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.
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
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.
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 Nassen
Marist HS         Caleb Coulombe
Sherwood HS       Alexis Reed
David Douglas HS  Olivia Van Slyke
OR Episcopal School  Lexy Tracy and Arianna Rahimian
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

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

Natalie Bojarsky
Treasurer

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

Molly Kelleher
Chapter Liaison

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

Katy Foley
Outreach Director

Emma Christensen
Event Director
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
Mike Geiger
Wynne Wakkila
Scott Nasson
Maritza Hudson
Andrew Duden
Danielle Wise
Mick Glaze
Caleb LaPlante
Keith Bickford
Kyle Busse
Kathleen Maloney
Joe Bergeron
Joel Shapiro
Katia Mrdjan
Camille Robertson
Forest Grove HS
Marist HS
St. Mary's Academy
David Douglas HS
OR Episcopal School
Sherwood HS
Lincoln HS
Oregon City HS
Blanchet Catholic
Lake Oswego HS
MercyCorps
Oregon M.U.N.
New Seasons Markets
Dave's Killer Bread
Elk Cove Vineyards
Van Dyke Appliances
Mountain View Dental
Peet's Coffee and Tea
The Hot Spot Spa
ACE Hardware
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NEST Foundation
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