



## What About Teens? Community Meetings

September 13, 2005

Barre, Vermont

### *What do you notice about teen and adult relations in your community?*

Asking  
Willing to talk  
Have things to say  
Role models  
Positive energy  
Young people / teens 12-19  
Not enough / don't see it  
Natural tension  
Disgusted adults  
Adults too busy  
Fearful adults  
Swearing  
Bored  
Playing sports  
Hanging out in large groups  
Volunteering  
Doing drugs  
Observing / joining to fit in  
Art, music  
Acting out  
Yard work  
Supporting younger peers  
"Gangsta" look  
Activists  
Organizing concerts  
Gangs

### *What situations in the clip or play reminded you of your own experiences?*

Suicidal  
Not having a father  
Seeming like it's okay when it's not  
Struggling with sexual identity  
Figure it out, be okay, who I am  
Bullying  
I am my only safety, strength  
Racial conflict

Sad  
Excluding others  
Where do I belong?  
“Speaking two different languages”

***What confuses adults about teens or teen culture?***

Substance abuse  
Undervalued  
Dropping out  
Homeless  
Squelched dreams  
Lack of empathy  
Lack of spontaneous play  
Nothing to do, no where to go  
Not enough role models  
Community lacks empathy for youth

***What about the teens in your community inspires you?***

Energy  
Hope  
Thankful for attention  
Realize they have a voice  
Resilient  
Courage  
Intelligent  
Individual comfortable with self  
Know about the world  
Ease with technology  
Spontaneous  
Compassionate  
Friendship  
Patient with adults  
Humor  
Sense of style

***What would you like to see happen to improve the lives of teens in your community?***

Adults understand adolescence – parents don’t give up  
More involved with everything  
Adults make sacrifices for teens  
Jobs, learn skills, be useful, positive  
Alternatives to hanging out / partying  
Hang out with parents, ask, and ask often

***What can we do to improve teen and adult relationships?***

More play, less structured  
Adults should be more curious  
Give kids money to make choices  
Let youth make choices and support them  
Don't make assumptions  
Model democracy  
Be treated as partners, more trust  
Honest dialogue about drugs/alcohol  
Adults should teach values, set an example  
Show teens same respect adults expect  
Be casual, wear jeans, know teen culture  
Be more formal  
How to support kids, be role models and peer mentors

***RECOMMENDATIONS***

***What are two policy recommendations you would like to take before the state legislature?***

State Teen Council – formal voice  
Local Teen Council  
More funding for after school programs  
More SAPs (Student Assistance Professionals) per school / county  
More legislative teen discussion  
Teens active in state and school community  
Support local initiatives  
Find out what teens need / want  
Needs assessment (listening project)  
Teens active in state and school community

***Parking Lot (Issues that were brought up, but not resolved)***

What to call “teens”? Young people?  
Drinking age  
Substance use  
What questions did we raise?



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