

YouthBridge-NY – Diverse Teen Leaders Taking Charge!

WHO ARE WE?

YouthBridge-NY, celebrating its tenth anniversary, is the only non-profit organization in New York City training talented teen leaders from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds to master the skills they will need to be New York City's next generation of CEOs, heads of non-profit organizations, directors of governmental agencies, responsible citizens and so much more. Through community service activities, workshops and meetings with today's city leaders, YouthBridge-NY nurtures youth to be the very brightest and most sensitive leaders they can be – with an eye to the pivotal leadership role they will play.

BY WAY OF BACKGROUND.....

New York City, the most populous city in the world, is now home to more than 180 different language and ethnic groups. Inevitably, disagreements arise. YouthBridge-NY is paving the way for a future generation of leaders to handle the tougher times that have become all too familiar – when hate crimes command front page news, when newcomers need a guiding hand to learn about services available in a sprawling city, when issues such as racism, anti-Semitism, and ethnic prejudice rear their ugly heads.

WHAT WE DO: The core of YouthBridge-NY is the Bridge Fellowship program, through which 35 talented teen leaders of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds bond with one another in workshops, training institutes, seminars and community service activities. Fellows then share their newfound knowledge and talents with others in their homes, schools and communities. From this diligent work of our 35 Fellows comes an exponential diversity outreach effect that touches the lives of thousands of people a year. YouthBridge-NY staff and consultants teach our Fellows how to use their diversity as an asset – at school, in developing their unique leadership styles, and in their community work. Fellows are nominated for this paid position by youth professionals and teachers and go through a formal application and evaluative process.

FELLOWS ALSO SERVE ON COMMITTEES THAT DO IMPORTANT WORK IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK:


- **Express Yourself! Youth Summit** – The highlight of each year is the YouthBridge-NY Summit, which convenes more than 350 teen leaders and some 50 teachers, guidance counselors and youth professionals in a single day of seminars, workshops, and keynote talks. We kick off the event, sponsored by Affinity Health Plan, with our annual awards breakfast, the key fundraiser that enables us to hold trainings and bridge-building events throughout our academic year.
- **Shared Resources for a Shared Future** – For this critical committee, Fellows run their own foundation, the Bridging the Gap Foundation and disburse thousands of dollars for worthy causes that focus on such issues as health, diversity, education, and poverty. This year, for the first time, this committee is holding its own fundraiser to greatly augment the available funds for disbursement.
- **Diversity Film Committee** – In cooperation with Manhattan Neighborhood Network's Youth Channel, eight Bridge Fellows this year will create a 3-5 minute public service announcement about diversity and stereotypes, focusing on cultural competency and communication across racial, ethnic, and cultural barriers.
- **Allianz Engaging Workplace Diversity Internship** – In the summer of 2007, eight Bridge Fellows, sponsored by Allianz Foundation for North America, will participate in a six-week internship to learn how corporations handle issues around diversity. From hiring to promotions, from interpersonal work issues to work style differences, Bridge Fellows will spend four days each week for July and August in corporations around New York City. Each Fellow has undergone a six-month training program prior to participating in the internship program.

IS THAT ALL?

Absolutely not! Fellows also participate in:

- Meetings and round-table discussions with major decision makers in government, corporations, and non-profits
- Hands-on experiences with local community-based agencies
- Tours of diverse neighborhoods
- Community service projects such as the annual 92nd Street YM-YWHA Teensgiving and Habitat for Humanity Martin Luther King, Jr. Builds.

YOUTHBRIDGE-NY IS A JOINT INTER-AGENCY EFFORT OF: The Arab-American Association of New York • ASPIRA of New York Inc. • The Chinese-American Planning Council • The City Kids Foundation • Common Cents New York • Council of Peoples Organization • Habitat for Humanity • Ishmael and Isaac • Jeter's Leaders • Jewish Child Care Association • Manhattan Neighborhood Network's Youth Channel • The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust • The New York Tolerance Center • Ramaz Upper School • The Red Hook Health Initiative • Metropolitan Schechter High School • SAYA • Thirteen/WNET New York • Youth Venture

 YouthBridge-NY is managed by CAUSE-NY, a division of the Commission on Intergroup Relations & Community Concerns at the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. The JCRC is an affiliate of UJA-Federation of NY.



YOUTHBRIDGE-NY RECEIVES FUNDING FROM:

