

Global Population & Youth Leadership Program

THE SUMMIT FOUNDATION



The Summit Foundation is a family foundation that is committed to a world where people can thrive and nature can flourish—a world in which one is not sacrificed for the other.

We seek to promote the health and well-being of the planet—its people and its natural environment—by:

- Achieving a sustainable global population; and
- Protecting the earth's biodiversity.

To achieve our mission, the Foundation focuses on empowering young people and protecting the Mesoamerican Reef.

Why a Focus on Young People



Our Commitment to Sexual and Reproductive Health

THE LARGEST GENERATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE EVER—over three billion strong—is entering or will soon enter their reproductive years. Young people, particularly those who live in the developing world, suffer disproportionately from early and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortion, gender violence, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS. These outcomes come with high emotional, social and economic costs that can significantly impact the lives of these youth, and ultimately, community and global development. The health and decisions of young people today will define the future of their societies and the world at large.

For these reasons, The Summit Foundation works to provide young people with the skills and opportunities they need to ensure a positive future for themselves, their communities and the planet. Key to securing such a positive future is universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services by youth around the world.

In the following pages, we provide just a few examples of the work that The Summit Foundation supports to empower youth and ensure their access to appropriate information and services. While our focus on youth is still new, we are pleased to report on early successes in the form of individual transformations, organizational transitions, and societal change.

THE SUMMIT FOUNDATION
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW
SUITE 525
WASHINGTON, DC 20037
WWW.SUMMITFDN.ORG

Launching a Youth Center in Mexico

DEMYSEX & PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE
Mexico Oakland, CA



The northern part of the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico is known for its beautiful beaches, world-class diving, and spring break atmosphere. But while the tourist meccas of Cancun, Cozumel and Playa del Carmen bring significant revenues into the state, they also generate extremely high migration of young people from throughout Latin America seeking jobs, as well as care-free attitudes about sexual health, which often lead to early, unwanted, or unprotected sex.

At the same time, few resources exist within this state to provide information and services to young people about their sexuality or reproductive health.

Recognizing the tremendous need for increased capacity to deal with adolescent sexual and reproductive health in Quintana Roo, Summit provided the Public Health Institute with a \$100,000 grant to work with Mexico-based Demysex to develop and launch a youth center in Cancun.

The Center, called CHISPAS (Centro Humanista Integral de la Sexualidad para Adolescentes y Jóvenes, or Integral

Humanistic Center for Adolescent and Youth Sexuality), opened to the public in January, 2006 after several months of hiring staff, renting property, purchasing equipment, developing operating procedures, outlining courses, and implementing an outreach campaign. The Center offers educational materials and training courses about family planning, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and gender and sexuality. At the Center, youth can also find basic methods of contraception, pregnancy and HIV testing, counseling, and referrals for other services. Young peer educators are trained to work in local high schools, universities, and communities, and teachers and health care professionals are provided with education on youth sexual and reproductive health, so that they can better inform the youth of the region about these issues.

While Summit is the primary funder of the Center, we are leveraging our support by reaching out to other donors, including the Mexican Women's Fund, Semillas, which has provided a prestigious fellowship to the Center Director, and the United Nations Population Fund, which had been seeking partners to implement its reproductive health program in Quintana Roo. In order to ensure a diversified funding base, Summit required matching funds from other donors for the second installment of the grant.

While we do not yet know how successful the Center will be at improving the sexual and reproductive health of young people in Quintana Roo, we are confident that youth here will take full advantage of the resources that are now, for the first time ever, available to them.

For more information: www.demysex.org.mx





Building and Sustaining Support for the Future

ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH Washington, DC



Advocates for Youth, one of Summit's long-time grantees, has become even more central to the Foundation as we have increased our attention to young people. In their focus on improving both youth policies and programs, Advocates is one of Summit's leading partners in helping us move toward greater global access for young people to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services.

Advocates for Youth exists to secure a world where all young people have access to comprehensive and appropriate sexual and reproductive health information and services. They recognize that young people need such information and services in order to live healthy lives, as well as to be able to contribute positively to an improved quality of life for all people on the planet.

In order to achieve such a world, Advocates:

- works to shift the context of how young people are viewed in society;
- educates, empowers and mobilizes youth to become effective advocates for their own sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- leads efforts to ensure appropriate policies and programs for young people; and
- partners with other organizations and issue areas to most effectively move toward greater access to information and services for youth.

In sum, the work of Advocates epitomizes Summit's mission and focus on youth.

In addressing on the sexual and reproductive health needs of young people, no matter where they live, Advocates is also one of the few organizations that seamlessly connects domestic and international issues as they affect youth. They recognize that policies that promote only abstinence, denigrate the effectiveness of condoms, or limit adolescents' access to contraception, for example, negatively affect young people in the United States, as well as around the world. And they see the value of countering these policies with strong, science-based messages, and with coalitions of individuals and organizations that can help advance the cause of youth reproductive health, no matter where they are.

Summit's general support grant of \$100,000 helps Advocates for Youth to achieve these goals through training youth as advocates, peer educators, and program planners, thereby improving the delivery of youth-friendly services in the United States and developing countries. Our funding supports their work with policy makers and the media to promote pragmatic, research-based public policy and to reframe the public debate on adolescent sexual and reproductive health. We assist their efforts to implement effective, culturally relevant programs for youth in high-risk situations, and to help parents everywhere to communicate with young people about sexual health.

By supporting this courageous, proactive, engaged and focused organization, Summit is investing in comprehensive and evidence-based policies and programs that will ensure a healthy future for young people everywhere.

For more information: www.advocatesforyouth.org

Cultivating Young Leaders in Reproductive Health in Central America



PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS Oakland, CA

In 2003, the Summit Foundation worked with International Health Programs (IHP), part of the Public Health Institute in California, to design a program aimed at developing the next generation of leaders in reproductive health. We were particularly interested in working in the same four countries where we focus our biodiversity work; that is, Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, and Quintana Roo, Mexico. Doing so would enable us to leverage our resources and help the local communities there to recognize and act on the synergies between reproductive health and the environment.

By investing in young leaders in the region who are well-trained, well-connected, strategically positioned, and supported by an enabling environment, we hoped to engender improvements in youth reproductive health there for years to come. After months of collaborative design, we provided a three-year, \$1.45 million grant to IHP to implement a fellowship program, working in close partnership with local organizations in all four countries.

The fellowship, now Summit's largest single program, brings together twenty young leaders from the four countries for a year-long program, which includes four week-long trainings, the development and implementation of country action plans, networking and mentoring, and institutional strengthening. The fellows come from diverse backgrounds, ethnic groups and professions; they are teachers, nurses, journalists, students, government employees, and community and church leaders. What joins them is a common interest in the health and welfare of young people.

The trainings themselves, which take place at both the country and regional levels, include topics such as leadership, communications and advocacy, as well as the linkages between population and the environment, family planning, and the prevention of HIV/AIDS. Through the trainings, the fellows gain both conceptual skills and practical ones, such as how to develop proposals and speak in public. They use these skills, and small seed funds, to develop and implement action plans related to reproductive health in their respective countries.

Ensuring that the environment in which the fellows work is supportive of young people and adolescent reproductive health, in particular, is critical to helping both these individuals and their organizations to reach their full capacity. For this reason, we have placed a strong emphasis on offering skills and support to strengthen the institutions from which the fellows come.

After seeing two cohorts of fellows through the program, we have been truly astonished at the depth of the transformations we have observed in each of the fellows. What began as a group of young people with scant knowledge of adolescent reproductive health has now become a skilled and committed network of leaders ready and able to advance this cause as a major life goal.

Through their practical work and their immeasurable passion, the fellows have begun to change the way their communities think and talk about these issues - spurring, we hope, the beginning of a true societal transformation regarding youth, sexuality and reproductive health in Central America.

For more information: www.gojovent.org



Energizing College Students on Global Reproductive Rights

FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION

Arlington, VA

In 2004, Summit provided a \$20,000 grant to the Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) to help them integrate international reproductive health and rights issues into their highly regarded campus outreach work. With complementary funding from the WestWind Foundation, FMF conducted a national level conference on international women's issues, which elevated the level of attention of college students from across the United States on a range of global issues, including reproductive health and rights.

More than 400 young people attended the conference, representing nearly one hundred college campuses from 36 states. Interaction with speakers and fellow attendees presented the students with opportunities to share opinions, identify problems, and brainstorm actions and activities on issues affecting women worldwide.

By addressing a wide range of international issues, including reproductive health and rights, sweatshops, human rights, peace, environment, anti-slavery, anti-globalization, and anti-trafficking movements, FMF provided a forum to discuss the myriad issues of interest to college students, and attracted young women (and some men) who might not have otherwise been aware of or engaged in reproductive health issues.

Following on the national conference, FMF has worked with campus leaders across the country to plan local events, write articles for college newspapers, and undertake other activities to raise awareness on their campuses. Smaller regional conferences in Georgia, Ohio, California and Texas, have enabled the organization to reach out to

hundreds more students with messages and information on women's equality, and to plant seeds for action.

Summit's small grant has reached hundreds of young advocates directly with information about international reproductive health in a way that both resonates with them, and that can help build a strong base of national support for these issues. It has also energized the Feminist Majority Foundation—a key, but “graying” organization in our field—to strengthen and rejuvenate their work with young people, and to more thoroughly integrate international issues into their work.

Based on the tremendously auspicious start to this project, Summit provided a follow-on grant of \$35,000 to help the Feminist Majority Foundation continue its promising advocacy work with young women across the United States.

For more information: www.feministcampus.org



Reaching Low-Income Youth in Guatemala & Honduras



POPULATION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL PAN-AMERICAN SOCIAL MARKETING ORGANIZATION Washington, DC

Young people in Central America have relatively high levels of knowledge about teen pregnancy and the transmission of sexually-transmitted infections, but data have shown that this knowledge does not necessarily translate into behavior change. Recent surveys indicate that the average age of sexual debut here is 16, and more than 60% of sexually active young people do not use condoms regularly. Behaviors that increase risk of pregnancy and STIs are even more prevalent among youth of lower socio-economic status.

In 2001, the Pan American Social Marketing Organization (PASMO), a unit of Population Services International, recognized that targeted interpersonal communication and mass media activities were needed in order to raise awareness and provide social support for low-income young people to adopt and maintain risk-reducing behaviors. To address this need, PASMO launched a youth center in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, with support from The Summit Foundation and other donors. In 2004, PASMO expanded the project, called Club en Conexión, to León, Nicaragua, San Salvador, El Salvador, Guatemala City, Guatemala and San Pedro Sula, Honduras. A sixth center was opened in Ciudad Sandino, Nicaragua in 2005. Summit currently supports the centers in both Guatemala City and San Pedro Sula with grants of \$40,000 and \$45,000, respectively.

PASMO's Clubs en Conexión support Central American youth in resisting peer pressure to engage in sexual activity, and help them gain the knowledge and self-confidence they need to make independent decisions

about their health and personal development. They do this through training public school students to become peer educators, using a comprehensive curriculum about reproductive and sexual health. These peer educators then replicate Club activities at schools, community events and with peers in other youth-friendly settings. Board games, discussion groups, street fairs and the involvement of entertainment celebrities allow positive messages about healthy sexuality and reproductive health to reach even more youth. Internet cafés at the centers, as well as radio programs that address the questions and concerns of youth, are also valuable tools in ensuring that young people across the region have access to adequate and correct information about these issues.

Summit's support for the Clubs en Conexión in Guatemala City and San Pedro Sula enables PASMO to train more than 150 peer educators who, in turn, provide information to over 3000 low-income youth in their communities. Additionally, in Guatemala, where the public school system pays little attention to sexuality education, teachers schedule field trips to the PASMO Center for special classes on these issues, providing the PASMO staff and volunteers with opportunities to educate yet hundreds more young people.

Through these youth-focused clubs, PASMO is helping young people throughout Central America to acquire the skills they need to educate their own peers, showing them that even in countries where the needs are great and support is scarce, they can make a difference.

For more information: www.psi.org



Ensuring Youth Participation in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

WORLD POPULATION FOUNDATION

YOUACT

The Netherlands

The international community has long agreed that young people have a right to participate in programs and policies that affect them, but adequate implementation of this right is lacking throughout the world. Youth participation can improve the effectiveness of programs and policies concerning youth, as young people are a highly valuable resource for challenges facing their own age group. Including youth in decision-making and planning can increase the credibility of programs and help them to become more effective.

The European Youth Network on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, also known as YouAct, is a European-wide voluntary network of young leaders aged 18 to 28 which was created in 2004, in part with Summit support, to respond to the need for greater youth participation in the area of sexual and reproductive rights. YouAct works in close partnership with the Netherlands-based World Population Foundation.

Through training and collaboration, the network equips and empowers young people to stand up for their own rights, and for those of the more than one billion youth around the world. YouAct members engage in policy advocacy, awareness-raising and information sharing, working at the European and international levels to ensure that issues related to young people's sexual and reproductive health are effectively incorporated into laws, policies and programs of governments and non-governmental organizations alike. Because Europe has become the largest provider of international development assistance in the reproductive health area, YouAct's voice

helps to influence hundreds of millions of dollars worth of policies and programs throughout the developing world as well.

Summit's initial grant of \$20,500 has been leveraged to raise funds from several other sources, including the Council of Europe and the United Nations Population Fund, both of which recognize the importance of having skilled youth participation in regional and international forums. The Dutch government has also been a strong supporter of European youth participation for these reasons.

Pleased with their work thus far, Summit most recently provided YouAct with a grant of \$42,000. The 30 YouAct members from 20 European countries all contribute actively to the Network by conducting workshops, writing articles, participating in conferences and expert meetings on sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as working directly with policymakers at the national and international levels to raise awareness about the needs and rights of young people, and to improve programs that affect them. Their active and engaged roles in designing and implementing policies that affect youth enables them to fulfill a long sought-after agenda in the international arena, that of effective youth participation.

For more information: www.youact.org