

## Can You Hear Me Now? The Challenge of Youth-Adult Connection



May 19, 2008

ACT for Youth  
Conference 2008

Albany, New York

## Can You Hear Me Now? The Challenge of Youth-Adult Connection

May 19, 2008 • Albany, NY

Register by April 18 • Download registration form at:  
<http://www.actforyouth.net/?conference2008>

**Workshop Choices: Session 1 1:00- 2:15**  
*All workshops open to youth and adults*

### **Give Youth a Voice! Creating Real-Life Leadership Opportunities for Young People in Your Organization**

Using the example of Children for Children's Youth Planning Committee, this workshop provides tips, tools, and best practices on how to effectively incorporate youth voice into all aspects of your organization. Participants will learn how youth can: serve as ambassadors for your organization, advise staff and board on strategic growth and development plans, provide feedback about program efficacy, and develop and make presentations on effective youth development practices for various audiences.

***Maggie Jones** is executive director of Children for Children (CFC), a not-for-profit founded in 1996 to teach young people the importance of volunteering and service. Under her leadership, CFC engages more than 52,000 children from across the socio-economic spectrum. Ms. Jones is passionate about improving underserved schools and believes that you are never too old or too young to make a difference in your community.*

**Co-presenters: Members of CFC's Youth Planning Committee**

### **Living and Learning in the Age of YouTube, MySpace, and Wikipedia**

How can today's youth navigate an increasingly complex world of information and impressions? How can adults support this process without feeling overly controlling or hopelessly out of date? This dynamic, interactive presentation will introduce the concepts of media literacy and demonstrate practical examples for discussing the media messages we see and hear.

***Cyndy Scheibe, PhD**, is associate professor of psychology at Ithaca College where she teaches courses in developmental psychology and media literacy. She is the executive director and founder of Project Look Sharp, an initiative that supports media literacy and critical thinking at all educational levels.*

# Can You Hear Me Now? The Challenge of Youth-Adult Connection

*ACT for Youth Conference, May 19, 2008 • Register by April 18*  
<http://www.actforyouth.net/?conference2008>

**Session 1, continued**  
**1:00 - 2:15**

## **Make the Youth-Adult Connection by Boarding the Youth Council Action Train**

All Aboard! Make the youth-adult connection to take action in your community. Participants will learn the basics of how to initiate and sustain a youth council—converting your passion for youth voice and community change into action! Find out how to create your own youth-powered engine. Learn what you should pack to make the journey. Look for porters, youth friendly adults who are on board with youth empowerment. We will discuss optimum train stops to take action and influence the community, and offer methods to keep on track and prevent running out of steam.

***Melanie Killian** is the ACT for Youth coordinator for Monroe County. She is also a proud alumna of Rochester AmeriCorps, having completed two years of service. **Nancy Johns Price** is program development specialist for the City of Rochester, maintaining youth councils at each recreation center.*

**Co-presenters: Youth Council members**

## **Rock Your Health!**

Healthy lifestyle is about making choices that benefit you. It includes healthy eating, exercise, managing stress, and wise decision-making. Making healthy choices early in life helps one to continue doing so in adulthood. Designed for youth and adults who want to develop community strategies that prepare young people to make healthy lifestyle choices, this workshop introduces the Health Rocks curriculum. This workshop is definitely interactive: be prepared to learn massage techniques; get moving to the music; balance your stressors; and learn to eat your way to a better you!

***Lucinda Randolph-Benjamin**, 4-H Youth Development, Cornell University Cooperative Extension - New York City, has been a promoter of human development, and in particular youth development, since 1986. Her work with Cornell has concentrated on engaging youth in programs that develop competencies and skills needed for the transition from childhood to competent adulthood.*

**Co-presenters: 4-H Youth Leadership Academy members**

# Can You Hear Me Now? The Challenge of Youth-Adult Connection

ACT for Youth Conference, May 19, 2008 • Register by April 18  
<http://www.actforyouth.net/?conference2008>

Session 1, continued  
1:00- 2:15

## *Somethin' To Think About:*

### **Youth Development and Peer Education — A Model for Success!**

The Teens PACT (Positive Actions and Choices Teens) program combined best practices in sexuality education and youth development to create its highly acclaimed video series, *Somethin' To Think About*. Co-facilitated by youth, this workshop will describe youth development in action by detailing how the videos were made—a process that involved young people every step of the way. Participants in this workshop will learn the process for developing and distributing a culturally sensitive and age-appropriate social marketing tool as well as the benefits of a youth development approach to both participants and a wider audience.

***Michele Perlman**, MPH, is program director for Teens PACT, a program of Community Healthcare Network. She strives to meet the challenge of addressing the needs of young people by drawing from the inspiration that is provided by their hope, courage, commitment, desire, laughter, and resiliency. **Danell Wilson** began his career as a Teens PACT peer educator and was promoted to Health Educator in 2006. As a peer educator he was part of the youth team that developed the Somethin' To Think About video series, and starred in Taken Care Of.*

**Co-presenters: Teens PACT members**

## **Telling Our Stories, Changing the World**

Each person, organization, and place has their own story and their own strengths. At RYASAP, an urban/suburban youth and community development coalition serving the region of Bridgeport, CT, we address the fallout of poverty by building local models of community action. By listening to each other's stories and speaking their own, youth and adult community members discover strengths and build social capital that results in positive change. Come learn how the basics of listening and speaking are all that is needed to take action to change your world!

***Paige Nelson** is youth development and training director of Regional Youth/Adult Substance Abuse Project (RYASAP) in Bridgeport, CT. With five years experience working in the training and development field, she currently oversees YouthSPEAK. Vital to her work is the human rights framework she gained from working with the Poor People's Campaign while completing graduate studies at Yale University.*

**Co-presenters: YouthSPEAK Leaders**

*..for when it's all said and done I will still be ME / because I must set myself free so that others may see! / so in the end I have the VICTORY! - from "Victory" by Bobbi Brown, YouthSPEAK*

# Can You Hear Me Now? The Challenge of Youth-Adult Connection

ACT for Youth Conference, May 19, 2008 • Register by April 18  
<http://www.actforyouth.net/?conference2008>

Session 1, continued  
1:00 - 2:15

## Youth-Adult Partnerships for Social Change: Addressing Homophobia

Homophobia is a serious obstacle to positive youth development. This workshop will describe how peer education can bring youth and adults together to develop innovative strategies for positive change. Peer educators will share their experiences leading high school Gay/Straight Alliances, as well as their experiences using their personal coming out stories to sensitize service providers to the strengths of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) youth. Pride for Youth staff members will highlight adult roles, successes, and challenges in supporting youth efforts. Participants will walk away with new ideas for making youth-adult social change partnerships successful.

**Mike Brown, MSW**, is assistant director at Pride for Youth with 18 years of experience in the youth services field.

**Dean Kaufman** is a first year student at Nassau Community College. He was the president of Mepham High School's Gay/Straight Alliance in Bellmore, NY and has been a peer educator at Pride for Youth for two years.

**Nelson Rodriguez** is a high school senior at Uniondale High School. He is the president and founder of his high school's Gay/Straight Alliance and a peer educator at Pride for Youth. **Travis Tucker** is the Young Men's Program Supervisor at Pride for Youth.

## Youth Community Engagement:

### A Catalyst for Rebuilding Today's Communities

How do we harness the transformative power of youth voice? How do we collaborate across generations for community change? In this interactive workshop, we'll focus on building the skills young people need to positively impact our communities, including community mapping and action planning. Participants will be actively engaged in activities that build their capacity to sit on boards, plan community initiatives, and mobilize caring adults and other stakeholders to bring about positive community change.

**Tracy McGee, MS, MEd**, has over 15 years of extensive experience in the youth development field and in the administration of strength-based education and youth empowerment/leadership programs.

**Co-presenters: Student Asset Ambassadors from ACT for Youth of Erie County**

# Can You Hear Me Now? The Challenge of Youth-Adult Connection

*ACT for Youth Conference, May 19, 2008 • Register by April 18*  
<http://www.actforyouth.net/?conference2008>

**Workshop Choices: Session 2 2:30 - 3.45**  
*All workshops open to youth and adults*

## **Can We Talk? Helping Parents and Teens Communicate About Sexuality**

Research shows that when parents and teens can talk openly about sexuality, teens are more likely to delay sex or to use protection when they have sex. Working together, youth and adult advocates can help parents and teens gain skills and learn techniques that can help them speak more comfortably with each other. This workshop will explain how youth and adults can collaborate on an interactive community event that focuses on parent-teen communication about sexuality.

***Eric Reyes** is program coordinator of the Lower East Side Teen Advocate program, Planned Parenthood of New York City (PPNYC).*

***Co-presenters:** Eric will be joined by a student from PPNYC's Teen Advocate peer education program, and by a parent from PPNYC's Adult Role Models program.*

## **Give Youth a Voice! Creating Real-Life Leadership Opportunities for Young People in Your Organization**

Using the example of Children for Children's Youth Planning Committee, this workshop provides tips, tools, and best practices on how to effectively incorporate youth voice into all aspects of your organization. Participants will learn how youth can: serve as ambassadors for your organization, advise staff and board on strategic growth and development plans, provide feedback about program efficacy, and develop and make presentations on effective youth development practices for various audiences.

***Maggie Jones** is executive director of Children for Children (CFC), a not-for-profit founded in 1996 to teach young people the importance of volunteering and service. Under her leadership, CFC engages more than 52,000 children from across the socio-economic spectrum. Ms. Jones is passionate about improving underserved schools and believes that you are never too old or too young to make a difference in your community.*

***Co-presenters:** Members of CFC's Youth Planning Committee*

# Can You Hear Me Now? The Challenge of Youth-Adult Connection

ACT for Youth Conference, May 19, 2008 • Register by April 18  
<http://www.actforyouth.net/?conference2008>

Session 2, continued  
2:30 - 3:45

## Incorporating Youth into AYD Strengthening Organizations Curriculum

True youth engagement is about having youth adult partnerships, so why not model this behavior within the training you are offering within your communities? Designed for trained Advancing Youth Development (AYD) Strengthening Organizations facilitators, and for youth who would like to be part of an AYD training team, this workshop will give suggestions on how to incorporate youth participation in a meaningful way. Participants will learn alternate lesson plans for this curriculum, and will hear from youth who have been involved in training adults.

*Note: this workshop is primarily for adults who are already trained in the AYD Strengthening Organizations curriculum, and youth interested in becoming part of an AYD training team. It is suggested that adults participating in the training bring along copies of the curriculum in order to make notes and identify exactly where the adjustments occur within the curriculum.*

**Tina Louis**, ACT for Youth coordinator, Madison County Youth Bureau and  
**Terri Lanterman**, community educator, Cooperative Extension, Madison County, are both trained in all AYD curricula.

**Bethany Ashcraft**, senior, and  
**Stephanie Braun** and  
**Michael Hackney**, juniors, attend Morrisville Eaton High School, in Madison County.

## Rebuilding a Community For Positive Change:

### Stop Complaining and Get Involved!

Rebuilding community means focusing on community relationships. Join the Town of Wallkill Police-Youth Coalition for an interactive discussion about this successful community/youth/police partnership. Topics covered will include volunteer roles, the Police Department's community policing mission, and intergenerational partnership. Young presenters will discuss the role of youth voice, and how their relationship with their community has changed since their participation in the coalition began. Think it's not possible? Come and be inspired!

**Barbara J. Alvarez**, President of the Police Community Council  
**Danny McNamara**, Vice President of the Police Community Council  
**Sandy McNamara**, Treasurer of the Police Community Council  
**Jessica Kuhn**, Secretary of the Police Community Council  
**Veronica P. Glueck**, Youth Coordinator, Town of Wallkill Police Youth Coalition  
**Officer Phillip Fantasia**, Town of Wallkill Police Department – Juvenile Officer and Dare Instructor  
**Youth members of the Wallkill Police-Youth Coalition**

# Can You Hear Me Now? The Challenge of Youth-Adult Connection

ACT for Youth Conference, May 19, 2008 • Register by April 18  
<http://www.actforyouth.net/?conference2008>

Session 2, continued  
2:30 - 3:45

## Ready to get together?

What happens when youth and adults work together to make change in their communities? This interactive workshop will introduce the Community Improvement Through Youth (CITY) Project from Broome County. Workshop participants will increase their understanding of the benefits of and barriers to youth and adults working together to successfully address community needs. The workshop will also feature a youth panel: bring your questions about how adults can more effectively engage youth!

**Vicki Giarratano** is the Broome County Extension CITY project coordinator and part of the Broome County AYD training team. She serves as co-chair of the Children and Youth Services Council and is working to promote the Ready by 21<sup>TM</sup> initiative. **Kay Telfer** is a senior extension educator in Broome County. In addition to serving as director of the Broome County CITY Project, she is co-director of the NYS Advancing Youth Development Partnership and directs other Broome County programs related to workforce and youth development.

**Co-presenters: Binghamton CITY Project Teen Leaders**

## ***Somethin' To Think About:***

### **Youth Development and Peer Education — A Model for Success!**

The Teens PACT (Positive Actions and Choices Teens) program combined best practices in sexuality education and youth development to create its highly acclaimed video series, *Somethin' To Think About*. Co-facilitated by youth, this workshop will describe youth development in action by detailing how the videos were made—a process that involved young people every step of the way. Participants in this workshop will learn the process for developing and distributing a culturally sensitive and age-appropriate social marketing tool as well as the benefits of a youth development approach to both participants and a wider audience.

**Michele Perlman, MPH**, is program director for Teens PACT, a program of Community Healthcare Network. She strives to meet the challenge of addressing the needs of young people by drawing from the inspiration that is provided by their hope, courage, commitment, desire, laughter, and resiliency. **Danell Wilson** began his career as a Teens PACT peer educator and was promoted to Health Educator in 2006. As a peer educator he was part of the youth team that developed the *Somethin' To Think About* video series, and starred in *Taken Care Of*.

**Co-presenters: Teens PACT members**

# Can You Hear Me Now? The Challenge of Youth-Adult Connection

*ACT for Youth Conference, May 19, 2008 • Register by April 18*  
<http://www.actforyouth.net/?conference2008>

**Session 2, continued**  
**2:30 - 3:45**

## **Youth Community Engagement:**

### **A Catalyst for Rebuilding Today's Communities**

How do we harness the transformative power of youth voice? How do we collaborate across generations for community change? In this interactive workshop, we'll focus on building the skills young people need to positively impact our communities, including community mapping and action planning. Participants will be actively engaged in activities that build their capacity to sit on boards, plan community initiatives, and mobilize caring adults and other stakeholders to bring about positive community change.

***Tracy McGee, MS, MEd**, has over 15 years of extensive experience in the youth development field and in the administration of strength-based education and youth empowerment/leadership programs.*

**Co-presenters: Student Asset Ambassadors from ACT for Youth of Erie County**