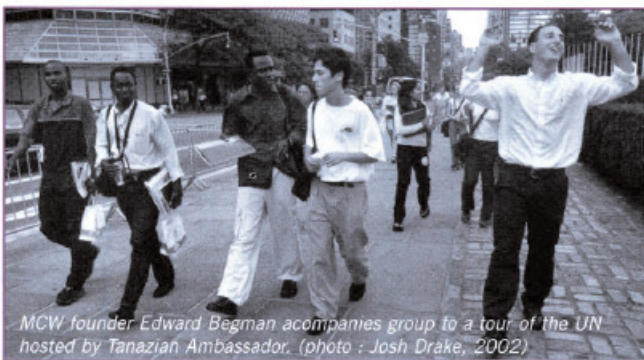


service matters

A PUBLICATION OF NYU'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

SCPS and Miracle Corners of the World Sponsor Third Annual Youth Leadership Retreat at NYU

For a week in July, New York University served as home base for fifty visiting young people from around the world who came to participate in the third annual Youth Leadership Retreat sponsored by Miracle Corners of the World and NYU's School of Continuing and Professional Studies. The students, who ranged from fourteen to twenty-one years of age, came from as far away as Australia and Mozambique, and as close as Brooklyn, to engage in a series of multi-cultural workshops on the theme, "Achieving Peace in our Changing Global Community: How We Can Become Individual Leaders Together."



MCW founder Edward Bergman accompanies group to a tour of the UN hosted by Tanzanian Ambassador. (photo: Josh Drake, 2002)

The retreat, which ran from Saturday, July 20th thru Thursday, July 25th, was organized by Anna Condoulis, Director of Special Programs and Events for SCPS, and Edward Bergman, SCPS senior in Travel and Tourism, and Co-Founder of Miracle Corners of the World, a non-profit organization whose mission is "global development through the empowerment of self-sustainability." According to Condoulis, "There is nothing more rewarding than a successful event—especially when this success is the result of my office working with students. This summer, both the Student Leadership Retreat and the Open Doors 2002 event were a tremendous success due in large measure to the outstanding leadership of the students who coordinated it."

The five-day retreat featured workshops on tourism, economic development, entrepreneurship, peacemaking, conflict resolution, drug awareness, community organizing, multi-culturalism, and volunteerism, all in the context of how youth can make a difference. In addition to the workshop, participants attended a musical performance at Harlem's legendary Apollo Theater, a Mets game, and a special guided tour of the United Nations hosted by David N. Mwakawago, Tanzanian Ambassador to the UN.

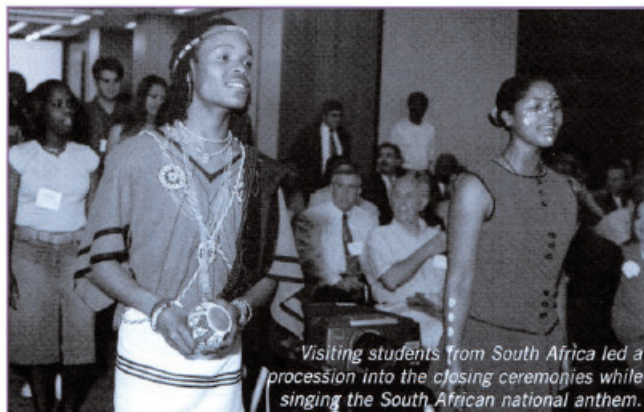
The international make-up of the participants was far-reaching with representatives from Australia, Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Israel, Jamaica, South Africa, Mozambique, and Tanzania, along with US delegates from Atlanta,

Georgia; Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Long Island and New York City, New York; Moorsetown, New Jersey; Norwalk, Connecticut; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Middlebury, Vermont.

Over thirty distinguished scholars, clergymen, business leaders and diplomats donated their time over the course of the five-day retreat to participate in panels and conduct interactive workshop sessions. Presenters included Dr. Elijah Anderson, Professor of Social Sciences and Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, Ambassador Ahmad Kama, a UN Senior Fellow, The Honorable Bertha Mende, District Commissioner of Arusha, Tanzania, Pierre Quiblier, Program Liaison Officer for the UN Environmental Program, Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff, National Director for Religious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee, and Natalie Holder-Winfield, Esq., of the New York City Human Rights Commission.

"As I sat with the students in their sessions and watched them discuss everything from religious tolerance to networking techniques, it was gratifying to see them bond, become a team, overcome preconceived ideas and share open, honest views. The hugs, kisses and tears at the end of the retreat were testimony that the bonds will last for a long time," said Condoulis, who produced a 30-minute documentary on Miracle Corners which was premiered at the retreat's closing ceremony. "The video highlights MCW's project in Tanzania and the work of Eddie Bergman who is one of our students. It also shows what a couple of individuals can accomplish with great role models, a little encouragement and support."

The spirit of the event was best summed up by Heather Moore, a Board Member of Miracle Corners of the World and a Gallatin Student majoring in Peace Studies. "In our dynamic and changing world, it has become increasingly more important to understand the power and role that each one of us has in resolving conflict and promoting peace," said Moore. "While tragic events, unrest and conflict plague our global society, local communities, schools and even our homes, we each have the ability to, as Mahatma Gandhi once said, 'be the



Visiting students from South Africa led a procession into the closing ceremonies while singing the South African national anthem.

change we want to see in the world'. By understanding the effects of the decisions we make day-to-day, we can be agents for positive social change."

For additional information about Miracle Corners of the World, call (516) 885-0894, or log on to their website at www.miraclecorners.org