

## Young American Unificationists attend leadership training at the Aloha Workshop

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From December 28-31, 2015, young Unificationists from around the nation came together for specialized leadership training at the Aloha Workshop. During the workshop they had a chance to deepen their connection with God and True Parents and strengthen their life of faith. They also had a chance to receive practical leadership training toward becoming successful leaders in their local community.

One of the main calls to action of the Aloha Workshop was that participants were asked to develop a program or project that they would implement when they returned to their local communities. They were guided through a series of analytical steps to determine the strengths and weaknesses of their home communities and then given tools and resources to plan an effective and well thought-out program. This report features the first project from the Aloha Workshop that has been implemented.



In New York, a team of six young Aloha participants -- Yukimaru Jones, Unhee Fontaine, Kody Morris, Yasmine Bouachri, Meta Learey and Hana Hamad -- strove to heighten the energy in their local youth ministry by improving an existing youth event called "Up & Coming," which meets regularly in upstate New York.

"Youth ministry is a big part of our community," they said. "It brings young Unificationists together through fun activities and lets them interact with each other and form new friendships." The team's secondary goal was to inspire more unity in their community.

The six team members took a leading role in planning their first event, which featured games and meaningful activities designed to teach teamwork. Thanks to their efforts, when youth gathered together in January their energy as a group was "incredible," according to Yukimaru Jones.

"We also encouraged kids to invite their friends to come to youth ministry," said Yukimaru.

The Aloha alumni stated that their workshop training helped them significantly in planning and implementing their program.

"The lesson led by Kaeleigh Moffitt helped in determining weaknesses of our youth ministry," they said, "and the 10-step process taught by Justin Okamoto helped in focusing on the purpose or goal of our event, as well as determining specific steps to making the event happen. This event will be ongoing for the rest of the year and hopefully years to come."

