

HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLAN

Community/Team Name: Community Partnership for Youth and Families

Geographic Area: North Branch School District Communities: North Branch, Almelund, Stacy and Harris

HCP Round/Years: Round 3, September 1998 – September 2000

Project Focus: Inspire positive connections between youth and adults

Vision/Purpose Statement:

All young people within the North Branch School District grow up to be caring, competent and healthy adults.

Priorities:

- Continue to inspire the business community to be active participants in the token campaign
- Inspire more youth and adults to engage in the 'token exchange' process
- Educate entire community about the fact that 83% of young people within the School District do not feel valued (as indicated by 1997 Search Institute survey)
- Provide meaningful opportunities for youth and adults to connect
- Educate communities that Children FIRST is a philosophy / process, not a program or a project
- To see an increase in the percentage of youth who feel valued from 17% to 50% by June 2001

Follow Up Grants and Loans:

- Was approved as a host project for the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program through the Initiative Foundation and the Corporation for National Service
- \$3,000 - Grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice for the Drug-Free Communities Program (date unknown)
- \$50,000 - Grant from the Initiative Foundation to establish new Youth Improv troupes in other HCP communities and strengthen existing troupes (2000)
- \$14,000 - Annual value for up to 3 years, VISTA Position Approved (2002)
- \$7,500 - Grant from Initiative Foundation for Youth as Resources (2003)
- \$15,000 - Grant from the Initiative Foundation for an Early Childhood Coalition (2004)
- \$10,000 - Grant from the Initiative Foundation for Children FIRST project (2006)

Key Accomplishments:

- Children FIRST Club (after school program for middle schoolers) connects an average of 80-90 kids per week with adult volunteers
- Yellow smiley face token campaign is really inspiring youth and adults to interact in a positive manner in the community
- Implemented the Children FIRST Club twice/year
- Educating the community about the Children FIRST philosophy through community meetings, workshops and trainings
- North Branch Youth Improv Troupe was invited to Alaska to present information and training on the Youth Improv concept (February 2000) full time
- Bush Foundation has been actively working with them on the Youth Improv as a direct result of their meeting with them in 1999
- Recruited VISTA to work in program full-time, Summer 2002
- Launched Youth as Resources program in community
- Recruited second VISTA to work in program, Summer 2004
- Started an after-school program in several communities serving low income, middle and elementary aged children and engages many community volunteers (Fall 2004)

Date Updated: January 22, 2007