

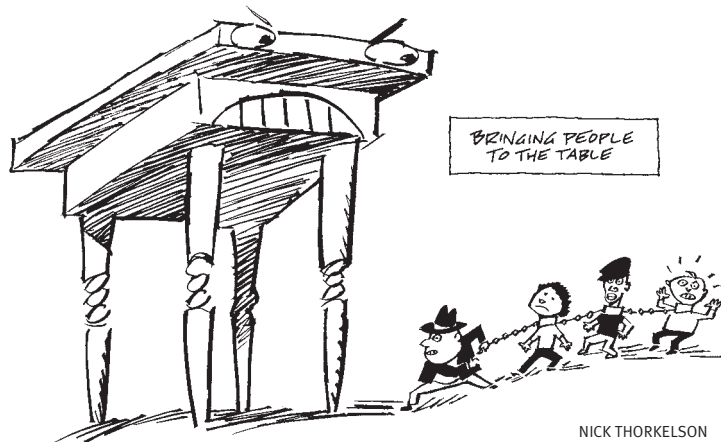
Moving Beyond Icebreakers

Moving Beyond Icebreakers: An Innovative Approach to Group Facilitation, Learning, and Action is at the printer!

Everyone who has ever participated in a boring or unproductive meeting or class – and isn't that all of us? – will welcome this landmark publication. The book describes clearly how to run classes and groups of all kinds that are energetic, creative, and productive. It contains more than 300 interactive exercises and explains how to use them within a format that brings everyone willingly to the table, working together to achieve the group's goals.

The *Moving Beyond Icebreakers* approach grew out of the methodology developed by TE executive director Stanley Pollack over a 30 year career. Initially Stanley began using interactive methods with youth groups in Somerville, MA. When he had the opportunity to try out his approach with adults, he discovered that it was just as powerful in those settings. With the founding of the Center for Teen Empowerment in 1992, Stanley began training TE staff to run interactive meetings, and soon staff were creating new exercises and thinking together about how to facilitate groups more effectively. TE's documentation coordinator, Mary Fusoni, put it all together to create a manual called *The Art of Group Facilitation*. Stella Downie, then TE's training coordinator (and now owner of Stellabella Toys in Cambridge), contributed greatly to this effort.

Though written for internal use, the manual gained word-of-mouth reputation, and TE ultimately sold more than 700 copies. A feasibility study conducted in 2002 determined that there is a market for an expanded version of the book, and a major revision got underway.



NICK THORKELSON

Moving Beyond Icebreakers is a splendid presentation of techniques that enhance group cohesiveness and productivity. Any agency or institution practicing the interactive group exercises outlined in this book will be enriched. I highly recommend it.

*Alvin F. Poussaint, MD
Professor of Psychiatry
Harvard Medical School and
Judge Baker Children's Center
Boston MA*

The new book shows TE's interactive methodology at work in meetings from boardrooms to community centers, and in the classroom. Who should buy this book?

- Those who do training, in social services, the corporate world, or any area
- Teachers, school administrators, and those who teach teachers
- People who run any kind of group, from a book club to a therapy session to a community organizing group.

To see excerpts from the book or to order it, go to our web site at

<http://www.teenempowerment.org/moving-beyond-icebreakers>.

20% EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT IF YOU ORDER BY JUNE 30TH

Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I hope you'll join us for TE's 2005 Celebration of Hope and Caring on Thursday, November 10. That evening, TE youth and staff will honor two of Boston's most respected leaders. See the announcement below for details. Like all TE events, this year's Celebration will showcase the leadership talents of young people, will be highly interactive, and will provide inspiration to all who attend. Watch for your invitation and please contact us to reserve your table or to inquire about sponsorship. If you would like to be a member of our planning committee, just let me know—I would be delighted to discuss this with you.

Thank you for your support and for being part of our efforts to build a powerful constituency on behalf of urban youth.

Sincerely,



Stanley Pollack, Executive Director

Mark your calendars

Teen Empowerment's Celebration of Hope and Caring Thursday, November 10, Park Plaza Hotel

Our distinguished honorees will be:

- Frieda Garcia, who worked diligently for Boston youth and adults for 20 years as the executive director of United South End Settlements, was the founding director of La Alianza Hispana, and has served on boards and commissions too numerous to list.
- The Honorable Byron Rushing, who has courageously and thoughtfully represented the people of his district at the State House and has spoken out for justice for all people.

Frieda and Byron provide powerful models to young people of what it means to live your life with a commitment to social justice. We are pleased that TE will have the opportunity to recognize their many achievements.

Celebration Co-chairs: Wayne Budd, Jacqui Budd, and Bishop Thomas Shaw

Thank You

Many thanks to Alice and Colby Andrus, Martha and Rainer Frost, Dennis and Joelle Maguire, Jose Rodriguez-Villalobos and Chris Lapan, Garden of Eden Café, and Wainwright Bank for hosting parties to benefit Teen Empowerment this winter, and thanks to all who attended and supported these events. Together the parties raised over \$30,000 to support TE's efforts to improve urban communities and schools. If you'd like to help TE share its message by hosting a brunch, dinner, cocktail reception, or coffee in your home for friends and colleagues, please contact Stephanie at 617-536-4266 x.304 or stephanie@teenempowerment.org.

Check out the new TE website at www.teenempowerment.org.

- Find out about TE staff, youth organizers, board members, and volunteer opportunities.
- Learn about our program sites and our consulting services.
- Make an online donation.
- Check in monthly for the group-building exercise of the month.

Highlights from the Sites:

Reaching thousands of youth and adults

Boston High School Programs

TE youth organizers at [Madison Park Technical Vocational High School](#) are taking on the difficult topics of suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, sexuality, and other health issues confronting the students. First, they developed an interactive classroom session to help students talk about these matters thoughtfully. Next they presented a health awareness assembly that drew youth into deep reflection by using role-plays, raps, poems, interactive exercises, speeches, and a speakout for audience members to raise their concerns. Faculty expressed satisfaction and surprise at the level of students' candor in describing how they felt about drugs, sexuality, and suicide.

At [English High School](#) TE's youth organizers set out to confront a level of disrespect and racism that was concerning to many in this school of 1,200 students from 120 different countries. They created a multimedia assembly presentation that involved students and faculty in thinking about the climate of conflict. Many teachers reported they had intense conversations with their classes after this assembly. TE continued this work within classrooms and sponsored a successful after-school Cultural Understanding Celebration and Ceremony on March 31st

Youth organizer Ibrahim Khonteh told students why his family fled their homeland of Sierra Leone: "The rebels were going to schools and homes and taking the kids and forcing them to fight as part of their army. I did not go to school because I was afraid the rebels would do this to me. But one day they came to my house. I hid under my bed and while I was hiding I heard them threaten to burn down my house and demand that my mother give them money." Then he spoke about life in Boston: "The people in my country had to fight for their lives and their dignity. What are we fighting for here at English High? It seems so meaningless to me. I hope those students who are doing this will think about what they are doing. All of us have a duty to protect dignity and respect for everyone."

At the [Economics and Business Academy in the Dorchester Education Complex](#), both students and administrators have enthusiastically praised the Speakouts organized by TE, in which groups of

students met with administrators to explore issues in the school. TE staff and youth are now working with faculty to respond to the suggestions gathered through this process about modifying security procedures, creating ways for students to give written feedback to teachers, and helping students and teachers work together to plan activities that encourage productive behavior.

Community Programs

TE's newest site opened this year in [Somerville, MA](#). Youth organizers set out to confront the problems of gang violence, drug abuse, and tension between youth and police, and they started by reorganizing the Somerville Youth Center. On December 10 they brought together over 150 young people, including members of rival groups, to attend the center's grand re-opening. In January, TE worked with the Somerville Youth Workers' Network, the Mayor's Office, and the Board of Aldermen to sponsor "Filling the Gaps," a citywide forum on youth issues and services.

The [South End/Lower Roxbury](#) site's youth organizers decided to work on gang violence, gentrification, police/youth relations, and problems encountered by young people returning to the community after being incarcerated. To address this complex array of issues, the group first organized a gathering for local teens to open a dialogue about gangs, violence, and territorialism. Then they held a series of meetings with youth, adults, and police who participate in the "Know Thy Neighbor'hood" organizing committee, which is planning a Community Safety Forum for June.

TE's site in [Rochester, NY](#) is focusing on its Youth-Police Unity Project. At the initial planning session, TE youth and staff and a representative of the Rochester Area Community Foundation (which funds the project) met with the chief and nine members of the command staff of the Rochester Police Department, and have held dialogue sessions with many police officers. Officer Sammie Drayton commented, "The meeting made me re-evaluate the way I police." TE youth Eric Glenn said, "Some people think cops are only here to mess with you, to put you in jail, but I have a different perspective now." Meanwhile, TE youth and staff are preparing intensively for their April 16th event, "Wizdom from the Streetz" Youth Speakout and Talent Showcase, which will highlight a spectrum of citywide youth issues.

13th Annual Youth Peace Conference

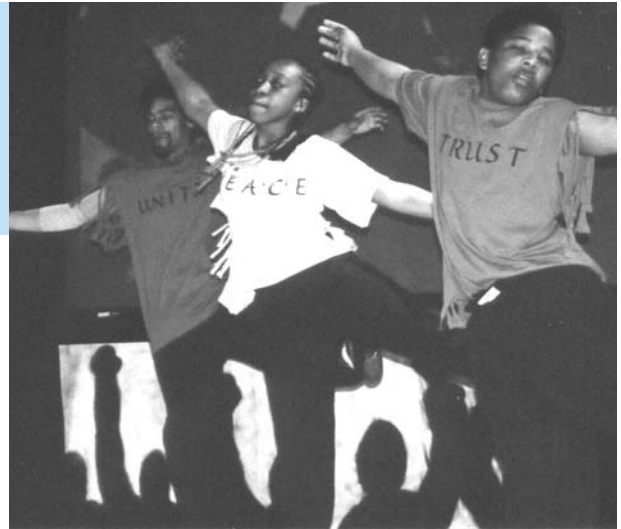
Street Life: Deeper than the Eyes Can See

Spotlighting the lives of urban youth: their local and global concerns and their struggles with diversity, safety, education, and immigration. Come to listen, be entertained, and participate. **All are welcome—adults and youth.**

Saturday, May 14, 2005
John Hancock Hall,
180 Berkeley Street, Boston
Tickets \$3
Don't miss it!

To volunteer your help with registration or other needs, please call Stephanie at 617-536-4266, ext 304.

For tickets call 617-536-4266, ext. 307, or email mary@teenempowerment.org.



MERRILL SHEA

Jeremy Harrison, Jerrica Pompilus, and Samuel Depina at the 2004 Youth Peace Conference

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|---|
| 11:30-1:00 | Registration light lunch | Come early for good seats. |
| 1:00-2:30 | Show | Urban youth explore important issues through theater, dance, rap, song, and video |
| 2:45-5:30 | Action Fair | Opportunities for creative expression, civic engagement, and making connections |

Thanks to our sponsors: Putnam Investments, Target Stores, and The Boston Globe.

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To indicate that you would like to direct your gift to Teen Empowerment, just enter our organization number on your United Way pledge card:

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