

“In Nigeria, the hopes of millions have been pinned on me. Everything I do is under the spotlight. Where does someone like me go when we need a safe place to renew, deepen the foundation of our work, and sharpen our focus? To share experiences, lessons and build relationships with others that can advance our thinking, approach and capacity? We go to the YES! Jam, which gives us all that and so much more.”

— Hafsat Abiola, 27, daughter of assassinated Nigerian president-elect M.K.O. Abiola and founder, Kudirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND), Nigeria

“After I was shot twice, and my boyfriend was killed, I was fast losing hope. I needed to re-learn how to love and forgive even while living in a sea of hatred. The YES! Jam and the angels there helped to save my spirit, taught me how to love again, inspired me and gave me faith during a week I spent in heaven. Thank you for giving birth to this new hope in me, for reminding me how to dream again.”

— Faten Olwan, 24, Journalist, Former Media Coordinator, Office of the Prime Minister, Palestine



HELPING VISIONARY YOUNG LEADERS BUILD A BETTER WORLD

“I wish zillions of people could go through YES! Jams. I can already see practical ways that I am collaborating with at least nine people I met at the YES! Jam and we work from a foundation and community of trust. Most partnerships, organizations and movements that I’ve seen implode or become dysfunctional because they lack the community and informal relationship building that YES! is so good at cultivating. I became rejuvenated and re-connected with the spirit of my work.”

*— Billy Wimsatt, 29, founder,
The League of Young Voters
New York, USA*

“The World Jam has touched not only me but the hundreds of thousands of children who are counting on me. It gave me the insight and support I needed to care for myself so I can sustain a lifetime of service to the children.”

*— Mayerly Sanchez, 19, three-time
Nobel Peace Prize Nominee and Co-founder of the
Children’s Peace Movement of Colombia*

Will You Join Us?

If you are inspired by YES!’s work, we invite you to join us. Our work would not be possible without the generous participation of thousands of people investing generously with their time, dollars, and passion in support of our mission. To learn more about our activities, to donate online, to sign up for our e-newsletter, to access tools and resources, to connect with our alumni, or to be kept abreast of our unfolding work, please check us out at <http://www.yesworld.org>. Donations to YES! are tax-deductible, and can be made online or mailed to our office.



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About YES!:

Founded in 1990 by Ocean Robbins and Ryan Eliason (then ages 16 and 18), YES! connects, inspires and collaborates with young changemakers in building thriving, just and sustainable ways of life for all. We work at the meeting point of internal, interpersonal and systemic change, helping young leaders to create deepened alignment between their core values and their lives, relationships and social impact. Through event facilitation, YES! Jams, public speaking, organizing manuals, our web site, and a support network for young leaders from more than 65 nations, YES! is helping a generation to bring visionary leadership to the transformation of our world.



Accomplishments: YES! has held 100+ week-long events for young leaders from 65+ countries, and spoken in person to more than 650,000 people in school and conference presentations, providing support and skills to empower the next generation of leaders. In addition, YES! has distributed hundreds of thousands of books and action guides, co-produced the award winning MTV Earth Day Special *Connect*, and organized hundreds of workshops and trainings for young leaders worldwide.

YES! alumni have started more than 400 non-profit groups working for positive change, and increased membership to hundreds more. Among other things, they have negotiated gang truces, inspired peace movements, won class action lawsuits on behalf of oppressed refugees, led tribal nations towards sustainable economies and environmental protection, trained monks and nuns for spiritually engaged social action, produced globally distributed award-winning films on social transformation, organized campaigns to unseat racist politicians, led empowerment trainings for hundreds of women and girls living under Muslim law, started foundations and radical funding collectives, and catalyzed initiatives that have saved thousands of hectares of tropical rainforest. They have taught yoga and meditation to thousands of young leaders, organized hundreds of marches and rallies, and founded dozens of socially responsible businesses.

Global Leadership Jams: YES! organizes and supports week-long gatherings called Jams for groups of 30 outstanding young (under age 35) leaders. Jam participants are founders or leaders of organizations or movements who are working for social justice, peace, human rights and ecology. YES! helps these young visionaries to become more sustainable, effective, rooted and positive in their work for social change. Through them, large populations are touched, ignited and awakened. YES!'s goal is to expand the vision and effectiveness of some of the young people who are shaping the new millennium. YES! is currently working with our international network of partners to organize Jams and other transformational gatherings on five continents.



Leveraging Privilege for Social Change

Jams: YES! LPSC Jams work with groups of 30 young people who have access to exceptional financial, social and vision capital, helping them to unleash all that they have, and all that they are, on behalf of all that they love. Participants include young inheritors, entrepreneurs, philanthropy professionals, athletes, entertainers, social change leaders, and public figures who want to make a difference in the world.

“I have never been surrounded by so many incredible young people who live and breathe their radical center. I felt gently and safely yet firmly and fiercely moved through an experience of reconnection with myself and a community of social changemakers.”

— Lisl Schoepflin, 26, Panta Rhea Foundation, Oakland, CA

Supporting Aligned Movements:

YES! helps to build a movement of young changemakers through distribution of donor-directed grant funds, fiscal sponsorship of aligned startup programs, sponsorship of the annual Art in Action camp, conference presentations, workshop facilitation, operation of three web sites that serve many tens of thousands of people annually, and through distribution of educational books, videos and action guides.