

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Uniting our efforts in critical mass for social change



**Global Youth
Action Network**

Our Vision

GYAN believes that critical issues facing the planet demand every generation's attention and commitment, and that if we are to solve these problems in our life, then we must act, and combine our efforts to guarantee a future of peace, justice and sustainability.



Our Mission is to:

- :: facilitate youth participation and intergenerational partnership in global decision-making;
- :: support collaboration among diverse youth organizations; and to
- :: provide tools, resources, and recognition for positive youth action.

Special Thanks

GYAN wishes to again thank its strategic partners, notably: TakingITGlobal, whose technology and web support empowers our membership and programming; Chat the Planet for housing our offices and helping increase our mainstream media exposure; Youth Service America for inviting GYAN's continued partnership on Global Youth Service Day; and GYAN advisor and model Karolina Kurkova for headlining a fund raising event with the Accessories Council and InStyle Magazine (Time Inc.). We also wish to thank: Barbara A. Lewis for recognizing the Network and including some of our inspiring stories in her recent book, Teen Guide to Global Action; Deepak Chopra for recognizing GYAN within the work of the Alliance for a New Humanity; and both the She'rah Foundation and the Natural Immunogenics Corp. for their instrumental support over the years. A special thanks to Seton Hall University, Barnard College at Columbia University and Bard College for their continued partnership, and regularly presenting GYAN with excellent candidates for internships.

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INTRODUCTION



*An important transition. A new paradigm of collaboration.
Still uniting youth movements.*



Dear friends,

When I first set out in 1996 to give young people a voice at the United Nations, I never imagined what the project might evolve into. Within two years, I discovered a global youth movement that I (and most people) never knew existed. I saw a critical opportunity then to unite the efforts of countless young people already working towards positive social change. After mapping tens of thousands of organizations, and mobilizing millions, one thing remains clear: there are more of us trying to change the world today than ever before in history. We have the potential to galvanize our efforts on an unprecedented scale.

Always believing the youth-led aspect of our work to be critical, youth-adult partnerships nonetheless remain central to our strategy. After eight years, I am stepping down as Executive Director to allow for new leadership, humbled by the extraordinary experience this has been and in awe of the amazing potential that still exists.

In this transition phase, we revisited the possibility of developing a co-management relationship with our sister group, TakingITGlobal. During our six years of close collaboration, the possibility of streamlining our operations became more apparent and, in 2007 we started defining a formal alliance to help leverage our joint capacity and maximize our impact.

Towards this end, and with a new Executive Director now on board, Ms. Franziska Seel from Germany, GYAN and TakingITGlobal intend to better serve the movement, together connecting over 12,000 organizations and 185,000 individuals in 200+ countries and territories. No youth organization has created as expansive a network in so short a time, and we have only scratched the surface.

I am excited to remain on the Board of Directors, and hope to provide the kind of instrumental support mentors have generously given me over the years. I sincerely thank our staff, volunteers, donors, clients, partners and the cadre of inspiring young activists who have made GYAN what it is, and made this such an inspiring journey. To have served in this way has been the most rewarding experience of my life.

I look forward to staying involved and hope to count on your continued support and participation as well.

In Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Quinto', written over a horizontal line.

Benjamin Quinto,
Founder

“TakingITGlobal is excited to be a strategic partner of the Global Youth Action Network, as our work collectively generates synergies that strengthen and amplify the work of youth organizations around the world. Our shared vision of young people engaged as citizens around global issues drives both our organizations to greater heights and achievements.”

- Jennifer Corriero, Executive Director, TakingITGlobal

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2007

- More than **3.2 million mobilize** for the 8th Annual Global Youth Service Day celebrations in 100 countries around the world, including Palestine, Brazil, Kenya and Russia
- **GYAN-Mexico** rallies thousands around issues of poverty, in partnership with UN and government agencies, organizations like Oxfam, and co-organizes a major concert for 15,000
- The **Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS** holds hundreds of trainings for its 4,000 members, and organizes events in 31 countries to mark World AIDS Day
- GYAN partners on **Chat the Planet's** groundbreaking Hometown Baghdad series, launched on-line to millions of viewers and critical acclaim, giving a real voice to young Iraqis in the media



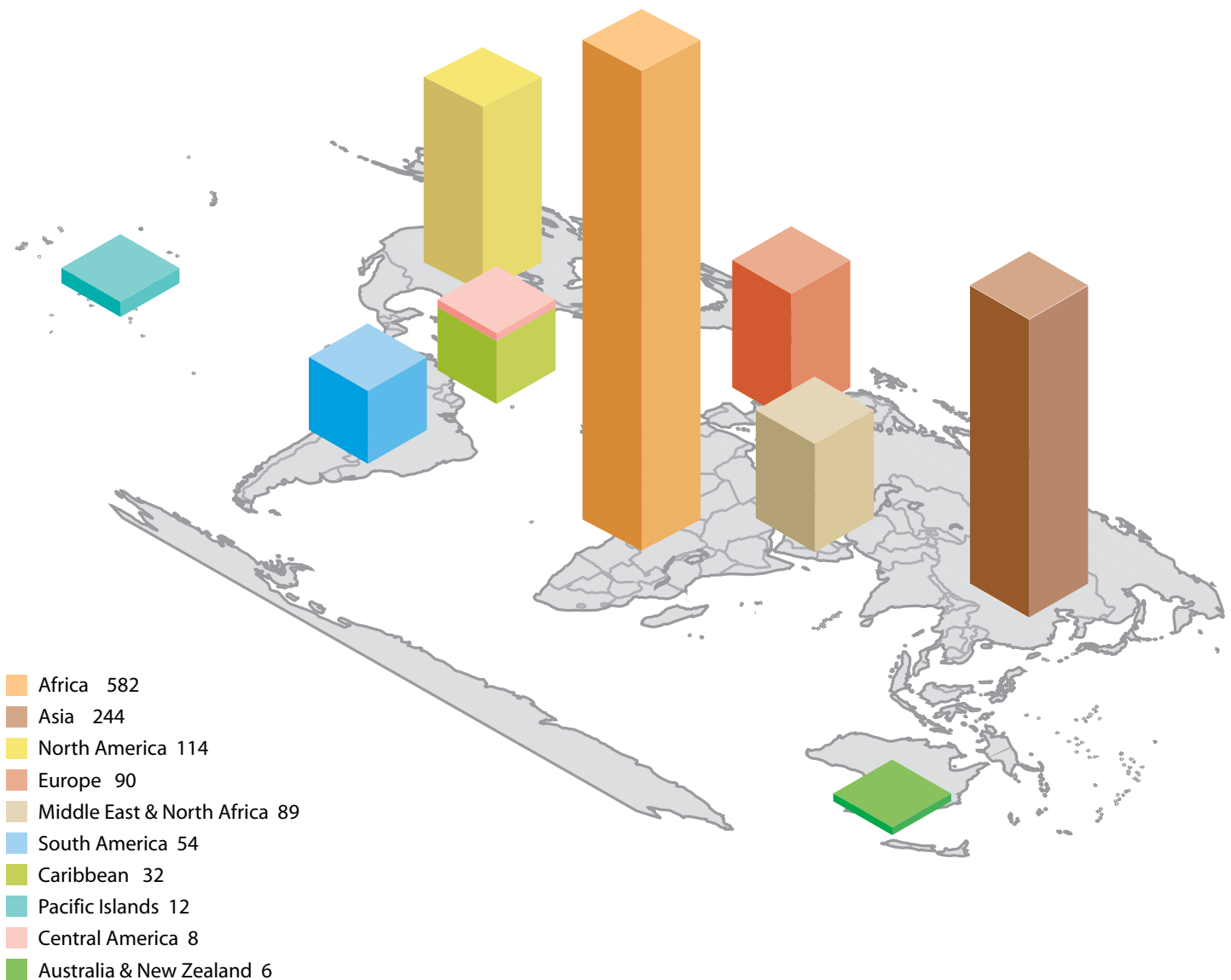
THE NETWORK



The Global Youth Action Network (GYAN), headquartered in midtown New York City, is youth-led and connects thousands of organizations worldwide. Membership is comprised of over 1,200 youth-led, youth-serving, and youth-friendly organizations, which range from local or university groups to major NGOs. Members benefit from the connectivity GYAN offers to other groups, its partnership with UN Agencies, and Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council.

Starting in late 2006 and throughout 2007, a concerted effort was underway to address critical gaps in GYAN's membership structure and strategy. In this time, the majority of member organizations were vetted, re-confirmed and invited to participate in shaping the Network's direction and immediate priorities. Coinciding with developing the co-management agreement with TakingITGlobal, the member consultation helped identify key needs and ideal structure, informing the strategic development plan now underway.

GYAN Membership by Region





THE IMPACT OF GYAN'S WORK



FACILITATING YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Youth at the United Nations

GYAN continued to partner with the United Nations in order to support greater youth participation, through partnerships with UN Agencies and policy input from GYAN members. The Network often acts as a gateway for young people into the UN, accrediting GYAN members and young people to events or meetings, including the *Commission for Social Development*, the *Commission on the Status of Women*, the *Commission on*

Sustainable Development, the *Permanent Forum on Forests and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues*. In partnership with other NGOs, GYAN promotes the role of civil society and young people within the institution, highlighting their accomplishments and co-organizing public events through the **NGO Committee for Social Development** and the **NGO Committee on Youth**. **ChannelOne**, a televised channel that broadcasts to 6 million middle and high school students across the country, featured GYAN in a piece called “UN-101” in October, informing students about how the United Nations works.



Policy input from GYAN members

GYAN’s affiliation with the United Nations through its Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) allows the Network to submit statements to functional commissions and other ECOSOC events. In October, an e-consultation conducted among member organizations on employment led to GYAN submitting a Summary Statement to the UN for the 2008 *Commission for Social Development*.

Partnerships with UN agencies

GYAN helped facilitate youth input into two major events at the UN this year. In preparation for the Commission on the Status of Women, GYAN, UNICEF and the Working Group on Girls organized a consultation where 1,300 children and youth voiced their opinions on what needs to be done to protect girls from discrimination and violence. Young delegates presented the final report, “It’s time to listen to us,” to governments at the Commission in March.

GYAN was also asked to facilitate youth contributions to the 10-year **Machel Strategic Review on Children Affected by Armed Conflict**. In partnership with UNICEF again, as well as the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Women’s Commission for Refugee Children and Women, more than 1,700 children and young people took part in a second consultation. Their contributions were compiled into the report entitled “**Will You Listen? Young Voices from Conflict Zones**” and was presented to the General Assembly by youth ambassadors on October 17.

GYAN continues to work with the UN **Programme on Youth** and, more recently, the UN **Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)** to help young people prepare for--and be effective advocates at--UN events. Among others, GYAN helped organize an orientation session for young delegates to the *Commission for Social Development* in February.

SUPPORTING COLLABORATION

Incubating Global Partnerships

At the core of GYAN's purpose is to support greater collaboration among organizations that are youth-serving, youth-led and youth-friendly. Knowing so many exist and are committed to change inspires the belief that we can do even more together. GYAN develops channels of communications and relationships between youth groups in an effort to minimize redundancy and competition. Network staff seek out needs, opportunities and other trends in global youth organizing, helping to build coalitions to address pressing issues around which young people are organizing.



Global Youth Service Day

www.gysd.org

In its 8th consecutive year, Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) celebrations engaged 3.2 million volunteers in 100 countries, from 20-22 April! A program of Youth Service America, with the Global Youth Action Network as its key partner, GYSD is the largest annual celebration of young volunteers, and counts on the support of many UN agencies, international NGOs, inter-governmental groups and government agencies.

Among the highlights were celebrations in which the Russian Volunteer Development Center, IAVE NR (MCH/VC) mobilized almost 1,004,000 participants under the theme “*We are creating our future together!*” In Brazil, GYSD events organized by Natal Voluntários engaged over 147,000 participants on issues of poverty and the Millennium Development Goals. The full report on the celebrations this year can be downloaded on the GYSD.org website.

“Thousands of youth participate every day in community service activities. These types of actions are vital to their personal development, the strengthening of their communities, and the reduction of poverty. [...] Global Youth Service Day helps to advance in this area, by facilitating platforms for young people to participate, get them engaged and celebrate their contributions to the communities where they live.”

- Luis Alberto Moreno, President,
Inter-American Development Bank



Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS

www.youthaidscoalition.org

The Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA) is a youth-led network of 4,000 young leaders and adult allies working to end the spread of HIV and AIDS in 150 countries worldwide. GYCA's North Secretariat in New York and new South Secretariat in Accra, Ghana, are incubated by GYAN, and supported primarily by UN agencies.

GYCA's membership grew by 1,200 members last year (a 29% increase). GYCA has trained 150 young people in developing project plans through its e-courses in Project Management, Political Advocacy, and Grant Proposal Writing and Fundraising. In early 2007, its new South Secretariat was established in Ghana to improve outreach and skills building in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Over the course of 2007, GYCA's Regional and National Focal Points organized hundreds of trainings and events reaching rural and marginalized youth. The Coalition also contributed

to the UNAIDS *Inter Agency Task Team on Young People and HIV* in Paris, and their *Technical Support Group on Most At-Risk Adolescents* in Vietnam, as well as the research phase following the **World Health Organization's** *Global Consultation on Young People Living with HIV* in Malawi. HIV+ members of the Coalition have developed a vibrant platform called Living Positively. Three GYCA Task Force members were appointed to the NGO Delegations Board of the Global AIDS Fund, and members have accessed countless scholarship & leadership opportunities, trainings, and grants as a result.

GYCA members collaborated with the World AIDS Campaign, hosting 104 events in 31 countries for World AIDS Day in December. Activities commemorating the Day ranged from rallies with HIV testing and counseling services, to street theatre and hip hop art on HIV issues, training of peer educators and service providers, and community service projects.

GYCA also contributed to the youth program at the International Congress on AIDS in Asia & the Pacific (ICAAP-8) in Sri Lanka, and followed up on 344 commitments made at the Toronto International AIDS Conference – Youth-Adults Commitments Desk. Over 25% were achieved and will be showcased at AIDS2008. GYCA is currently one of the lead organizers of the XVII Mexico International AIDS Conference (AIDS2008) YouthForce, spearheading the advocacy program and youth pre-conference.

World Youth Movement for Democracy

www.ymd.youthlink.org

Since 2005, the Global Youth Action Network has been incubating the World Youth Movement for Democracy (WYMD) out of its Sao Paulo office, with support from the National Endowment for Democracy. In March of 2007, an international essay contest was held for young people to share their perspectives on democracy. Over 100 young activists, students, and citizens from 48 countries submitted short essays expressing their optimism, frustration, and hopes for their countries and communities. The finalists from each region were posted online, and the two winners received full scholarships to attend the Assembly of the World Movement for Democracy in Kiev, Ukraine (April 2008).

To promote the WYMD's goal of decentralized network building, in June 2007, management of the movement's international secretariat passed to the newly opened Kiev office of the **Youth Human Rights Movement**. There, members will have better access to the upcoming World Assembly, and leadership of the growing initiative can be shared with other organizations working on the frontlines of democracy-building efforts.

Other Collaborations

GYAN does not traditionally organize its own events; instead, we seek to support existing events by helping to build participatory processes, key partnerships, conduct outreach, and ensure continuity. Towards this end, in 2007 we partnered with:

- :: **We Are Family Foundation** to assist in the initial planning of *Three Dot Dash*, a year-round teen leadership program, and their upcoming Just Peace Summit (NYC, 2008)
- :: **CIVICUS** to participate in and help promote the *Youth Assembly*, contribute articles to their global newsletter, and assist in a research project jointly organized with **United Nations Volunteers** around volunteerism.
- :: Youth climate activists to host a series of dialogues and strategy sessions around a **Global Youth Climate Movement**, in preparation for key events on the topic at the United Nations, and the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali.
- :: A consortium of partners including **UNAIDS**, in which the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS was invited to help facilitate meaningful youth participation in **aids2031**, a multi-disciplinary effort to spark new research and dialogue around the global AIDS response, and help key actors create a more concerted long-term response to the pandemic.

PROVIDING TOOLS, RESOURCES AND RECOGNITION

Tools & Resources

In order to help youth activists and organizations empower their work through the use of technology, a longstanding partnership with TakingITGlobal allows GYAN to offer tools to its members that support outreach and communication on-line. In addition, the monthly electronic YouthlinkExpress newsletter, now in its 9th year of distribution, summarizes key resources, opportunities and other information in the global youth movement, and goes out in three languages to more than 18,000 subscribers worldwide. As GYAN & TakingITGlobal combine certain operations, better functionality specifically designed for organizations will be implemented to enable a higher level of both on-line and off-line engagement.

Positive Youth Recognition

GYAN works to dispel the myth of youth apathy, working with partners in the media to increase awareness of positive and inspiring youth contributions. In an effort to recognize more of these efforts, the Network actively promotes stories about young changemakers, and also distributes \$1,000 Global Youth Action Awards to young people who take action to improve their communities and our world. This year, GYAN helped to provide stories that were included in the recently published “*Teen Guide to Global Action*,” by Barbara A. Lewis (Free Spirit Publishing, 2007) and to *ABC News* for a series on social entrepreneurs and teens changing the world.



AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL...

GYAN continues to have teams operating in Mexico and Ghana, but recently closed the Brazil office and discontinued the expansion of national teams in order to strengthen membership and governance. In recent years, GYAN teams were active in over 12 countries, although a new model that integrates with TakingITGlobal's country coordinators is in development, and is designed to improve partnerships with groups at the country level.

GYAN-Mexico

Together with the Herat Day Network, *Earth Day Celebrations* were organized in April at the Autonomous University of México to increase awareness of climate change, consumption and activism. In the Summer, GYAN Mexico partnered with Organi-k, GAIA, Tierra Unida and Link Creations to organize 6 reforestation events with the Mazahua community and over 3,000 volunteers. One of the events also marked *International Youth Day* on August 11, organized in collaboration with Rotaract, the YMCA and the United Nations Information Center (UNIC).

GYAN México collaborated with UN-Habitat and DIF Nuevo León on the State of the World Cities International Conference, organizing a session entitled "Safer Cities: Youth Development," and continued to expand its partnership with UN-Habitat around the upcoming *International Youth Crime Prevention and Cities Summit in South Africa*.

Youth and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Together with Oxfam, the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP Campaign), the Local Ministry of Youth and other local government agencies, GYAN Mexico launched a public awareness campaign for youth on the Millennium Development Goals. On October 6, more than 350 young people on bikes rode together from Revolución Monument to Zócalo Plaza in Mexico City, where they formed a large white band circle around it, as part of White Band Day (against poverty). Ten days later, GYAN México, the United Nations Information Center, and the local Ministry of Youth formed a big white band circle around the Angel of Independence in Mexico City. The demonstrations were covered in the local press and BBC, with other coverage provided by El Porvenir, La Jornada and REDES.



With the Ministry of Culture, the local Delegation of Tlalpan, and Mexico City's Ministry of Youth, an 8-hour concert called "Jóvenes Contra la Pobreza" (youth against poverty) was produced, which 15,000 people attended. The audience was inspired by music and messages from speakers about the MDGs and youth empowerment.

GYAN-Ghana

GYAN-Ghana's Youth-in-Action Program awards Small Grants

With support from the World Bank for its Youth-In-Action program, US\$250 small grants were provided to 16 youth groups (13 from Ghana, 2 from Nigeria and 1 from Cameroon) to implement MDG and Democratic Governance projects. Project leaders first received free training through e-courses, including one on effective fund management. Beneficiary projects ranged from youth stakeholder meetings to election outreach programs and child art exhibitions. The World Bank hosted a meeting for Small Grant winners, allowing them to share their perspective and advise the Bank on how to improve the support offered to projects like these. Articles about GYAN-Ghana's work appeared in the Ghanaian Chronicle and Accra Mail.

GYAN-Ghana partners with the British Council

Debate-to-Action (DTA) is a British Council and World Bank Institute initiative that offers capacity-building programs to help young people access information about development and participate in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. GYAN-Ghana partnered with British Council to distribute DTA Project applications for rollout of the program in the Upper East Region, and also to organize GYAN-Ghana's Social Entrepreneurship Forum.

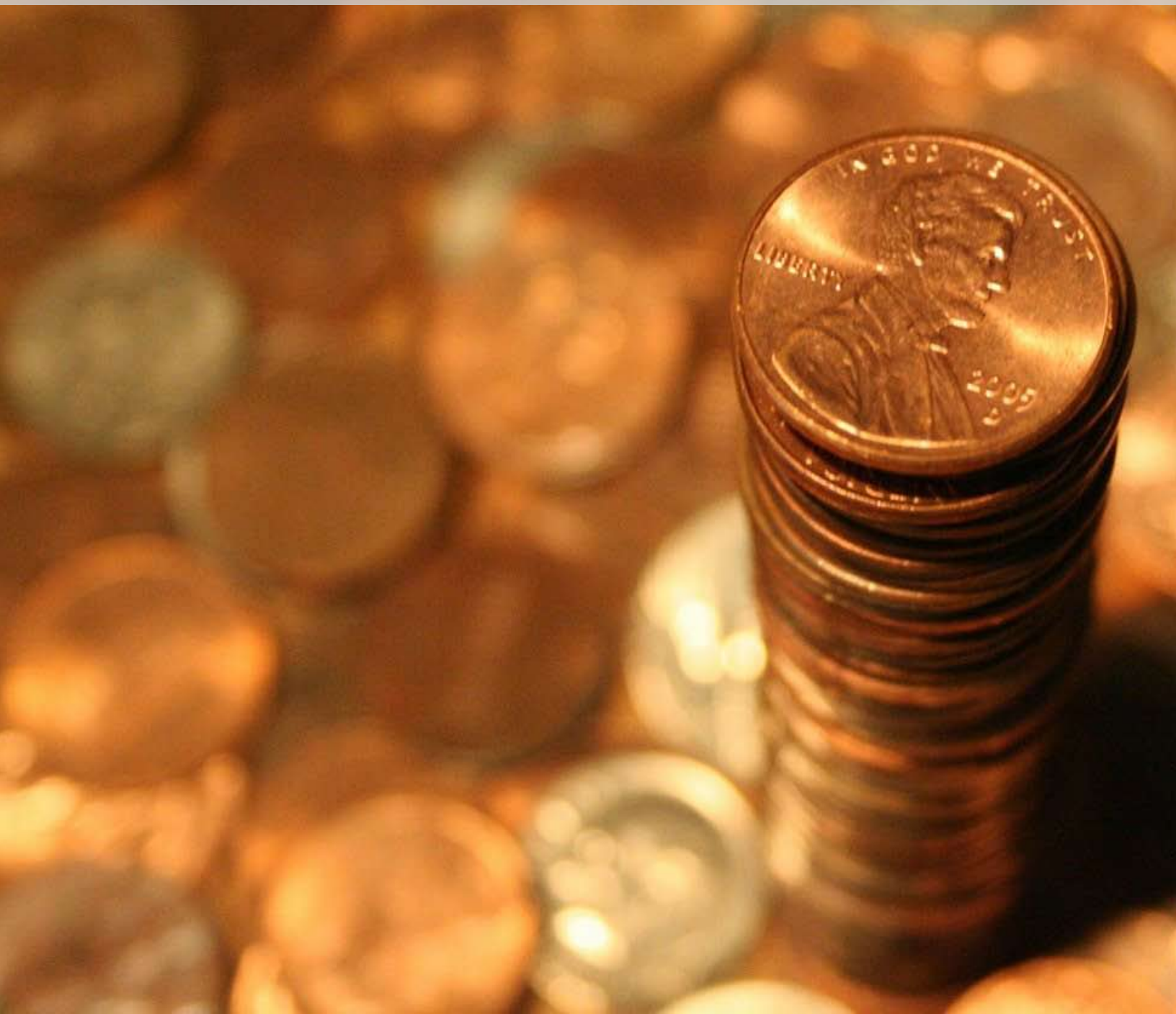
The British Council initiated the "Belongings" initiative and again sought a partnership with GYAN-Ghana to implement the project from 2007-2009. Belongings is one of five regional projects that constitute 'Africa 2007: a celebration of culture and identity', a three-year regional program that aims to explore notions of culture and identity to build understanding between people and communities in Africa and the UK.

GYAN-Ghana partners with Onetouch Mobile Telecom

Through a strategic partnership with Onetouch, a mobile telecom service, GYAN-Ghana organized a *Youth Social Entrepreneurship Forum* for member organizations, youth leaders, students and other stakeholders focused on strategies for achieving the MDGs. The Forum set out a plan for regional training sessions to be organized for young people in all 10 regions of Ghana. As a result, the Youth-in-Action Project will now focus on promoting Social Entrepreneurship, and aims to build the capacity of young people engaged in community activities by offering training on entrepreneurship, knowledge, and innovative administration of social projects.



FINANCIAL REVIEW



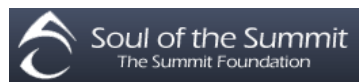
Draft Financial Report Fiscal Year 2007

	Jan - Dec 07
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Interest Income	1,488.73
Contributions Income	37,128.19
Fiscal Agent Fee	8,045.00
Grants	147,673.29
Reimbursed Expenses	3,501.64
Released from Restriction	31,748.20
Rental Income	106.00
Other Income	5,966.61
Services	57,632.00
Total Income	293,289.66
Expense	
Bank Charge	854.08
Communications	12,588.18
Equipment	706.70
Hospitality	2,227.90
Insurance	281.04
Personnel Expenses	215,365.74
Payroll Expenses	25,897.80
Marketing and Advertising	4,976.30
Office	29,955.83
Postage and Delivery	488.56
Professional Fees	9,208.24
Project Expenses	5,500.00
Reimbursable Expenses	2,728.44
Travel & Related	8,463.45
Total Expense	319,242.26



OUR SUPPORTERS

Grantors & Partners



In Kind



Donors

Natural-Immunogenics Corporation

InStyle Magazine (Time, Inc.)

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Richard & Madaleine Marx

Pathways to Peace

ABC Home & Planet



GYAN staff and Karolina Kurkova, special guest at Accessoiree Sale & Benefit (Oct 2, NYC), hosted by InStyle Magazine & the Accessories Council, with proceeds benefiting GYAN.

A low-angle photograph of a human hand reaching upwards towards a bright sun in a clear blue sky. The sun is positioned in the upper right quadrant, creating a lens flare effect. The hand is silhouetted against the bright light, with the fingers spread. The overall mood is one of aspiration and growth.

OUR STAFF AND BOARDS

GYAN's staff is comprised of an outstanding group of committed young people (mostly under age 30) with very diverse backgrounds, and who have experience working in youth programming. Staff and interns come from a variety of countries and backgrounds, but share a common vision of a world in which young people play a key role in addressing the critical issues facing the planet. The youth-led aspect of GYAN's work is important, and so a level decision-making structure is used, which invites the full ownership and participation of all staff, including interns when possible.

STAFF

Franziska Seel, *Incoming Executive Director*
 Benjamin Quinto, *Ex-Officio Executive Director*
 Ya-Nan (Kim) Lee, *Director of Operations*
 Vidar Ekehaug, *Director of Programs, GYSD Coordinator*
 Joya Banerjee, *GYCA Coordinator*
 Caitlin Chandler, *GYCA Project Officer*
 Aleza Summit, *GYCA Project Officer*
 Sydney Hushie, *GYCA Project Officer*
 Andrea des Marais*, *WYMD Coordinator*
 Marta Diez*, *WYMD Assistant Coordinator*
 Kwame Freempong, *GYAN Ghana Coordinator*
 Marioliva Gonzalez, *GYAN-Mexico Coordinator*
 Patricia Monroy, *GYAN-Mexico Asst. Coordinator*

*no longer working in that capacity



INTERNSHIPS & SPECIAL POSITIONS

Candice Valente	Christopher Eng
Dustin Gerding	Elisa Nabel
Erik Preston	Julia Emanuel
Kate Bolaffi	Leila Orchin
Mateo Bonilla	Mathieu Carey
Monica Sawhney	Naomi Sorkin
Nicole Lamanna	Pamela Wren
Payal Patel	Rachel Emmet
Reem Al-Masri	Sara del Fierro
Stephen Toledo	Suzie Sheetz
Yuchen Chen	

TRANSLATION

Allison Block	Janine Padilla
Kristin Hickman	Mike Alves
Natalie Allen	Tchegun Adebo Koba

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*“GYAN’s work embodies the new consciousness youth
are bringing into the world: hope, cooperation
& a deep sense of our common humanity.”*

- Deepak Chopra, MD



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