ANNUAL REPORT 2015

ENGAGEMENT IN THE WORLD, OF THE WORLD, FOR THE WORLD.

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Global Youth Connect

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globalyouthconnect.org
At GYC, we collaborate with local partners to propel our mission forward.
Dear Friends:

I first learned about Global Youth Connect as a college senior. I had been studying human rights and genocide prevention for years, but I wasn’t quite sure what to do after college. A week after my college graduation I traveled to Rwanda with GYC. The delegation changed my life: I learned about the horror of genocide, the struggle many Rwandans face everyday to survive with memories from the past, and the challenges of rebuilding social cohesion in the aftermath of the atrocity. I also learned about the work that thousands of Rwandans are doing each and everyday to fight for a brighter and more peaceful future. Through all of this I came to recognize how important human rights are to rebuilding a more peaceful society.

I ended up returning to Rwanda four more times over the following years, and eventually completed a Ph.D. in sociology at UCLA. My dissertation was inspired by a puzzle that I noticed during my GYC delegation in Rwanda: just ten years after the 1994 genocide, Rwanda elected the world’s highest level of women to come to Parliament. My research tries to really explain this remarkable fact and investigates the impact of that mass violence has on all the women’s political organizing around the world. I know first hand how unique and impactful the GYC model is. By bringing people from different backgrounds together to have sustained, meaningful dialogue about the pressing human rights issues, GYC has cultivated a global network of young activists who are working towards a more peaceful future. GYC catalyzes social change in the countries we work in, and among our alumni – our alumni have gone on to found remarkable organizations like the Akilah Institute for Women and MindLeaps, and work in various capacities for the OSCE and the U.S. Department of State.

Overall, 2015 was an exciting year for GYC, as we bid farewell to our Executive Director Jesse Hawkes, and welcomed Jason Torreano to the organization. We also ran three successful delegations in Rwanda and one in Bosnia. 2016 looks bright, as we are expanding our more programs to South Africa and Colombia, and are hosting our first ever delegation for those 45+.

Please join us all in building and sustaining our programs around the world. I’ve never been more convinced in the importance of our work.

In Peace,

Marie Berry, Ph.D.
Board of Directors, Chair
Global Youth Connect

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20% of GYC Alumni have founded human rights related programs, organizations, or initiatives since their delegation.

47% of GYC Alumni currently hold jobs in the field of human rights.

97% of GYC Alumni say that GYC program influenced their career trajectory in some way.
Dear Friends:

Global Youth Connect is going through an incredibly exciting time. We are expanding our programs to new places and including new audiences. I can confidently say that over the last year we have grown as an organization, and while we will miss Marie and Jesse’s leadership as they move on in their respective careers, I could not be more excited to capitalize on the momentum they have left us with.

I learned about GYC through a close friend who served on the board. Through my work in international development, I have had the opportunity to visit several post conflict countries that share difficult histories. I was eager to get involved in the human rights arena. I knew the work GYC was doing was special after meeting just a handful of delegates, most of whom use the words “life changing” when asked to describe their experience. With that said, I distinctly recall the moment I realized that I wanted to commit to GYC. I hosted a couple of local delegates from Rwanda and Nepal, among other supporters, for a small fundraising event in New York. Having the opportunity to learn about their experiences and the incredible work they dedicate themselves to was all I needed. Never before had the significance of our work been so clear, and I knew I wanted to preserve and grow GYC’s programs into the future.

I am humbled and feel extremely fortunate to step into my new role and build upon the success the organization has experienced. GYC is just getting started and I am so excited to do my part to fulfill our mission going forward.

Warm regards,
Nestor Hugo Solari
Treasurer, Chair-elect
Global Youth Connect

Dear Friends:

I am thrilled to join Global Youth Connect at this exciting juncture as it looks to continue offering ways to provide enterprising human rights delegations in post-violence countries. As I step into this new role, I’m cognizant of the rich history and diversity of programs Jesse Hawkes helped push forward during his eight-year tenure with GYC. We’re poised to build upon this rich foundation as the organization undergoes a transformation in 2016. We’re looking to host more programs, with more delegates, more often, in more places.

We’re building upon our popular Rwanda and Bosnia summer programs. We’re looking for additional opportunities for growth too. We’ve already begun exploring opportunities in South Africa and Colombia with more on the way. I hope you’ll engage with us in 2016, too. Whether it be joining a GYC delegation, presenting on a delegation you’ve been a part of to people in your network, making a contribution, joining our Board of Directors, or sending along an idea you have, there are no shortage of ways to become involved.

We don’t do this work alone. We rely on people sharing their time, their talents and their expertise to push our mission forward.

I hope you’ll join us.
Jason Torreano
Executive Director
EMPOWERING YOUTH TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS AND CREATE A MORE JUST WORLD.
# GYC Financial Highlight

## 2014 Income & Expenses

### 2014 Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Service Revenue</td>
<td>110,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations, Gifts, Grants</td>
<td>31,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>142,198</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 2014 Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Related</td>
<td>54,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Compensation</td>
<td>40,674</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Fees and Administrative</td>
<td>28,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>136,874</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Excess or (Deficit)**: $5,324

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### 2014 Income

- Program Service Revenue: 22%
- Donations, Gifts, Grants: 78%

### 2014 Expenses

- Program Related: 20%
- Employee Compensation: 30%
- Professional Fees and Administrative: 40%
- Other: 8%
WE IGNITE HUMAN RIGHTS IN POST-VIOLENCE COUNTRIES

Note on Abelson Foundation and Jesse Hawkes Leadership Fund:
Global Youth Connect is grateful to the Jesse and Stuart Abelson Foundation for its long-standing relationship with GYC and for its continued support of the organization during this exciting period of transition. In 2015, the Abelson Foundation provided a $25,000 grant to support GYC. $5,000 of that funding has been used to provide scholarships for participants to join GYC delegations who otherwise would be unable to attend.
OUR MISSION & VISION

Through many cross cultural training programs, Global Youth Connect (GYC) ignites human rights in post-violence countries, with ripple effects around the world.

USING THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK ENSHRINED IN THE 1948 UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, GYC AIMS TO:

Increase understanding among youth of both the theoretical and practical context of the human rights framework and structure.

Build the skills, knowledge and confidence of youth to raise awareness, take action and work collaboratively on projects to promote and defend human rights.

Facilitate meaningful dialogue, enable critical thinking and analysis of complex issues and encourage joint problem solving to address shared human rights concerns.
As GYC continues to evolve, we are pleased to be offering new, exciting ways for people around the world to engage with our organization. Our first trips to South Africa and Colombia will be offered in 2016. The organization also has made it a priority to focus on strengthening and growing our most popular delegations—Rwanda and Bosnia. Those delegations have been a part of GYC’s history for years. We remain committed bringing people from different backgrounds together in post-violence countries to build a network of youth who are committed to promoting human rights, transitional justice, and peace around the world.
We collaborate and learn from one another.
Meghan Augsburger:

Actually being in the country and talking with the locals showed me a whole new side to Rwanda and its citizens that I had never thought about before. After the trip, I realized that my idea of culture had changed as well.
“The GYC Conflict Resolution Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina is not volunteer tourism. This program goes far deeper, seeking to build networks of youth activists across the world who will work together to and ways to break the cycles of conflict, spread human rights norms and foster peaceful international, inter-religious and intercultural communication. Participants were offered an invaluable introduction to conflict resolution, gaining knowledge and experience from the international level down to the smallest grassroots initiatives.”
2015 Board of Directors:
Marie Berry, Board Chair
Nestor Solari, Treasurer & Chair Elect
Amy Durand, Vice Chair & Secretary
Lisa D’Annunzio, Fundraising Chair & Member
Mackenzie Hamilton, Programming Chair & Member
Nicole Chiacchiero, Member
Caroline Nguyen, Member

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