

**PHOTOCOPY
RESERVATION**

Youth Visionaries 2000
February 22, 2000
Roosevelt Room
11:30 am – 12:15 pm

Youth —
Youth Visionaries
2000

Background

Youth Vision is a program that was established in 1998 in partnership with the following organizations: Center for Youth As Resources (CYAR), Conflict Resolution Education Network (CREnet), National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR), and Street Law, Inc. The Program's mission is to offer youth in the United States the opportunity to seek solutions to conflicts in their communities and schools and carry out their "vision" of an ideal community. *Youth Vision* issues an annual "Challenge" to young people between the ages of 9 and 22 to develop projects that address conflict, prejudice, or violence in their schools or communities.

The Challenge is not a competition or contest, but simply a way for dedicated youth to receive resources to enhance leadership and community involvement in their neighborhoods. Every project submission receives recognition and the opportunity for assistance to develop the idea into a workable program, but a youth/adult Advisory Committee does select ten finalists (*Youth Visionaries*) who are eligible for grant money and technical assistance to launch their projects. Although the project ideas and development must be implemented by youth, the Program does provide adult guidance and support through *Youth Vision* staff called *Adult Allies*.

The *Youth Visionaries* also attend a weekend-long leadership training retreat in Washington, D.C., and the *Youth Visionaries 2000* will conclude their retreat with a visit to the White House tomorrow, February 22. Project Director Marge Baker (also a Senior Consultant at CREnet), several *Adult Allies*, and Eric Heydenberk and Simmona Woodson (*Youth Vision* finalists 1999) will accompany the year 2000 finalists to the White House. The 1999 *Youth Visionaries* met with Bruce Reed in the Roosevelt Room last year, and on a separate occasion, Eric and Simmona participated in the White House Youth Violence Summit last May.

Eligibility and Guidelines:

- Submissions are open to individuals or groups of people between the ages of 9 and 22 and live in the United States;
- Ideas must come from a young person and be submitted by a young person;
- Project ideas must be original and new to the community;
- Project applicants must pledge to follow the idea through the stages to implementation;
- Project submissions must answer the following questions:
 - What? – The idea;
 - Why? – The problem;
 - Who? – People the project will benefit;
 - Where? – Location (school, community center, etc.);
 - How? – Examples of activities to address the problem; and
 - Success? – How success will be measured.

Youth Vision Projects 2000: (Project summaries and Year 2000 Visionaries are attached.)

Safe-Nite, Groove-Style; North Adams, Mass
Fighting Drugs with Words; Brooklyn New York

Cop Game; Brooklyn, New York

Connecting Across Differences; Davis, California

Harmony; Santa Barbara, California

Peace Tour 2000; Wilmington, North Carolina

Building Bridges Across State Borders; West Wendover, Nevada

Mentor Program; Forest Lake, Minnesota

Disabilities Game; Princeton, New Jersey

Rhode Island Children's Crusade Mentoring Project; Providence, Rhode Island

YEAR 2000 YOUTHVISIONARIES

Jackie Davis, Rocio Boites, & Hannah Ban-Weiss
Davis, CA

John Foss & Alanna Radlo-Dzur
Santa Barbara, CA

The Grooove
North Adams, MA

Jessica Johnson & Anne Paulson
Forest Lake, MN

West Wendover Teen Council
West Wendover, NV.

Ramona Belfiore & Mollie Ayre
Princeton, NJ

Meghan Bean-Smith
Wilmington, NC

Leroy Fraser
Brooklyn, NY

Nirmala Kandhai
Brooklyn, NY

Rhode Island Children's Crusade
Providence, RI



Project Summaries

PROJECT: Safe-Nite, Groove-Style

LOCATION: North Adams, Massachusetts

PROBLEM

We live in a community where there is not much for teens to do. A lot of teens hang out in parking lots and cause trouble because there is nowhere else to go. There is a lot of mistrust between teens and adults, there are physical and verbal fights between teens, and vandalism of property.

SOLUTION

We want to organize an event for youth and adults in our community that would provide workshops to learn about violence prevention and conflict resolution. We plan to link the workshops to musical and other entertainment that we are currently providing through coffeehouse events that have a track record in attracting area teens.

PROJECT: Fighting Drugs with Words

LOCATION: Brooklyn, New York

PROBLEM

Drug dealing is a major problem in my neighborhood. Neighbors have tried their best to rid the neighborhood of the drug traffic, but it is very difficult. The police come, but as soon as they leave the dealers return. It is particularly scary because they frequently deal drugs in front of children in the neighborhood.

SOLUTION

It is important for the neighbors who care about the problem to join together and try to deal with it. I think it would help to begin a letter writing campaign to city officials, the police, and others who can work with the neighbors to help do something about the problem.

PROJECT: Cop Game

LOCATION: Brooklyn, New York

PROBLEM

My neighborhood has a lot of problems with drug dealers, burglaries, and similar issues. Relationships between young people and police in the neighborhood are difficult - there is a lot of mistrust. All too often the police accuse young people of committing crimes that they have nothing to do with. This makes things even worse between the police and the citizens.

SOLUTION

I would like to develop a game that would help show cops what it feels like to be stopped and searched for no cause at all. I think if the police understand this better it will improve things for the citizens and the police.

PROJECT: Connecting Across Differences

LOCATION: Davis, California

PROBLEM

We have a lot of diversity at our school with students from many cultural backgrounds. There are also many levels of income represented at our high school. There are many evidences of prejudice and intolerance showing up at our school: graffiti on the wall with words like "les," "fag," "gay," "lame," and "retard," remarks students make in the hallways, etc. We also have fights at our school.

SOLUTION

We would like to develop a cultural diversity training for students at our high school. We would also like some of the teachers at the school to attend. We will design a full day training. Some of the activities will include: having participants complete their personal family trees and facilitating small group discussions about each student's heritage; conducting a session about Special Education, Full Inclusion, and living with disabilities; group exercises that sensitize participants to others' experiences; and a panel discussion on discrimination based on sexual orientation and homophobia.

PROJECT: Harmony

LOCATION: Santa Barbara, California

PROBLEM

Our community is a tourist town that puts a lot of energy into projects that will attract visitors, but not enough into activities for teens. Many popular gathering places in town become unfriendly to youth who gather there. Drug and alcohol use and boredom often lead to crime and violence in the city. We also have a fair amount of gang activity - from Latino and Chicano gangs to white supremacist groups.

SOLUTION

We would like to build on some successful work that we are already doing with young adults and teenagers in the area (including rival gang members) to help them deal with what they are experiencing by composing their own music - writing lyrics, composing all different styles of music from rap, hip hop, techno, and rock to jazz and beyond. This will help them discover themselves and their talents.

PROJECT: Peace Tour 2000

LOCATION: Wilmington, North Carolina

PROBLEM

My high school and schools in the surrounding area experience conflict and violence that seem to grow out of misunderstanding and lack of trust among people of different races.

SOLUTION

We propose to develop a forum for discussion to promote cultural diversity. In particular, our team plans to develop a training in peer mediation, anger management, conflict resolution, and cultural diversity. We then plan to deliver this training in schools around our community.

PROJECT: Building Bridges Across State Borders

LOCATION: West Wendover, Nevada

PROBLEM

We live in a school district that used to serve students from two states. Four years ago, in part because of economic and political differences between the two communities, two separate school districts were created, one for each state. Now there is serious tension between the two schools; there is deep-seated school rivalry reflecting a lack of respect between the two communities. The rivalries even involve the parents.

SOLUTION

We want to arrange for young people from both sides of the border to meet together and discuss problems within our community. We also hope that the groups will talk about possible solutions. We hope to have joint assemblies with both of the schools, with motivational speakers, mediators, etc. throughout the school year. Afterwards, we would have fun activities that provide opportunities for students from both of the schools to learn to work together.

PROJECT: Mentor Program

LOCATION: Forest Lake, Minnesota

PROBLEM

Students transitioning from junior high school to high school need more support. These students have a hard time finding their place in the much larger high school and become overwhelmed. This lack of support results in lower self-esteem and confidence which can lead to risky behaviors.

SOLUTION

We want to start a mentoring program for upcoming Freshmen. In the spring, upcoming Juniors will be paired with upcoming Freshmen to work together on monthly community projects. This will give Freshmen the opportunity to meet upper classmen with whom they can identify the next year. The activities will also be valuable as community involvement projects.

PROJECT: Disabilities Game
LOCATION: Princeton, New Jersey

PROBLEM

Young people and adults need to know more about disabilities, HIV, and AIDS. There is a lot of misunderstanding about these topics which can lead to stereotypes and prejudice.

SOLUTION

We want to create a fun game that will help teach important facts about disabilities, HIV, and AIDS to young people and adults who play the game.

PROJECT: Rhode Island Children's Crusade Mentoring Project
LOCATION: Providence, Rhode Island

PROBLEM

We are concerned about issues relating to high school culture. We are concerned that too many youth are dropping out of high school because of violence, conflict and prejudice. We want to teach middle school kids about high school and help them with the transition.

SOLUTION

We will hold seminars at the middle schools that feed the high schools that we attend. The high school Crusaders will meet with the middle school Crusaders on a regular basis; we'll invite the middle schoolers to shadow their high school counterparts. We'll have a big party at the end to show how much we have learned. And we'll follow-up with the students to make sure they are feeling connected.

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TAKE THE CHALLENGE!
LOOK FOR THE POSTER INSIDE ▶

YouthVision is coordinated by the Conflict Resolution Education Network (CREnet), the Center for Youth as Resources (CYAR), National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR), and Street Law, Inc.

WHO ARE THE YOUTH VISION PARTNERS?

YouthVision is a partnership among the following organizations:



Youth as Resources

CENTER FOR YOUTH AS RESOURCES

The Center for Youth as Resources (CYAR) provides small grants to young people to design and carry out service projects that tackle a range of social issues that concern youth—from health, housing, and education to drug abuse and crime.



CREnet

CONFLICT RESOLUTION EDUCATION NETWORK

The Conflict Resolution Education Network (CREnet) is a membership association for educators and conflict resolution professionals who are dedicated to broadening and deepening conflict resolution learning opportunities across the country. CREnet works to foster schools and communities that nurture nonviolent problem solving and prepare young people for responsible citizenship.



NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) works to enable people to prevent crime and build safer, more caring communities. NCPC offers training, technical assistance, a national focus for crime prevention, and manages the nationally recognized McGruff "Take A Bite Out Of Crime" campaign.



SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONALS IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR) is an international membership association committed to the advancement of the highest standards of ethics and practice for dispute resolvers. SPIDR and its partners, through collaborative youth initiatives, seek to involve youth in meaningful ways in the dispute resolution community.

STREET LAW, INC.

STREET LAW: Street Law, Inc. creates powerful educational programs in the United States and around the world that draw real-world connections between the lives of young people and the law, human rights, conflict management, and democratic values.

W W.YOUTHVISION.NET

Visionary Voices
from across the
country ...
The newsletter
of the national
YouthVision
program

Youth Visions

Issue 1

November, 1999

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News From Nitro	2
Whocaresonline.com	2
Challenges	2
Peacemaking	3
Tips and Ideas	3
What's Happening	3
Coming Seen	3
Message Board	4
Visionary Faces	4

Youth Leaders in Action!

Peace Leadership Council

By Karen and Aaron

Since we left the training we have been hard at work getting ready for the big "kick-off" event which is slowly creeping up on us on December 4. We have been putting in many hours to get this off the ground and go off without a hitch. We don't know where all the time went.

Webster Adult/Student Partnership

This project has narrowed its focus. It will focus on 25 special education middle school students mentoring in the Webster business community. Chelsey Wickmark is now a freshman at Maryland University so the project has been passed on to Amanda Mohr. Welcome to YouthVision, Amanda! Judy Shelton has been working with Amanda to kick off the project this fall. They will be presenting the program to the Webster Chamber of Commerce, talking to all the 9th grade special education students, hosting a meeting for interested students, and training business mentors.

News From Alaska

Our Alaskan friends, Natasha and Vicki, wrote an email to say hello and let us know that they have recently moved. They have ordered some materials and are working on getting their funding.

Exchanges For Changes

By Christina

My most exciting achievement definitely occurred on September 30 when the program officially kicked off and the two groups from St. Joseph Hill Academy and Curtis High School actually got together for the first time. My heart did a little dance because it was better than I ever could have imagined. The two groups interacted, socialized and ate pizza together. The Curtis principal came to greet us and gave us a warm welcome. Everyone had a great time playing cultural bingo and bridge-building games to prepare us for our role as leaders. We presented the idea of going through intensive mediation training on two full Saturdays. I was nervous that people would not want to come in on a weekend. By the next day, every single slot was filled and all permission slips returned. The feedback I got was that everyone had had such a good time at the first meeting that they were looking forward to spending more time together.

Lights...Camera...Take Action!

By Raven

The Grace Community Drama Workshop project is going strong! We are will be going to local schools and holding our drama workshops so that more youth will become involved. We had a good turn out at the first session but we want even more people to come out and see what we're doing. The youth were really receptive and open.

YOUTH
VISION

YouthVision in Cyberspace!

Come visit YouthVision on the Web! We just posted a new Web site! Check us out and let us know what you think!

www.youthvision.net

News From Nitro

By Tara

The Student Helper Network of Nitro High School in Nitro, West Virginia has had great success with our talk show, "Talk of the Town: Making Cliques Click". The publicity we received for attending the training in April helped a lot with getting others involved and giving us a helping hand. We were in several newspaper articles, interviewed on news channels, and appeared on the Charles Grodin Show. The teachers and faculty have worked well with us and we really appreciate that. Our first show was kind of hectic but it was totally awesome. A local news station invited us to come and tape our first show and it was a huge success. We all enjoyed ourselves and the show was great! We appreciate the encouragement from everyone and we hope everyone and their projects are going well.

By Steven

So far our talk show has been a success. We have aired one show and our next show will be aired November 5th. Our most exciting achievement has been to successfully air a talk show and the positive responses that we have received from the students here at Nitro High.

Whocaresonline.com

By Eric and Adrienne

"Our most important accomplishment has been publishing the site."

We have had many things happen since the training in April. We have

been on the Philadelphia ABC Nightly News and in newspapers. We have talked to teachers who want to use our site as a teaching resource. But our most important accomplishment has been publishing the site, which we

Our biggest challenge for our talk show was where to start. Nobody in the Student Helper Network had any clue how to put on our very own talk show. We decided that the best way to do this was to form teams and assign a task to each team. For instance, we have a writer team that writes all the scripts for the show. We have a set design team that is working on the backdrops for our show. We also have a camera crew, and a floor crew that work on the set to make sure that everything is in order. We were also worried about the attitudes and responses towards the show from the students.

We have many things to look forward to in the future of our project. We hope to eventually build our own studio here at Nitro High. So far, we have had the help and support of WSAZ News who has agreed to let our Student Helper Network use their studio and their equipment for the taping of our show. They are also showing us how to use the equipment so in the future we can do this on our own. The greatest thing that we would like to accomplish with our project is to help make a difference at our school. We hope that the number of fights and conflicts at our school will start to decrease after the students view this show and see how we all aren't so different after all.

will continue to work on and add to as time passes. As of now it has three main parts. These parts are: The Kids Can Award - where kids can nominate and vote for other kids and adults who are doing great things in their community - check out Karen Lovell, our first winner; the Who Cares Resource List - where kids can find other sites like ours; and the Conflict Resolution area - where kids can go to learn how to resolve and prevent conflicts and teachers can go to get Kid Created Conflict Curriculum.

Challenges

★ Persuading others how the project will work, and convincing them that Westminster Ambassadors of Peace is a youth program that focuses on non-violence. -Arthur

★ Actually getting started has been a big challenge. I think it's easy to lose sight of how much work is actually involved. -Raven

★ Our biggest difficulties have been computer problems. We have gone through two computer crashes and other smaller difficulties. -Eric and Adrienne



★ Trying to plan and get our first show. It's been a hectic start this year, especially because our sponsor is moving to North Carolina. -Tara

★ I have to admit that getting everything together was rather daunting at the beginning. -Christina

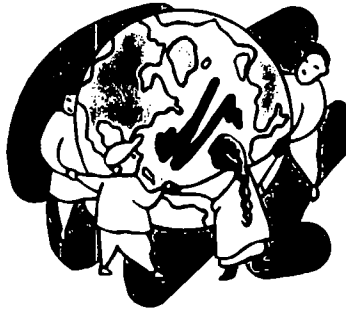
★ *Congratulations to all YouthVisionaries for working through the many challenges that come along the way. Check out our web site for some suggestions on handling some of these challenges. Visit us at www.youthvision.net.*

Peacemaking for a Stronger Community Westminster Ambassadors of Peace

By Arthur

Westminster Ambassadors of Peace has been moving forward since our last meeting in April. Since then, we have received a strong response among youth in the neighborhood and community. With support from Marge Baker, our adult ally, we have been able to receive approval for our facility to conduct our one-day monthly workshops. At the same time, we are working with educators in the community who have voiced a strong concern for the project and its success in the future.

"Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures. And however undramatic the



pursuit of peace, that pursuit must go on." John F. Kennedy, 1963

Westminster Ambassadors of Peace has taken a long time to form. But, I believe its foundation has been created because our youth already have voiced a strong interest. Our plan for the following year is to involve youth in our youth workshop so they can learn skills in conflict resolution education and violence prevention through drama monologues that involve scenarios on anger, and prejudice which they themselves act out!

It's a new approach we have created to allow youth to have fun! Good luck to all YouthVisionaries and your projects. Please contact me if you need suggestions or advice on your project at 714-373-9555.

Tips and Ideas from YouthVisionaries

★ I've learned that "piggybacking" is the way to go. I've already doubled my funding because I've asked people in the community to help. I've also learned that we shouldn't be afraid to ask for help. The worst thing that could happen is that they might say no. So much more can be accomplished through collaboration. We can do so much more with our money if we also get outside help. -Christina

★ Always target your goal. Whether it be getting approval for your program among leaders, teachers, or students. Be persistent and use your YouthVision road map. -Arthur

★ The Webster, NY group is being reasonable about the number of participants and duration of the project - they consider this their pilot year. They will monitor what happens this year and make adjustments.

Our advice is "If you put your heart in it the possibilities are endless, but listen to what you hear from your peers and others and change direction if necessary".

-Eric and Adrienne

★ Don't be afraid to use your persuasion skills and ask for help. -Tara

★ We have learned that you should always allow more time to do something than you think will be needed. We have also learned that the best way to get something done is to work together and come up with a schedule for everything that has to be done. On more of a humorous note, we have also learned that whenever you start to film a show, make sure that you have a tape in the camera first. -Steven

★ Stay committed!!! This is hard work but it's worth it! -Raven

What's Happening?

News from YouthVision Staff

Our biggest news is that we are now online! Visit your new web site at www.youthvision.net. You'll see parts of this newsletter online soon!

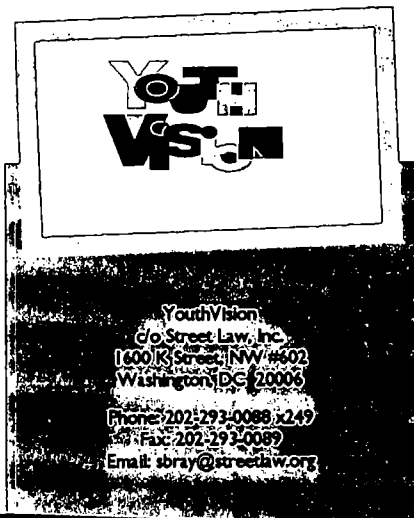
Also, the Advisory Committee was in DC on November 19 - 21 to select the next proposals that will receive funding from YouthVision. As always, all youth who submit proposals to YouthVision will receive assistance in getting their project started.

Coming Soon!

Upcoming Events

Arthur is planning a one-day workshop to educate youth on conflict resolution and improved communication between youth and adults... Eric and Adrienne plan to add more Kid Created Curriculum and have more contests. They are going to start working with about 100 kids to create real life conflict scenarios and resolutions... Nitro High School is hoping to air their show once a month and some of them have been asked to teach a workshop on projects like this at seminars...

VISIONARY FACES



YOUTH VISIONS

We're on the web!
www.youthvision.net



Arthur meets with his adult ally Nancy Jenkins.



Nitro High School set crew making preparations.



Exchanges For Changes

MESSAGE BOARD

We'd like to say hello to all our YouthVision friends and ask everyone to us give some of your best conflict scenarios for our site. If you have someone to nominate for The Kids Can Award please let us know.

- Eric and Adrienne

I feel like we're really special young people. I look at it like we're seeds who've been thrown back into our communities to do good. The training we received in Washington is now having a rippling effect on the whole country. It's great to know that the future of our country is really held in our hands, and YouthVision has given us the tools to make a positive difference. The mediation training that my group received really put some things in perspective. We, as a group and individually, will take our skills back to our schools and we will become the peacemakers in our own environments. When we see people being left out or made fun of, we will be the ones who quietly remind our friends to do the right thing. YouthVision has empowered us to make a difference! -Christina

I miss everyone and send me some mail!!!

- Tara

The Student Helper Network would like to wish all of the YouthVisionaries out there the best of luck on their projects and helping to make a difference.

- Steven

Keep sending updates for the newsletter to Street Law!

Thanks to everyone who wrote in—we are so pleased that so many of you responded. Next time let's hear from everyone! We also received some great pictures—look for even more of these on the web site at www.youthvision.net.

-YouthVision staff

Good News!!!

You will have the opportunity to apply to come back to the YouthVision training this year! We have a limited number of spots so look out for an application in the mail soon. You'll have a chance to learn more and present your project to the new YouthVisionaries.

-YouthVision staff

December 14, 1999

Mr. Bruce Reed
Assistant to the President
For Domestic Policy
The White House
2nd Floor, West Wing
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Bruce:

I'm excited to send you a copy of the attached press release announcing the Year 2000 *YouthVisionaries*. As you will see this new group of young people, age 11 – 20, follows in the exemplary tradition of Eric Heydenberk, Simonna Woodson and others from last year's finalists!

The project ideas selected this year include a game to address misunderstanding and prejudice about HIV, AIDS, and disabilities; peer mentoring programs to help young people make a successful transition to high school; cultural diversity and conflict resolution training workshops; a game to help improve youth/police relationships, and workshops to help young people address conflict and violence by writing and performing their own musical compositions.

We will be holding our annual Leadership Training on February 19th – 22nd at Galludet University. We would welcome the opportunity once again to have you meet this stellar group of young people whose wisdom about how to deal with problems we face – and whose commitment to make a difference in dealing with those problems – is unsurpassed.

I will follow up shortly to see if we might be able to arrange a visit in February. Best wishes to you for a wonderful holiday season.

Warm regards,


Marge Baker
YouthVision Director



Cashy -
maybe
Eric
or
our new
Youth Vision
director

cc. John Podesta, Chief of Staff to the President
Karin Kullman, Domestic Policy Council

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PRESERVATION



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PRESS RELEASE

December 14, 1999
For Immediate Release

Contact: Marge Baker
Project Director
301-365-4514

***YOUTHVISION* ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF YEAR 2000 NATIONAL FINALISTS**

YouthVision today announced the selection of its Year 2000 National Finalists. *YouthVisionaries* from the ten finalist sites submitted ideas for creative projects to deal with problems they were seeing in their schools or communities. The youth will now receive technical assistance from *YouthVision* staff to help make their ideas a reality, will be invited to attend this year's Take the Challenge Leadership Training in Washington, D.C. February 19th – 22nd, and will be eligible to receive start-up funding to help launch their projects.

The project ideas selected include a game to address misunderstanding and prejudice about HIV, AIDS, and disabilities; peer mentoring programs to help young people make a successful transition to high school; cultural diversity and conflict resolution training workshops; a game to help improve youth/police relationships, and workshops to help young people address conflict and violence by writing and performing their own musical compositions.

YouthVision, a new national initiative begun in 1998, issues an annual **Challenge** inviting youth to submit ideas for addressing conflict, prejudice or violence in their schools or communities. Every creative and thoughtful submission receives recognition and the opportunity for assistance in helping the idea grow into a workable project. Those selected as finalists attend a national training in Washington, D.C. and receive start-up money for their projects.

This year *YouthVision* received submissions from young people in 14 states, ranging in age from 11 to 20. A national youth/adult Advisory Committee selected the ten finalists at a weekend-long meeting at the end of November.

YouthVision is a collaborative initiative of five organizations: Street Law, Inc., the Center for Youth as Resources (CYAR), the Conflict Resolution Education Network (CREnet), the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), and the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR). It is supported in part with funds from the Levi Strauss and Company Foundation.

“It is absolutely awe inspiring to see how much young people care about making a difference in their communities and how insightful they are about how to make that difference,” said Marge Baker the **YouthVision** project director. *“We are extremely excited about this program. Daily action that fosters a civil society is at the core of our mission,”* said Ed O’Brien, Executive Director of Street Law, Inc. *“It is extremely important to understanding the value of young people as assets to their communities and as leaders in their own right. **YouthVision** brings that lesson home,”* said Marilyn Bassett, Executive Director of the Center for Youth as Resources.

Visit the **YouthVision** website, www.youthvision.net for a complete list of the Year 2000 **YouthVision** National Finalists and a description of their project ideas.

For more information on the **YouthVision** project contact:

Marge Baker
Project Director
9301 Kentsdale Drive
Potomac, MD 20854

301/365-4514 (phone)
301/365-4584 (fax)
bakermarge@erols.com

Or visit the **YouthVision** website at www.youthvision.net

What is *YouthVision* ?

YouthVision is a unique program offering young people the opportunity to design creative ways to resolve problems. Once a year ***YouthVision*** issues a **Challenge** inviting youth to submit their ideas for projects that address conflict, prejudice or violence in their school or community.

Every creative and thoughtful submission receives recognition and the opportunity for assistance in helping the idea grow into a workable project. Some ***YouthVisionaries*** also attend a national training conference in Washington, D.C. and receive start-up money for their projects.

YouthVision is not a competition or essay writing contest. It is more than a way to get resources for a project. Those who choose to become involved with ***YouthVision*** become part of a community that believes in the value and power of youth leadership.

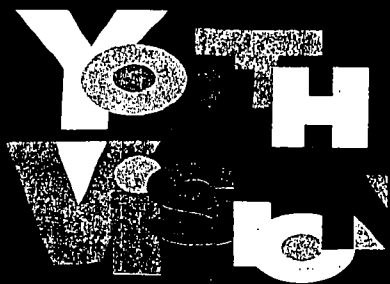
YouthVision is open to individuals or groups of people between the ages of 9 and 22 who live in the U.S. The ideas must come from and be submitted by a young person, who is committed to following through to turn the idea into an actual project.

Adults play an important role in ***YouthVision***, working in partnership with youth, providing guidance and feedback, but accepting the young people's leadership role.

Begun in 1998, ***YouthVision*** is a collaborative initiative of five organizations: the Conflict Resolution Education Network (CREnet), the Center for Youth as Resources (CYAR), the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR), and Street Law, Inc.

For more information contact Marge Baker at CREnet:

1527 New Hampshire Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202-667-9700, ext. 220
youthvision@ncpc.org



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Dear Bruce:

I'm excited to send you a copy of the attached press release announcing the Year 2000 *Youth Visionaries*. As you will see this new group of young people, age 11 – 20, follows in the exemplary tradition of Eric Heydenberk, Simonna Woodson and others from last year's finalists!

The project ideas selected this year include a game to address misunderstanding and prejudice about HIV, AIDS, and disabilities; peer mentoring programs to help young people make a successful transition to high school; cultural diveristy and conflict resolution training workshops; a game to help improve youth/police relationships, and workshops to help young people address conflict and violence by writing and performing their own musical compositions.

We will be holding our annual Leadership Training on February 19th – 22nd at Galludet University. We would welcome the opportunity once again to have you meet this stellar group of young people whose wisdom about how to deal with problems we face – and whose commitment to make a difference in dealing with those problems – is unsurpassed.

I will follow up shortly to see if we might be able to arrange a visit in February. Best wishes to you for a wonderful holiday season.

Warm regards,

Marge Baker
Marge Baker
Youth Vision Director

OK

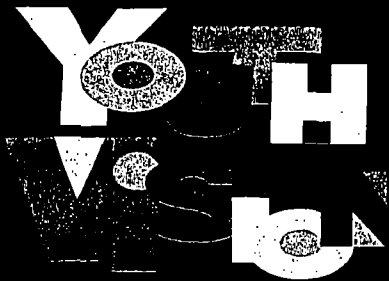
*Cathy -
maybe
Eric
or
our new
Youth Violence
director*

cc. John Podesta, Chief of Staff to the President
Karin Kullman, Domestic Policy Council

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PRESS RELEASE

December 14, 1999
For Immediate Release

Contact: Marge Baker
Project Director
301-365-4514

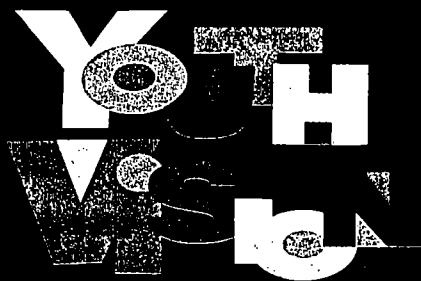
YOUTHVISION ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF YEAR 2000 NATIONAL FINALISTS

YouthVision today announced the selection of its Year 2000 National Finalists. *YouthVisionaries* from the ten finalist sites submitted ideas for creative projects to deal with problems they were seeing in their schools or communities. The youth will now receive technical assistance from *YouthVision* staff to help make their ideas a reality, will be invited to attend this year's Take the Challenge Leadership Training in Washington, D.C. February 19th – 22nd, and will be eligible to receive start-up funding to help launch their projects.

The project ideas selected include a game to address misunderstanding and prejudice about HIV, AIDS, and disabilities; peer mentoring programs to help young people make a successful transition to high school; cultural diversity and conflict resolution training workshops; a game to help improve youth/police relationships, and workshops to help young people address conflict and violence by writing and performing their own musical compositions.

YouthVision, a new national initiative begun in 1998, issues an annual **Challenge** inviting youth to submit ideas for addressing conflict, prejudice or violence in their schools or communities. Every creative and thoughtful submission receives recognition and the opportunity for assistance in helping the idea grow into a workable project. Those selected as finalists attend a national training in Washington, D.C. and receive start-up money for their projects.

This year *YouthVision* received submissions from young people in 14 states, ranging in age from 11 to 20. A national youth/adult Advisory Committee selected the ten finalists at a weekend-long meeting at the end of November.



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YouthVision is a collaborative initiative of five organizations: Street Law, Inc., the Center for Youth as Resources (CYAR), the Conflict Resolution Education Network (CREnet), the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), and the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR). It is supported in part with funds from the Levi Strauss and Company Foundation.

"It is absolutely awe inspiring to see how much young people care about making a difference in their communities and how insightful they are about how to make that difference," said Marge Baker the **YouthVision** project director. *"We are extremely excited about this program. Daily action that fosters a civil society is at the core of our mission,"* said Ed O'Brien, Executive Director of Street Law, Inc. *"It is extremely important to understanding the value of young people as assets to their communities and as leaders in their own right. YouthVision brings that lesson home,"* said Marilyn Bassett, Executive Director of the Center for Youth as Resources.

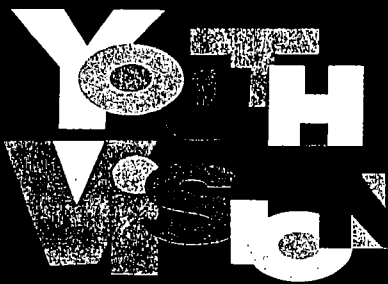
Visit the **YouthVision** website, www.youthvision.net for a complete list of the Year 2000 **YouthVision** National Finalists and a description of their project ideas.

For more information on the **YouthVision** project contact:

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Or visit the **YouthVision** website at www.youthvision.net



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What is *YouthVision* ?

YouthVision is a unique program offering young people the opportunity to design creative ways to resolve problems. Once a year *YouthVision* issues a **Challenge** inviting youth to submit their ideas for projects that address conflict, prejudice or violence in their school or community.

Every creative and thoughtful submission receives recognition and the opportunity for assistance in helping the idea grow into a workable project. Some *YouthVisionaries* also attend a national training conference in Washington, D.C. and receive start-up money for their projects.

YouthVision is not a competition or essay writing contest. It is more than a way to get resources for a project. Those who choose to become involved with *YouthVision* become part of a community that believes in the value and power of youth leadership.

YouthVision is open to individuals or groups of people between the ages of 9 and 22 who live in the U.S. The ideas must come from and be submitted by a young person, who is committed to following through to turn the idea into an actual project.

Adults play an important role in *YouthVision*, working in partnership with youth, providing guidance and feedback, but accepting the young people's leadership role.

Begun in 1998, *YouthVision* is a collaborative initiative of five organizations: the Conflict Resolution Education Network (CREnet), the Center for Youth as Resources (CYAR), the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR), and Street Law, Inc.

For more information contact Marge Baker at CREnet:

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