



Youth in Action – Making a Difference

Report from the National Youth Summit

July 28–30, 2005
Washington, DC



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Family and Youth Services Bureau



Message From the 2005 NYS Youth Council

This year the National Youth Summit (NYS) had the theme, “Youth in Action - Making a Difference.” A major goal of the Summit was to equip the youth who attended with the skills necessary to go home and make a difference in their own communities. Youth Council members played a substantial role in many aspects of the Summit, including choosing workshops, selecting speakers, and planning special activities. Council meetings were held every other week, via teleconferencing, and a 2-day pre-Summit planning meeting was held in Washington, DC, in March. This year’s Youth Council was comprised of students from across the Nation who had a variety of experiences and talents that helped to make this Summit even more interesting and unique than the last.

Workshops are a fundamental component of the National Youth Summit. This year the Summit planners took a fresh approach by offering workshops in four modules: Public Policy, Economy, Community Service, and Creativity. In addition to these youth workshops, many others focused on research and program development for Summit participants working in the field of youth development. Youth workshops were copresented by youth and adults from a variety of programs across the country and were designed to be practical and informative, while also allowing time for one-on-one interaction and creative expression. Our goal was for youth to be empowered to make a difference in their communities, and adults to be better equipped to support these youth initiatives. Based on feedback forms and conversations with participants, the workshops were a success.

One of the most beneficial parts of the conference was having the opportunity to listen to extraordinary motivational speakers. Some were young, like the majority of Summit participants, while others were older, but each gave a dynamic presentation which contributed to the success of the Summit. The youth speakers included inspirational young people such as Kenny Long, Josh Shipp, and Caitlyn Day. Each of these speakers did a marvelous job of promoting positive attitudes to youth leaders from across our Nation. It also was a great privilege to have two exceptional, unforgettable keynote speakers: First Lady Laura Bush and America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth cofounder and Chair of the Board, Alma Powell. In the end, these fantastic youth speakers and phenomenal keynote speakers all stressed and encouraged one fundamental element: Positive Youth Development. This lesson was invaluable for all who attended the Summit.

In planning for this year’s Summit, the Youth Council wanted to incorporate a way for participants to make a meaningful contribution to society. The Cares & Shares quarter drive was chosen to achieve our theme of “Youth in Action – Making a Difference.” Summit participants donated quarters to help raise over \$400 for Heifer International, an organization that helps people obtain a sustainable source of food and income. Participants further expressed their interconnectivity through our Summit art project. Under the guidance of artist Nobel Schuler, participants used cardboard cutouts and numerous other art supplies to express their views of the world and how everyone is connected. During the art time, Summit participants also had the opportunity to listen to music, eat lunch, and, best of all, make new friends. The art project, once again, was a huge success.

One of the most fulfilling events of the Summit was the “Gift of Art” Project, a service project that brought all youth participants together to donate, pack, and send art supplies to youth centers in Iraq. The Youth Council sent an action call to all youth asking them to bring donations of art supplies from their communities. Summit participants answered the call with everything from markers to pencil sharpeners to paint. All of the participants helped fulfill the Summit’s dream that we are “Youth in Action – Making a Difference.” We were honored to have the Iraqi Minister of Youth and Sports, Talib Aziz Zaini, and his delegation present for this incredible service project. The Iraqi delegation was truly amazed at the youth initiative that took place throughout the Summit and greatly appreciated all the art supplies that were donated. Without the youth attendees, this would not have been possible. While taking action together for this worthy cause, attendees mixed and mingled with one another, enjoyed the company of new friends, and became acquainted with the members of the Iraqi delegation.

Throughout this year's Summit, and during its closing session, we were asked, "What's Next?" Action planning journals with resource tools were given out to help us think about service projects we could start back home. Using the business cards we received, we made contacts that allowed us to work on "What's Next?" Finally, applications for Five Promises Action Award seed funding were distributed to all interested youth.

The 2005 National Youth Summit was a tremendous success. Youth from across the country came to Washington, DC, and shared in a wonderful opportunity to become leaders, not only of tomorrow, but also of today. Over the next year, we expect to learn just how our call to action is making a difference in schools, neighborhoods, and service organizations across the Nation. The experiences gained at the Summit will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the lives of those who attended, and as a result spread to the friends, families, and communities of the participants. The Youth Council's hope is that all Summit participants took the challenge and have taken the skills gained and the lessons learned home with them so they are truly "Youth in Action – Making a Difference."

Hillary Bullock, Keisa Carroll, Jenoy Coleman, Lucas Hunt, Elizabeth Pericak, Tina Williams, David Harris, Sam Herbert, Matt Lerner, Stephanie Taylor, and Marlene Valderrama



PREFACE

"I am deeply grateful to all the young people here who have discovered what a privilege it is to make a difference in the life of your communities. By staying committed to your work and sharing your experiences with others, you'll inspire others to dedicate their time and talent and energy to helping their communities."

First Lady Laura Bush, 2005 National Youth Summit Honorary Chairperson

"Youth in Action – Making a Difference" perfectly describes the 2005 National Youth Summit. Held July 28–30 in Washington, DC, the 3-day event highlighted young people's determination to be leaders in decisionmaking, in service to others, and in supporting neighborhoods and communities. Its events and activities energized and inspired youth who already are leaders or those

who are becoming leaders, youth workers, adult advisors, and managers from programs of all sizes and geographic locations, as well as government personnel from Federal, State, and local agencies.

National Youth Summits are unique annual events of the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), Administration

for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. They emphasize the value of Positive Youth Development (PYD) – and celebrate the strengths of America's youth. FYSB's national leadership extends to individuals, organizations, and communities, providing effective, comprehensive services for youth and families in at-risk situations.

When over 1,000 young people and adults arrived from every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Canada, England, Colombia, Iraq, and Bermuda, they found the 2005 Summit packed full of new experiences, opportunities, and perspectives:

- Keynote speakers, featuring First Lady Laura Bush
- Interactive workshop sessions
- Youth-created art project
- Call to service and “What’s Next?” funding award
- Business card swap
- Guests from the Iraqi Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Onsite service project for Iraqi youth
- Youth entertainers singing and drumming
- The Cares & Shares charity coin drive
- President’s Volunteer Service Awards, and much more . . .

Summit 2004: Youth in Action – Making a Difference



Welcome

Dr. Wade F. Horn, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services

In welcoming young people and their advisors to the Summit, Dr. Wade F. Horn noted that every generation is challenged to leave the world better than they found it – and that this is especially true since September 11, 2001. He said the country needs to “summon the moral strength and courage of your generation to help create a

civilization of peace, justice, and love.” The Assistant Secretary urged youth to make a difference by serving others and making thoughtful everyday decisions in their own lives – about how to spend time, who to hang out with, and what to read, watch, and listen to.

Dr. Horn underscored the President’s commitment to Positive Youth Development through the Administration’s initiatives and programs that benefit families, youth, and children, including the Compassion Capital Fund and the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program. He noted that at its core, that comprehensive youth strategy involves:

- focusing on the strengths of youth instead of their weaknesses;
- promoting ongoing relationships and connections with adults and adult role models;

“The best way to help youth avoid high-risk behaviors is by building on their assets and helping them develop feelings of competence, belonging, and empowerment.”
Dr. Wade Horn

- giving youth safe places to go after school with structured activities; and
- providing young people with opportunities for community service and civic participation.

Dr. Horn observed that the Summit “not only gives young people a voice, [but] it also gives us adults an opportunity to listen attentively to what [they] have to say.” For adults have important roles in the lives of youth as partners, supporters, and mentors – roles that help youth achieve their full potential.

Did you know? While young people’s discretionary spending (\$141 billion annually) has a significant impact on the economy, young people are also a major resource in helping those in need at home and around the world. Following the tsunami tragedy that hit Southeast Asia in December 2004, 33 percent of American 8- to 18-year olds contributed a total of \$926 million to relief efforts – that’s \$66 a piece.



Keynote Remarks

First Lady Laura Bush, 2005 National Youth Summit Honorary Chairperson

Summit attendees were thrilled to welcome Mrs. Laura Bush as keynote speaker. Following an introduction by Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Alex Azar and a rousing welcome from attendees, Mrs. Bush thanked the young people at the Summit. “You demonstrate a commitment in your communities to make your communities stronger,” she said.

Drawing on President Bush’s request that all Americans dedicate 4,000 hours over their lifetimes to serving communities and America, Mrs. Bush urged

*Through the President and Mrs. Bush’s initiative, **Helping America’s Youth**, Mrs. Bush said, “we’re encouraging adults to serve as positive role models for young people, but we know that responsible teenagers can serve, really, as better role models to their peers and to young children. When youth have positive role models in their lives, they’re much more likely to be able to build a foundation themselves for a lifelong success.”*

young people to continue their commitment to service as they grow into adulthood. Already, young people across the Nation are turning good ideas into successful programs to help America’s children and youth, the First Lady said. She highlighted several such efforts, including Think Detroit, Will Power to Youth in Los Angeles, Florida’s Teen Trendsetters, and three outstanding projects by Summit youth who are making a difference in their communities.



Mrs. Bush emphasized that children’s and young people’s lives can be enriched and strengthened through their relationships with positive role models of all ages, and that youth can be exemplary role models themselves. Mrs. Bush concluded by expressing her gratitude to all the young people at the Summit “who have discovered what a privilege it is to make a difference in the life of your communities.”



Featured Address

Alma Powell, Cofounder and Chair of America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth

America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth cofounder and Chair Alma Powell described the organization’s resolve to deliver **Five Promises** to America’s youth: *caring adults who are actively involved in their lives; safe places in which to learn and grow; a healthy start toward adulthood; effective education that builds marketable skills; and opportunities to help others.* Since its founding in 1997, the Alliance has recruited families, individuals, faith- and community-based organizations, local, State and Federal agencies, businesses, former Presidents, religious leaders, and elected officials as partners in delivering the Five Promises to America’s Youth.

“When all Five Promises are fulfilled, young people are 5 to 10 times more likely to succeed, and research also reveals that young people themselves overwhelmingly believe that these Five Promises are vital.”

Mrs. Alma Powell

The Alliance recently conducted a national survey of youth to hear directly how they view themselves and their future. Mrs. Powell reported that among its extensive findings, the study produced good news on the state of America’s youth in obtaining the American Dream. “More than 80 percent of youth [say] they believe it is

possible to be anyone you want to be in this country. Ninety-five percent have already set goals for their lives and are working to achieve them. Nine in 10 say their success depends on how hard they work.”

But there also are significant gaps for one-third of surveyed youth. Mrs. Powell identified this as an “American Dream gap” that occurs, regardless of demographics, because youth lack one or more of the Five



Promises. Mrs. Powell noted that the Alliance is compiling a “Report to the Nation.” “For policymakers and for our partners in the corporate, nonprofit, and faith-based sectors that are

involved in youth issues, the report will be a valuable roadmap,” she said. “And just like any report card that shows good grades and not-so-good ones, it will challenge all of us to work together even harder for the well-being of our children.” In conclusion, Mrs. Powell asked the “real” question for Summit attendees, “the *action* question: What will *you* do – your organization, your community, your State, you yourself – to keep the promise of America?”

Making It Against the Odds – Inspiring Others



Rudy Carrasco, executive director of the Harambee Christian Family Center in Pasadena, California, described his journey through hard times as an orphan in East Los Angeles taking responsibility for his own family, and later accepting responsibility in his new “extended family” by connecting to future generations of Latino and African American youth in his community.

Eric Anderson used illusions and “motivational magic” to tell his story of battling tough circumstances as a foster child and a young man. With a deck of cards the size of his torso, he illustrated that “Life is like a deck of cards. You have to play with the hand you’re dealt.” But sometimes, he concluded, you have to

toss the cards and start over.

Kenny Long, a college student from Oklahoma City, shared his transformation from lost high school student to a youth ministry leader. Today, he said, “I’m just an average guy with a huge dream, a huge ‘why’ in life, a purpose.” Telling Summit attendees, “You have a purpose, too,” Kenny advised them to choose to succeed, hang out with dreamers, read and learn, and have faith.

Josh Shipp, in between hilarious jokes about his roommate, his cooking, and other details of everyday life, talked about his abandonment by his birth parents, abuse in foster homes, and not fitting in at school. To

anyone facing similar circumstances, his hard-hitting motivational message was loud and clear: “Look at any problem as an opportunity.”

Caitlyn Day knew something important was missing in her community – a public library. So Caitlyn became the driving force to establish a public library in the only county in Virginia without one. She worked through obstacles and challenges, founded the Craig County Friends of the Library, and proceeded to complete her goal. During this time, Caitlyn also started a small ice cream business which she co-owns with her sister. Books and ice cream: a winning combination for Caitlyn and Craig County.

All-Youth Art Project



Following the Youth Orientation organized and led by the 2005 Youth Council, youth assembled in the exhibition hall, separating into small groups where, under the guidance of artist Nobel Schuler, they created spectacu-

lar art panels with the theme "connections." Intricately designed with blasts of color and images, the finished panels were displayed in the Summit

Art Gallery. Everyone was able to view the dazzling works over 3 days, posing with their favorites and snapping photos to take home.



Youth Entertainers

Throughout the 3-day event, young singers and musicians delighted Summit participants with their amazing talent and style. Drummers from Positive Vibrations Youth Steel Orchestra, country-pop-patriotic singers from The Showcase Singers Association of Dallas and Oklahoma City, and the Best Friends Diamond Girls Chorus had the audience clapping, tapping, and singing along.



Special Events

Presidential Awards

**David Eisner, CEO,
Corporation for National and
Community Service**

Throughout the year, individuals from across the Nation who volunteer in a variety of settings are recognized by the President with the President’s Volunteer Service Award for their commitment to service and volunteerism. At this year’s Summit, David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, described the power of volunteering and working to make a difference in communities. He spoke of the belief “that youth can and are making a difference in our communities. Youth are part of a larger movement – showing America, and the world, that America’s youth care, that America’s youth serve, that America’s youth lead.”

USA 
Freedom Corps
 Make a Difference. Volunteer.
For information on how you can become a volunteer, check out www.usafreedomcorps.gov.

After noting the various opportunities to volunteer and serve, Mr. Eisner described the President’s Call to Service Award, given to a citizen who has demonstrated the lifelong ethic of volunteer service. He then asked Abby, the sister of Jessie Longhurst – a remarkable young woman who had committed her short life to the



service of others – to come forward and accept this special award on her sister’s behalf. “May we all follow Jessie’s lead and live lives to the fullest,” Mr. Eisner said.

Next, Mr. Eisner suggested, “If you are looking for extraordinary examples of young people committed to their communities, you need not look very far.” He was right! Heather Graves and Samantha Phelps, two friends from Mooresville, Indiana, were scheduled to speak about their efforts to make a difference following the death of two students due to bad driving decisions. But what they did not know was that they were to be the recipients of the President’s Volunteer Service Award, presented to them by Mr. Eisner!



Special Guests: The Iraqi Delegation from the Ministry of Youth and Sports

Summit attendees had the exceptional opportunity to meet the Iraqi Minister of Youth and Sports, Talib Aziz Zaini, and a four-member delegation from the Ministry. The delegation explored firsthand how America’s youth are able to make a difference in their communities, the importance of positive assets in reducing risky behavior, and the benefits of youth-adult partnerships. By enabling them to meet young people and the adults who work on behalf of youth, the Summit provided the delegation with a wealth of youth development ideas, inspiration from model programs, and insights into partnerships between youth and adults. In addition, the delegation made contacts that will help them to further Positive Youth Development programs in Iraq.

During a meeting, Ministry delegates were joined by representatives from Federal youth programs and community-based organizations in order to exchange ideas and unique perspectives. Harry Wilson, FYSB’s Associate Commissioner, observed that challenges facing youth in Iraq are not much different from those in urban centers in the United States. “The constant pressure to join violent extremist groups is related to the pressures facing youth in this country with relation to gangs and violent activities,”

he said. He further noted that in both cultures, young people need “to be inoculated with protective factors – strong connections to family, school, and community. Whether it’s building a new democracy or helping make a difference in their community, young people need to feel that they matter.”



“The first trip ever of an Iraqi delegation to a youth summit in America was full of new discoveries for every member of the delegation, including the Minister himself. It was a life memory! Four of the Iraqis expressed that it was a life-changing event for them; it was like a dream. ... To me, this is true democracy at work!

“Democracy is being able to do what you want without being afraid of getting penalized or killed. Democracy is when bigger countries reach out and help other, younger countries; democracy is working together as a team without fear, in different parts of the world. Democracy is having youth from different States and different continents join together and find ways to promote the real values of life, the values of peace, tolerance, and hope. Hope is young! And no one can deliver hope better than the young.

“We always find time to talk about negative things when they happen, but we rarely emphasize the positives. Through the full team effort of the Iraqi Ministry of Youth and Sports, the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, the U.S. State Department, America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth, and the National Youth Summit, this was one of the many positives.”

Mounzer Fatfat, Ph.D., Senior Consultant, Ministry of Youth and Sports, U.S. Embassy, Baghdad, Iraq

The “Gift of Art” Service Project



Deciding that they wanted to reach out to youth in Iraq, the 2005 National Youth Summit Youth Council coordinated an onsite service project to collect art supplies for Iraq’s youth cen-

ters. A list of art supplies was developed in collaboration with Iraqi youth workers. By e-mail blast, letter, and Web site, youth were asked to bring “packable” art supplies to the Summit.

In addition to supplies purchased by the Youth Council with money collected from friends, family, and classmates, the Summit received generous donations from three companies. Both Blick Art Materials

and Nashville, Tennessee’s NOI Office Supplies sent cartons of materials. And Sanford Corporation in Shelbyville, Tennessee, sent a whole pallet of art materials and school supplies for the “Gift of Art.”

With the Iraqi delegation looking on and marveling at the energy and generosity of Summit youth, attendees packed a whopping 84 cartons to be shipped to youth centers in Iraq.

“We feel that this project fits perfectly with the NYS emphasis on both service and creativity ... Sometimes people forget that the arts are an important part of every youth’s education!”

— Youth Council letter sent to prospective donors



Workshops

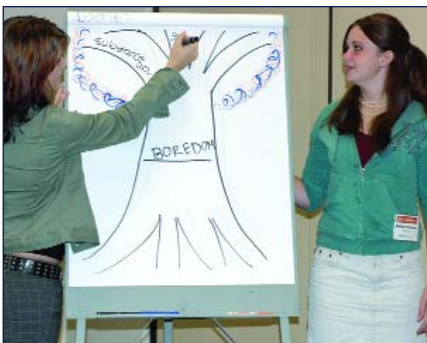


"This year's four-module workshop structure – [focusing on] Public Policy, Community Service, the

Economy, and Creativity – was designed in response to comments and feedback from the 2004 Summit and in subsequent planning discussions with our Federal partners. As you know, we want to provide youth with workshop choices in identified themes that will enable them to make a difference in their communities when they return home. [These] ... workshops will do just that."

*Harry Wilson,
Associate Commissioner
Family and Youth Services Bureau*

Workshops have always formed the educational cornerstone of National Youth Summits. This year, youth and adult copresenters created a dozen interactive workshops for youth. Additionally, seven research-based workshops were structured with adult-directed content.



Youth and Community Service

In **The Power of Service and Opportunity in Reversing Negative Lifestyles**, alumni of YouthBuild, a national program where young people learn job skills by building houses for homeless and low-income people while studying for a GED or high school diploma, described how the program changed their outlooks and goals for the future.

★ *"Incredibly inspirational – made me rethink the level of my commitment to service and realize I can do much more."*

360-Degree Leadership

showed ways to reach leadership potential and enhance leadership skills through roundtable discussion and interactions with other highly motivated youth.

★ *"It is good to have youth go out and work with [the] community. I didn't know much before and now I want to go get involved more! Now I have ideas."*

In **Dynamic Leadership**, presented by Family, Career and Community Leaders of America from Georgia and Nebraska, youth explored various leadership styles, learned tips for working with different types of leaders, and completed a personality profile assessment.

★ *"I thought it was great, funny, smart, straight to the point."*



Participants in Delivering the Five Promises in Your Community

broke into small groups to discuss appealing ways to explain the Five Promises to peers. Then, in a large group shout-out, youth generated ideas for projects. They also heard a description of planning steps, tools, and resources available to youth leaders.

★ *"I loved the workshop because what I didn't know before – now I do."*



Youth and Public Policy

During **Shake It Up**, representatives from the STAR (Students Taking Active Roles) Leadership Training program in Sarasota,



Florida, showed how youth can impact local public policy around issues such as transportation, education, and law enforcement.

★ *“Very organized and interesting. Broke down steps and made action empowering.”*

America’s Promise representatives encouraged young people to make their home States into **States of Promise** where they could build collaborative networks that provide greater resources to youth.

★ *“Very, very, very good conversation, presentation, and information exchanged. Idaho has it figured out!”*

Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way focused on service learning and decisionmaking, with small groups sharing and discussing models that have successfully engaged youth in communities around the country.

★ *“I learned a lot of resources that I can take back to my community, as well as different viewpoints.”*

Youth and the Economy

In **Youth Social Entrepreneurship – Empowering Youth To Create Innovative Change**, Youth Venture demonstrated how starting a social entrepreneurship program can be a powerful vehicle for community change and a great way to build leadership and social skills.

★ *“Youth-driven! Youth did involve adults, but youth took the lead.”*

During **Looking Toward the Future – Learning About 21st Century Demand-Driven Careers**, U.S. Department of Labor specialists introduced attendees to the Department’s Career Voyages and Skills to Build Web sites and demonstrated steps to take charge of their education and career pathways.

★ *“It showed me how to plan more for the future and my goals.”*



Be Financially Fit! showcased the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America’s program to assist youth in learning how they and their peers can become financially fit by earning, saving, and spending money wisely.

★ *“This was a good workshop because whatever you didn’t know about finances, you could learn from this workshop.”*



In **Scoop Your Way to Success**, the rewards of “social enterprise” were explored through Washington, DC’s Latin American Youth Center’s partnership with Ben & Jerry’s ice cream company. Attendees learned how community-based nonprofit organizations can raise money for their programs by running PartnerShop franchises.

★ *“Interesting idea to allow non-profits to purchase and run a franchise. With youth involved in operations, the potential for leadership and business development, employment, and community service is great.”*



Youth and Creativity

The **Choice Colors: Connect, Create, Contribute, Celebrate** workshop used a brief performance, group interaction, role play,



and presentations to show participants that noticing form, color, sound, and smell can lead to viewing every choice as a creative process. Attendees were introduced to a process – Life Pieces to Masterpieces’ Shield of Faith – where everyday decisions are guided by wisdom and intelligence.

★ *“I really loved it. It was very enlightening and spiritual.”*

Knowing Yourself and Others Through Poetry used poetry to explore who participants have been, who they are, and who they may become – and who may be affected by the difference they make. A sometimes tentative audience found that, with the guidance of a poet/educator and writer/activist, youth gained a new understanding of their creative ability to make community change.

★ *“I have never expressed an interest in poetry before. But I found the workshop very interesting.”*

By **Flippin’ da Script**, Summit participants could see that applying the founding principles of hip-hop culture (love, truth,

unity, respect, knowledge, and wisdom) can enhance Positive Youth Development and promote academic achievement, self-esteem, citizenship, and career development.

★ *“This was pretty sweet. I liked the atmosphere. The open discussion was great.”*

Workshops: Research and Program Development

Adult-oriented Research and Program Development workshops provided an opportunity for those who work with and on behalf of youth to hear from colleagues in the field involved in seven youth development programs and research studies.

The Five Promises: What We Know and What We Need to Know About Improving the Lives of All Children and Youth in America consisted of a panel discussion of recent findings and new initiatives America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth is undertaking.

★ *“Great information.”*

Positive Youth Development Policy and Deployment – Kentucky’s Experience

described the statewide project Kentucky is implementing to promote Positive Youth Development strategies and collaboration on youth issues at the local and State levels. This enterprise is funded, along with eight other State collaboration grants, by the Family and Youth Services Bureau.

★ *“I am impressed with the confidence and presentation style of the youth.”*

Lessons From the Alley – How Strategically Changing a Street Corner Changes Young Lives

revealed how a group of dedicated young people in Indianapolis, Indiana, has played a crucial role in a unique community collaboration involving local government, businesses, and faith-based organizations. The cooperative effort has significantly lowered crime and strengthened the community.



★ *“Great inspirational story. Concrete examples and principles that we can ‘tweak’ to fit our communities.”*

Tools for Building Quality Youth Programs That Deliver Results presented the latest quality standards, resources, and tools developed for youth workforce and development programs by the National Youth Employment Coalition’s Promising & Effective Practices Network.

★ *“This was the best research session I attended. The information is timely, useful, and comprehensive.”*

Abstinence Education: The Research, the Reality, and the Revolution provided information about positive abstinence trends among youth and discussed research outcomes from Operation Keepsake, an abstinence program serving 130 schools in the greater Cleveland area. The research was originally presented at the American Public Health Association’s 2004 national conference.

★ *“Great workshop. I want to look into getting this implemented in our school system in the next years. Thank you.”*



What Girls Say: Healthy Living Inside and Out drew from a national study being conducted by the Girl Scout Research Institute, focusing on the role of social environments (school, home, etc.) in shaping girls’ attitudes and behaviors related to healthy living.

★ *“It really showed me how young females mistreat their*

time and body. It also showed me how we could involve ourselves better as females.”

Can Abstinence Work? An Analysis of the Best Friends Program presented the results and methodology of an independent researcher’s analysis of the Best Friends school curriculum and teacher training program. The analysis provided empirical evidence that the program significantly reduces risk-behavior.

What Youth Need To Flourish highlighted research by Child Trends (a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization) into Positive Youth Development’s effect upon young people, using measures such as hope, spirituality, gratitude, school engagement, and civic involvement.

★ *“The research is great and the presenters were involved in the research as well as open to suggestion for improvement both in the process and during the session.”*

“What’s Next?” – A New Summit Program

Planning exactly *how* to make a difference was an important part of the 2005 National Youth Summit. At the invitation of the Family and Youth Services Bureau, Youth Service America developed an action program for the Summit. In addition, America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth provided funding for Action Awards to help youth turn great ideas into reality.

Action planning methods and the Action Planning Journal were introduced at the Youth Orientation on Thursday. Throughout the Summit, youth used the journal as a planning guide at workshops and presentations and in conversations. At Saturday’s closing session, young people lined up at mikes to share their action ideas.



Distributed to all Summit attendees, the Action Planning Journal consisted of questions to

consider, tips and tools, and pages where youth could record resources and contacts.



During the closing session, youth proposed such ideas as:

- Creating a statewide youth radio network in Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Expanding local community internships in Boise, Idaho
- Collecting items to put into goody bags for children in hospital emergency rooms in Mesa, Arizona
- Cleaning up trash along the Mississippi River in Lansing, Iowa
- Conducting a parent education campaign about tobacco's negative impact in Richmond, Indiana
- Educating parents about how to relate to their children more effectively in Arecibo, Puerto Rico
- Educating the public about the needs of youth in foster care in San Antonio, Texas
- Creating a music program to teach young people how to read music, play instruments, and develop discipline in Washington, DC

For more information on Youth Service America and the Action Awards, please go to www.youthserviceamerica.org.

By focusing on service *after* the Summit, youth will answer the question "What's Next?" as they make lasting, positive differences in their communities.

Closing Thoughts

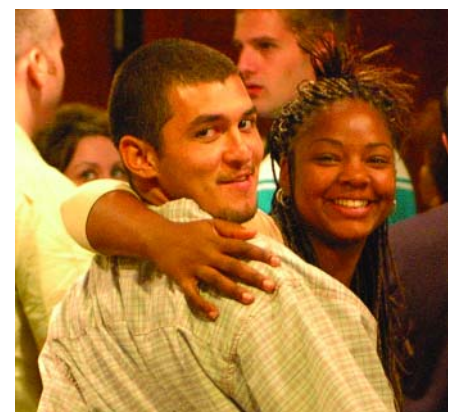
Since 2002, the annual National Youth Summit has been planned with the guidance of its Youth Councils, discussions among

Federal partners, and feedback from past Summit participants. Based on prior successes, helpful suggestions, and fresh ideas, each year the Summit has grown. Planners have developed new features, introduced additional inspiring youth speakers, included more youth-led interactive workshops, and created special Summit events,

such as the coin drive and the art supplies service project. Youth and adults have told 2005 Summit planners that this year's event was amazing – one they wouldn't have wanted to miss!

We know that future National Youth Summits will continue to engage youth and the adults who support them. "What's Next" for future Summits? That's easy. It will be young people continuing to offer their energy and enthusiasm to make each Summit "even more interesting and unique than ever," as the 2005 Youth Council predicts.

See you all in 2006!



Please check www.ncfy.com for updates and information about the National Youth Summit.

"I'm glad we were able to provide youth from the Runaway and Homeless Youth community the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful event. Seeing the excitement on the faces of young people makes all the planning and hard work worthwhile."
Jacqueline Baker, Family and Youth Services Bureau

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services acknowledges the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to this year's National Youth Summit. The Department particularly appreciates the work of the young people who served on the Youth Council.

The Office of the First Lady

Katie Loovis
Associate Director
of Public Liaison
USA Freedom Corps

Jeremy Broggi
Office of the Deputy Secretary

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Nobel L. Schuler
Artist and Muralist

Stephen Wing
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U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Education

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U.S. Department of Labor

Corporation for National and
Community Service

USAFreedom Corps

White House Office of Faith-
Based and Community Initiatives

America's Promise – The
Alliance for Youth

Youth Service America



Where We Live

2005 National Youth Summit Attendees

"One mentor, one person can change a life forever."
President George W. Bush

