAI)



Photo credit: Jenny Uribe

YES! continues to organize its monthly support network seeking to build authentic, mutually supportive relationships in which we openly share our perceived realities of oppression, power, privilege, and possibility, and where we are partners to one another's healing journeys. In addition to monthly meetings that have now been going for six years, we held an intergenerational weekend workshop in April, 2008 that was attended by 50 people. The process is supported by Be Present, which is based in Atlanta, and its founder, Lillie Allen. CAI is part of YES!'s regional work that manifests our belief that local change leads to global change.

ART IN ACTION SKILLS SHARE RETREAT, JULY 27-AUGUST 1, 2008

*By Simmy Makbiji, Art in Action Development Director.
YES! is an original founder and current sponsor of Art in Action, which is now in its eighth year*

At Mayacamas Ranch in California, we gathered for the first time, 24 dedicated multi-generational arts activist facilitators aged from 19-52 years. The gathering, like our youth summer camp, consisted of a racially and culturally

diverse group of people. The retreat was structured around music recording, dance, theater, media, and visual arts workshops, for the purposes of creative collaboration and networking amongst seasoned activists. We engaged in deep healing work, facilitated intergenerational dialogue, and met several times throughout the week to share information about our respective projects and strategies. This format facilitated possibilities for new collaborations and identification of new leverage points, while also creating a unified voice for producing sustainable and healthy communities across the nation. Central issues to nationwide arts activists were raised, while shared challenges and strategies were presented. Most of all, the gathering created a deep sense of care and connection between like-minded community leaders who rarely get a chance to just "be" with each other and reflect on mutual world commitments as life-long changemakers.

YES! TO LIFE WORKSHOPS: CONNECTING PEOPLE, ISSUES AND MOVEMENTS

This workshop series aims to create a space where we can connect with our local community of all generations, while providing an opportunity to share the inspiring work of YES! and our partners for positive social impact. Topics in 2007-2008 included Fundraising from the Heart, Leveraging Privilege for Social Change, Sustainable Living, Art in Action and Community Evening with Global Partners. Like the CAI program, it is part of our regional work in the Bay Area.



Photo credit: Kintou Allan



Photo credit: Maryam Roberts

Events Planned for 2009

POWER AND PRIVILEGE FOR THE PEOPLE (P3) JAM, BAILEY FARM, NY

P3 is a movement-building project with the goal of creating safe spaces for critical and compassionate dialogue among young people of color with significant social and financial capital. The P3 Jam will convene 30 privileged young people of color to build a supportive community, deepen understanding of issues and events in the world, and take more effective and synergistic action.

3RD ANNUAL PHILIPPINES JAM

The Jam is inviting 30 young people from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao to strengthen their capacity as human rights activists and indigenous leaders working for environmental protection. In particular, The Philippines Jam aims to institute dynamic participation and membership in the Young Defenders Club to promote a mutually supportive community of diverse indigenous people united in their will to improve the human rights situation in the country.

MIDDLE EAST JAM, WADI RUM, JORDAN

This Jam will convene 25 diverse, engaged and committed leaders from throughout the Middle East for a week of deep listening, sharing, self-discovery, systemic inquiry and community building. The Jam will be a place for young Middle Eastern leaders to share and reflect on their life journeys and their work in the world. It will be a time to replenish, recharge and renew, and to gain specific and practical tools for self-care and personal sustainability. It is also an opportunity to grow in self knowledge, to ask meaningful questions, to unlearn our fears and blocks, and to co-create new possibilities together.

AMAZON SUSTAINABILITY ALTERNATIVES JAM, RIO BRANCO, ACRE, BRAZIL

This is a follow-up Jam to the 2007 Amazon Jam that discussed the increasing concern of oil exploration in the region. The intention for this Jam is to convene indigenous

leaders and their allies from throughout the Amazon region to explore solutions that can meet the social and economic needs of communities without destroying their environment.

2010 WORLD JAM PLANNING MEETING, CHIENGRAI, THAILAND

The meeting will be a gathering of eight organizers and facilitators, convening from five continents in preparation for the 2010 World Jam to be held in Thailand. The 2010 Jam will bring together 30 young visionaries from 20 countries for a week of skills-sharing, transformational connections, and community-building. There will be extensive



coordination by every member of the team over phone and email for 12+ months and this Planning Meeting will be key in developing the direction, building content, and nurturing the spirit of the Jam to come.

TIPPING POINT NETWORK MINI-JAM

The Tipping Point Network is a collaborative of 40 sustainability movement servant-leaders and philanthropists.

YES! is partnering to help facilitate a Jam-like space for the Tipping Point Network members. This four-day gathering will combine community building, personal development, networking and organizational collaboration, and an action component as aligned social change movement leaders deepen their systemic analysis and explore opportunities for shared collaborative engagement.

7TH ANNUAL LEVERAGING PRIVILEGE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE JAM



Photo credit: Evelyn Ace-White

This yearly Jam has been created for diverse, influential young people committed to building a more sustainable, thriving, and just future. Participants come from many diverse forms of privilege: from being the first in their families with Ivy League degrees, to being young inheritors; from being prominent social change leaders to being entertainers in front of the spotlight nightly; and from being socially conscious entrepreneurs to being donor organizers. The week's activities explore privilege, power, human stories, and strategic impact in a deep and transformational way.

ART IN ACTION CAMP

The 8th Annual Art in Action camp will bring 30 under-served, emerging youth leaders from all over the

US to explore how art can be used as a tool for self-expression, education and social change.

ARCTIC INSTITUTE FOR INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP (AIIL)

We will sponsor the 2nd annual AIIL in Alaska organized by our program partner, Native Movement. This event gathers young indigenous and non-indigenous people together from all fields of work, from education to the environment, to join forces on behalf of Alaska's Native communities and the environment upon which they depend.

GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

With 15 Jam alumni members from 12 countries on five continents, the Global Collaborative is an ongoing learning community of peers who meet annually to support one another's personal and professional development. The Collaborative also functions as a support to YES!'s many hundreds of extraordinary alumni, building ongoing partnerships within the alumni community. Collaborative members operate a "flow fund," which gives each Collaborative member \$3,000 per year to give away, generally in the form of micro-grants, to individuals and organizations working at the meeting point of internal, interpersonal and systemic transformation. Much of this funding ends up supporting the collaborations and ongoing endeavors of others in the Jam alumni community. The Collaborative will hold its annual meeting in the United States in the summer of 2009.



Photo credit: Kiritapu Allan



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AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE AND AN INVITATION TO SUPPORT YES!

YES! is blessed with many partnerships in the work we do. Thank you to each of you who are bringing your resources and gifts—whatever they may be—into our collective journey towards a brighter future for generations to come.

The programs described in this Annual Report, like all that we do, are committed to empowering, inspiring and connecting young leaders. If you are interested in contributing to YES! and helping young visionaries to build a better world, go to www.yesworld.org and click on "Make a Donation" to donate on-line or find out how to give in many other ways including pledging with stock, company matching, and through your will, trust or estate plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Nga Trinh-Halperin, Development Manager, at nga@yesworld.org

WISH LIST

In addition to prayers, love, and financial contributions, YES! enthusiastically welcomes donations in kind, including particularly:

- * House Party Hosts for Future Events
- * Airplane Tickets or Frequent Flyer Miles
- * Design, Web or Printing Services
- * Natural, Vegetarian Food or Actual Cooking (for events)
- * Sites for Jams (beautiful spaces for groups of 30-60)
- * Interns and Volunteers for events and in the office

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