



**HOW TO
LIVE UNITED:
JOIN HANDS.
OPEN YOUR HEART.
LEND YOUR MUSCLE.
FIND YOUR VOICE.
GIVE 10% GIVE 100%
GIVE 110%
GIVE AN HOUR.
GIVE A SATURDAY.
THINK OF WE BEFORE ME.
REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE AND
INFLUENCE
THE CONDITION OF ALL.
GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED.**

Community Investment Report

January 2009

*"It's fun to see a group of kids that care so much about the community."
- Andrew Perbeck, Plainville High School*

The United Way Youth Board is a regional leadership and service program for local high school students. The group is led entirely by the students, who make all the decisions and run all the meetings.

History:

The United Way Youth Board was established in the fall of 1998, spearheaded by former United Way Board Member Dr. Max Riley. The group consists of students and faculty advisors from each of our six area schools and meets monthly to discuss the social and human service needs of their communities. The initial objective of the Youth Board was to assess the issues that affect our young community, prioritize the projects they should undertake and formulate a plan to accomplish their goals and make the greatest impact.

Mission:

A collaboration of high school students, dedicated to motivate, mobilize and serve the community to make dreams a reality.

Local Schools Involved:

Bristol Central High School
Bristol Eastern High School
Lewis Mills High School
Plainville High School
St. Paul Catholic High School
Terryville High School

Issues Addressed at Youth Forums:

Since the group's formation, it has hosted a Youth Forum on an issue that it decides is relevant and important to their fellow peers. Past Forums have addressed the issues of: Substance Abuse, Peer Pressure, Ethics, Youth Violence and Cruelty, Decision-Making, Transition from Middle School to High School, Youth Leadership, and Reckless Teen Driving.

Other Involvements:

Each year, the Youth Board also gets involved in a number of community events, including the Bristol Children's Holiday Parade, a Personal Care Drive for St. Vincent DePaul Homeless Shelter, the Salvation Army Kettle Drive and United Way Day of Caring

GIVE.

ADVOCATE.

VOLUNTEER.

The Problems Are Clear:

Studies suggest that only 3 in 10 young people (ages 12 to 17) get the supports they need to flourish: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, effective education, and opportunities to help others. (America's Promise, 2006)

Nearly 1 million students each year fail to get their diploma on time. (National Center on Education Statistics, 2007)

With that many students dropping out each year, more than \$312 billion will be lost in wages, taxes and productivity over their lifetimes. (Communities in Schools, 2007)

There is a Need for Youth Leadership Programs:

"Young people are not only at the center of many problems, they are the source of many solutions. And studies show that young people want to be engaged as change makers." (Forum for Youth Investment)

94% of young people said they want to be involved in making the world a better place. (Voices Study, 2006)

Youth who volunteer are less likely to engage in risky behavior, are more likely to feel connected to their communities, and tend to do better in school. (Corporation for National & Community Service, 2005)

"Young people themselves report similar views about what they want and need from programs during the nonschool hours. In a series of focus groups held near Washington, D.C., young people explained that they want constructive activities to engage their bodies, hearts, and minds during the time they are not in school. They want a voice in determining the programs, services, and opportunities. They want to learn and practice new skills. They want to spend more quality time with caring adults and with other young people. They want to contribute to the work of the larger society. And—yes—they want to have fun." (The Future of Children, 1999)

We are Ensuring Success:

Present Youth Board Member - "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader"- John Quincy Adams. The young adults that represent the United Way Youth Board were chosen because of their ability to do just as John Adams said; inspire people to learn from their community and take action against issues that other teenagers are being consumed by... The United Way Youth Board is a harness for leadership and a safe unbiased group of students whom will (with the Youth Board's guidance) continue to service the community in selfless ways." - *Sam Cloutier, Bristol Central High School*

Former Youth Board Member - "My early involvement with the Youth Board helped me understand how much more rewarding it is to move from passively just going 'through the motions' of working for a cause in which you believe to actively engaging the needs of the greater community. It was not only witnessing the accomplishments of the Youth Board, but knowing that I made a direct contribution to them that had the strongest impact on me. I realized working for the betterment of others is the way to growing and improving ourselves as individuals. Being involved in helping others is not something that happens to you, it is something that becomes a part of who you are. I owe a very significant portion of that part of me to my time spent on the Youth Board." *Greg Provencal, Founding Member*

Upcoming Events and Programs

Mark Your Calendars!

Community Builders'

Reception

April 2, 2009

Clarion Hotel

"How I Live United"

Day of Caring 18

May 15, 2009

Community-wide

Volunteer Event

For more information:

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