

Our History

All great ideas start with a spark. The spark behind Ignitus is the incredible success of Youth Crime Watch of America. Born in Miami, Florida in 1979, as the city was reeling from a recession, rampant crime and drug abuse fueled a social injustice and an outraged community. A mother, with the help of a police lieutenant, empowered the area's young people to take an active role in shaping the world around them.

The pilot program taught students how to safely report crimes and drug abuse. The results were astonishing. In the first year, the schools' drug problems were reduced 50%. Chain snatchings were reduced 75%. And morale in the school went through the roof!



In 1986, Youth Crime Watch went national. It won the recognition of Presidents Reagan, Bush,

and Clinton along with praise from the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice.

What began with a single school has since become hundreds, replicating into communities through the United States and across five continents. The results have been the same in each location: crime goes down, morale goes up.

Youth Crime Watch has served society well for more than 30 years. It's success is the fuel for Ignitus Worldwide, allowing us to reach even further into communities with an ever-expanding array of programs, activities, and opportunities for young people around the world.

Our overall mission remains the same: to provide youth-led solutions that build leaders for a better tomorrow.

Ignitus Worldwide Affiliate Locations

Central/South America & Caribbean

Anguilla, Barbados, Brazil, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama

Europe

Lithuania, Romania, Russia

Africa

Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe

Asia

Bangladesh, Nepal, Philippines

North America

New England, Mid-Atlantic, Tampa Bay, Broward, Miami-Dade, Ohio, Kentucky, Guam, Canada

ignitus
WORLDWIDE

9200 South Dadeland Blvd.
Suite 417
Miami, FL 33156

Phone: 305-670-2409

contact@IgnitusWorldwide.org

www.IgnitusWorldwide.org



Ignitus Worldwide



@IgnitusWorld

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We organize and support a youth-led movement that promotes civic engagement throughout the world.



www.IgnitusWorldwide.org



Ignitus Opportunities that Help Youth Shape Their Future

Why Ignitus?

Today's youth are facing an increasingly complex world full of new challenges. We want to equip them to become courageous adult leaders who can deal with these challenges and impact communities for the greater good.



The youth selected our name, Ignitus, a play on the two words "ignite us". We feel it's a call for direction, to ignite and focus their fire and passion toward solving problems that are impacting

their generation, such as:

- **12 million at-risk youth in the U.S. headed for welfare or prison in the next decade unless mentored by caring adults and peers.**
- **A rise in teen addiction and drug abuse of easy-to-obtain pharmaceuticals and methadone.**
- **1 in 3 youth in the U. S. who experiences bullying.**
- **A trend in teen despondency resulting in self-harm or even suicide attempts.**

Ours is a big assignment at Ignitus and, we believe, an important one. We embrace this youth-led and youth-inspired mission and invite you to join us as we equip our next generation of "ignited" leaders!

Ignitus Programs

The Ignitus staff develops the framework for our youth-led programs in conjunction with affiliate leaders. The affiliate leaders teach these programs to youth who in turn develop both confidence and leadership skills as they train their peers.



Youth Crime Watch (YCW)

YCW is our flagship crime prevention program comprised of five modules designed to keep teens, schools, and communities safe. Modules include: crime reporting and patrols, conflict resolution, education, bullying, and gang prevention.

Peer Mentoring

In this program, teens mentor younger youth within a formal structure. Ignitus is happy to be working with national experts Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Civic Involvement

We've found that youth can learn leadership skills outside school grounds by volunteering in their communities. Ignitus affiliate leaders offer guidance to youth who identify volunteer projects that interest them whether it be mentoring, helping the disadvantaged, or championing a "green effort".



A World of Difference

The Youth Crime Watch component has replicated into 31 affiliate locations on 5 continents thanks to the internet and word-of-mouth efforts. As a result, Ignitus youth have countered crime in schools and communities across countries and cultures.

Now, with social media opening more doors to larger numbers of youth, we can broadcast these programs into more locations. We're excited about the power of social networking to show teens in every nation how they can start up, lead, and take part in an opportunity that will transform their communities, schools, and lives.



Ignitus Staff and Boards

Ignitus Worldwide is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. Headquartered in Miami, Florida, Ignitus is led by Jerry Rudoff, Board Chair, and Christopher DiCarlo, CEO. They and the staff are responsible for creating program curriculums, setting site standards, training affiliate leaders, and promoting our mission worldwide. The staff is advised by the Next Generation Board comprised of youth representing a cross-section of affiliate countries and an eight-member adult board which meets three times per year.

