



YOUTH

ENDING
SLAVERY



TWO YEARS IN REVIEW

2014-2015
PROGRESS REPORT

ABOUT YES

Youth Ending Slavery is an **entirely student-led** nonprofit based in Portland, Oregon. In 2012, YES began under the leadership of a small group of students who felt motivated to make a difference. Today, those modest but incredibly important foundations have grown into a full-fledged nonprofit organization.

THE MISSION

Our mission is to combat modern-day slavery by **raising awareness** about its prevalence in the world and **empowering youth** to be advocates for change. Educating youth about the existence of human trafficking is crucial because the rising generation has both the opportunity and responsibility to create a world where unjust practices in the name of profit are not tolerated.

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I joined the YES Board of Directors as a sophomore in high school, I never imagined the extent to which this work would shape my life. During my childhood, I lived in a bubble. I never thought about the impact of my actions and was ignorant of the human rights violations occurring worldwide. Even when I did learn about social injustices, I felt incapable of making a difference. The issues - racism, poverty, sexism, prejudice, global warming, even human trafficking - seemed unsolvable and overwhelming. But that all changed when I joined Youth Ending Slavery and read the quote that shaped the organization:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

Mead's words embodied all the doubts I had ever felt and all the inspiration that I would ever need. Over the past year and a half, I have popped my bubble and expanded my outlook. I have been inspired by my peers, my community, and the world. I have been part of a team that never ceases to amaze me by their innovation, their desire to have a lasting impact, and their determination. As a group of thoughtful and committed individuals, we have implemented concrete initiatives to truly carry out our mission. We have educated ourselves and empowered others. We have fostered a ground-breaking model for nonprofits, one in which students volunteer their time and energy to run the entire organization. But above all, I believe we have changed the world.

Gratefully,
Clare McLeod

October 2012
Inaugural Walk to End Slavery

March 2013
Holy Names Academy Peace and
Justice Day

February 2014
Circuit Climbing Gym
Pump-a-thon Fundraiser

July 2014
Becomes official 501(c)3 entirely
student-led nonprofit organization

September 2014
2nd Annual Walk to End Slavery
St. Mary's Academy creates YES Chapter

October 2014
Marist High School creates YES Chapter
Forest Grove HS creates YES Chapter

November 2014
Lincoln High School creates YES Chapter

December 2014
Board launches community outreach
through classroom presentations and
other speaking engagements

January 2015
Candlelight Vigil

February 2015
Legislative involvement begins
Sherwood HS creates YES Chapter

March 2015
Inaugural Chapter Conference

May 2015
Let Freedom Run 5K

July 2015
David Douglas HS creates YES Chapter

September 2015
3rd Annual Walk to End Slavery

October 2015
OR Episcopal School creates YES Chapter
Wholistic Peace Institute SOU Award

November 2015
NEST + YES Student-Led Forum
2nd Chapter Conference
What's the Scoop? Fundraiser

January 2016
An Examination of Slavery Event

HISTORICAL MILESTONES



FEATURED COMMUNITY EVENTS

Walk to End Slavery

Each fall, YES hosts their annual Walk to End Slavery. These events educate and inspire attendees through a speaking program and lively march through downtown Portland. Over the past three years, more than 350 people have attended a Walk and more than \$3,000 have been raised. Past speakers include Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel, former Sgt. of the Portland Police Sex Trafficking Unit Mike Geiger, and Director of F.A.S.T. Wynne Wakkila.

Candlelight Vigil

In January 2015, YES hosted a Candlelight Vigil. Sex trafficking survivor, Maritza Hudson, spoke and local musicians shared their work.

Let Freedom Run 5K

In May 2015, the FGHS YES Chapter, alongside the YES Board, organized a 5K fundraiser for Janus Youth Programs. More than 150 people registered and YES raised nearly \$4,000.

NEST + YES Student-Led Forum

In November 2015, the YES Board partnered with the NEST Foundation to host a forum. This event brought policymakers and students to the same table to discuss sex trafficking and exploitation.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Forums and Conferences

The YES Board of Directors has participated in several events hosted by other organizations. In November 2014, the YES Board served as speakers and panelists at the American SPCC Youth Forum to discuss the importance of youth involvement in social change. In July 2015, Clare McLeod presented a paper at the *Slavery: Past, Present, and Future Conference* hosted by Inter-Disciplinary.Net at the University of Oxford. Her paper focused on the impact human trafficking has on children and how they can best respond to the injustice.



Classroom Presentations

Youth Ending Slavery reaches a wider community by presenting in classrooms across Oregon. Since the inception of this initiative in January 2015, YES has spoken in more than ten classes and engaged more than 250 students. With an adaptable presentation, YES has visited health, history, religion, media, and political action classes.



Community Groups

Besides outreach within schools, the YES Board also presents within community groups. In the past year, they have spoken at Rotaract meetings, Foster Care Association meetings, and Catholic Community Services gatherings. These meetings provide opportunities to reach a more diverse community.





LEGISLATIVE INVOLVEMENT

Testifying in Support of HB 2206

In February 2015, Clare McLeod testified before the House Judiciary Committee in support of HB 2206. Signed by the Governor this past spring, HB 2206 changed the phrasing in Oregon State Law from "prostitution" to "commercial sexual solicitation." This change in language not only accurately describes the crime taking place, but also decreases stereotypes and stigmas.

Housing Opportunity Day Rally

In March 2015, Avital Balwit and Clare McLeod spoke at the rally organized by the Oregon Housing Alliance in support of proposed legislation that would increase housing opportunities for the 20,000 homeless youth across Oregon. Without stable homes, many youth become more vulnerable to trafficking. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, during 2014 nearly 1 in 6 runaways were victims of sexual exploitation.



Legislative Concept Meeting

In October 2015, Molly Kelleher and Clare McLeod attended the sex trafficking legislative concept meeting hosted by Representative Kathleen Taylor. Prior to the meeting, they met with the Representative to discuss legislation that would support trafficking curricula in schools across Oregon. Stay tuned for updates.

CHAPTER NETWORK

Although YES first existed only at St. Mary's Academy, chapters now exist in seven schools across OR, engaging more than 75 students. Chapters implement the mission of YES within their schools by organizing awareness events, fundraisers, and service projects. Several times each year, the YES Board hosts Chapter Conferences for Chapters to network and collaborate.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

YES Chapters have been hard at work and have large goals for the future. In the past year, **Forest Grove** organized a fun run, attracting more than 150 runners and raising nearly \$4,000 for Janus Youth Programs. **SMA** put together a fair-trade holiday campaign. **Lincoln** hosted a fair-trade bake sale and has now organized a fundraiser with with the local ice cream shop, What's the Scoop. **Sherwood** leader, Alexis Reed, conducted a study about sex trafficking in Ecuador while on an educational tour. This year, **Marist** plans to host a dance fundraiser and newer chapters, **David Douglas** and **OES**, look forward to building momentum in their school communities.



CHAPTER LEADERS

St. Mary's Academy	Molly Kelleher
Forest Grove HS	Abby Aguirre
Lincoln HS	Sarah Nasson
Marist HS	Caleb Coulombe
Sherwood HS	Alexis Reed
David Douglas HS	Olivia Van Slyke
OR Episcopal School	Lexy Tracy and Arianna Rahimian



1000+

WEBSITE VISITS
EACH WEEK



50+

FOLLOWERS



900+

LIKES



600+

TOTAL VIDEO
VIEWS



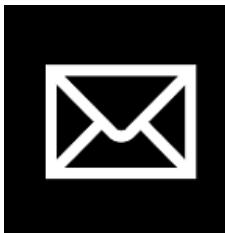
50+

CONNECTIONS



800+

NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS



40+

FOLLOWERS



ONLINE IMPACT

As a student-led nonprofit, YES understands the importance of an online presence to increase awareness and outreach. Although social media is only one path towards change, it is a crucial one because it reaches large portions of the population. Posts, tweets, and Youtube videos are valuable resources because they connect people with organizations and issues in their homes, on the bus, and elsewhere. Besides social media, YES also has a comprehensive website that contains information regarding the organization, methods for involvement, and comprehensive educational resources. Once a month, the YES Board sends out an e-newsletter with updates and current events. These online methods of outreach and education are both economical and impactful.

PROSPECTIVE GOALS



Expand the Chapter Network.



Develop at least three more YES Chapters in OR in the next year. Facilitate Chapters nationwide. Host quarterly Chapter Conferences.

Increase Community Outreach.



Continue speaking engagements and classroom presentations. Reach out to new communities and develop a presentation for middle schools.

Organize and Host New Events.



In order to reach new populations and demographics, organize new types of events with an emphasis on education and empowerment.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Clare McLeod
President



Natalie Bojarsky
Treasurer



Molly Kelleher
Chapter Liaison



Katy Foley
Outreach Director



Emma Christensen
Event Director

2012 Allison Nasson
TO Olivia Hinerfeld
2013 Catherine Mattecheck
Isabella Villareal
Iris Dowd

2013 Talia Berniker
TO Caroline Cassinelli
2014 Michelle McCall
Charlotte Umanoff
Laura Zwerling

2014 Clare McLeod
TO Caroline Cassinelli
2015 Michelle McCall
Avital Balwit
Clare Collins

GET INVOLVED



Quite simply, attend our events! Without your interest, we would be unable to conduct outreach or expand the YES Chapter network. If you are interested in the Chapter Network, our classroom presentations, or community outreach at other events, visit our website to learn more.



Besides supporting our organization in person, your online support increases awareness. Visit our website, sign up for our monthly newsletter, and find YES on the social media outlets listed below.



Although no member of our organization is paid and classroom presentations only cost our time and effort, public events do entail costs. Your donation ensures these events remain accessible to everyone.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Diane McKeel	Katia Mrdjan	New Seasons Markets	Abolition Now
Mike Geiger	Camille Robertson	Dave's Killer Bread	Compassion First
Wynne Wakkila	Forest Grove HS	Elk Cove Vineyards	Rahab's Sisters
Scott Nasson	Marist HS	Van Dyke Appliances	ACT Southern Oregon
Maritza Hudson	St. Mary's Academy	Mountain View Dental	Free the Children
Andrew Duden	David Douglas HS	Peet's Coffee and Tea	NEST Foundation
Danielle Wise	OR Episcopal School	The Hot Spot Spa	Marion Polk Foster Care
Mick Glaze	Sherwood HS	ACE Hardware	Association
Caleb LaPlante	Lincoln HS	CustomInk T-Shirts	O.A.S.C.
Keith Bickford	Oregon City HS	Tabor Space	Portland H.T.T.F.
Kyle Busse	Blanchet Catholic	Sesame Donuts	Sexual Assault Resource
Kathleen Maloney	Lake Oswego HS	Grand Central Bakery	Center
Joe Bergeron	MercyCorps	VooDoo Donuts	The Wholistic Peace
Joel Shapiro	Oregon M.U.N.	American S.P.C.C.	Institute

Report written and compiled by Clare McLeod for Youth Ending Slavery. November 2015.



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