

## Getting Involved At Rutgers University

We believe in partnering with fellow student organizations to accomplish our goals. G.O.Y.A. operates out of the Student Activities Center (SAC) 613 George Street, New Brunswick. The SAC is also the home to over 60 other student organizations.

Located next to the River Dorms. The Rutgers University Buses also stop at the center. Our mailbox is SAC Box #4.



The Student Activities Center (SAC)  
([http://www.rc.rutgers.edu/centers/sac/centers\\_sac.html](http://www.rc.rutgers.edu/centers/sac/centers_sac.html))

President Bush recently encouraged America's students to reach out and offer service to their communities, developing the habits of civic participation, responsibility, and service that are essential to American democratic life. The G.O.Y.A. Project challenges all our fellow students to simply get involved, somehow, somewhere.

***Make A Difference!***

## The People of G.O.Y.A.

G.O.Y.A. was founded by several Rutgers College students who were inspired by Reshma Roshania of "RU w/the Homeless." Sivan Yosef, Arpan Dasgupta and Renee Mcanney co-founded the organization with the express purpose of inspiring other students the value of service to others through volunteer projects that have both local and international impact.

We are always looking for students with innovative project ideas to get involved with. We encourage ideas that foster intercultural awareness as well as practical projects to assist families and communities.

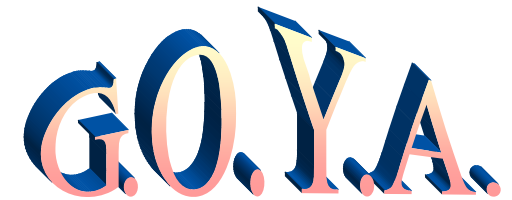


G.O.Y.A. volunteers participating in a book drive. (From left to right: Jared Smollik, Sivan Yosef, Olubayi Olubay –founding faculty advisor, and Biju Parekkadan)

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*Student Volunteerism at Rutgers University*

Annual Make-A-Difference Day  
Annual Walk For Literacy  
Community Volunteerism Projects  
The G.O.Y.A. Spring Event



*Teaching the value of service to others through volunteer projects reaching from the local to the global*

**The G.O.Y.A. Project**  
**SAC Box #4**

**Student Activities Center**  
**613 George Street**  
**Rutgers—The State University of NJ**  
**New Brunswick, NJ 08901, USA**

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## *Mission Statement*

The G.O.Y.A. Project was founded by Rutgers College students for the express purpose of teaching other students the value of service to others through volunteer projects that have both local and international impact.

We challenge ourselves to live up to the perspective that volunteer work is both a practical and an intellectual opportunity to think about other people and to work with and for other people. Without opportunities like those provided by GOYA to our peers, they run a risk of living through a highly truncated college experience that is limited to classroom work and parties.

## *Volunteers Make A Difference!*

Our volunteers have worked on projects including “Habitat for Humanity,” Elijah’s Promise (outreach to the homeless), Women Aware and many other charities. The projects selected by GOYA stimulate participants to link what they study at the university as part of their general education with what happens in the wider world beyond the university.



Volunteering in Brazil during the Spring 2008 semester

## *Make-A-Difference Day*



An integral part of our mission involves participating in “Make-A-Difference Day. Make A Difference

Day is the most encompassing national day of helping others—a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Make A Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October.

G.O.Y.A. members hold an annual Book Drive and volunteer to help create school and community libraries locally and internationally.

## *Walk For Literacy*



G.O.Y.A. has worked for the past seven years with the Global Literacy Project, Inc. (GLP) to create a “Walk For Literacy” walk-

a-thon.

The primary aims of the walk-a-thon are two-fold: First: To promote public awareness of the value of literacy for the world’s poor; and secondly, to raise money for shipping the books that we collect.

The walk-a-thon begins from the Passion Puddle on the Cook/Douglass Campus and ends with a literacy awareness rally on College Avenue.

## *The Spring Event*

Each spring semester, G.O.Y.A. hosts an event that also acts as an opportunity to expose Rutgers students to volunteering opportunities and pertinent concerns in the community right around us.

Featuring student bands, poets and a variety of speakers, it serves to bring the outside community closer to the “ivory tower” thus allowing students to gain a real insight as to how they can, with relatively little effort, truly make a difference.

## *Community Volunteerism*

G.O.Y.A. makes a difference because our members are interested in reaching out to the community and helping to make a difference.



Peru.

This was because they were involved in collecting and shipping books to Africa through G.O.Y.A.’s volunteer work, causing them to develop an interest in extending their knowledge.



Teaching the value of service to others through volunteer projects has led to volunteers visiting Brazil, Kenya, South Africa and