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**MCW PILOTS FIRST YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE IN KOSOVO**

**NEW YORK, NY, May 17, 2017** – MCW, a New York-based non-profit organization dedicated to addressing communities’ pressing needs by empowering current leaders and readying leaders of tomorrow, piloted its first Young Leaders Conference with participants from Europe and the Middle East with the aim of providing a three-day conference with a focus on gender, education and youth unemployment.

Building on the organization’s Young Leaders Program curriculum, MCW expanded its reach to young leaders in Europe and the Middle East who were interested in acquiring skills and tools to implement their ideas for change. Through leadership training and global citizenship awareness, participants gained a better understanding of their identity as leaders in the modern, global world. By participating in the days’ sessions and group discussions, attendees went through the process of creating their own project plans, or vision plans, to enact change in their community. After preparing vision plans, attendees presented their ideas in short elevator pitch form to their colleagues and MCW team members.

YLP Alum Leon Gojani facilitated the partnership with local Kosovar organization, Youth Center Ardhmëria in Kline, Kosovo who successfully arranged all necessary logistics. PwC Kosovo participated as speakers in the conference, as well as Laith Abu-Taleb, the HeforShe Coordinator in Jordan, and Andrea Zorretto of Global Millennial Network. MCW’s staff including the Young Leaders Program Coordinator, Nitya Ramanathan; Chief Operating Officer, Khalid Elachi; Director of Africa Programs, Regina Leichner; YLP Lead Mentor, Inbar Fruchsad; and Executive Director, Jacinda Jordan facilitated the discussion around leadership, global citizenship, and vision planning.

Participants felt more confident about their leadership capabilities and more part of a global community. Participants noted that “It was way better than my expectations. I learnt a lot, I think I’m a different person now” and “this conference will be the main reason when I go to my hometown to tell what we learned and help them solve those problems.”

MCW’s Executive Director, Jacinda Jordan, commented “it is critical to continue to grow our global network of young leaders focused on strategic, manageable and impactful actions to catalyze change in their communities. MCW encourages continued participation from all who attended and we look forward to learning and highlighting success stories in the future.”

**About MCW**

MCW (Miracle Corners of the World) is a non-profit organization founded in 1999 with the vision that communities throughout the world achieve greater levels of education, improved health and increased economic security and a mission to address communities’ pressing needs by empowering current leaders and readying leaders of tomorrow. Based in New York, with partner organizations in Africa (Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia), MCW offers the following three core programs: the Young Leaders Program, Community Development, and Oral Healthcare, as well as Partner Programs, including Human Rights and Pediatric AIDS Treatment for Africa (PATA) projects. For more information on MCW, please visit: [www.mcwglobal.org](http://www.mcwglobal.org).



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