



Dear Leaders and Youth Development Professionals,

We are excited you are interested in attending this year's Symposium in order to reflect upon and improve your practice, deepen your professional relationships and refresh and reinvigorate yourself as a dedicated practitioner.

Please know that the overall purpose of the Symposium is two-fold:

- (1) Provide a "wow" growing and learning experience for youth workers AND
- (2) Make it possible for youth workers to experience rest and renewal for a few days in the midst of a busy, challenging year.

If you are willing to learn, work and play with us...we can guarantee both. 😊

In addition to the information provided on the flyer, here are some more details you find useful as you consider the value proposition.

### **The Symposium attendees/presenters will be rich in expertise and experience:**

To date, a wide range of leaders and practitioners in the field are signed up to attend, including, but not limited to: School leaders, executive directors, CEO's, COO's, therapist, university directors and professors, Directors in child welfare, foster care, community-based agencies; academic advisors; child advocates; evaluators, consultants, state and country leaders.

### **Some of the expected participants include:**

**Jamie Johnson**, Indiana, USA Vice President of IN Afterschool Network

**Jody Rhodes**, Wisconsin, USA President, Association of Child and Youth Care Practitioners; Executive Director Neu-Life Community Development

**Erika Petrelli**, New York / Indiana, USA, SVP of Leadership Development at The Leadership Project

**Pam Clark**, MSW, LSW, CYC-P, Indiana, USA, Consultant and Trainer and former Director of The Bartholomew County Youth Services Center

**Dr. Carol Myers**, Arizona, USA, Life Coach and Consultant at Soulful Connections, national education facilitator and artist

**Frank Eckles**, Texas, USA, Executive Director of the Child & Youth Care Certification Institute and the Training Director at the Academy for Competent Youth Work

**Patrick Johnson**, Indiana, USA, Manager of Mission Initiatives for Ascension Health, the largest non-profit health system in the US

**Hermann Radler**, Austria, CEO Therapeutische Gemeinschaften Austria, President FICE Austria, President FICE International

**Dr. Jennifer Brooker**, Australia and New Zealand, Northern Island Coordinator, YMCA George Williams College, Ireland and recent author of *Youth Work Training in Historical and Contemporary Contexts: Developing a New Pre-Service Model for Australia*

**The Symposium will be rich in learning experiences:**

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Symposium on the Sea Agenda @ A glance (This Agenda Is NOT Actual)

	Wed 11/8 Arrive Playa Paraíso	Thu 11/9	Fri 11/10	Sat 11/11	Sun 11/12	Mon 11/13	Tue 11/14	Wed 11/15 Depart Playa Paraíso
Early Morning	Participants arrive to check- in and settle-in	Morning Inspire Sessions	Morning Inspire Sessions	Morning Inspire Sessions	Morning Inspire Sessions	Morning Inspire Sessions	Morning Inspire Sessions	OYO
Breakfast		OYO Peer / Topic Groups	OYO Peer / Topic Groups	OYO Peer / Topic Groups	OYO Peer / Topic Groups	OYO Peer / Topic Groups	OYO Peer / Topic Groups	OYO
9am-12pm		Symposium Immersion Session  [Group workshops and activities will last until bedtime]	Free / Special Sessions	Symposium Large Group Session	Free / Special Sessions	Youth Worker Site Visit / Peer Exchange in Quintana Roo	Free / Special Sessions	OYO
Lunch			OYO Peer / Topic Groups	OYO Peer / Topic Groups	OYO Peer / Topic Groups		OYO Peer / Topic Groups	OYO Peer / Topic Groups
1pm-4pm			Free / Special Sessions	Free / Special Sessions	Symposium Large Group Session	Free		
Pre-Dinner			OYO	OYO Peer / Topic Groups	OYO Peer / Topic Groups	OYO Peer / Topic Groups	OYO Peer / Topic Groups	OYO Peer / Topic Groups
Dinner			OYO	OYO	OYO	OYO	OYO	
Evening			Whole Group Networking Event	Whole Group Cultural Experience Celebration	Free	Free	Free	Whole Group Dinner and Celebration
Late Night			OYO	Midnight Wow! Session	Midnight Wow! Session	Midnight Wow! Session	Midnight Wow! session	

- **A 3-Session Experiential Retreat.** The core of the conference experience will include three whole-group sessions which will serve to help participants (a) reflect on their own personal and professional practice; (b) build more intimate relationships with professionals of all levels and from all sectors and (c) engage in conversations and activities that will help each of us better prepare improving our work in future work
- **Learning Sessions.** Participant / Leaders will convene sessions focused on matters of personal interest and professional expertise. Participants will be able to pick and choose “workshops” or sessions of interest
- **Local Mexican Study Tour.** Participants will participate in a local study program that will engage attendees in learning about youth work in Mexico and might include service learning opportunities locally

- **Social and networking activities**, in conjunction with resort activities, will be offered in order to strengthen the peer to peer community and develop longer-term relationships with new colleagues

The content of the Symposium will also be guided by the ACYCP Competencies for Professional Child and Youth Care Practitioners (ACYCP/CYCCB, 2010)

- ✓ Professionalism
- ✓ Cultural and Human Diversity
- ✓ Applied Human Development
- ✓ Relationship and Communication
- ✓ Developmental Practice Methods

**Note:** We are able to create such a valuable experience with such a low price point by relying on YOU to be both participants and contributors to our learning. Our conference schedule and content will continue to be shaped by WHO is attending and the expertise that we all are willing to share. Please consider being willing to lead and host sessions and fill out the RFP at our site to let us know your intentions.

### **The Symposium will be led by experienced facilitators:**

The 2017 Symposium will be shaped by all the experienced professionals who are attending. Everyone shares in the desire to have an experience that is about learning, fun, growing yourself and making new connections and will share in the ownership to co-create the best experience for 2017.

Again this year, the Symposium will be led by **Tom Plake, MSOD and Janet Wakefield, MA** who are likely best known for creating and leading, The Journey, an award-winning set of fellowship programs and learning experiences, which, for 15 years, have enabled youth-serving, non-profit executives in the state of Indiana to experience renewal, develop as leaders and connect to significance in their work.

**Tom** is also the President of Creative Edge, Inc. where he coaches leaders and their teams to higher levels of performance while developing creative edge strategies for professional and personal renewal. He has worked extensively as a speaker, coach and facilitator with: corporations, foundations, churches, universities, not-for-profits, state, local and federal government, associations, community organizations, and schools

**Janet** is an experienced facilitator, trainer and consultant working with community groups, schools, parent groups, faith-based groups and human service organizations. She has served organizations such as the Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth, Academy for Educational Development and the National Crime Prevention Council. She is also a co-author of widely used curricula such as *Youth As Trustees*, *Youth In Governance*, and *Youth As Philanthropists*. She is also the author of the children's book, *What If Everybody Gave?*

**The Symposium will build on the success of the previous event in 2015:**

This Wordle is a collection of words people used in their evaluation of the experience:



And here are a few quotes from participants:

*“The most significant part of this experience was unplugging from my daily work and spending time with me. I also loved being reminded of how lucky I am to have such great opportunities.”*

*“As a new professional, I think there is so much that I could learn from executive level youth workers. I want to make youth work a career and feel they could impart knowledge on how to do that.”*

*“It is informative without being tedious. The atmosphere encourages exchange of ideas and spreading knowledge. It’s a double whammy – self-care with training.”*

*“The networking opportunities during this symposium have been incredible. Learning from all different fields/types of youth work. The connections I’ve made are really going to be able to help me back home in my career as well.”*

*“It makes sense because of the connecting and reconnecting; idea sharing; and exploration and renewal (pushed me to do things I would not have done before). I feel more re-charged and ready to tackle tough work issues than ever before.”*

*“Get everyone out of their comfortable, easily accessible environment of office, home, etc. takes everyone away from distractions while in session (no cell phones or internet). Amazing opportunity to truly disconnect and be in a remote area.”*

*“This allows us to come together and experience different cultures of youth workers in the world. Professional development is self-care and the SOS encourages connection and renewal.”*

*“Develops new skills while improving known strengths.”*

*“Have experiences that were at their essence, an adventure in a foreign land/culture. It allowed us to learn in every place we visited and didn’t allow us to get too comfortable.”*

*“Brings all levels of youth workers and leaders together to make for a very rich learning opportunity.”*

*“As a supervisor this allowed for personal evaluation of my impact on the agency and allowed me to glean best practices from other supervisors.”*