

JULY 2004

Perspectives

on Children & Youth

A Periodic Report from the
International Youth Foundation

“It’s not enough to win the war and lose the peace. Investment, training, security, are all vital parts of post-conflict resolution that could encourage young people to stay home and regenerate their countries and their economies.”

Christiane Amanpour,
CNN Chief International
Correspondent,
Board Member, Balkan
Children and Youth Foundation



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In This Issue:

Balkan Youth Gain New Leadership Skills.....	1	Education/Employability.....	5
Leadership and Engagement.....	2	Health Education and Awareness.....	6
Interview with Christiane Amanpour.....	3	Worker and Workplace Development.....	6
Partner/IYF News.....	4	What's New in IYF Publications.....	7

LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

Balkan Youth Tackle Challenges, Gain New Leadership Skills

"Peace comes not with a declaration, but with small steps taken daily on both sides toward a far-reaching goal. Together, these steps build the momentum needed to create lasting change." Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland and Chair of Balkan Children and Youth Foundation

Engaging young people in rebuilding their own lives and communities is at the core of the work carried out by the Balkan Children and Youth Foundation (BCYF), a member of the IYF Global Partner Network. Founded in November 2000 to promote positive youth development throughout the Balkans, BCYF acts as a catalyst to build alliances at the local, national, regional, and international levels. With its focus on developing long-term, sustainable solutions, BCYF works to strengthen youth-serving NGOs, identify and support best practice programs, convene individuals and organizations to develop a common vision for the region's youth, and forge multi-sector partnerships to further these goals.

BCYF's core activities aim to enhance young people's opportunities in the areas of employment, technology, non-formal education, health promotion and prevention, and democracy building.

As part of its overall mission, BCYF works to expand opportunities for volunteerism, community service, and civic education, while strengthening skills such as confidence, self expression, critical thinking, and leadership. The following stories, written by IYF consultant Sheila Kinkade, highlight a number of BCYF-supported programs that provide opportunities for young people to become part of the solution in their communities.

Volunteer Ethic Promoted Among Montenegrin Youth

Podgorica, Montenegro—Young people growing up in Montenegro face a host of challenges—among them, a youth unemployment rate of 65 percent, an educational system in dire need of reform, rising rates of substance abuse, and few positive ways to spend their free time.

But for some, such challenges are a source of motivation. Now 24, Vojislav Jovanovic first started volunteering at the age of 16. "I felt useless and wanted to do something with my life," he recalls. Now, Vojislav serves as Program Coordinator of the Association for Democratic Prosperity (ZID), a youth-led nongovernmental organization (NGO) dedicated

"Having worked for years in war-torn regions of the world, I am familiar with the formidable challenges of rebuilding communities and promoting the healing process. BCYF has a strong track record of engaging youth in this critical process."

Bernard Kouchner, BCYF Board Member and Founder of Médecins sans Frontières

to engaging young people in efforts to address urgent challenges.

"Youth have lost the belief that something can change," says Vojislav, adding that the promise of a more prosperous society following the introduction of democracy and a free market economy in the region have yet to be realized, contributing to growing apathy among youth and a lack of hope in the future.

Founded by a handful of university students in 1996, ZID encourages young people to get involved in the nation's civic life. Through promoting youth volunteerism, ZID channels young people's energy into strengthening civil society, while building their employability skills. Through its "Active Youth in Practice" program, ZID is educating youth volunteers from six towns about the role of civil society, while equipping them with the skills to get involved.

ZID began recruiting volunteers for the program in the fall of 2003, distributing posters and flyers and conducting media outreach in towns with high rates of youth unemployment. Young people interested in pursuing voluntary activities applied through a designated page on the ZID website.



Photo Credit: Sheila Kinkade

Ivana Radulovic, a 21-year-old art student, hopes to use the knowledge she's gaining through the "Active Youth in Practice" program to teach children about ecological issues. "Through the workshops, I've learned how to interact with others," she says. "It's like a big family."

Sixty-five youth were selected to participate in intensive training aimed at increasing their knowledge of the NGO community and equipping them with practical skills, such as computer literacy and English language proficiency. Weekend training sessions focused on developing job seeking skills (e.g., how to write a résumé, compose a cover letter, research job opportunities, and conduct a successful interview), as well as the basics of nonprofit governance, fundraising, communications, and program monitoring and evaluation.

"Our idea is to motivate them," adds Vojislav, while also increasing awareness of what the NGO community is doing. "Most people consider NGO work to be closed to them. The main reason they don't volunteer is because no one has asked them to. NGOs need to do more outreach. They need to tell people what they're doing."

In addition to training youth as volunteers, ZID works with NGOs to ensure that they are prepared to provide volunteers with a challenging and rewarding experience. Toward that end, it is producing a guidebook on volunteer management.

In all, more than 350 youth will receive training through the "Active Youth in Practice" program, with the staff of at least 10 NGOs equipped with volunteer management skills.

Further information about ZID's activities can be found at: www.zid.cg.yu.

Youth Lead Fight Against HIV/AIDS

Podgorica, Montenegro—While there are 53 officially confirmed cases of HIV/AIDS in Montenegro, unofficial estimates place the number of those infected at more than 500. The nation's location in Southeast Europe makes it vulnerable to the spread of the disease given the region's social upheaval over the past decade, rising rates of intravenous drug use, and growing popularity as a tourist destination.

So who is leading efforts to educate young people about the dangers posed by the disease and preventive measures? To the surprise of many, such efforts are being spearheaded by a group of committed youth. At the age of 19, Miso Pejkovic, a college student studying medicine, and several peers launched the Montenegrin Association Against AIDS (CAZAS) from a room in Miso's home, using money borrowed from his parents to produce educational posters and flyers. Later on, CAZAS would receive its first donation from the World Health Organization.

Now headquartered on the second floor of an apartment building, CAZAS' activities have reached more than 12,000 students over the past five years. Much of its work focuses on reducing the stigma associated with the disease, a subject CAZAS staff is all too familiar with.

"Education is the key to fighting the disease," says Miso. At the heart of CAZAS' approach is the training of youth peer educators who offer workshops on HIV/AIDS and substance abuse in schools. That approach is now endorsed by the Ministry of Education

(Continued on back page)



Photo Credit: Sheila Kinkade

A CAZAS lead trainer facilitates an HIV/AIDS prevention training session among local youth.

LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

YouthActionNet was launched in 2001 to recognize and promote the development of leadership skills among young social entrepreneurs. Sponsored by IYF and Nokia, the YouthActionNet program spotlights the vital role that youth play in leading positive change in their communities, through a dynamic youth-led website (www.youthactionnet.org) and a global awards program through which accomplished youth leaders can apply for grants and attend a global workshop. YouthActionNet is part of the IYF/Nokia Make a Connection Program, a global initiative that currently operates in 17 countries worldwide.

11 Young Leaders Receive YouthActionNet Awards

Tang Kun, 21, from China, promotes HIV/AIDS awareness among Chinese Youth; Jennifer Staple, 22, from the United States, founded Unite For Sight (UFS) to extend basic health care services to those who need it the most around the world; Khatuna Tsintsadze, 26, from Georgia, reaches out to homeless children through education and counseling services. These are among the 11 youth leaders from around the world who have been selected as recipients of the 2004 YouthActionNet Awards.



Tang Kun
YouthActionNet awardee

A former YAN awardee, Rana Bilal Ahmad, from Pakistan, has just been appointed to the Youth Advisory Committee of the USAID-funded Equip 3 program, a global education initiative.

Sharing the Tools for Youth Engagement

Andrés Beibe, a 22-year-old university student in Buenos Aires, Argentina, decided to do something about the political apathy and civic disengagement that he saw among his peers. Andrés, now a YouthActionNet awardee, wanted to educate and encourage his generation of young voters to play a more active role in society. Together with a few other students, he founded "Agora, Educating for Democracy"—a program aimed at stimulating young people's interest in the political process through voting, volunteering, and debating important issues. In 2002, Agora launched the participatory program in eight secondary schools in Buenos Aires, reaching over 350 students. Agora plans to expand the program to 25 schools in Buenos Aires and to other schools in the region.

During the annual meeting of YouthActionNet winners in 2003, held in Baltimore, Maryland, Fabrizio Scrollini of Uruguay learned about the project from Andrés, and recognized the value of implementing such an initiative in his own country. "We needed to adapt the program to the Uruguayan reality," says Fabrizio. Over the next few months, the two youth leaders continued to share ideas, and in May 2004, Fabrizio and three of his colleagues visited the program in Argentina. The pilot project, Agora Uruguay, was launched in June, and after an evaluation, will become fully operational in 2005. "This network of YouthActionNet social entrepreneurs is responsible for these exciting developments," says Fabrizio. "Thanks to YouthActionNet, we are able to make a great difference in young people's lives." (See www.youthactionnet.org)

New Website Launched

The new website of YouthActionNet was launched in April 2004, the result of feedback from youth leaders in over 30 countries who seek greater visibility for their efforts. The new website was selected as the "Site of the Month" for June 2004 by the United Nations Youth Unit.

Over the past three years, YouthActionNet has evolved into a vibrant community of thousands of committed youth worldwide. The newly designed website features a "make your own web page" function, a monthly quiz aimed at testing visitors' knowledge of current global issues, a featured visionary of the month, and an action toolkit including resources to help youth leaders raise money and work with the media.

Youth Leaders Present at CIVICUS Conference

Gabarone, Botswana—"We are committed to ensuring that the voices and aspirations of ordinary citizens are respected and valued," said Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General and CEO of Civicus, in opening this year's Civicus World Assembly, held in Gabarone, Botswana on 21-25 March 2004. In an impassioned speech about the urgent need to empower the world's citizens, Naidoo laid out the core mission of the conference: to work together to gain economic, political, social, and civic justice for all. More than 800 people representing 100 countries participated in the international event.

One of the sessions, "Youth in Action: Working Against the Odds to Create Positive Change," featured a panel led by three YouthActionNet award recipients. YouthActionNet Program Manager Ashok Regmi ran the workshop, which drew over 80 participants eager to

hear about how young people can more effectively become engaged, and the challenges they face in their communities.

George Onyango, 24, spoke of his experiences in working to improve the lives of young people living in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Dorothy Atieno, also from Kenya, related her experiences in leading a program for street children that encourages them to stay in school or enroll in national youth service. Kingdom Kwapata of Malawi discussed the lessons he's learned working on human rights in his country, where he has led a campaign to end the practice of female circumcision.

The Conference closed with a rousing speech from Graça Machel, an international human rights advocate. Underscoring the need for united action in demanding the rights of citizens everywhere, Machel called on the participants to "be positive and constructive" in their approach to governments and others in power. But she warned that while democracy is a system of the majority, many are left out. Noting that "women are not there, the youth are not there, rural people are not there," she called on the audience to continue their courageous struggle for human rights and full citizenship.

YouthActionNet Shares Panel with UNICEF

More than 2600 participants from across the United States who are engaged in service learning met in Orlando, Florida in March 2004 as part of the National Service Learning Conference hosted by the National Youth Leadership Council. YouthActionNet served on a panel with UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy to discuss ways to involve young people as partners in HIV/AIDS prevention. YouthActionNet also organized a workshop on "Youth Initiated Service."



YAN Program Manager Ashok Regmi in Panel discussion with UNICEF's Executive Director Carol Bellamy.

Melitah's Story: Gaining Confidence in a Competitive World

By Cathryn Thorup

Editors note: The Make a Connection program in South Africa is working with IYF Partner Youth Development Trust (YDT) to tackle the problem of youth unemployment by offering an innovative training course to unemployed college graduates. During three months of intensive training, participants gain skills in confidence, motivation and computer literacy, and learn how to look for and keep a job. The following describes the personal experience of one of the program's participants.

"I read about Make a Connection in a local newspaper," says Melitah Madiba, age 24. "I had been unemployed for a year after graduating from the university and I was particularly attracted by the life skills and IT classes it offered. I didn't think I would be interested in going into business." Today Melitah is part of a group of classmates from the 2003 Make a Connection program that is about to launch their own franchise called, "Something Fishy."

Growing up, Melitah was the oldest of six children. Her parents owned a supermarket. Melitah says she was not very focused on her career goals. "Sometimes I thought I wanted to be an actress. I've matured now. I have clear goals and very good time management skills. I go for what I want now." Melitah credits Make a Connection in Gauteng province for this change.

Melitah developed her business skills in the program. "We learned how to develop a business plan. It took us six months to put it together. We decided to venture out on our own rather than look for a job in another company. Since we didn't have much experience we decided to open a franchise that already had a solid reputation behind it. There were thirteen classmates involved with this idea originally and five who stuck with it until the end. Some worried it wouldn't work out and some took other jobs. But we believed in what we were doing. We are close to having the financing in place. We have done everything from holding car washes to meeting with a YDT board member who works at Deloitte and Touche to ask for financial support. We have been persistent."

Melitah also credits the program with giving her important skills for life. "The program helped me to move out of my comfort zone. It showed me how to be confident. It's the reason I can do this interview. I am very optimistic about the future. As a successful business-woman, I've found what I'm looking for."



Photo Credit: Cathryn Thorup

For Melitah Madiba, Make a Connection has provided a second chance.

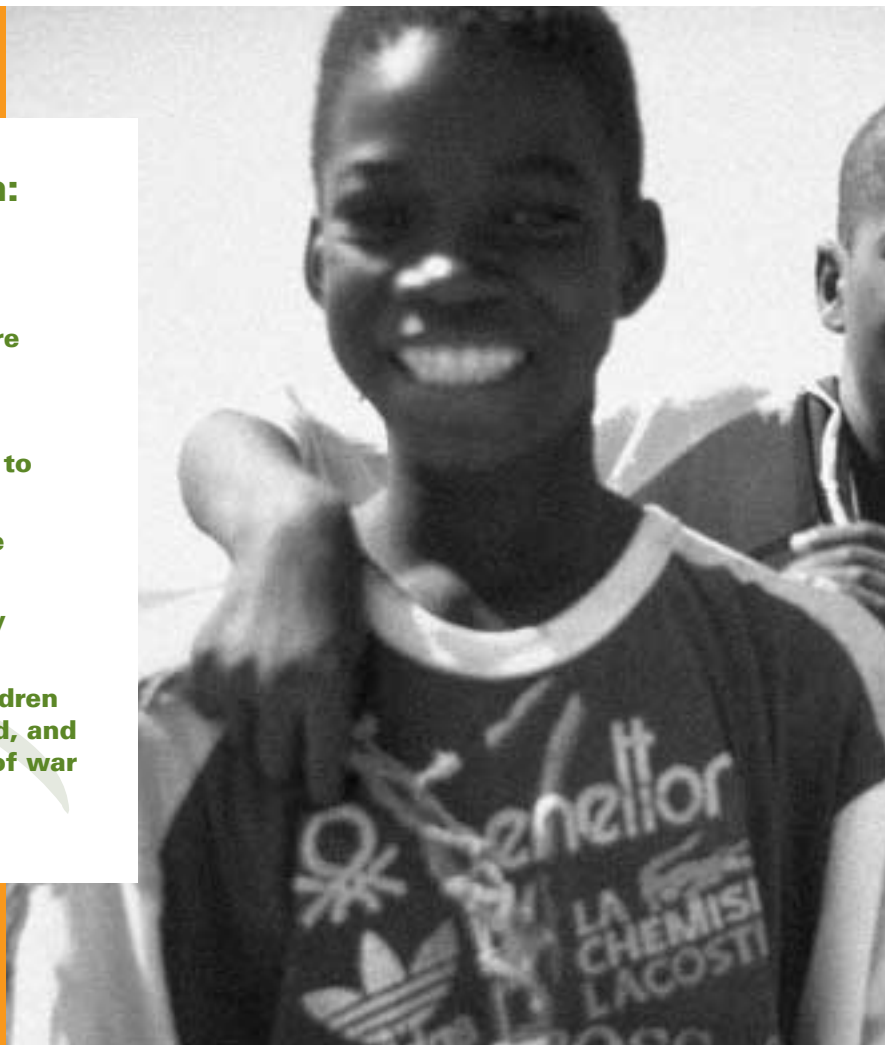
"The program helped me to move out of my comfort zone. It showed me how to be confident."

Melitah Madiba, 24
Make a Connection participant

The State of World's Youth: A Snapshot of Global Challenges*

- Total youth population under 25: More than 3 billion
- 133 million youth are illiterate
- Nearly 90% of young people ages 15 to 24 live in developing countries
- Young people account for 40% of the world's unemployed
- 70 million young people are currently without work
- During the last decade, 2 million children have been killed, 6 million left disabled, and 12 million made homeless as a result of war

*World Youth Report 2003, published by United Nations, April 2004



Young People are the Only Hope: An Interview with Christiane Amanpour



Christiane Amanpour

Perspectives interviewed Christiane Amanpour, CNN Chief International Correspondent and Board Member of the Balkan Children and Youth Foundation, about the challenges of post-conflict resolution, and the role of young people in rebuilding society.

You have done extensive coverage of areas of conflict such as the Balkans and the Middle East. As you watch these regions struggle to rebuild, what can you tell us about the role that young people can (and do) play in the revitalization of their war-torn communities?

Christiane Amanpour: Young people are the future and they have the most vested in rebuilding their country. In my experience from the Balkans to the Middle East to Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran, young people have a vital role in building bridges of understanding and reconciliation between warring sides. Often young people can see the future less rigidly and more inclusively than adults with entrenched positions. But young people in post-conflict nations also need support if they are to help rebuild their country for themselves and future generations. Sadly in the Balkans today we are seeing a massive brain drain with young people not seeing a bright future in their lifetimes. In short, a type of Marshall Plan has to be envisioned for all these post-conflict countries that the west has rescued. It's not enough to win the war and lose the peace. Investment, training, security are all vital parts of post-conflict resolution that could encourage young people to stay home and regenerate their countries and their economies.

Joining BCYF was a way for me to contribute my ideas and work alongside very able and committed people working for the future of countries that I covered so heavily as a journalist when they were at war.

You've spoken passionately about the issue of trafficking of young girls in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. Why is this such an important global issue, and what are some of the most effective strategies to end it?

Christiane Amanpour: Trafficking in women is a major crime, but it is extremely pervasive and a massive multi-million dollar business every year. These women from the very countries that are emerging democracies are being ripped away from being contributing members of their community and thrust into slavery. One of the reasons is a lack of education, training and job opportunities that make them vulnerable to traffickers. Many of these women think they are answering ads for work and only realize they are being kidnapped into a life of servitude when it's too late.

One solution is to relax visa requirements for these vulnerable women, allow them into western societies where they can learn a proper trade and start to work. Italy does this in exchange for the women testifying in court against the traffickers. Another is providing training opportunities and educating them for the job market in their own home countries. This is especially relevant to BCYF since the fastest growing sector of sex-slaves is among girls of 13 years and under. It's a young women's issue.

In a world so filled with conflict, war, and ethnic divisions, are you optimistic about young people being a positive force in creating a more peaceful and stable world? If not, why not?

Christiane Amanpour: I am optimistic because they are the only hope, the only future. But a huge amount of thought needs to be applied to how to put young people on the road to prosperity and national regeneration. It will require a serious program of major long-term training and planning.

You've talked frequently about the power of the media to make a difference in the world. How does journalism promote democracy and the growth of civil society? When does it become a negative force?

Christiane Amanpour: Journalism can promote democracy and civil society simply by focusing on what's important and substantive. When journalism reverts just to the trivial and sensational, it becomes destructive and eventually irrelevant.

In my experience from the Balkans to the Middle East to Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran, young people have a vital role in building bridges of understanding and reconciliation between warring sides. Often young people can see the future less rigidly and more inclusively than adults with entrenched positions.



Photo Credit: Patricia Langman

PARTNER NEWS

Finnish Foundation Supports Partner Network

The Finnish Children and Youth Foundation (FCYF), a member of the IYF Global Partner Network, was established in 2001 as the first foundation in Finland committed solely to improving the lives of young people. As a grantmaking organization, FCYF seeks to invest half of its funding in programs in Finland, and half to support the work of organizations in the IYF Global Partner Network. So far, small grants of between 10 to 25,000 Euros have been awarded to IYF Partners in India, South Africa, Palestine, the Balkans, and Argentina.

Seeking to deepen support beyond its corporate and individual donor base, FCYF approached the Finnish Foreign Ministry, which has a long history of supporting development programs worldwide. In a joint seminar last Fall with senior representatives from the Ministry, IYF's COO William Reese and FCYF's Chair, Minister Pär Stenbäck, highlighted critical youth issues and described the IYF Global Partner Network and its working philosophy, strategies, and key program themes. This year, the Ministry has announced support for a number of youth programs in developing countries, including 40,000 Euros to IYF Partner in Ecuador, Fundación

Esquel, to support efforts to empower the indigenous population. "This kind of support would not have been possible without the close relationships that have been forged through IYF's Partner Network," says Stenbäck.

IYF Partner in Russia Participates in Global Youth Conferences

Five young people from Russia, chosen by IYF Partner in Russia New Perspectives Foundation, were invited to take part in the Children's World Congress on Child Labor, held in Florence, Italy in May 2004. The main goal of the Congress was to draw attention to the problem of child labor exploitation. More than 125 children and young people, ages 14 to 18, and representing 47 countries, took part in the event.

New Perspectives Foundation also participated in the European Youth Peace Summit—"Tolerance-Harmony in Diversity"—held in Sarajevo in May 2004. The meeting drew about 5,000 young people, ages 18 to 35, from 36 European countries.

YDT's Achievements in Africa Recognized

IYF Partner in South Africa, Youth Development Trust (YDT), has won two awards from the African ICT Achievers, sponsored by the South Africa Department of Communications and Forge Ahead BMI-T. YDT won the "Civil Society Award for Bridging the Digital Divide in Africa," while Mandla Njokwane, a member of the Johannesburg Intel Computer Clubhouse—a flagship program of YDT—was given the "Youth Innovation Award" for his outstanding work with ICTs.

IYF NEWS

IYF Chair Awarded Knighthood

IYF Board Chair David Bell, who is also Chairman of the *Financial Times*, has been knighted by Queen Elizabeth "for services to Business, the Arts, and Charity." According to the Prime Minister's office, the honor "reflected and paid tribute to outstanding achievement and service right across the community and the nation as a whole... A key aim had been to reward those who worked and served at the sharp end... who had given outstanding service to others in difficult situations." David W. Hornbeck, CEO of IYF, said: "We congratulate David on the occasion of this extraordinary honor, and continue to feel extremely fortunate that all of us at IYF have been able to benefit from his wisdom, commitment, and humor over the years."

Make a Connection Extension Announced

Nokia has announced a three-year extension of the global Make a Connection program, now active in 17 countries. Launched in 2000, the IYF/Nokia initiative has benefited more than 100,000 young people, and indirectly impacted another 1.3 million people in the communities where these young people live. Nokia's commitment, representing more than US\$15 million to date, will continue to grow to as many as 30 countries. Martin Sandelin, Nokia's Senior Vice President of

Customer and Market Operations, explained: "Positive life-skills development not only benefits the young people in these programs, it also benefits the long-term development of the communities and societies in which the young people are active. The focus of Nokia and IYF on results has led to an outstanding track record from the first four years, supporting our decision to expand the program further."

The announcement was made at Boston College's annual Corporate Citizenship Conference, held in San Francisco, California, March 28-30, 2004. IYF and Nokia led a session entitled "The Real Story: What Works in Effective Corporate and NGO Collaboration," which highlighted the opportunities and challenges of the Make a Connection alliance.

The Center for Corporate Citizenship at Boston College is a research organization that works with global corporations to help define, plan, and operationalize their corporate citizenship.

GE Foundation to Benefit Youth in India, Mexico

In June 2004, IYF and the GE Foundation announced a new initiative to promote healthy lifestyles, employability, and community engagement for young people in India and Mexico. During the three-year pilot program—made possible through a US\$1.2 million grant from the GE Foundation—more than 3,000 young people, ages 14 to 17, will benefit from the development and implementation of this life and employability skills curriculum.

IYF's in-country partner organizations, Youthreach (India) and Fundación Vamos (Mexico), will manage the program on the ground, working closely with experts to design the curriculum and with local youth-serving organizations who will teach the learning activities. GE volunteers from local offices will be actively involved as advisors to the curriculum's development and to community service projects young people will develop.

"This program will have a strong practical impact on youth in India and Mexico, and build strength among local organizations," said Bob Corcoran, President of the GE Foundation. "The collaboration will help today's youth prepare for tomorrow's workforce opportunities."

IYF Earns Recognition for Communications

IYF has won four awards for excellence in communications from the 2004 Wilmer Shields Rich Awards Program. Sponsored by the Council on Foundations and the Communications Network, the awards recognize effective efforts to increase public awareness of foundations and corporate giving programs. IYF received awards for its website design, 2002 annual report, a special publication on youth leaders, and its *Perspectives* newsletter.

EDUCATION

Report Confirms *Bridgeit* Enhances Student Performance

A new study confirms that one year after its launch in the Philippines, the education initiative, *text2teach*, raised students' performance and elicited more positive attitudes toward science and technology. *Text2teach* was launched in May 2003 in the Philippines as a pilot project of *Bridgeit*—a global initiative of IYF, Nokia, Pearson, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that aims to improve the quality of learning and teaching in underserved schools and communities through mobile technology. Approximately 14,000 Filipino students are benefiting from the program.

"Last year, *Bridgeit* made it possible for 5th and 6th grade teachers to introduce educational videos to their students. Now we have hard data that confirms this program's positive impact on student performance," said Philippine Secretary of Education Edilberto De Jesus. The research report, carried out by the Philippines National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development (NISMED), credits the *Bridgeit* program with improving teachers' competence and attitude in using technology and spurring school officials, parents, and community leaders to support its technology-enhanced lessons. The study also found that among participating classrooms, students' performance and attitudes toward science and technology were significantly raised. In June 2004, plans were announced to double the number of schools served by *Bridgeit* in the Philippines.

In March, the *text2teach* project received two Gold Quill Awards for community relations and marketing at the Philippines meeting of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), a professional network of more than 13,000 business communication professionals in over 60 countries. IABC's Gold Quill Award has been the hallmark of excellence in business communication for more than 25 years.

Theory Moves to Practice: Global Network Promotes Reform

In May 2004, IYF partners from 16 countries gathered in Zandvoort, Netherlands to continue a three-year dialogue about education reform around the theme: "Celebrating Our Past, Planning Our Future." As members of the Global Education Network (GEN), their activities in this field are supported through the Lucent Technologies/IYF Global Fund for Education and Learning. Since its inception in Mexico in 2002, GEN has been developing innovative strategies to create systemic change in the way educational opportunities are delivered to primarily at-risk youth around the world.



Photo Credit: Mary Stellettello

A circus project in Haarlem, Netherlands is supported by IYF's Dutch partner, Jantje Beton, through the Lucent Technologies Global Fund for Education.



Photo Credit: Mary Stellettello

Students benefit from computers and the Internet at a HopeNet School in Sichuan province, China, supported by Lucent Technologies.

The meeting celebrated program achievements and discoveries—in particular the Lucent initiative which since 1999 has invested US\$16 million to fund 550 projects in 17 countries, reaching 695,000 teachers.

The group explored links between GEN and non-IYF global movements such as Education for All, and defined concepts and strategies of systemic change for formal education systems through the assessment of a series of case studies. Presentations by David Hornbeck, CEO of IYF, and Tere Lanzagorta, Manager of Youth Programs at Fundación Vamos in Mexico, examined how to generate comprehensive synergies and visions to revitalize educational reform, and promoted a strategic framework to guide authors of systemic change.

The discussion about non-formal learning was enriched by a site visit to Kinderwerk Schalwijk in Haarlem, Netherlands, an area with a large immigrant population. The program ensures children a safe place to play, introduces them to new activities, and enables them to develop self-respect, respect for others, trust, and imagination. IYF Partners left the meeting with a strong commitment to continue to expand their work in education reform among the IYF network and beyond.

EMPLOYABILITY

Jobs Initiative Launched in Africa

The newly launched "Alliance for African Youth Employment"—a collaboration between IYF, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Nokia, and the Lions Clubs International Foundation—will help young people in four African countries develop skills and enhance attitudes and behaviors so they can find and keep jobs. USAID and Nokia have collectively committed over US\$1.8 million to the initiative. Lions Clubs International will utilize its networks in Malawi and Rwanda to provide training, mentoring, and placements for program participants, and to raise additional funds. Over five years, the program will reach more than 35,000 disadvantaged young people in South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, and Rwanda.

The program builds on the success of the Make a Connection program in South Africa, which has just been extended for an additional three years. (See article, "Melitah's Story," on p. 2.) The Alliance also draws on lessons learned from *entra 21*, IYF's youth employment program for Latin America. "By sharing good practices learned in South Africa... this partnership with USAID improves young people's ability to succeed," said Dirk Dijkerman, Director USAID's mission in South Africa.

Merrill Lynch and IYF Boost Employment Opportunities in Brazil

Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation, Inc. and IYF have launched a new program in Brazil to equip nearly 500 young people with personal and employability skills that will help them find and keep a job. Working through the Fundação de Rotarianos de São Paulo (FRSP), the two-year program will offer IT training and financial literacy to disadvantaged youth in Cotia, an industrial area on the outskirts of São Paulo. The program, made possible through a US\$300,000 grant from Merrill Lynch, is part of *entra 21*, an initiative of IYF and the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) of the Inter-American Development Bank, that will equip up to 12,000 unemployed youth across Latin America and the Caribbean with personal and employability skills.

"Merrill Lynch is deeply committed to investing in children and youth, and in particular providing them skills to compete and succeed in the global marketplace," said Eddy Bayardelle, First Vice President & Head of Merrill Lynch Global Philanthropy. "Through this partnership, we hope to deliver long-lasting benefits to Brazil's underserved youth."

FRSP, through its professional training center CEPRO, will improve the placement of young people, ages 16 to 19, in the labor market, either as employees or entrepreneurs. Trainees will gain skills in information technology and office skills, and training in life skills such as communication, interpersonal relationships, and personal planning.

Entra 21 Expands into Guatemala, Venezuela

Youth employment training and job placement programs in Guatemala and Venezuela are among the most recent additions to the *entra 21* program, which is now managing programs in a dozen countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In Guatemala, the program is training 590 young men and women, ages 17 to 25, in IT and life skills, and plans to place 40% of them in jobs. The 3-month program seeks to address some of the challenges facing youth in that country, whose population is predominantly young, rural, indigenous, and unemployed. Funded through the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) of the IDB and USAID, the program will work with Partners of the Americas, a private, U.S.-based non-profit volunteer organization.

The Guatemala project focuses on young people who have completed at least their second year of secondary school, as well as those who are high school graduates or drop outs, employed, or underemployed. The targeted youth, who are 75% Mayan, will be placed in local jobs.

The *entra 21* program in Venezuela is training 400 youth, ages 16 to 29, from low-income families, who have completed at least 9 years of formal education. The project seeks to place half of them in jobs and is being financed through the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), the IYF/Lucent Technologies Fund for Education and Learning, and Shell. The program is being managed through Fundación Oportunidades, a national non-profit in Venezuela and member of the IYF Global Partner Network.

"This program has shifted my life entirely," says Adriana, 24, who lives with her husband and 7-year-old son Mateo in a poor hillside community in Medellín, Colombia. Adriana joined the *entra 21* training and jobs placement program last year, and has completed her internship as a secretarial assistant at an automobile company. She was recently offered a full-time job, a goal she had thought "unreachable" only a few months ago. Undeterred by an hour and a half bus commute, skeptical friends who did not believe she would succeed, and a demanding family life, Adriana says proudly: "I was determined to stay with this program, which has opened so many doors for me."



Photo Credit: Christy Maxy

Programs in West Bank to be Managed Locally

For the last three years, the IT4Youth program in the Palestinian West Bank has been providing access to IT skills training for nearly 6,000 young people annually at 14 rural high schools. An initiative of IYF and the Welfare Association, a Palestinian foundation, IT4Youth has also built a Regional IT Center in the village of Silet ad-Dhahr, which provides youth and adults with recreational life skills and employment training. On June 27, the local community and the Palestinian Authority took full ownership of the project: the schools-based component will be run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education, while a Joint Council, including representatives of the local councils in the 11 project villages, is taking responsibility for the Regional IT Center.

Examples of IT4Youth's success to date include the nearly 6,000 students whose academic performance has been transformed by the introduction of hands-on, project-based learning, and the dozens of previously isolated young women who have gained self-confidence and hope through successfully completing internships as executive secretaries.

Another component of IT4Youth, the Intel Computer Clubhouse in Ramallah, has now attracted over 400 young members, many of them from refugee camps. The

Clubhouse, the first in the Arab Middle East, opened its doors in July 2003. Adult mentors support the youth as they use the Intel Clubhouse's hi-tech software and equipment to create their own digital art,

design, video, and music projects. Recent Clubhouse activities include a public exhibition of members' creative work, and participation in a UNDP-sponsored competition to design a cover page for the 2004 Human Development Report. In addition, three members will be representing the Ramallah Clubhouse at an international Computer Clubhouse Teen Summit in Boston in July, where they will collaborate on creative projects with teenagers from almost 90 other Clubhouses around the world.

HEALTH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Sports Competition Generates \$250,000 for Africa's Youth

During the 2004 Nokia African Cup of Nations' final held in Tunisia, football enthusiasts across Africa voted for their favorite player via text messaging (SMS) using cell phones. Nokia donated US\$1 for every SMS ballot cast — for a total of \$250,000. Half the funds will go toward a life skills program in Nigeria, home country of the winning player, Jay Jay Okocha, the captain of the Nigerian



Don Mohanlal, IYF Executive Vice President, congratulates soccer star Jay Jay Okocha as he receives a check from Kimmo Lipponen, Director, Community Involvement, Customer and Market Relations, Nokia.

football team. The other half will support the Empowering Africa's Young People Initiative (EAYPI), an HIV/AIDS prevention effort being carried out by an alliance of seven global youth organizations: the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the World Alliance of YMCAs, the World YWCA, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Award Association, and IYF. Together, they represent more than 100 million young people worldwide.

EAYPI, for which IYF serves as Secretariat, seeks to scale up already proven "best practice" programs in HIV/AIDS prevention in a number of sub-Saharan African countries. These programs include skills-based peer education, life skills, and livelihood projects. Advocacy against stigma and discrimination is also a key feature of the initiative.

WORKER AND WORKPLACE DEVELOPMENT

CSR Report on China Published

Committed to delivering high quality programs in China, the Global Alliance for Workers and Communities (GA) commissioned Impactt Ltd. to conduct a report, published in May, on China's Corporate Social Responsibility environment. The first of its kind, this report covers the social and economic landscape of doing business in contemporary China, current challenges inside factories, attitudes toward migrant workers, existing supports for factory workers, and best practices among companies operating in China. The report also includes a summary of Chinese labor laws and CSR contact details. The research for the study was conducted by Impactt Ltd., a UK-based research organization. To download a pdf copy of the report, go to the GA website at www.globalalliance.org, and click China report under the What's New section of the Home Page.

New Website Launched

The new website for Global Alliance for Workers and Communities aims to highlight the initiative's work at the country level, integrate it with other regional and global efforts that seek to promote corporate social responsibility, and further educate internet users on issues related to worker development in a global economy. Check out this user-friendly and informative new site at www.theglobalalliance.org.

Vietnam Honors GA's Asia Pacific Director

Brian Doolan, the Asia Pacific Director for GA, has received the Vietnam Friendship Medal in recognition for his contributions to the development of Vietnam, where he worked for a total of 6 years for CARE International before joining GA. This is the highest honor the Vietnamese government can bestow upon a foreigner. "GA is honored to have Brian lead our program," says GA Executive Director Carol Michaels O'Laughlin. "We all appreciate his commitment and contributions to improving the lives of thousands of people in Vietnam, Iraq, Australia, and now, through the work of GA. I congratulate Brian for this well-deserved honor."

GA Leads Study on Workers' Cooperatives

The Global Alliance for Workers and Communities (GA), in collaboration with the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) and local organizations in Thailand and Indonesia, is conducting an innovative study on best practices in worker cooperatives in Asia and developing generic guidelines for establishing and running such enterprises. The study, commissioned by global sports-brand adidas-Salomon, will draw upon examples from apparel and footwear factories in South-East Asia.

Apart from reviewing functioning worker cooperatives, especially those serving urban workers, the study will summarize lessons learned on how to establish successful cooperatives, structures and functions of such initiatives, and challenges commonly faced. The final study and guidelines will be available for public dissemination. In Thailand, GA is working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on this research, and in Indonesia, GA is partnering with the NGO Network for the Support of Small Scale Women Entrepreneurs (ASPPUK).

With 115 million members in 100 countries, WOCCU is the world's leading advocate, knowledge platform and development agency for the promotion of credit unions. Its goal is to enable millions of people to help themselves by providing access to affordable financial services. Their interest in partnering with GA underscores the significance of bringing needed services and know-how to factory workers.

Did You Know?*

■ 11.8 million young people are living with HIV/AIDS worldwide

■ More than half of those newly infected with HIV today are between 15 and 24 years old

■ Every day, nearly 6,000 young people become infected with HIV

■ More than 50 percent of young people aged 15 to 24 hold serious misconceptions about how HIV/AIDS is transmitted

■ 8.6 million young people are living with HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa

*"Young People and HIV/AIDS, Opportunity in Crisis," published by Unicef

LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

(Continued from page 1)

and Science which has provided CAZAS with a license to carry out its educational outreach activities in schools throughout Montenegro.

With support from BCYF, CAZAS recently undertook a survey of 700 high school students in five Montenegrin towns to assess young people's knowledge of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse and to identify future peer educators. While 79 percent of respondents were found to have knowledge of the disease, the extent to which they take necessary precautions is difficult to assess, according to Miso, due to inhibitions young people have about revealing their sexual activity.

Following the survey and screening of peer educator applicants, CAZAS selected 75 students to undergo in-depth training in how to educate their peers about HIV/AIDS and substance abuse prevention. These peer educators are now conducting educational campaigns within their respective schools and offering workshops aimed at increasing awareness and promoting healthy behaviors. An estimated 4,200 students, ages 13 to 19, are expected to benefit.

For the peer educators, the training they receive and outreach within schools help build their self-confidence, knowledge base, and ability to work with diverse groups. CAZAS' Project Coordinator Jovanna Brnovic, age 18, recalls feeling ashamed to talk about sexuality and AIDS when she first joined the program; yet those feelings quickly faded. "I like having contact with people," she says. "I like talking to them about this problem and sharing my knowledge with them."

Further information on CAZAS' work can be found at: www.cazas.org.

WHAT'S NEW IN IYF PUBLICATIONS

"What Works" Focuses on Balkan Youth

In June 2004, IYF published *What Works in Youth Employment in the Balkans*, by Cathryn L. Thorup, Ph.D., the second in a series on youth development initiatives in the Balkans. The report examines NGO-led efforts in three countries – Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania – to improve young people's job prospects. Each section is followed by an examination of lessons learned. The foreword is written by Maria Cattai, Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce. To order copies of this report and other IYF publications, please go to our website at www.iyfnet.org.

Tool Kit for NGOs Now Available in Spanish

An IYF publication, *Creating Social Enterprises Through Strategic Alliances: A Tool Kit for NGOs*, written by Richard Steckel, President, AddVenture Network, and Jack Boyson, IYF's Director of Technical Support Services, has been translated into Spanish by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Copies of the first Spanish edition were distributed at the Inter-American Development Bank's Annual Meeting held in Lima, Peru in March 2004. The Special Programs Section of the IDB will use the book in training sessions it sponsors for young entrepreneurs and leaders of youth-serving organizations throughout Latin America.

Want to Know How to Make a Difference?

Read Our "What Works" and "Youth in Action" Series

The "What Works in Youth Development" series examines cutting edge issues in the field and provides practitioners, policymakers, donors, and others with insights into effective practices and innovative approaches. The 10-book series includes:

What Works in Youth Media: Case Studies from Around the World
By Sheila Kinkade and Christy Macy © 2003

What Works in Building Tolerance Among Balkan Children and Youth
By Cathryn L. Thorup, Ph.D. © 2003

What Works in Education Reform: Putting Young People at the Center
By Joel Tolman with Patrice Ford and Merita Irby, © 2003

The "Youth in Action" series profiles inspiring young leaders who are making a positive difference in their communities.

Youth in Action Volume I: November 2002
Youth in Action Volume II: October 2003

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The International Youth Foundation (IYF), founded in 1990, supports programs that improve conditions and prospects for young people. Currently operating in nearly 60 countries and territories, IYF and its global network of partner organizations have helped millions of young people gain access to basic life skills, education, and job training opportunities that are critical to their success. In its work with hundreds of companies, foundations, and nongovernmental organizations worldwide, IYF is focused on building long-term, strategic partnerships among the business, public, and civil society sectors.

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