



The Project Spera Quarterly Newsletter

we need your support

Help us meet our fundraising goal of \$30,000 from individual donations! Please participate in our fundraising campaign running from October 1st to January 1st.

We hope you feel well informed about what's been going on with Project Spera this year, and that you know how your support has enabled hundreds of youth to learn about international issues, as well as other cultures, geography and current events. *Read more about our successes and goals on page 2.*

what we've been up to

The **Global Youth Media and Arts** Program is underway! We are partnered with over 20 community organizations and schools to work with about 200 youth over the course of the Fall. Youth are working on arts and media projects related to the theme of *Peace and Conflict: From Local to Global*. The youth artwork and media projects will be exhibited to the public during a Festival from December 8th to 10th. We have begun holding workshops for youth in the programs to help them address the theme in their work; we will also bring all youth together on three Saturdays in the fall for 'jam sessions', helping them exchange ideas and learn more about the theme.

in their work. We are also planning exciting issue-focused workshops throughout the year. See page 3 for details.

The **World Affairs Challenge** has started the recruiting process. If you are interested in volunteering as a coach or organizing a team from your school, please contact us! The Challenge is scheduled for March 18, 2006 and the theme is *Conflict in the Contemporary World*.

Project Spera was recently chosen to receive a portion of the proceeds from the **Lonely Planet's Passport to the World Festival featuring Michael Franti & Friends on September 30**. Thank you to Lonely Planet for their generous support!

For our **Teachers Program**, we are so far working with almost 30 teachers, supporting them as they incorporate international affairs and current events

Project Spera needs YOU to volunteer for our programs!

We need individuals to coach a team of students for the World Affairs Challenge from November to March. We also need individuals to volunteer during the Global Youth Media and Arts Festival from December 8-10. Check out our website at www.projectspera.org/involved/volunteer.html or contact us to learn more.

in this issue

- ✚ what we've been up to..... p. 1
- ✚ we need your support..... p. 2
- ✚ tell us what you think p. 2
- ✚ who supports us..... p. 3
- ✚ wish list..... p. 3
- ✚ news and events..... p. 3
- ✚ community profiles..... p. 4
- ✚ test your global awareness and see answers from the last issue... p. 4

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we need your support

To date, you've enabled us to achieve the following: **Plans for the 2005-6 academic year include:**

The World Affairs Challenge

- Reached a total of 700 youth
- Educated students about hunger, human rights and the environment through the annual global theme
- Secured an institutional partnership with San Francisco State University

The Teachers and Schools Program

- Reached 1,550 youth through 25 teachers and 3 school partnerships
- Incorporated current international affairs into school curriculum
- Launched the Educator's Network to support individual teachers throughout the Bay Area

Get Global After-school Program

- Reached 100 students since 2003
- Educated youth about various international issues and carried out numerous service and peer education projects
- Evolved into the Global Youth MAP, slated to reach 200 youth this fall

Beginning the Process of National Expansion

- Start to lay the groundwork to pilot our programs in select cities around the country

The 2006 World Affairs Challenge

- Serve 450 youth from around Northern California
- Help students learn critical thinking skills and issues of international significance, in particular the theme of *Contemporary Conflict*

The Teachers and Schools Program

- Serve up to 40 teachers individually and 2 schools comprehensively
- Reach over 4,000 students in the Bay Area

The Global Youth Media and Arts Program

- Provide an opportunity for youth to explore the connections between international affairs and their daily lives
- Give youth a means to create and share original works of art and media with their peers and the public;
- Projects will be based on the theme of *Peace and Conflict: From Local to Global*
- Serve 200 youth from San Francisco

tell us what you think

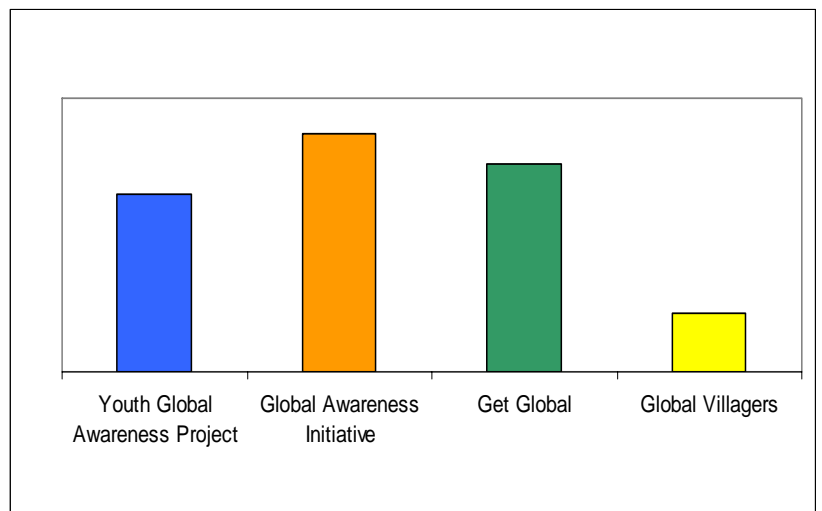
According to the Asia Society, 93% of adults and 97% of polled students believed that youth should learn more about world cultures.

What do you think is the most important thing for youth to know?

- Other languages
- Politics
- Geography
- International economics
- General current affairs
- Other (specify): _____

Please visit our homepage (www.projectspera.org) to submit your response.

This is how you voted on the last poll, which asked you to pick your favorite alternate name for Project Spera:



Although we have not decided on a name yet, we will certainly keep you posted!

who supports us

We are very grateful for the support we have recently received. We are pleased to announce recent grants from the following foundations and corporations: Electronic Arts Foundation, Arthur B. Schultz Foundation, O'Reilly's Irish Pub and Restaurant, Microsoft Giving Campaign, American International Group, Lonely Planet Foundation and Albertsons Community Grant Program.

The following generous individuals have also contributed since our last newsletter:

Aaron Brady
Dan and Gina DeVito
Diane Hart
KK and Doug Neimann

Kristine Kunkel
Santeri and Mariah Voutilainen
Scott Balkan and Lauran Frauman
Wentworth Foster

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GENEROUS DONORS.

Each contribution makes an enormous impact on the education and future of our youth.

We've been very fortunate to have the talent and dedication of four new interns this semester, **Christine Means, Jones Chan, Bryn Murray and Kelly Korenak**. Read about all our interns on our website (www.projectspera.org). Thanks to all of you for your dedication and enthusiasm!

wish list

Project Spera is in need of the following items to help us run our programs and keep our costs low. If you have access to any of these, please consider donating them to us! Contact us at info@projectspera.org.

LCD projector	Tape recorders
Art supplies	Portable white board
Paper	Printer
Van	DVD player
Office space	Video camera
Books and movies about various global issues	Digital camera

news and events

Teachers 4 Social Justice presents the 5th annual educator's conference, "Teaching for Social Justice: An Act of Revolution"

When: Saturday, October 15, 2005, 9am-4pm

Where: Mission High School, 18th and Church Street, SF

Who: Teachers and educators from the Bay Area and beyond

Why: To explore empowering learning environments through curriculum and practice and to provide a forum for networking and community building. *Check out Project Spera's workshop at the conference!*

More information is available at <http://t4sj.org>.

Project Spera's Workshop: "Teaching Conflict"

When: Thursday, November 10, 2005; 5 - 7:30pm

Where: BAGEP Office, World Affairs Building, 312 Sutter Street

Who: Teachers in all disciplines throughout the Bay Area are welcome to attend

Why: Learn about the major issues surrounding contemporary conflict, with a focus on genocide and the conflict in Darfur; receive FREE curriculum with this introductory workshop, the opportunity to plan lessons with other teachers, and dinner! More details will be available soon.

Please register by emailing murshed@projectspera.org or call 415-292-7421.

community profiles

Read about some of the teachers, students, volunteers and donors who are involved in Project Spera's global education programs. We are grateful for their commitment to education and youth development.

William Laven

Hometown: Rockford, Illinois

Occupation: Photography teacher and Co-Founder and Co-Director of Potrero Nuevo Fund family foundation, which supports arts education, environmental education and sustainable architecture (and Spera!)

Q. What do you do with Project Spera?

A. I'm on Spera's Advisory Board and am helping with the upcoming Media & Arts Festival

Q. How has a greater knowledge of international issues affected your everyday life?

A. I'm much more politicized and active in international issues -- often through giving money through the family foundation, participating in letter signing campaigns, and, most recently, in a photo project I've just begun that deals with American xenophobia and relations with other countries/cultures

Q. What is your volunteer experience like?

A. I enjoy working with Spera. Dana, Madiha and Victoria are great to work with and have a strong vision for Spera's program and future

Q. What future plans do you have for working with Project Spera?

A. Continue with Advisory Board work and financial support.

test your global awareness!

1. Ariel Sharon is the Prime Minister of which Middle-eastern country?
 - a. Israel
 - b. Canada
 - c. Egypt
 - d. Chechnya
2. Who is the current Secretary General of the United Nations?
 - a. U Thant
 - b. Dag Hammarskjold
 - c. Kofi Annan
 - d. Colin Powell
3. Which of the following countries are NOT members of the European Union?
 - a. Spain, Portugal, France,
 - b. Ireland, United Kingdom, Belgium
 - c. Netherlands, Austria, Italy
 - d. Switzerland, Morocco, Russia
4. Which of these countries is NOT on the continent of South America?
 - a. Portugal
 - b. Brazil
 - c. Venezuela
 - d. Ecuador
5. Which country suffered the most casualties as a result of the December 2004 tsunami?
 - a. India
 - b. Indonesia
 - c. Sri Lanka
 - d. Australia

Take the poll online at www.projectspera.org and see the correct answers!

these are the results of the last global awareness quiz...

1. **Question:** The document that specifically addresses the rights of children around the world is:
Answer: c. **The Convention on the Rights of the Child** Correct: 56% Incorrect: 44%
2. **Question:** On average, countries in the northern hemisphere are richer than those in the southern hemisphere.
Answer: a. **True** Correct: 88% Incorrect: 12%
3. **Question:** People are hungry because there is not enough food for everyone on our planet.
Answer: b. **False** Correct: 94% Incorrect: 6%
4. **Question:** Which continent has the highest HIV/AIDS rate?
Answer: b. **Africa** Correct: 94% Incorrect: 6%
5. **Question:** The majority of refugees come from which two continents?
Answer: a. **Asia and Africa** Correct: 69% Incorrect: 31%

Thank you for supporting Project Spera and global education!