



## Project Management Programs for Youth Are Growing Around the World

Is age 6 too young to learn project management? The **PMI Northern Italy Chapter** says no!

This chapter has proven that children as young as ages 6 to 11 can learn basic project management skills if their teacher or a volunteer introduces the subject using a fun and engaging tool, such as the Project Our Theater created by the chapter. This tool, available in Italian, English, French and Spanish, can be found at [www.pmief.org](http://www.pmief.org) under the Learning Zone, and is one of many educational resources available for PMI chapters, PMI members, teachers and the community at large at no cost for noncommercial use.



Of course, secondary school students can absorb much more and will be better prepared for the 21st-century workforce if project management is introduced to them in the classroom. The PMI Educational Foundation's (PMIEF's) *Project Management Toolkit for Youth* or *Project Management Skills for Life* are both perfect educational resources for working with secondary school students.

Around the globe, young people are learning about project management through a variety of educational resources, both in and out of the classroom, and new programs are beginning all the time. New project management

programs were recently started in secondary schools in Poland and Australia, and in youth-based organizations in the United States and the Dominican Republic, to name just a few.

### Project Management as a Life Skill

Project management is recognized as a professional competency, but it is also starting to be recognized as a necessary life skill to prepare youth for future success. Here are some examples of recent programs implemented by PMI chapters, members or others from around the globe:

The **PMI Sydney, Australia Chapter** delivered its first secondary school pilot program, which included nine hours of weekly lessons. The team piloted a program during July, August and September 2010 to introduce project management to young people. Chapter volunteers taught students project management skills using PMIEF's *Project Management Toolkit for Youth* and other resources. Moving forward, the chapter's goal is to develop strategies to make the program sustainable and easier to deliver across multiple schools, and to embed project management into the ongoing curriculum for both students and teachers.

Attendees at a Polish summer camp for



Children at Public Color, a community organization where a PMI New York City Chapter member volunteered to teach project management.

Educational systems are starting to take notice too. In the United States, statewide project management programs for secondary



Volunteers and teachers in Sydney, Australia.

orphans, ages 9 to 14, and students in a Polish Catholic middle school, ages 14 to 15, recently learned project management skills. The **PMI Poland Chapter** piloted both programs, using examples of real-life projects to help teach project management tools and techniques. The program also used resources such as PMIEF's *Project Management Toolkit for Youth*. The chapter plans to continue both of these programs in 2011.

Youth-friendly examples help kids relate to project management in New York. A **PMI New York City Chapter** member uses the pop singer Lady Gaga to help engage his young students at Public Color, a community organization that engages youth and students in revitalizing their communities by transforming dreary school halls into bright, energized spaces.

Using project management and leadership to build 21st-century skills are the key components of a career and technical education secondary school class in North Kitsap, Washington, USA. **PMI Puget Sound Chapter** members and the Poulsbo Rotary Club mentor students by providing real-world experience. Students who pass this course receive college credit from Olympic College.

**PMIEF in Partnership With Others**

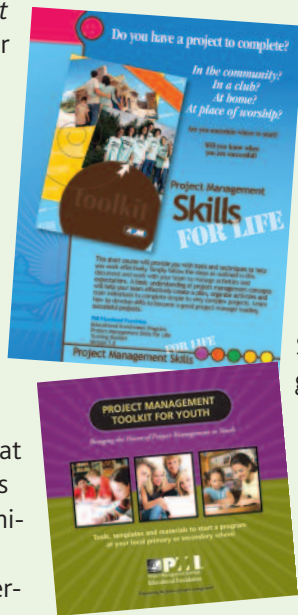
PMIEF also partners directly with youth-

oriented organizations. Children International (CI), a not-for-profit organization serving impoverished communities around the world, is one example. With the help of volunteers, PMIEF's *Project Management Skills for Life* was translated into Spanish and incorporated into CI's youth leadership program in the Dominican Republic. CI has plans to expand this program to other communities throughout the world.

Other project management programs for youth were recently started in Brazil, Sierra Leone, New York state, Hawaii, Southwest Ontario, Southwest Indiana and Oregon. These are in addition to programs that existed prior to 2010 in Japan, India and many other places.

PMIEF promotes project management as a life skill to help prepare children to be successful in the 21st-century workforce, providing no-cost resources that can be downloaded from the foundation's website at [www.pmief.org](http://www.pmief.org).

PMIEF is excited by the growth of these programs and encourages PMI members to reach out to their local school, state department or ministry of education, and youth-focused organizations to tell them more about the benefits of teaching project management to young people. For more information, e-mail [pmief@pmi.org](mailto:pmief@pmi.org).



**Distinguished Project Award**

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- **Accelerated delivery times.** Turner & Townsend delivered projects 20 percent faster than anticipated by influencing key project stages and reducing the timelines for construction, design and integrating branded elements.
- **Improved processes.** The project team implemented a simple yet robust knowledge sharing system to continually develop better processes and grow a team of informed, committed stakeholders.

**High Stakes Require Proven Practices**

"Given the high-profile nature of this program and the potential risk, it was critical that we rely on proven practices to deliver the best project management support," said Andrew Duncan, Americas chief executive officer of Turner & Townsend.

"By using the [PMBOK® Guide] for effective project management, we not only met Nissan's requirements but exceeded expectations in terms of scope, budget and delivery," he said. "We're pleased with the project's results and are extremely honored to have been named a recipient of the PMI Distinguished Project Award."

"The Nissan Retail Environment Design Initiative is a model of exemplary project management and is extremely deserving of this award," said Mark A. Langley, president and chief executive officer of PMI. "Turner & Townsend's work underscores the essential role global project management standards have in creating significant strategic improvements for organizations, regardless of economic pressures."

