Introduction

Greetings,

This has been a very significant year for us here at YES! We entered into our fiscal year and fundraising season as the stock market crashed and a number of our donors lost much if not all of their life savings. Fundraising numbers were dismal, but our spirits remained strong. Many people stretched to give generously and keep YES! afloat, as we reconfigured internally to adjust to the harsh budget climate. Some of our fundraising house parties shifted into support circles for people struggling to weather the storm, maintain their vision, and keep the important work of our times going. Within YES!, we did our part to figure out how to do more with less, hosting retreats in staff and board homes, personally sharing food potluck style at events, and having family and friends support travel and volunteer efforts. With our grounding in community, people have pulled and pushed through together.

We have been exploring what it takes for us to co-create a thriving, just and sustainable way of life for all, and how to support partnership for real change. We have been transitioning from a founder-led organization to one of collaborative leadership. We have been lifting up the gifts, talents and skills of all the staff and our program partners. This has allowed our founder to have a more sustainable life, as well as the opportunity for the rest of the YES! team to step more fully into leadership within the organization.

We would like to share with you some of the notable organizational shifts that illustrate our transition into a collaboratively run organization. Tiffany, after working with YES! for seven years, most recently as Program Manager, has become YES!’s Co-Director. Ocean, our founder, is our other Co-Director. Julie, our National Community Coordinator, has taken on significant programmatic responsibilities to facilitate this transition and is working in tandem with our Development Manager, Nga, to continue to support the organization with a focus on values-aligned fundraising. Our Operations Manager, Lorin, has been taking on the facilitation of many in-house meetings and retreats, and works closely with our bookkeeper, Romy, and both are the “glue” that keeps the office together. And last May, our Program Associate, Jenny, moved on after more than three years of loving, diligent work for the organization.

Shifts are also occurring in our work with our national and international program partners. Together we have been implementing some of our primary values at YES! including: means-to-end consistency, honoring diverse forms of leadership and perspectives, and matching authority with responsibility, so that the people most impacted by the need to carry out a decision have the most influence in shaping it. Partners from the main YES! program areas gathered with YES! staff at our Program Committee meeting to allocate YES!’s program budget and identify this year’s related goals and priorities. At that gathering, we committed to expand local and multi-generational work, engage 18–25 year old potential participants, explore and develop our support of alumni, cultivate future YES! facilitators through our programs and continue to implement challenging and meaningful evaluation or our work and programs.

Finally, on the Board level we have brought on two new members, Cate Coslor and Austin Willacy. Both have had strong programmatic engagement with YES! and are passionate and capable partners to our mission. And, three amazing Board Members, Kimberly Carter, Laura Loescher, and Richard Glantz, transitioned out but remain committed to supporting YES! in different ways. We give thanks to them and look forward to their continued involvement.

Many of you know YES! as being synonymous with our dear friend and founder, Ocean. As our staff and organizing partners step into more responsibility and leadership, we greet spaciousness for growth, development and self-empowerment for all of us, including Ocean. There is a new face of YES!—it is the many faces of all of us who make this work happen. And we are committed to transformative social change—from the inside out. As we step into each new stage of our evolution, we invite you to step into it as well.

With gratitude for your partnership, and enthusiasm for all we will yet do together,
Our Finances

THANK YOU TO 2008-2009 MAJOR SUPPORTERS:

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


$1,000+


YES! conducted a financial review for the fiscal year ending 9/30/08 for which copies are available upon request. YES! conducts audits every other year, and results for the fiscal year ending 9/30/09 will be available in early 2010.

Unaudited numbers indicate a modest surplus of $2,904 for the fiscal year. Our net assets include $93,484 in Seeds of Justice, $125,463 for Art in Action and more than $152,542 in pledges toward future years and/or projects. Our $318,979 in General Funds along with $311,980 in other restricted funds is held in our local community credit union and in other short term investments aligned with our values.

This does not include $455,344 in revenue for Seeds of Justice, Art in Action, P3 and other program partners that received pre-approved grants. Total all-inclusive revenue is $1,103,776.

This does not include $455,344 in expenses for Seeds of Justice, Art in Action, P3 and other program partners that received pre-approved grants. Total all-inclusive expenses are $1,100,872, changing the percentage breakdown as follows: Program 84%, Management 8% and Fundraising 8%.
Global Leadership Programs

Lambakan Philippines Jam, March 21-27, 2009

By Jennifer Awingan, World Jam alumni and Director of Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network

Lambakan is a local term for “festival”. Indigenous communities here traditionally organize Lambakan to celebrate abundance, victory or success. The concept is adapted to portray festival of learning and relearning.

The Northern Luzon Cultural Jam was held in Abra Province, in the Cordillera region of the Philippines. It was hosted by DAP-AY, an Abra based youth cultural organization. The 3rd Annual Jam in the Philippines convened 31 participants and four facilitators. The Jam participants included students, community leaders and young professionals.

The facilitators included two experienced and two first-time Jam facilitators, continuing our practice of bringing in new facilitators from past Jam alumni to create an atmosphere of mentoring, and to bring in new techniques and concepts.

Activities included cultural workshops, discussions of relevant issues, cultural exchanges, individual and collective processing and sharing, a community visit, and games.

“The weeklong Jam made me realize that as indigenous youth—the leaders of the new generation should be in the forefront of promoting and protecting the indigenous practices, culture and traditional knowledge. As we are the keepers of the lands and now is the time, we should be united to have a stronger foundation to protect our land, life and resources. This event made me see the brighter future ahead for us indigenous people.”
— Sloan Ramos

“This week has been full of unlearning moments for me. The knowledge, skills and the whole process we went through exceeded my expectations. This Jam is an experience that I will surely treasure and want to share with my friends and colleagues. The friendship we built here is invaluable aside from all that we have learned. We might have to say goodbye but not to the things we learned from the Jam.”
— Maoi Bayudang

To read about more Jam details and some learnings from the Lambakan Jam, go to yesworld.org/blog

Middle East Jam, October 22-28, 2008, Jordan

By Ocean Robbins, Co-Organizer and Co-Facilitator

The inaugural 2008 Middle East Jam convened twenty young changemakers from Lebanon, Iran, Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, Israel, Pakistan, India, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia and the United States in Jordan’s southern desert of Wadi Rum. Participants were leaders in movements for sustainability, peace, interfaith dialogue, human rights, women’s rights, social justice, anti-globalization, refugee support, trauma recovery, and related causes. The Jam created space for authentic dialogue about each participant’s struggles and dreams, and about the challenges and opportunities facing the region through the eyes of individual stories and experiences. By starting from participant’s very human journeys, the Jam was able to avoid the kind of heady political posturing that so often destroys cross-cultural dialogues in the Middle East. Relationships built at the Jam were real and profound, and created a fractal of possibility for healing and reconciliation in a region of extraordinary cultural and spiritual import to the future of our world.

“During the days that brought us together, I was both humbled and honored to meet this group of young promising individuals who were mere strangers...”
yet today are my dear brothers and sisters. Listening to each participant’s religious script through their ears and viewing the kaleidoscope of cultural colors through their eyes has created in me a genuine personal sensitivity towards diverse traditional and religious values. I have as a result gratefully grown into an individual who is rooted in my beliefs yet open towards and respectful of other traditions. The Jam left me with treasured memories, wide smiles, warm tears, funny songs, deep understanding, grateful appreciation, and peaceful serenity. The Jam was an amazing inspiration to me and I’m so grateful to have been part of it. I also learned so much from our facilitators that I can apply in facilitating future events here in the United Arab Emirates.”
— Abrar, 21, United Arab Emirates

“Being an Israeli in the Jam was interesting for me. I really wanted to connect with everyone but I understood that for some participants it was a struggle to allow themselves to come close to me. When finally we passed this ‘border’ we became best friends. Although I knew about Palestinian refugees it was the first time that I got to meet them and hear their feelings. I’m burning from inside with the need to change, to do something. The reason that I have those strong feeling, I believe, is because the Jam was focused on the people, on us. It wasn’t like most of the peace conferences that I have been to where I heard people lecturing and their words came in from one ear and went out from the other. When you focus on who you are it will stay with you even when you say goodbye. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this family, Jamily, for letting me feel more alive, and for letting me meet these amazing honest people. I can’t stop thinking about my new friends, people that I fell in love with in only one week. I don’t understand how such a connection can happen so fast.”
— Neriya Mark, 21, Oasis of Peace, Israel

For a complete report on the Middle East Jam, go to yesworld.org/mejam.html

Arctic Institute for Indigenous Leadership, January 4-11, 2009
By Cathy Rexford, Native Movement Alaska Director and Jam Alumni

Twenty-two young Alaska Natives from across the state gathered together in the second cohort of the Arctic Institute for Indigenous Leadership, sponsored by YES!, in Hatcher’s Pass, Alaska. This event drew together people from all the major cultural regions in the state working in their communities for positive change. Among those who attended were health care and social workers, tribal leaders, non-profit leaders, musicians, traditional singers dancers and weavers, performance artists, writers, hunters, filmmakers, lawyers, healers, environmental justice organizers and grant writers.

The Arctic Institute for Indigenous Leadership is a gathering for Alaska Natives between the ages of 18-35 who are working for both personal and collective healing, justice and well-being. During this six-day long gathering, participants shared in traditional foods, dance, song, stories, as well as historical overviews, traditional knowledge sharing, healing, strategizing and visioning. The gathering features an opportunity for personal growth and reflection as well as community building and strengthening.

Of the AIIL experience, our participants have said:

“The AIIL transformed my life. The entire gathering—including discussions, exercises, songs, stories, dances, laughter, reverence for creation, and food—has been a cleansing process that will allow me to be a healthier, more productive member of the Alaska Native and global communities. The sharing of talents and ideas has left me fueled to continue working toward uplifting our communities. I look forward to seeing the relationships that have developed here unfold and strengthen throughout time.”
— Saagulik Hensley

“Wholistic, comprehensive & anchored deep with the understanding that true leadership requires individuals who are reconciled to their own spiritual, emotional and historical truths. This program stands head & shoulders above comparable events I have attended and facilitated.”
— David Vaidiveloo

“The experience I had at the AIIL is something I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I was so honored to be among such inspirational leaders from all over Alaska. I am excited to bring what I learned back home.”
— “Gunalcheesh” Yeilk Vivian Mork
Leveraging Privilege for Social Change Jam, June 4–11, 2009

By Julie Pennington, National Community Coordinator

Thirty young changemakers from five nations and 11 states converged in the beautiful West Virginia hills for the 7th annual Leveraging Privilege for Social Change Jam. The Jam creates safe and nurturing environments for transformative community dialogues that hold our unique experiences of race, class, gender, power, and community to explore our relationships with diverse forms of privilege. Participants are amazing young people coming from a wide range of histories, social positions, and passions who experience privilege through earned or inherited wealth, luck, skills or education, public voice, or professional position, to name a few. One of the unique aspects of the 2009 Jam was the wealth of outstanding musical and creative talent among its participants. Appropriately, sound, voice, and breath played important roles in transformational experiences for several participants. The depth of connection and trust fostered between participants served as a strong foundation for several inspiring collaborations that have flowered since and that continue to develop.

With every moving moment, YES! organizers are asking ourselves how we can take our work to a deeper and more authentic level, act in alignment with our programmatic commitments, and honor our collaborations, partnerships, and resources fully. We asked ourselves important questions at this Jam about what it means to co-create a space that supports participants to push their comfort zones and take the risks that enable all of us to get the most out of the experience. The Jam encouraged participants to find and express honesty to co-create a container for movement and deepening our capacity to use the resources in our lives to create the kind of worlds that we want to live in and that we are actively engaged in building together.

“Never did I imagine I would walk into a group of strangers and come out with sisters and brothers in seven days time. The connections made, revelations revealed, are truly life changing and an experience I won’t soon forget. I CAN’T forget because it is from this Jam that I was re-born. New, fresh, appreciated, free, and full of love! My intentions are to keep this love going and to recognize my part in the world to leverage my privilege for social change. Thank you for creating this space for my voice to be heard and for helping me find the tools within to impact my family, community and ultimately the world. I’ll always keep the family in my heart and in my truth.”

— Elaine Pollock, 29, Turning The Tide Fellow, Baltimore, MD

Power and Privilege for the People Fall Jam, October 12–17, 2008

By Aqeela Sherrills, P3 Coordinator, and YES! Alumni and Board Member

Power and Privilege for the People (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 to: Build a Supportive Community; Deepen Understanding of World Issues and Our Place in it; and Take More Effective and Synergistic Action.

In Westchester County, New York, on 17 wooded acres, participants and facilitators/stewards engaged in an intimate conversation that embraced a holistic view of philanthropic social change. The dialogue explored growing and building positive change on three simultaneous levels: the internal (how we are growing spiritually and personally); the interpersonal (how we are seeking to bring love, integrity and honesty to our relationships); and the societal (how we are building a world of justice, liberation, peace and balance). We believe that the personal and the public are connected, and as such the Jam synthesized the exploration of our personal lives and journeys with our collective work for a better world. It provided a space for participants to examine not only their work and commitments, but also their beliefs, values, emotions, and modes of analysis of philanthropy — all in a community of trust that allowed important insights and perspective to be gained.
The most important issues that were surfaced came from an activity in which we listened to the 1967 speech of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., entitled, “Why Jesus Called a Man a Fool”. They spoke to the very nature of the conversation we were stewarding. In the speech, Dr. King said that Jesus called a man a fool because he allowed the means by which he lived to outdistance the ends for which he lived. Having a line of demarcation between the two is absolutely necessary to live a balanced life. As social change activists, many of us have embraced a psychology of martyrdom and attempt to challenge the idea of living in an unsustainable world from a place of imbalance. Our time together focused on naming the imbalance in our lives, creating the line of demarcation and supporting each other in stepping into our power.

After the Jam, P3 was approached by one of the participants to contribute in the creation of two new major funds, The Black Achievement Fund and the Indigenous People’s Achievement Fund. The idea is revolutionary in concept. A strategic planning session took place December 29, 2008 – January 5, 2009 in Merida, Mexico to discuss details. The funds will potentially become the 3rd major endowment in the country rivaling the United Negro College Fund and the first major fund to focus specifically on Latino issues.

“I came here very much confused and disillusioned, and pulled in many directions. My heart had been fluttery all week and my body was really tight. P3 allowed for a real moment of clarity for me. So my thoughts really began to organize and synthesize. My intention in coming was mostly networking looking to build with the like minded, well-meaning folks that I was confident would be here. What happened though was a much more transformative experience by which I got in closer connection with my own reflections and developed a willfulness about much of the work that I’m doing, not to mention my personal relationships. This is a necessary space for folk of color to process those issues and instances that are particular to their collective and individual experiences, but then pivot and begin to put into practice the new work that will stem from these perspectives.”

— Nigel

Leveraging Privilege for Change Day-Long Workshop Series, February–April 2009

By Shilpa Jain, LPSC Workshop Co-facilitator and LPSC Jam Co-coordinator

Over three months in Spring 2009, Austin Willacy and Shilpa Jain, Jam alumni and facilitators, co-hosted six daylong workshops on the theme of Leveraging Privilege for Social Change (LPSC), one each in the cities of Los Angeles and Davis, CA, Portland, OR, Seattle, WA, and two in the San Francisco Bay Area. The small-group workshops were diverse and intergenerational, with an age range of 19 to 65. Participants greatly appreciated the opportunity to reflect on their lives, their experiences with ‘philanthropy’, their relationships to privilege, and their capacity to make a positive difference. For several participants, it was their first chance to look at their power, their challenges and their possibilities in such a safe and unique space.

— Drew

Flow Funding and Pre-approved Grants

By Lorin Troderman, Operations Manager

As part of YES!’s philosophy to help move money towards positive social change, we have continued two effective internal mechanisms. The first is flow funding from which our Director was able to distribute over $14,000 (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 San Francisco Bay Area groups such as the Men’s Story Project in Oakland, Foundation for Tender Loving Care and Touch in Santa Cruz, and YEA Camps, based in San Francisco Bay. YES! also continues to act as the fiscal sponsor for the Seeds of Justice Fund which gave $10,000 in the past year ($658,759 to date).
Global Youth Leadership Collaborative Gathering and Day of Engagement

By Shilpa Jain, Global Youth Leadership Collaborative Coordinator

The Global Youth Leadership Collaborative (GYLC) is an effort to strengthen a global network of young leaders, by offering personal, professional, interpersonal and cultural development towards ‘transformational leadership’. We have five primary areas of activity: convening an annual gathering; activating a flow fund program; administering travel scholarships for regional gatherings; developing documentation and communication vehicles; and using collaborative leadership for our infrastructure and governance.

We finished our fourth annual gathering, from June 27–July 3, 2009, in Santa Cruz, California, USA. 14 of the 15 members, from 11 countries, were able to attend—our highest attendance to-date! We shared a home together for the week (which usually serves as the YES! office and the home of one of the YES! staff members and her family), which created a cozy family atmosphere, as we tripled up in rooms, shared two bathrooms, and cooked meals together.

The meeting was rich with several points of exchange and co-learning. We discussed the current economic crisis at length, which dovetailed into conversation about food security, localization initiatives and community-based alternatives. It was heartening to see how responses to major challenges are emerging globally. We discussed our different roles in trying to support transformative change and saw again how much there is to learn from one another, if we are to find real solutions in our diverse contexts.

We also spent time exploring our roles as organizers and facilitators of gatherings, like Jams, and of youth-based and intergenerational programs. We noticed how challenging and yet important it is to constantly link the personal, interpersonal and systemic in our conversations and gatherings. And we discussed some ways to resolve the inherent tensions of wanting to create a space that works for every individual, and yet builds a whole community and follows through on the specific purposes of our programs.

Also, as part of our meeting, we organized and participated in a ‘Day of Engagement’ at the David Brower Center, in Berkeley—the greenest building in California. Over 100 people, including university students, members of local organizations, grassroots youth groups and seasoned elders in activism, participated in workshops on “Innovative Education”, “Indigenous Sovereignty”, “Leveraging Privilege for Social Change”, “Green Entrepreneurship”, and more. The program was inspiring for all of us, and the feedback was outstanding. We look forward to integrating more local community engagement into our next meeting.

2008–2009 Alumni Survey and Alumni Stories, Post-Jam Impact and Work in the Field

By Jenny Uribe, Former YES! Program Coordinator

YES! administered the second bi-annual Alumni Evaluation starting in the Fall of 2008, gathering feedback from the last ten years of YES! Jam alumni. The purpose of the evaluation is to gather important feedback from Alumni about their experience participating in Jams and how they’ve been supported in their life and work by YES! and other Jammers afterwards. YES! is committed to continuing to learn and grow from each Jam we convene, in order to make sure our work is meaningful and creating a positive difference in the lives of Jam participants and the communities in which they work. The full 2008–2009 Alumni Survey Report is available at yesworld.org/alumnivoices.html

Evaluative data also tells us that YES! alumni have started more than 400 social profit ventures, and that cumulatively, the work of our 432 (and counting) Jam alumni is reaching more than 1.8 million people directly and more than 200 million people indirectly, each year. Many of the Jammers are partnering together for even greater impact through their work and on the world. You can read short stories written by alumni about the influence of Jams and post-Jam collaboration at yesworld.org/alumnistories.html
This year’s travel scholarship allocation was distributed to two regional gatherings: the Arctic Institute for Youth Leadership (run by Evon Peter, GYLC member from Alaska) and Nice ‘n Native (run by Kiritapu Allen, GYLC member from Aotearoa/New Zealand). These gatherings have convened young social, environmental and economic leaders in Alaska and the South Pacific. They create a space for building upon the GYLC’s mission to connect the internal, interpersonal and systemic. Regional gatherings are important to support, because they provide our individual members with a more solid base of connection and collaboration locally, which in turn feeds our collective with insight and learnings around organization, facilitation, and of course, the content of the gathering. In both cases this year, we were able to access insights into the issue of indigenous peoples’ strength, challenges and sovereignty, and what it means for all of us as we move forward into a more resource-stressed world.

In terms of documentation, a GYLC website has been drafted and will be ready for launch soon. A book of youth activist stories is currently in the editing stages, and the goal is to have it ready for design and publication by the end of the year. A facilitation manual with over 120 activities has also been drafted. GYLC members will be giving feedback, and it will go to design and publication. New projects—like a series of values-based children’s stories from around the world, a graphic recording book of global alternatives, adding content-rich video clips to our web site, and a ‘lessons from facilitators’ volume of stories—were discussed as possible projects for next year.

Outreach and Communications

**By Nga Trinh-Halperin, Development Manager**

YES! staff and partners support our mission through wide message sharing, extensive public speaking, and mass communication tools. Throughout the year, we attend and sponsor various values-aligned events in an effort to forge new relationships and build on established connections. Also, our Co-Founder/Co-Director spoke at the Global Youth Assembly for 600 young activists from 33 nations in Edmonton, as an opening keynote at the National Alliance for a Department of...
Peace Conference in Washington DC, and at the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ annual conference in Indiana. In addition to the Inauguration film mentioned below, we distributed *The Power of Partnership* (published by The Fetzer Institute in partnership with Josey/Bass, with 5,000 copies printed), have mapped out a revamp of our web sites and begun work on a new film slated for release in 2010. These different ways of communicating, collaboration and networking are important to reaching a wider audience and propelling our work forward.

**This Is Our Time: Young Voices from the Inauguration Video**

*By Nga Trinh-Halperin, Development Manager*

Ocean Robbins, YES! Co-Founder/Co-Director, traveled to Washington D.C. in January 2009 and partnered with LPSC Jam alum, Manauvaskar Kublall, on a video project which was shared broadly with and by our community. The film captured the voices of young leaders, including Jesse Charmichael and Mickey Madden from Maroon 5, Van Jones, Goapele, and Coumba Toure, and voices on the street, exploring the unique challenges and opportunities of this moment in history. Interviewees were asked them what this time means to them, and what opportunities they see in the crises we face. The response has been enthusiastic so far with over 5,000 viewings. Check out “This Is Our Time: Young Voices from the Inauguration” at [yesworld.org/materials.html](http://yesworld.org/materials.html)

“Tears of joy and clarity are streaming down my face as I watch the gift you’ve sent. Feel this heart pounding with gratefulness.”
— Rachel Bagby

“Beautifully done. There is something about the sobriety of the people speaking that penetrates, and so expresses the mood of the nation. Sober and celebrating. Many who’ve worked on the margins are now invited onto the stage of history, and I see you and your colleagues in the film simply taking the step and leading.”
— Vicki Robin

“After I watched your video and stopped crying tears of hope and joy I had to write. As soon as I finish this e-mail I will forward a link to it to all on my e-mail lists and ask them to do the same to help spread the message.”
— Steven Rose

Supporting Aligned Movements, Continued
ater. Will.i.am stayed for the whole show and hung out with staff and youth leaders afterwards. He offered inspirational words of wisdom to the youth, as a person who also grew up in a low-income community. He talked about how the mega-success of The Black Eyed Peas was not merely about talent, but rather a commitment to friendship and solidarity among community. We inspired will.i.am and his crew by showing them our commitment to the arts, social justice and the environment by creating one of the first green media arts centers for low-income youth in the country. In January, we will host a larger public community launch at the new center located at 2781 Telegraph and 28th St. in Oakland. We continue to make efforts to diversify our curriculum, collaborate with key organizations, and green the space, so that we are better positioned to offer preparation for jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for greater numbers of young people.

**Tipping Point Network Mini-Jam, April 24-28, 2009**

*By Ocean Robbins, YES! Co-Founder and Co-Director, TPN Mini-Jam Co-Organizer*

For the last four years I have been part of Tipping Point Network (TPN), which is a network of 40+ sustainability movement servant-leaders who are visionary thinkers and activists in a diverse range of efforts related to the building of a thriving, just and sustainable future. It includes philanthropists, activists, authors, non-profit directors, social entrepreneurs, trans-partisan organizers, green builders, and transformational economists.

YES! hosted Tipping Point Network’s 2009 gathering as a multi-generational Mini-Jam. TPN members were joined by guests from the YES! Jam community for five days in the Santa Cruz mountains. The TPN tradition and the Jam tradition merged, and the results were fantastic. Participants shared their stories, built connections and trust with a diverse community of peers, and explored the challenging and rapidly changing landscape of our times. We kept asking, “How then shall we serve?” and also, “What is the meeting point between my passion, my gifts, and what the world needs?” Inspired by the success of this gathering and the potency of the partnership between Tipping Point Network and YES!, TPN is now merging with YES! and becoming a YES! project.

“The example of so many people walking their talk and diving deep into difficult subjects inspires me to expand myself to great height, depth and breadth. I know I have many eyes and ears, many clear minds and full hearts to rely on for support, assistance and friendship.”

— Ben Mates, The Robert G. Hemingway Foundation, Salt Lake City, UT

**Community Alliance Initiative**

*By Jenny Uribe, CAI Steering Committee Member*

The Community Alliances Initiative (CAI) strives to build synergy and effectiveness amongst diverse Santa Cruz based leaders working for positive change in our community and in the world, while creating an environment that supports growth and development on a human and organizational level.

CAI hosted their first two-day Weekend Gathering with Lillie Allen from Be Present, Inc. from May 30–31, 2009. Forty participants from all over the Bay Area, as well as across the nation, gathered to deepen our relationship with ourselves, one another and as a whole community. The weekend was filled with laughter, tears, and truth telling across differences—race, gender, class, age, sexual orientation, and power—by using the Be Present Empowerment Model ©.

*I learned so much about being present and what that looks like. The energy of it was such that I took it home with me, and was able to allow the wisdom to come in on a deep level. It really is most helpful for me to just watch how it works in action, rather than talk about it, and that is what made the workshop so powerful. Thank you!!! That was such a transformative event for me!!*

— Kristen Swegles, Santa Cruz Community Member

We appreciate all the love and support we received from folks who made the event possible through hosting, offering rides, outreaching, offering childcare as well as to Be Present, Inc., Tierra Pacifica Charter School, Common Fire, and Café Campesino.

We plan to host our next CAI Weekend Gathering with Lillie Allen from May 29–30, 2010. Please contact Julie Pennington with any questions and to register by emailing julie@yesworld.org.
Events Planned for 2009-2010*

3rd Annual Middle East Jam, Wadi Rum, Jordan:
This Jam will convene 30 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 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.

4th 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.

Tipping Point Network Mini-Jam:
The Tipping Point Network is a collaborative of 40 sustainability movement servant-leaders and philanthropists. For a second year, YES! is partnering to help facilitate a multi-generational Jam 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.

8th Annual Leveraging Privilege for Social Change Jam:
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:
The 9th Annual Art in Action camp will bring 30 underserved, 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. The new Green Youth Media Arts Center based in Oakland will provide an on-going space of support, community and partnership.
3rd Annual Indigenous Leadership Institute (ILI):
We will sponsor the annual ILI (formerly known as Arctic Institute for Indigenous Leadership) 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.

3rd Annual Nice ‘n’ Native, Summer 2010, Aotearoa/New Zealand:
This gathering in partnership with Conscious Collaborations will unite 30 young indigenous leaders from around the globe for conversations and action-planning around land rights, environmental preservation, and community organizing.

Global Youth Leadership Collaborative:
With 15 Jam alumni members from twelve 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, when fundraising allows, 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.

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 connecting, inspiring and collaborating with young changemakers. 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-office

*This listing does not include all planned programs of YES! due to space.
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