



Featured Country Network – YES USA

YES USA is a new arrival in the YES family. It was started six months back by Kaitlyn Olson, a dynamic young woman activist working to protect the rights of children and youth in war and poverty stricken countries like Uganda and El Salvador. The YES USA network primarily supports the work of other YES Country Networks by raising awareness of the problems faced by youth in the developing world. The YES USA network is working to reduce the divide between American and international youth and to create an environment in which youth are helping each other achieve common goals.

Above all, Kaitlyn wants to raise sponsorship that would allow 50 youth representatives from the United States to attend the YES Kenya Summit. She wants the delegates at the summit to see first-hand that American youth are indeed committed to the welfare of youth in other parts of the world. With this aim in mind, she wants to lead a strong delegation to the Summit. She has been working to raise funding, and has been reaching out to local media outlets to promote information the YES Kenya Summit, the campaign and the problem of youth unemployment.

After the Kenya Summit, she plans to speak on a national radio teen station about the proceedings and outcomes of YES Kenya, and bring YES USA into the public eye. It is hoped that the delegation of 50 young Americans will become active members of YES USA, and that their combined efforts will allow this chapter of YES to have a real impact on the world as we know it.

YES USA will serve as a fertile ground for breeding young, socially aware and active leaders in the United States and abroad. It will build partnerships between young people in YES USA and their peers in other YES Country Networks, with the long-term objective of building trust between US youth and young people in other countries, and fostering peer-mentoring between these diverse groups. YES USA's greatest accomplishments will be to inform youth in the US about the global issues of youth unemployment and poverty; empower young people all over the world to be active participants, and build bridges of friendship between them and US youth.