

Annual Report 2017

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



GYC
Global Youth Connect

WWW.GLOBALYOUTHCONNECT.ORG/

CONTENTS

- 03 MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR
- 04 MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- 05 GYC COLOMBIA
- 13 GYC RWANDA
- 22 WINE TASTING & WHITE NIGHT FESTIVAL
- 23 BOARDSOURCE CONFERENCE
- 24 JOINING GENERATION STUDY ABROAD
- 25 STA GLOBAL
- 26 2018 PROGRAMS
- 27 BOARD MEMBERS
- 28 FINANCIALS
- 29 DONATION PAGE



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Dear Friends,

First and foremost, thank you for your support and for helping GYC educate the next generation of human rights activists.

It has been an amazing year and I have never been so excited for the future of the organization. We continued executing our mission by running delegations in Colombia and Rwanda, while laying the groundwork for several new delegations in the coming years. Over the last two years, we have revamped the way we do many things, from ensuring GYC's financial viability to better reporting on our program results to our stakeholders. We have done this while continuing to provide our transformational programs to motivated young people globally.

We are excited for the next several years, as we continue to expand the scope of our programs in terms of pedagogy as well as geography. We expect to continue partnering with other nonprofits and schools across the world to deliver on our mission.

We firmly believe that education is the first step in ending human rights abuses, and are dedicated to tirelessly fighting for a future without these atrocities.

In solidarity,

Nestor Hugo Solari
CHAIRPERSON

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

This summer, I had the opportunity to join GYC Rwanda, our flagship program, as a delegate. Over the last two years I've been Executive Director, I'd heard so much about GYC's longest running delegation from previous participants. When the opportunity presented itself to join the program this year, I got online and booked my ticket to Kigali.

GYC Rwanda was enriching, transformative and brought people together from seemingly dissimilar places — everyone from a high school student in Paris to a teacher in Pennsylvania to university students from New York City to a college student from Malaysia — joined the program and grappled with pressing human rights issues. Our backgrounds were different, though our goals — to seek to learn about the past, to seek to understand the present, and to work to advocate for Human Rights in our own spheres of influence — unified us.

We visited different NGOs in and around Kigali. We volunteered with local organizations like "Esperance," working to promote peace through soccer. We visited government offices including the Rwandan Parliament. We had guest speakers working to advance human rights in their respective corners of the world.

Our group of nearly twenty had participants from the US, the UK, Malaysia, Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo learning about one another, and learning from one another, together. In a world that often seems to be increasingly divided, it was affirming and encouraging to be around these agents of positive change.

This year, we ran successful programs in Rwanda and Colombia. We have big plans for next year, too. As you thumb through these pages, I hope you can envision yourself joining a program, or supporting a program, in 2018.

With gratitude for your support,

Jason Torreano
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GYC COLOMBIA



HISTORICAL MEMORY & THE RIGHT TO TRUTH

In June 2017, the Historical Memory and the Right to Truth program brought together fourteen young leaders from the US and Colombia. They traveled to Bogotá, Medellín, and San Carlos (Antioquia) to examine truth-seeking measures that have been used to address human rights abuses in Colombia. The delegation met with government officials in the capital and community leaders in the countryside to discuss the promises and challenges of conflict transformation, transitional justice, and human rights work in Colombia.



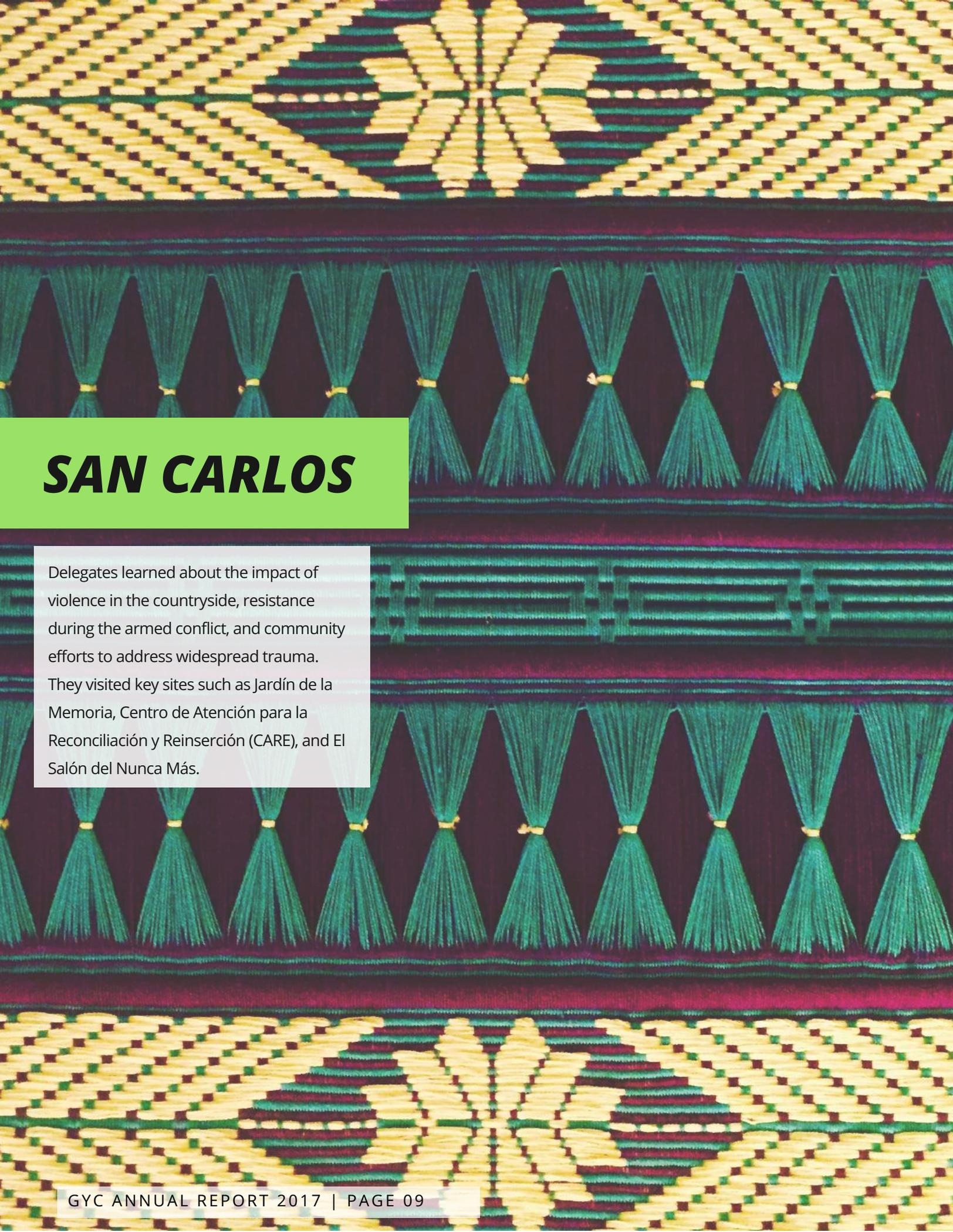


BOGOTÁ

Delegates received an overview of the Colombian conflict, as well as discussed governmental and non-governmental initiatives to redress human rights violations. They visited many historical sites around the capital, including Centro de Memoria, Paz y Reconciliación, La Candelaria, Colectiva Matamba Acción Afrodiaspórica, Dejusticia, Oficina Presidencial de Derechos Humanos, Oficina del Alto Comisionado para la Paz, Casa Nariño, and Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento (CODHES).

MEDELLÍN

Delegates spoke with human rights leaders, heard about on-going threats in different parts of the city, and visited memory sites such as Agencia Para la Reincorporación y Normalización (ARN), Universidad de Antioquia, Museo Casa de la Memoria, Casa Diversa Comuna 8, Comité de Impulso de Acciones de Memoria Comuna 13, and Asociación de Mujeres de las Independencias (AMI).



SAN CARLOS

Delegates learned about the impact of violence in the countryside, resistance during the armed conflict, and community efforts to address widespread trauma. They visited key sites such as Jardín de la Memoria, Centro de Atención para la Reconciliación y Reinserción (CARE), and El Salón del Nunca Más.

CATHERINE'S TAKEAWAY

I didn't know what to expect when I first began my journey with GYC. I had done service trips to other parts of Latin America through my university so I thought this experience would also be mainly volunteer work. What I learned from GYC is the importance of telling one's story. You would think that the victims of this conflict hold nothing but hatred in their hearts and a desire to avenge the deaths of their loved ones. In fact, that couldn't be further from the truth.

On our visit to San Carlos, we met with a woman named Pastora Mira, one of the town leaders. She told us painful stories about members of her family—including two of her own children—who were either killed or kidnapped by the paramilitaries. Even though she had experienced such terrible loss throughout her life, Pastora Mira never hated. When we asked Pastora Mira what we could do to help her, she said that all she wanted was for us to tell her story and the story of the Colombian people; how they are strong and resilient and how they live each day to the fullest because they are thankful to still be alive.

Gratitude and love was a common theme throughout the delegation. At the Centro de Memoria, Paz, y Reconciliación in Bogotá, and the Museo Casa de la Memoria in Medellín, we also saw the importance of historical memory. These two places both honor the lives of those lost in the conflict in different ways. Centro de Memoria, Paz y Reconciliación uses art—sculptures, paintings, flowers — to help honor the victims in a more symbolic way. The Museo Casa de la Memoria focuses more on narrative and stories and photographs of real people affected by the conflict. These two places of memory serve as important reminders of the impact of the armed conflict on the people of Colombia. More importantly, they show how everyone grieves differently whether that be through art or through words. Through GYC I was able to better understand a conflict that has affected millions of people and I'm very grateful to have been a part of this experience.

— CATHERINE BRUNO

ABELSON FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

GYC is grateful to have enjoyed the support of the Abelson Foundation which allows us to provide scholarships for local participants to join our programs around the world. One such recipient was Nataly, a member of the GYC delegation to Colombia. Here's what Nataly had to say:

I would like to start by thanking you for choosing me as one of the two Abelson scholarship recipients that was selected for Global Youth Connect's (GYC) 2017 Colombia Human Rights Delegation. The delegation was an enriching experience for me in all aspects. It exposed me to different perspectives on the Colombian conflict and strengthened my own point of view and desire to work towards peacebuilding and the implementation of the agreement in Colombia.

The opportunity to join GYC's delegation came at a moment of doubt and indecision about my future as a professional. Like many students who are about to graduate, I was worried about my upcoming decisions to advance my career. While facing this situation, the delegation helped me grow as a person, a professional, and a citizen. Most importantly, the delegation reinforced my certainty about the profession I hope to pursue in the future. It reminded me why I am so interested in deepening my knowledge about the importance of human rights and the conflict in Colombia.

The delegation also exposed me to different fields I can work for in the future. The experience taught me that if I want to be able to transform problematic aspects of my society, I first need to make changes in myself, to be tenacious and disciplined. On a personal note, one of the other most important lessons I gained from this experience is the importance of forgiveness for our wellbeing. Through social and feminine empowerment, I can contribute to the well-being of my generation and community.

These are some of the most meaningful lessons I gained from participating in the delegation. However, every one of our visits represented a lesson, a reflection, and a personal challenge that I know will help me now and in the future. For all these reasons, I would like to thank you again for your support. Without your help, this wouldn't have been possible.

— **NATALY ANDREA GUTIÉRREZ ACEVEDO**

GYC RWANDA



TURIKUMWE ***"WE ARE TOGETHER"***

In August 2017, the Turikumwe ("We are Together") program brought together 17 young leaders from Rwanda, the United States, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, and a Congolese refugee camp for an intensive two-week program exploring human rights, peace cultivation, and genocide prevention through group discussions, workshops, site visits, and homestays. The delegation worked with a variety of local human rights organizations, as well as met with American and Rwandan government officials.





FOOTBALL FOR HOPE

FIFA

VOLUNTEER WORK

ESPERANCE

Esperance is a youth organization which serves community youth in the suburbs of Kigali, providing them with a space to play soccer (Football Amaharo) and participate in theater and cinema education. Esperance supports social inclusion and conflict resolution.

INALAS

Inara Legal Aid Services (INALAS) is an organization based in Kigali that offers free legal advice to vulnerable populations.



VOLUNTEER WORK

GIHEMBE REFUGEE CAMP

Delegates visited the Gihembe refugee camp for Congolese refugees and learned from the democratically elected Youth Council about how they serve residents in the camp and address resident concerns. Delegates were led on a brief tour by camp residents and sat to have a local meal before returning to Kigali.

MINDLEAPS

MindLeaps was founded by a GYC Alum, and creates dance and educational programs for street children and out-of-school youth in post-conflict and developing countries.

SITE VISITS

NATIONAL ITORERO COMMISSION

Itorero is a crucial peacebuilding mechanism which sets in motion a process of unity and reconciliation by not only cultivating Ubunyarwanda (Rwandan spirit) and other Intore (Rwandan) values, but also by restoring the dignity of all Rwandans through a common Rwandan identity. In the context of Itorero's historical and cultural origins, its reintroduction into Rwandan society drove home the importance and effectiveness of revisiting culture and values to resolve conflicts. Most importantly, the delegates learned that peace is never an end, but a perpetually ongoing process across generations that is part of life itself.

RWANDAN PARLIAMENT

The delegation attended a meeting at the Republic of Rwanda's Parliament, led by the Chair for the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, where they were presented with an overview of the structure and duties of Rwanda's Parliament. Representatives answered the delegates' questions on topics including the Rwandan Constitution, the role of women in Rwanda's government, and how the government fights political corruption.

U.S. EMBASSY

The delegates were greeted by a USAID representative upon their visit to the US embassy, who spoke about the work they do with the Rwandan government and their support of the country's development endeavors, as well as answered questions.

#GYCRWANDA



Global Youth
Connect



@globalyouthcnct



@globalyouthconnect

Today was the #GYCRwanda delegates first day of work at their assigned volunteer service organizations. The delegates will return to their assignments tomorrow where they will continue to learn, educate, and grow through service! Be sure to share and follow our journey with #GYCRwanda. #GYC #humanrights #globalyouthconnect



globalyouthconnect
Kigali, Rwanda

globalyouthconnect Greetings from Kigali! Our 2017 Rwanda delegation is off to a great start. Follow along as both our international and local participants come together to learn about #Peace and #HumanRights here in Rwanda. #GYCRwanda

32 likes
AUGUST 9 2017

Log in to like or comment.



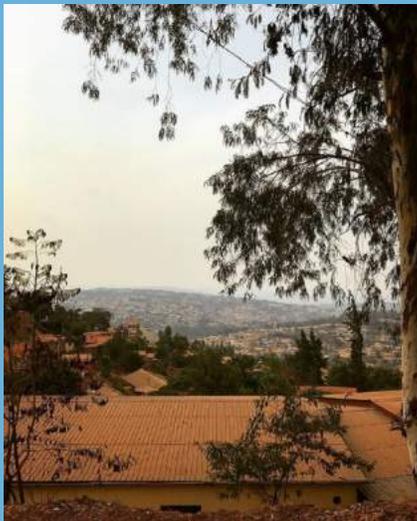
kidsfoundation

kidsfoundation LKF leader, Jean Claude (@jcmuhire), is one of the national delegates at the Global Youth Connect (@globalyouthconnect), a program which annually unites young people from across the world to learn and share various skills on Human Rights, Peace Education, and Genocide prevention. Today, He was with a team that volunteered at an organization which is called 'ESPERANCE', organizing its library before playing soccer with kids!

#GYCRwanda

40 likes
AUGUST 14 2017

Log in to like or comment.



naimhahkim
Kigali, Rwanda

naimhahkim Beauty abounds in #Kigali. This was one of our first sites of the city during our walking tour! #GYCRwanda 🌳🌳🌳🌳

43 likes
AUGUST 12 2017

Log in to like or comment.



Global Youth Connect
Kigali, Rwanda

GYC Rwanda delegates Magene, Jean Paul, and Nicole (left to right) see all smiles after their final performance which included dance, theater and an engaging discussion with the audience.

58 likes
AUGUST 11 2017

Log in to like or comment.

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

01 VISION

The GYC Rwanda program has been an exceptional decade long journey, bringing together students from around the world to learn about human rights and peace cultivation initiatives. The program represents a transformative pathway for young leaders who want to contribute to the revival of post-conflict societies. Reconciliation and healing of wounded societies are slow and painful processes, and young people who opt for this type of calling certainly symbolize invaluable rays of peace, in a world ravaged by war.

02 IMPACT

Rwanda and Bosnia were once forgotten countries; abandoned from the world and condemned to unimaginable horrors during those black moments in the history of mankind. GYC, with its small but valuable contribution, continues to recall these forgotten hours and more importantly continues to explore bright prospects for the future making sure that such humanitarian miscarriages and the blindness of the world nations are not stored in the trap of oblivion.

03 STATEMENT

GYC program in Rwanda is a testament to the prosperous vision, continuing compassion and formative power of the new generation.

— MAJA PECANAC

THANK YOU LETTERS FROM DELEGATES

To whom It may Concern :

I am UWIMBARAZU LAETITIA from Rwanda.

I have been a participant of Global youth connect from 6th august up 19th august 2017, I was very excited to be one of them, I entered with expectation to improve my knowledge, skills ; connection and how I can learn to live with people from different country and I got a positive result of my expectation for example: It was my first time to visit memorials (Gisozi and Nyamata) and it reminded me how as a Rwandan according to what I saw I must establish Peace building ; Unit and Reconciliation.

Also at Gikema Refugee Camp, it gave me a chance to rethink according to what I saw how the life of them are hard and it gave me strength and a good heart for helping some as possible I can in my life well as build peace and support those who are victims of lack of peace in there country. I learnt more wherever we visited and from visitors who came to us, I can't finish it on this sheet of paper but my heart kept everything and came like a dream and one day I will make it true, so I thank Executive Director of GYC M^r Jason ; program Director of GYC in Rwanda Miss Maja ; Director of Matas and Coordinator of GYC in Rwanda M^r Jean Claude, also I can't forget my fellow participants for all good time we had together ! May God bless you all abundantly!

Yours faithful!

UWIMBARAZU LAETITIA

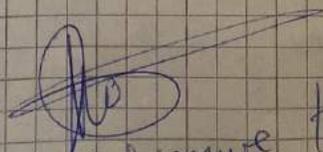
THANK YOU LETTERS FROM DELEGATES

To whom It may Concern

My name is Nishimwe Hilarie and I am from Rwanda, To be part of GYC Rwanda was my great time I never had in my life. As we travelled to different places especially Genocide memorial at Nyamata and Gisozi, it was my first time to be there, I realize how genocide was against Tutsi, so as youth who was born after genocide, I have to fight against genocide, ideology, having great heart to help those genocide survivors so that Genocide against humanity never happen again.

It is important as well, I met different people from different countries so I have learnt a lot from them.

To me human rights are inherent to all human beings, irrespective nationality, Sex, gender, place of residence, sex, colour, religion, language or any other status.


Nishimwe Hilarie.



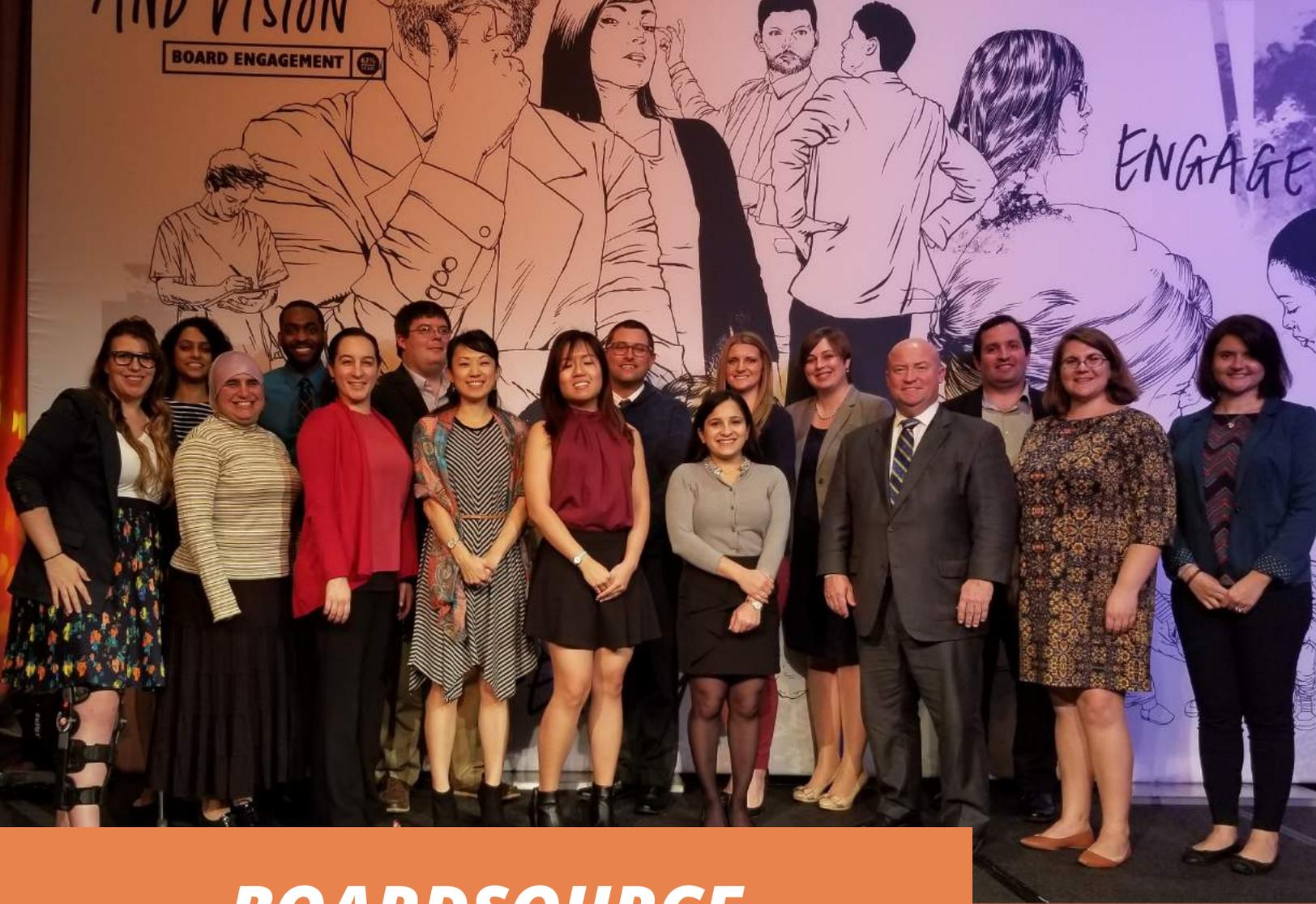
WINE TASTING & WHITE NIGHT FESTIVAL

Global Youth Connect held a spring and late summer fundraiser this year, both in New York City.

White Night Festival, a garden party fundraiser, was held in Brooklyn June 24, 2017. White Night Festival was hosted by GYC Board Member Dechen Albero and was meant to welcome summer in the European tradition. Typically held in European capitals during summer, these all-night arts and cultural festivals celebrate long days, short nights, and the importance of arts, culture and community.

The themed benefit was held in the garden of a late 19th century landmark Brooklyn brownstone and featured opportunities for open mic, readings, art, board games, and networking. Complimentary books, a white elephant table filled with curiosities, light appetizers and wine were also provided. Dechen remarked, "The goal of the event was to bring people together who might not otherwise have learned about GYC and share the mission, values and work of our organization. I believe we accomplished that while having a good time and celebrating summer as well."

GYC also held its second annual wine tasting fundraiser September 14 at Taste Wine Company in Manhattan. Attendees had a chance to stop by and sample a dozen wines from around the world while learning more about each from a sommelier. GYC Rwanda delegates Jessica Copi, Amy Kozel and Naimah Hakim also joined to briefly share their experience with the program this summer. Guests also learned more about the mission, vision, and human rights programs offered by GYC from board members and the materials provided.



BOARDSOURCE CONFERENCE

GYC Vice Chair, Dechen Albero, was selected as a Judith O'Connor (JOC) Memorial Scholar and top emerging leader in the non-profit sector by BoardSource, a leading organization whose mission focuses on providing training and support for actors in the non-profit sector. The scholarship provided partial funding enabling Dechen to participate in the BoardSource Leadership Forum held in Seattle, WA from October 18-20, 2017. Held every two years, the forum is dedicated to providing training in best practices of board governance and non-profit management. This year's conference focused on ways to ignite leadership for purpose, power and impact. Dechen attended sessions focusing on practical skills development to enhance board performance, the language of mission, vision and leadership, and the legalities and best practices of crowdsourcing funding. As one of twenty JOC scholars, Dechen had the opportunity to network with other emerging leaders and share the work of GYC. Along with his JOC colleagues, he was honored during the conference's closing ceremony.

JOINING GENERATION STUDY ABROAD

“Global Youth Connect joined Generation Study Abroad, an initiative of the Institute of International Education (IIE), initiated in 2014 with the express purpose to double the number of American college students who study abroad by the end of the decade.

“As a signatory to the Generation Study Abroad commitment, GYC assumes a leadership role within education abroad with the shared purpose to mobilize resources to increase the accessibility of its programs to students throughout the country.”

“We are pleased to be one of many providers to join this IIE endeavor,” said Jason Torreano, Executive Director. “Generation Study Abroad helps to reaffirm our long held commitment to bring more people together in more places to learn from one another over the coming years.”

Specifically, GYC has committed to growing its programs, renewing its efforts to more intentionally communicate with alumni, leverage social media platforms more strategically, and work to increase communications with key stakeholders.

STA GLOBAL

In 2017, GYC signed an agreement with STA Global to provide support for GYC delegates with flight arrangements, insurance, and other travel necessities.

“Participants in GYC programs will be able to access special discounted flights through an STA/GYC cobranded portal. They will also have access to an International Student Identity Card (ISIC) which offers travel insurance and a range of discounts and other benefits valid for up to 1 year after the conclusion of their program. STA will also provide support to delegates wishing to extend their stay abroad or combine participation in a GYC program with other travel or service work enabling a more seamless experience.



JOIN US IN 2018!

COLOMBIA

January 3rd - January 15th
Ages 18-35

<http://www.globalyouthconnect.org/colombia>

RWANDA

June 28th - July 12th
Ages 18-35

<http://www.globalyouthconnect.org/rwanda>

THAILAND

May 25th - June 10th
Ages 18-35

<http://www.globalyouthconnect.org/thailand>

USA

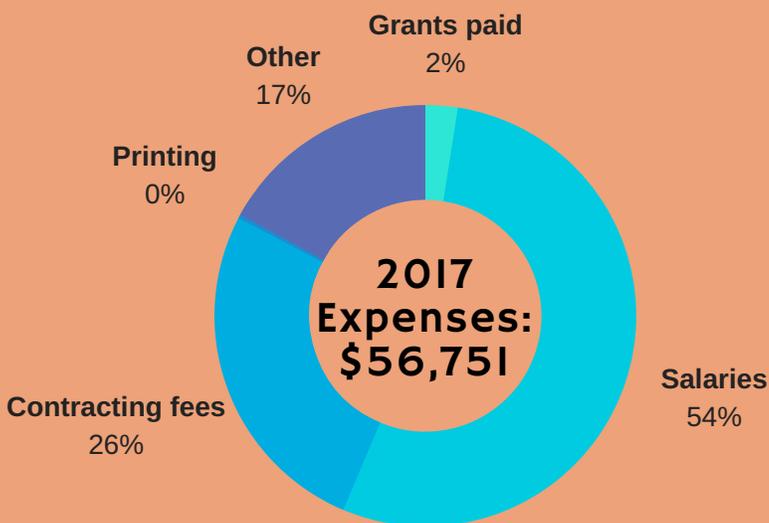
July 16th - July 27th
Ages 13-17

<http://www.globalyouthconnect.org/usa>

FINANCIAL DETAILS



Gifts & grants: \$38,600
Program revenue: \$21,976



Grants paid: \$1,400
Salaries: \$30,588
Contracting fees: \$14,930
Printing costs: \$164
Other expenses: \$9,670

BOARD MEMBERS

NESTOR SOLARI

University of Pennsylvania, Board Chair

DECHEN ALBERO

Bennington College, Vice Chair

CAROLINE NGUYEN

New York City Economic Development Corporation, Secretary

GIETHA MURUGIAH

Onex Corporation, Treasurer

FARYAL KHAN

Williams Lea Tag

DANIEL BURNSIDE

University of Chicago

VIKRAM RASTOGI

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

JOYCE KASEE MILLS

Strategic Capacity Group

NEHA RAVAL

Frontline Solutions

NELSON PEREIRA

Aon Hewitt

ERIN ABRAMS

University of Pennsylvania, Board Chair

LORRAINE GITHIORA

Talk to Umwiza

