



What About Teens? Community Meetings
September 29, 2005
White River Junction, Vermont

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

Small community
Hard to find foster homes
Community doesn't want to deal with drug issues
Don't see them (parents) much
How do we reach the "unengaged?"
Volunteering
Teen center +/- communication
We need a common project that promotes collaboration between teens and adults, i.e., musical, theater
Kids do pretty well through middle school
Huge gap between teens and adults, people "don't want to know"
Youth Managed Café – positive environment
Stereotyping
Youth initiated projects, i.e., Woodstock
Teens need to participate in extracurricular activities with adults

What about teens in your community gives you hope for the future?

Kids make it function, form relationships, happy endings
Kids excited about the future
Smoking rate, drug use, teen pregnancy is down
Teens want to give back to community
Alumni come back to the area with wonderful stories
Students respond (of own volition) to tragedy
Students care about strangers

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

Activities / things for teens to do that doesn't cost \$
Support for 9th graders
"Mix It Up Day"

RECOMMENDATIONS

What suggestions do you have to address some of the issues that came up tonight?

Don't give up

Town Recreation Department, i.e., pool, skate park
Kids on community improvement working committees

- Teens feel more equal as they get older
- Sense of community
- Conversation
- Integrated cliques
- Breaking down socio-economic barriers
- Looking toward future, college
- Extra curricular activities = meeting people

Parent support

Peer support

Start working with kids earlier (elementary school)

Create a place for freedom with structure

Programs at local gyms to work with kids

Create places for teens to go where teens and adults can interact; must be low cost for teens



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