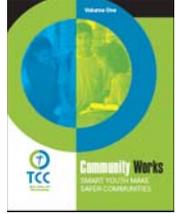




SMART YOUTH SAFER COMMUNITIES

A Community Works Program Resource for Practitioners



CONTENTS

Engaging Youth in Service

Profile: Lynn Middle School Students

Mark Your Calendar!

Do you or your students have an important violence prevention message to share?

TCC staff will select some short, original articles to feature in our electronic newsletter. The articles must address or provide commentary on a violence prevention or safety issue in your school or community.

This is a wonderful way to encourage budding writers in your classroom or for you to exercise your own writing skills.

Articles should be no longer than 400 words. All articles will be reviewed on a monthly basis. Authors of the articles selected for publication will be notified by email. Original articles should be submitted by email to tcc@ncpc.org.

ENGAGING YOUTH IN SERVICE

While many of today's youth participate in some form of voluntary service in their communities, there is an unrealized opportunity to capitalize on teens' willingness to serve by directing their attention to projects that can help prevent teen victimization and make their schools and communities safer.

Service-learning projects are an integral component of the Community Works program and give youth an opportunity to address a problem they have identified in their community through their participation in a Community Works class. As the instructor, it is important to remember that although the planning and actual implementation of a project directed by your students may require sacrificing a few extra hours after school or over a weekend, the benefits to your students often continue to resonate long after the project is completed. Studies have shown that many favorable outcomes occur in several developmental areas through participation in service-learning activities, including personal growth, social growth, intellectual growth, citizenship, and preparation for the world of work. And in addition to providing a tangible service to the community, students complete their projects understanding that they can play an important role in the welfare of their community.

Beginning April 25, 2008, students across the country will commit to participate in Global Youth Service Day. During this annual event, youth identify and address the needs of their communities through service. Whether your students have already completed their Community Works service project or whether they have only begun to generate ideas, encourage them to coordinate their plans in tandem with this event. Knowing that millions of youth around the world are engaged in community service all on the same day can be a tremendous motivating factor.



There are a number of resources available to help get things started. *Community Works Sessions 9–11* can help instructors facilitate youth-led project development and *Charting Success: A Workbook for Developing Service-learning Projects* provides students with worksheets, calendars, and other tools to guide them through the process. Refer students to the Youth Service America website (www.ysa.org; and click on the Global Youth Service Day link) for project tips and free tools. For funding assistance, visit Servenet.org and click on the "Find Grants" link.

Project Planning Steps

- Step 1: Identify the problem you want to address.
- Step 2: Plan your project.
- Step 3: Line up the resources you will need.
- Step 4: Act on your plan.
- Step 5: Evaluate and nurture your project, reflect on your service experience, and celebrate successes!

COMMUNITY WORKS PROGRAM

Lori Brittain
Manager
National Crime
Prevention Council
2345 Crystal Drive
Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22202

Tel: 202-466-6272
Fax: 202-296-1356

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



- 19th Annual Service-Learning Conference is in Minneapolis, MN, April 9-12, 2008. For more information, visit <https://programs.regweb.com/metro/NYLC2008/index.cfm>.
- Coalition for Juvenile Justice Spring Conference is in Washington, DC, April 25-29, 2008. For more information, visit http://www.juvjustice.org/conference_5.html.
- Nominations for the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes are currently being accepted. Each year, 10 youth (ages 8-18) are recognized for their outstanding leadership. For more information, visit <http://www.barronprize.org>.

PROFILE: LYNN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS' SCHOOL SAFETY PROJECT

Students at Lynn Middle School in Las Cruces, NM, recently completed their Community Works project, addressing a physical safety issue on school property. Lynn Middle School is located in a high-traffic area and Lynn Middle school students decided that it was important to do something to educate their peers about street safety in order to prevent an unintended injury or worse. The students began by writing letters to school administrators about their concerns. The Assistant Principal, Gary Silva, responded to the students' concerns and directed them to the appropriate city officials to assist them in the development of their project. Julie Janecka, the Community Works instructor, helped her students focus their goals, which included



- Creating a safe school zone area for students to cross the street to a neighboring park
 - Painting "No Parking" areas on the curbs of the school's street
 - Advocating city officials for flashing lights that would help drivers remember to slow down
 - Creating skits and posters to share with peers on how to cross the street safely
- Using the school's parent newsletter to inform them about the new safe zone and to promote street safety.

"We are trying to educate parents and students on the proper way to cross the street, using the crosswalks and alternative areas for parents to pick up students. My students designed signs that are being made by the city so traffic is aware that they need to slow down. I am extremely proud of my students and their dedication to pursue and complete this project. I am also grateful for a supportive administration as well as supportive community members," Janecka stated.



The Community Works students' efforts will be celebrated at an Appreciation Breakfast later this month.

Community Works Instructor Reminder

Please remember to submit your Community Works User Survey online at www.ncpc.org/tcc. If you taught Community Works during the 2007 Fall semester or 2008 Spring semester, please take a moment to share your successes and challenges. We use this information to create resources to help you complete your class with the highest level of fidelity. If you have questions or need implementation assistance, contact Lori Brittain at LBrittain@ncpc.org or 202-261-4161.