Rogers Park
Young Women’s Action Team
Annual Report
2007-2008
ROGERS PARK YOUNG WOMEN’S ACTION TEAM (YWAT) strives daily to end violence against women and girls. YWAT came together in 2003 to respond to the problem of street harassment in Rogers Park. The core team of middle and high-school aged young women is determined to hold the community accountable for violence against women and girls. YWAT first took action against street harassment and then teen dating violence by conducting in-depth community-based research projects. These studies were published as reports that are used to raise awareness among community members and elected officials. In 2004, the YWAT forced broader attention to the issue of street harassment through its RESPECT campaign. The team cooperated with over 125 local businesses and other public spaces to blanket the community with signs demanding an end to street harassment.

YWAT heightens visibility of often hidden or ignored issues of violence against women and girls through on-going community education workshops. YWAT members directly train both peers and adult allies. Over the past five years, YWAT has conducted over 65 presentations and workshops across the country. The team also invests in the future by hosting a monthly (January-June) Girls’ Leadership University program for young women on the last Saturday of the month.

YWAT officially gained Mayor Daley’s support in 2005, when he issued a Proclamation declaring the week of October 17th “Teen Dating Violence Awareness Week in Chicago.” YWAT directly addressed the prevention of teen dating violence with students at twelve Chicago Public High Schools that week, including Sullivan High School. The issue of teen dating violence continues to affect young people’s lives. As such, in February 2007, YWAT hosted over 125 youth and adults at a youth-led conference called “Love is NOT Blind.” Workshops were presented by youth from Lane Tech, Females United for Action, YWAT and its male allies, Aqua Moon and the Young Women’s Empowerment Project.

YWAT recognizes that all community members – including young men – are responsible for confronting violence against women and girls. On May 4th 2006, YWAT organized men and women (young and old) around its mission in the first citywide Day of Action against Street Harassment. The core team hosted a highly visible march in Rogers Park emphasizing that “the streets belong to all of us” and YWAT also supported and catalyzed other local actions by groups throughout the city. In all, YWAT documented over 140 individual and collective actions on the first Day of Action. Some of these actions were captured on film and in a zine that was created by YWAT members.

In June 2006, the YWAT launched its “Engaging Young Men as Allies Project” by producing a documentary called “Real Talk: Engaging Young Men as Allies,” which highlights interviews of young and older men about their attitudes and experiences regarding gender violence. The Engaging Young Men as Allies Project is ongoing & includes survey research, a discussion guide that accompanies the film, a workshop created with the help of YWAT’s male allies, and a train the trainer program.

In the following pages, you will learn more about YWAT’s work over the past fiscal year (July 2007-June 2008). Team members invite you to visit their website – www.youngwomensactionteam.org for more information.
There are many highlights to share about YWAT's work over the past year. We were honored by the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention at their October 2nd annual conference as a 2007 Peace Leader. This award recognizes YWAT's continued commitment to addressing issues of violence. YWAT director, Daphnee Rene, accepted the award on behalf of the whole group. We are incredibly proud of all that we have been able to accomplish this fiscal year in the midst of dealing with a large influx of new members who need intensive training and our full attention. As you will read in the following pages, YWAT continues to reach out while developing a new cadre of capable and dynamic young women leaders.
An update on YWAT's Membership:
The first six months of the fiscal year were ones of transition for our membership. Five of our seven core members transitioned to college and other post-secondary opportunities. We had been preparing for this leadership transition for the past two years. As such, last year we added four associate members to YWAT. This fall, we added fourteen new associate members. As such, YWAT currently has seventeen (17) associate members.

Associate members are young women between the ages of 11 to 16 who are mostly new to activism. We consider them to be emerging young leaders. We have mostly recruited associate members through our Girl’s Leadership Camp. Young women who are interested in joining the YWAT are invited to be interviewed by members of our leadership core. The core then decides who to invite as associate members.

Since September 2007, associate members have participated in weekly workshops about a variety of substantive topics including: teen dating violence, sexual assault, street harassment, sexism, homophobia, general anti-oppression training and understanding HIV. Starting in March 2008, associate members participated in a peer counseling training developed by adult ally, Jane Ball. They have also been taking part in our Girl Leadership U program which has been designed to impart specific skills to these emerging leaders (including advocacy, public speaking, and facilitation).
Action Research Project 2007 - The Impact of Stress in Young Women's Lives

YWAT members play lead roles in identifying information that could serve to change or initiate a program, community initiative, organizing campaign, or policy that affects them and their peers. They then frame the questions, design and use methods to collect data, analyze the information, make recommendations, and work with others to follow through to action. Youth-led participatory action research represents a profound political and social statement about making research relevant, empowering, and capable of effecting significant changes to policy and communities. Over the past four and a half years, YWAT has undertaken four youth-led action research projects. Topics have included: street harassment, teen dating violence, and involving young men as allies in the anti-violence against women's movement. Each of these projects culminated in the creation of research reports as well as in some form of community action (ranging from public awareness campaigns, community marches, lobbying elected officials for improved lighting, conferences, producing films, etc...).

The most recent youth-led research was undertaken starting in January 2007 by YWAT's four new associate members. These young women wanted to make their own contribution to the group and decided to tackle an issue that is related to violence - and that is STRESS. They thought that many teen girls were dealing with a lot stress in their lives; they hypothesized that the young women were feeling pressure because of school, their families, money problems, friends, and sometimes even their neighborhoods. They decided to conduct a study on this topic and were able to receive some training on youth-led research methods from the Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL) at Loyola University and the University of Michigan. The young women spent two days in January 2007 learning all about the methods and uses of research. They then spent the next few months creating and administering a survey and also hosted a focus group with eight young women. They analyzed their data and created a report during the summer of 2007 (see our website for a copy of their report).

Applying their Research to Action – Back to School Self-Care Spa Day

A major aspect of every research project that YWAT undertakes is that it is accompanied by an “action” component. The new associate members decided to sponsor a Back to School Spa & Self-Care Day for young women (ages 12-19) from the Rogers Park community. The associate members wrote letters to solicit donations from local businesses, they created a flyer for the event, publicized it across the community, invited volunteers to offer classes and to provide services such as manicures, pedicures, and massages. On Saturday September 15, over fifty young women from the community participated in the YWAT sponsored self-care day. Many young women approached YWAT members to thank them for organizing the event. They commented on the fact that they had never been pampered and that they felt less stressed. While debriefing the planning of this event, the associate members outlined the things that they would improve if they were to organize such an event in the future. Overall, however, each young woman felt proud of how well the event proceeded and of her own level of effort in making the spa day successful. Associate members mentioned that they learned a lot about how to communicate with others through the planning process. One young woman commented on the anxiety that she felt prior to the event: “I didn’t think anyone would show up. I was so happy though that after all of our hard work so many girls did come.”
Back to School Self-Care Spa Day
2007
Peer Counseling

Leadership core member Ronnett Lockett and adult ally Jane Ball developed a seven-session curriculum that trained eight members of YWAT to become peer counselors. Jane Ball is a masters-level social work student at UIC and also runs anti-violence education programs at Life Span. She has been a volunteer with YWAT for over four years, and a counselor for Children and Teens for over 3 years. Ronnett Lockett is a founding member of YWAT who helped establish the group when she was only a freshman in high school. She has just completed her freshman year at Roosevelt University and is majoring in sociology.

Eight members of YWAT participated in the peer counseling training which began March 22nd and ended on May 24th. The trainings took place on Saturdays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and participating members were required to attend all sessions. Jane and Ronnett designed the training so that a variety of issues important to the development of positive peer counselors were addressed. Counselors with varying levels of experience and diverse backgrounds were invited in from the community to share with YWAT, and assist them in this learning process. Several key topics covered over the course of the seven-week training session included: confidentiality, girl to girl violence, friendships and gossip, sexual health, sexual assault, family issues, cultural sensitivity, stereotypes and advice giving, active listening, and suicide prevention.
Our Latest Work to End Street Harassment: A Children’s Book

The Young Women’s Action Team is very well known for its activism centered on Street Harassment. We have held community forums, marched against street harassment, successfully demanded better street lights, and presented dozens of workshops to young women not only in community organizations but also in schools. This year our members decided to create a children’s book to educate young girls on the issue.

Over the past six months (February-June 2008), YWAT associate members have worked with Daria Amerik, a professional artist, to illustrate the book. While the stories and characters are fictional, the girls worked together to share stories of their own personal experiences with street harassment in their community. We hope that the book will be successful in teaching young women (ages 8 to 11) that street harassment is wrong and that they in fact can take a stand to end it.
**Activism and Organizing Opportunity - FCC Hearing**
YWAT associate members supported members of Females United for Action by attending a national FCC Hearing that took place in Chicago on September 20th 2007. Some members of YWAT had attended a media justice workshop offered by FUFA on August 14th and decided as a result to take part in the hearing. Sixteen YWAT members attended the FCC hearing where they were able to hear FUFA members and others express their views on the media and on how they would like to see it change for the better.

**LEADERSHIP CORE ACTIVITIES**

Leadership core members Lillian Matanmi, Ronnett Lockett and YWAT director Daphnee Rene have been coordinating several YWAT-sponsored initiatives over the past few months. The following are the key projects.

![Photo of three young women]

**Engaging Young Men as Allies to End Violence**
Leadership core member, Lillian Matanmi spent the summer and fall working with male allies Ed Mills and Toussaint Losier to plan and implement a two-day workshop for young men who were interested in taking action to end violence against women and girls. This “train the trainer” session took place on November 2 and 3rd at the Chicago Youth Hostel. Thirty-five young men ages 14-23 applied to participate in the workshop which included a healing circle, a workshop about how to deconstruct media images, information about how to define violence against women, and ideas for how they can become effective allies to end violence. Unfortunately, YWAT was only able to accommodate twenty-two young men for this training. In the end, a group of fifteen (15) young men actually participated in the training. The workshop was co-facilitated by Ed Mills and Toussaint Losier (both black men in their mid-twenties) who have been allies to YWAT. During November 2 and 3, Lillian participated in some aspects of the workshops and provided logistical support. In planning the workshop itself, she contributed greatly to developing its agenda and content. On October 13th, she also promoted the workshop by appearing on a radio show on WVON called the MPR report to discuss the workshop and the overall “Engaging Young Men as Allies” campaign.
Reviews of the workshop were excellent. At the end of the workshop, the young men decided that they wanted to continue to meet together on a regular basis. Ed Mills agreed to help facilitate their ongoing conversations. YWAT has decided to incubate this “Male Ally Network (M.A.N.).” by providing funds to cover Ed’s time and to offer food at their meetings. YWAT is committed to supporting these young men who are interested in furthering their training and activism. Once they are more established, Daphnee and Lillian have offered to help them identify other funding sources.
Talking about Misogyny was a conference organized by the Rogers Park Young Women’s Action Team on Saturday February 9th 2008 from 10:30 to 5:00 p.m. as part of our larger effort to engage young men as allies to end violence against women and girls. Over 125 young men ages 12 to 35 attended this event. YWAT was thrilled to partner with Depaul University’s Women and Gender Studies Program to sponsor this conference. In addition, we were pleased to work with members of our brother organization the Male Ally Network (M.A.N.) and with Men against Sexual Violence at UIC to create a successful event.

The conference workshops were only open to people who identified as young men (this obviously includes trans men). The conference also included a screening and discussion of Beyond Beats and Rhymes facilitated by members of M.A.N. The screening was co-ed.

The following workshops were offered:

**Workshops [AM - 10:30 to Noon]**

Workshop #1 -- I Use to Love Her: Understanding the Relationship between Hip Hop & Misogyny -- Presenters: Men against Violence

Does Hip Hop promote violence against women and girls? This workshop will explore the current state of Hip Hop music in the context of its history and the projection of the urban male image. Part presentation, part discussion, and part call to action, this workshop is guaranteed to evoke a response from everyone from rap music detractors to the most ardent Hip Hop heads. Please join us for this complex discussion with an open-mind, unrelenting voice, and desire to make change.
Workshop #2 - **Developing Healthy Dating Relationships** – Robert Hyde, Between Friends

This interactive workshop will take a look at teen relationship violence. It will highlight healthy vs. unhealthy partner interaction. Participants will learn about the dynamics of abuse and learn about how to support survivors of violence.

Workshop #3 - **Healing from Violence** - Troy Harden, Chicago State University

This experiential and action-oriented workshop invites participants to understand the impact of violence in our society and addresses steps to heal ourselves, our communities, and our world. Participants will explore how to identify and develop a liberating masculinity free from violence that does not confine young men to stereotypical roles and yet encourages young men to be authentic and true to themselves. The workshop will also explore the concept of being a “wounded healer” who can help others heal from violence.

Workshop #4 - **Building Bridges to Manhood** – Claude Robinson, Uhlich Children’s Advantage Network

This workshop will introduce and delineate practical stages of manhood development. This workshop will challenge participants to walk the path toward manhood. The presenter will approach this topic from the lens of social learning theory and economics. Participants will be engaged in discussions around power, love and violence. This workshop will look at violence reduction through self-respect and forgiveness.
Workshop #5 - **Making Peace with Our Fathers, Learning to be a Man without a Father Figure** - Keith Lewis, Circle Vision Inc and Philip Merchant.

In today’s society, many boys and young men grow up without a father figure. How do these young men learn to be a man? How do boys learn to treat women? This workshop will explore the effects of growing up without a father figure and how this impacts relationships with young women. Through open discussion and interactive activities, we will discuss how to make peace with your father and have positive interactions with young women. Please join us for a candid dialogue on growing from boys to men when a man may not be present.

**Workshops [PM - 2:45 to 4:15 p.m.]**


Our society raises men to be dominant, controlling, and emotionally detached. How do men manage to wrestle with the realities of sexism, misogyny, and hetero-supremacy? Three former presidents of the Men against Violence chapter at Texas State University- San Marcos share their stories through monologues, spoken word, and startling statistics on the impact of violence in defining manhood. This workshop will explore their personal journeys from being part of the problem to becoming part of the solution. Please join us for frank discussions on unlearning abuse, violence, and misogyny.

Workshop #2 - **Love Queers, Not Bombs!** - Tony Alvarado-Rivera, Broadway Youth Center

It is 2007. We are in a war. People are dying. Billions of dollars are being spent. Our government is lying to us...and they want us to believe violence and fear are the answer. Come learn how ignorance and fear and violence have been strategically adopted and used by systems and institutions - perpetuating a cycle of violence and oppression. This interactive, thought provoking, and real workshop will fight to break through ignorance and dismantle the hate that is homophobia and transphobia.

Workshop #3 - **Using Arts and Hip-Hop Activism to Combat Violence against Women and Girls** - Justin Grey, Alternatives Inc.

This workshop will implement Creative Art components to help provide young men and adult allies with tools for the freedom of expression. This workshop will include time for group discussions, interactive art activities, short video screenings, physical activities, and some writing exercises. These activities will help encourage young men to be engaged, participate creatively, and to think critically. There will be a lot of team work, and space for their voices, so that with support, the group of boys can work together to help decide what’s important in building positive relationships with the women in their lives.
Workshop #4 - **Sexual Assault 101** - Jesse Pierce, ICASA

This interactive workshop invites participants to discuss the prevalence, dynamics and impact of sexual assault. A women’s history quiz will open the session, with discussion following on rape culture and commonly held myths surrounding sexual assault (and how to debunk them). In addition, participants will learn strategies to support survivors and list ways to challenge sexism and end men’s violence against women.

Workshop #5 - **The Sex and Money Workshop: Sex Trade 101** - Isa Villaflor, Dominique McKinney & Amber Kutka, Young Women’s Empowerment Project

This is a training developed especially for boys and young men to think about sex and money. What is the sex trade? How can young men and boys be allies to girls who might be involved in trading sex for money? Why is it important for young men and boys to have our backs and be our brothers in our struggle? This training will answer these questions and give young men a space to talk about how sex and money impact us all.
Searching for Kim Jones/Finding Ourselves

Several young women applied to become YWAT associate members this summer. YWAT was only able to accommodate 14 new members this year. As such, we had to turn away a significant group of girls. Our adult ally, Mariame Kaba, volunteered to develop a project that could incorporate some of the young women who were not invited to join as associate members. She developed a project called Searching for Kim Jones and has partnered with Dr. Francesca Royster to implement this youth-adult participatory research project. The following is how the project was described to prospective participants:

“The goal of this project is to create knowledge about the contemporary lives of young Black women and to spread it (with the purpose of affecting positive change for our communities). You will be taking part in an initial seven-week workshop where we will talk about a lot of issues related to Black women and girls’ lives (body image, beauty, history, hip hop, and many other things). We will read interesting texts and watch certain videos. You will also learn about how to conduct interviews with other young women so that we can all learn about their ideas and thoughts about issues that you care about.”

After the initial seven week workshop which took place from October 16-November 27 (5 to 7:30 p.m.), participants will conduct interviews and then get back together in February/March 2008 to discuss and analyze their findings. Ultimately, participants have decided that they would like to turn the interviews into a performance piece. What is unique about this project is that participants include girls and women ranging in age from 11 to 40 years old. It also includes several African American female students from Depaul University as well as Daphnee and Lillian. There are eleven (11) participants in the group (excluding Mariame and Francesca).
Using Hip Hop to Empower Young Women - Dr. Carla Stokes

As a complement to the Searching for Kim Jones project, YWAT invited Dr. Carla Stokes to conduct workshops for adult allies and also for young women about how to use hip hop to empower girls. On Friday October 26th, nearly fifty adult allies attended a workshop designed to help them incorporate hip hop in their work with young men. On Saturday October 27th, over thirty young women attended a workshop for youth about the connection between hip hop and the sex trade co-led by Carla Stokes and members of the Young Women’s Empowerment Project.
**Santa’s Sistahs**

One of the hallmarks of YWAT is servant-leadership. On December 14th, 2007, several YWAT members planned and hosted a holiday party for over thirty children at Little People Day Care in Rogers Park. YWAT members collected holiday gifts and decorated the center. Party participants played games and ate pizza all afternoon. A good time was had by all. This was the second annual Santa’s Sistahs community service project.

**Getting Played: Violence against Urban African-American Girls**

A Conversation with Dr. Jody Miller

How do we strive to understand the impact of violence against young Black women?

What are some of the successful strategies that are being implemented to address issues of violence against young Black women?

What are the prospects for ending violence against young Black women?

On May 1st, YWAT hosted a discussion on violence against Urban African American girls, led by Dr. Jody Miller, an associate professor of criminology & criminal justice at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She is the author of One of the Guys: Girls, Gangs and Gender (Oxford University Press, 2001) as well as the recently published Getting Played: African American Girls, Urban Inequality, and Gendered Violence (New York University Press, 2008. Dr. Miller has also written several articles and is a sought after speaker. At this event, YWAT collected donations to benefit the Young Women’s Empowerment project. This event was co-sponsored by Women & Girls Collective Action Network. Special thanks to the Mayor’s Office on Domestic Violence who provided space for this event.
On Friday January 18 2008, over forty people gathered to celebrate the release of the anthology “Shout Out: Women of Color Respond to Violence (Seal Press)” at Women and Children First. This anthology addresses a range of injustices that women everywhere are sustaining in their daily lives: physical abuse, murder, rape, poverty, and psychological terror. It also speaks to the strategies that women use to resist this oppression and violence.

At the event, participants were invited to share original and favorite poetry that addressed violence against women and girls. YWAT core leaders, Ronnett and Lillian opened the event by reading the poem “Who’s afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf in the HOOD.” This was YWAT’s contribution to the anthology. The spoken word piece was written in 2004 by some of the original members of the group. Several current members of YWAT also shared poems during the evening. The event was moving and inspirational.
A leader is an individual who works with others to develop and use power in order to incite positive change in a given situation. The Rogers Park Young Women’s Action Team (YWAT) recognizes different forms of leadership (constructive and negative) – ranging from a sense of self-empowerment to an ability to take charge. We value leadership from an individual, personal act to a collective, public action.

On the last Saturday of every month from January to June 2008, YWAT ran a project called Girl Leadership University (GLU). GLU was designed to guide young women through a process to help them understand the importance of building a specific set of skills that can be applied to taking action and making change. GLU provided young women with the opportunity to analyze and explore the nature of leadership as well as to gain more self-awareness.

GLU is a project for emerging young women leaders (like YWAT’s associate members) who are relatively new to activism and organizing. Young women from across Chicago who are interested in increasing their capacity for personal and social development through training workshops, group discussions and introspective work were invited to apply to Girl U. In addition, YWAT associate members also participated in this training. All Girl U participants must commit to attending a minimum of four sessions. Girls ages 12-19 were the target age group. Over twenty-five young women regularly attended GLU workshops (including 10 young women who were not members of YWAT).

GLU was coordinated and co-facilitated by members of the YWAT’s leadership core and YWAT’s Director, Daphnee Rene with adult support. Instructors were women who are had expertise and some experience working with young people.

**GLU Objectives**

For participants (including YWAT associate members)
1. Build self-awareness and confidence
2. Deepen their understanding of the nature of leadership
3. Develop participants’ leadership skills, including public speaking, advocacy, and organizing
4. Provide young women with a meaningful opportunity to connect and network with other emerging leaders
5. Increase participants’ critical thinking and analysis
The following workshop sessions were offered as part of GLU:

Session 1 (January 26) – Self-Awareness (Identity) – Simone Peer, instructor
Creating a personal mission statement and identifying your gifts and strengths

Session 2 (February 23) – Self-Awareness (Values – What do you believe in?) – Simone Peer, instructor
This workshop was designed to help young women identify their core values and the social issues that they care about. These were then connected to their personal mission statements.

Session 3 (March 29) – Developing Voice/Communicating Your Ideas -- Nicole Cabell-Pope, instructor
Public Speaking 101/ Communicating Your Ideas

Session 4 (April 26) – Developing Voice/Communicating Your Ideas (part 2) – Nicole Cabell-Pope, instructor

Session 5 (May 31) – Advocacy 101 – Tracy Fischman, instructor
Lobbying, talking to your elected officials, how to get in contact with people in power

Session 6 – FINAL RETREAT [Friday June 27th to Sunday June 29th]
• Facilitating A Meeting – Mariame Kaba, instructor
Talking about what was learned and identifying what they still want to know. This was an overnight opportunity for all participants to reflect on their experiences and begin to conceive of a project that they want to develop.

YWAT contracted with the Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL) at Loyola University to evaluate this program. Results of that evaluation will be available in October 2008.
Research Project: Sexual Assault and Harassment on the CTA

Beginning in January 2008, YWAT associate members worked hard to create a survey to collect information about the prevalence of sexual harassment and violence on the CTA. Members are also investigating the adequacy and effectiveness of current systems for reporting such crimes. Surveys were distributed via e-mail and hard copy on May 20th 2008. YWAT will release the results of its study in the fall of 2008. Members plan to meet with CTA administrators to discuss these findings as well as to make recommendations for how to improve safety on public transportation. The young women will be guided by their findings in deciding what other actions and organizing will take place. Keep your eyes and ears open for information about the release of this important study!

On May 22nd YWAT launched the CTA project at a speak out event organized by both the leadership core and associate members of YWAT. The event, held at Loyola University was attended by many people interested in learning more about the research project. YWAT members found that those who attended the event shared in their own experiences of sexual harassment on the CTA. Though the stories were sad and often terrifying, YWAT learned that they are not alone in their experiences of harassment and feel energized and excited about continuing with the project.
Workshops & Presentations by YWAT

On **July 10th, 2007**, YWAT director Daphnee Rene and leadership core member Lillian Matanmi presented a teen dating violence 101 workshop to participants of Camp Impact (a summer program sponsored by the Rogers Park Community Council). They talked about the warning signs of abusive relationships, how to safely leave the abuser, and how to help a friend who is in this situation. The workshop was presented to fifteen (15) participants ages 13 to 15.

On **August 14th, 2007**, Daphnee and Lillian presented a workshop to participants of Girls Rock! summer camp program. The topic was “how to use art to take action and to create change.” Daphnee and Lillian shared concrete examples of how YWAT has used art in its past campaigns and projects. The YWAT Day of Action Against Street Harassment DVD served as a great visual example. Workshop participants were asked to create a visual public service announcement about an issue that they cared about or to simply write a poem about the issue. This workshop was presented to 35 participants ages 10-14.

On **August 25, 2007**, YWAT presented the same art and social change workshop at Otro Camp (an alternative youth activism mini camp) organized by Centro Romero. Thirty five (35) individuals participated in that workshop and were fully engaged. Participants talked about issues ranging from police brutality to domestic violence. The goal of the workshop was to teach group members how to effectively communicate one view and idea in a visual form.

On **October 21, 2007**, YWAT participated on a panel organized by Between Friends to discuss teen relationship abuse and what could be done to address the issue. The panel took place at Fourth Presbyterian Church and 35-40 people attended the event.

On **November 30, 2007**, YWAT director, Daphnee Rene, represented the organization on a panel to address youth organizing for students of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest - Urban Studies Program. There were 40 students in attendance.

On **December 1, 2007**, YWAT presented a workshop about the lessons that we’ve learned in implementing our “Engaging Young Men as Allies” project over the past year and a half. This presentation took place as part of a conference called Paving New Roads. This workshop was presented to 40 participants.

On **December 8, 2007**, YWAT presented a workshop about healthy relationships to a group of 12 young women from the Brown Eyed Girl NFP organization. This organization works with foster children.

On **January 18th, 2008**, YWAT alumni Jonnae Taylor presented a Teen Dating Violence 101 workshop to the 1st Annual Live For Something or Die for Nothing Conference. The workshop took place at Northeastern Illinois University and approximately 50 young people were in attendance.
On Monday February 18th, YWAT Leadership Core Member, Lillian Matanmi presented a Street Harassment workshop to approximately 30 young women from Bowen Orr, and Clemente High School. The workshop took place at the Little Village High School.

On Friday March 7th, YWAT director Daphnee Rene talked to a group of 10 young women from Francis W. Parker school about the Young Women Action Team’s process of researching, launching campaigns, and taking action on issues of violence against women and girls.

On Friday March 28th, YWAT director Daphnee Rene, represented the organization on a panel addressing youth organizing for students of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest — Urban Studies Program. There were 26 students in attendance.

On Friday April 11th, YWAT leadership core members Ronnett Lockett and Lillian Matamni presented two Teen Dating Violence 101 workshops to 75 youth at Walter Payton College Prep. This was part of a day-long anti-violence conference sponsored by the Mikva Challenge.

On Wednesday April 16th, YWAT members Ronnett Lockett and Jonnae Taylor presented three Street Harassment 101 workshops to 50 young women at North Lawndale College Prep.

On Tuesday April 24th, YWAT director Daphnee Rene and core member Lillian Matamni presented two Healthy Relationships 101 workshops to 40 young women at Thurgood Marshall Middle School.

On Tuesday May 20th, YWAT core members Ronnett Lockett and Daphnee Rene presented two Healthy Relationship 101 workshops to 80 young women and men at Thurgood Marshall Middle School.

On Saturday May 31st, YWAT core members and alumni facilitated small group discussions for 30 young women after a performance of the play “The Shallow End” at the Chicago Cultural Center.

**SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

YWAT co-sponsored and co-organized a two-day event called “Turning Ideas into Action” on March 15th & April 19th 2008. This event was focused on providing information about fundraising, mission statement writing, and board development to young people ages 14-29. Other co-organizers included the Chicago Freedom School, Women & Girls Collective Action Network, Young Non-Profit Professionals Network, and Axelson Center for Non-Profit Management at North Park University.

YWAT co-sponsored a youth-led Reproductive Justice speakout which was organized by the Young Women’s Empowerment Project on April 18th 2008.
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