

**Just the facts**



***The first and only worldwide youth journalism charity, Youth Journalism International connects student writers, artists and photographers with peers around the globe, teaches journalism, fosters cross-cultural understanding and promotes and defends a free youth press.***

- An IRS-approved 501(c)(3) educational, non-profit public charity created in 1994 to help students in Bristol, Conn., learn to write better and to get the basics of journalism, YJI has grown into a unique, worldwide community with more than 200 students in more than 40 countries on six continents.
- **Students come from many countries beyond the United States**, including Armenia, Afghanistan, South Africa, Pakistan, India, Egypt, Italy, Uganda, the Netherlands, Germany, Tunisia, Korea, the UK, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Brazil.
- Participating youth come from nearly every major world religion and a vast number of cultural, national and political backgrounds, leading students to global thinking.
- Editors work with students in person, by phone and via email, chat, Facebook or Skype.

**Readers come from nearly every nation on the planet.**

- The global reach of sports, music and the arts — and their power to transcend borders and bring greater understanding — hasn't escaped Youth Journalism International. Students eagerly cover everything from the Olympics – YJI writers in England and China even held the Torch – to the World Cup, where a young South African reporter described a match in her local stadium, to theater in London, classical concerts in Connecticut and a West Coast rock 'n' roll tour.
- From each other, students learn about the astonishing differences that make our world so richly diverse and the fundamental reality that nearly everyone wants the same things: peace, prosperity, freedom, security and dignity.
- Students tackle matters as crucial as the Egyptian uprising and as playful as a rock 'n' roll concert. They cover critical issues ranging from election fraud in Uganda to school violence, from Dengue fever in Pakistan to flooding in Brisbane. Working in their own corners of the world, the young reporters talk with everyone from the Dalai Lama to Desmond Tutu – and a lot of ordinary people, too.

**No YJI student has ever been charged a fee to participate. Program funding comes from readers, alumni and other donors, grants, fundraising and corporate support.**

## ***What makes YJI different?***

**The care taken to ensure students learn the basics of journalism and the importance of fairness in their work.**

**It's not just another place to spout off on the internet, but instead it's a training ground for tomorrow's leaders.**

- Thirsting for a career in journalism, young people find Youth Journalism International online and eagerly fill out student applications. **But because YJI can't afford the staff to handle the volume of inquiries, the current waiting list numbers more than 1,200 young people.** In the month of October alone, more than 100 youth from around the globe filled out applications.



**Website: [www.youthjournalism.org](http://www.youthjournalism.org)**

**Daily blog: [www.yjiblog.org](http://www.yjiblog.org).** Updated often, it features work from students everywhere. Student work also appears on partner sites, including PBS NewsHour Extra and *The Mash* in Chicago.



**[www.facebook.com/youthjournalism](https://www.facebook.com/youthjournalism)**



**[@yjinternational](https://twitter.com/yjinternational) & [@jackiemajerus](https://twitter.com/jackiemajerus)**



- The independent charity rating site GreatNonprofits.org has given YJI its highest designation each year since the awards began in 2010.
- In 2011, Causecast selected YJI as a partner for corporate giving, YJI earned a spot on the charity website GlobalGiving.org and was chosen by America Online as its "AOL Daily Impact" charity of the day and by Groupon for a special fundraiser.

- In 2012, the Mohegan Tribe picked YJI to hold a major fundraiser at a One Direction concert.

**In Connecticut, YJI has worked closely with ESPN, the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut, the Mark Twain House & Museum and the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center.**

- In recognition of Youth Journalism International's work around the world, the venerable Fellowship of Reconciliation, a nearly century-old peacemaking and civil rights organization, brought three YJI representatives to a November 2012 roundtable session in St. Paul, MN to help chart a new course for engaging youth in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## YJI's Annual Contest Spotlights Great Work Across the Globe

Youth Journalism International sponsors the only worldwide teen journalism contest, open to any youth, anywhere, not just YJI students.

YJI's Excellence in Journalism contest aims to shine a light on the exceptional journalism by young people each year. Crystal trophies go to the top award winners, including the Student

Journalist of the Year and Journalism Educator of the Year. Young journalists compete in many other categories - news, sports, features, opinion, photography and graphic art.

Since the 2010 launch of the contest, the winners alone have represented 20 countries on five continents and throughout the United States.



**These crystal trophies go to winners in top categories**

### **Journalism Education:**

#### **YJI's Commitment to Collaboration**

- Investigative Reporters and Editors Inc., 2012 national conference
- New York City High School Journalism Conference at Baruch College in Manhattan, November 2012
- Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference, Dallas, Texas, July 2012
- Scholastic Press Forum, American International College, Springfield
- Connecticut Academic Press Association conference at Central Connecticut State University

***With extraordinary growth in its reach and appeal to young people worldwide, Youth Journalism International is ready to enter a new era. After 18 years of operating solely with volunteers, YJI is beginning to hire the staff it needs to coordinate its activities, manage its students, keep its books and more. It is raising money to take that big step. Support now makes a significant impact, ensuring a bright future for the organization and its many students around the globe.***

### **Growth in readers of www.YJIblog.org since 2008**

*Graph courtesy of Google analytics*

