

# DAILY NEWS

*The long view*

*The after-school program Global Kids expands the horizons of students from disadvantaged backgrounds*

**BY CHRISTOPHER PACETTA**  
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A large group of city teens was recently exposed to HIV, unsafe drinking water and rampant obesity, and the experience enriched their lives.

After months of research and preparation, high-school students from the Global Kids program are ready to share their knowledge of infectious diseases and other worldwide social and environmental ills. They'll make their presentations in New York tomorrow at the 2005 Global Kids Youth Conference to Address Global Health.

As part of the Global Kids organization, which provides in-class and after-school programs designed to educate youth about critical international and domestic issues, students from disadvantaged backgrounds are given a chance to broaden their perspectives beyond their own street corners. Participants also have the opportunity to work on large-scale projects such as the annual Youth Conference.

This year's symposium (which will bring together 600 city students and teachers) will focus on global health. It will feature special guest speakers, as well as interactive workshops directed by the students on topics ranging from tobacco addiction and infectious diseases to violence against women and access to health care.

"We want the kids to know that they have not only a right but a responsibility to be informed about these issues," said Carole Artigiani, executive director and founder of Global Kids. "It's not just an elite thing, but an everyone thing."

Here are what some of the participants had to say about the Global Kids program and the upcoming conference.

**Name: Yannique Hall**

**Age: 16**

**From: Brooklyn**

**School: High School for Environmental Studies, Manhattan**  
**First year with Global Kids**

"I'm usually a shy person, but Global Kids has really gotten me to open up. Even though we get into some really hot debates, no one ever criticizes you for your opinion. I'm doing a workshop on access to clean drinking water. I was surprised to learn that people around the world die from things like diarrhea because of the lack of clean drinking water. We take it for granted that we can just take some pills and everything will be okay."

**Name: DeVonna Cayson**

**Age: 18**

**From: Harlem**

**School: Beacon School, Manhattan**

**Third year with Global Kids**

"We did an activity where we ate all of this chocolate and then wrote down all the holidays and feelings we relate with it. Then they handed out a letter from a little boy in Africa who's 9 and has worked on a cocoa plantation since he was 5 and makes way below minimum wage. It made us realize what goes on in the world.

I've learned about how many countries have to really fight to get global aid, not just developing countries like Laos and Papa New Guinea, but also big countries like Italy, which is having problems with HIV. It makes you see that a lot of countries are in the same boat, but because of their size and status, it's sometimes hard to tell."

**Name: Randy Lunique**

**Age: 18**

**From: Brooklyn**

**School: Canarsie High School, Brooklyn**

**Third year with Global Kids**

"I love the way they get everyone involved. After starting in the leadership program, I ended up getting into different things, like the Newz Crew (an online forum run by Global Kids to discuss domestic and worldwide issues). I really want to see where this will take me.

I'm doing a workshop on infectious diseases. I didn't know much about diseases around the world, but after doing the research, I was surprised to hear that even polio still existed. I was also surprised that in parts of the world, hepatitis B is more deadly than HIV. It makes you realize that the world isn't a perfect place."

**Name: Estephanie Cadle**

**Age: 19**

**From: Manhattan, born in the Philippines**

**School: Beacon School, Manhattan**  
**Third year with Global Kids**

"Global Kids is about youth empowerment, it gives teen-agers the confidence that they can make a difference in the world. One thing that I really learned about was the huge gap between the rich nations and the poor nations. There's no perfect way to solve this, but a good way to start is to get the information out about it."

**Name: Kareem Simon**

**Age: 17**

**From: Brooklyn**

**School: Canarsie High School, Brooklyn**

**Third year with Global Kids**

"With Global Kids, I got to travel to Norway, Northern Ireland and London on the Peace Boat (a Japanese cruise ship that travels the world with international students), which was great, going out and seeing the world. I'm doing a workshop on obesity around the world. It really opened my eyes. The U.K. has the highest obesity rate, which shocked a lot of people because they figured it'd be the U.S. It's an epidemic, but it's preventable. You just have to watch what you eat."

- The 2005 Global Kids Youth Conference to Address Global Health, Tomorrow, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. New School University, Tishman Auditorium 66 W. 12th St., Manhattan.

For more information about Global Kids and the conference, call (212) 226-0130 or visit <http://www.globalkids.org/>

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