

Youth-Led Programming in Ohio



OHIO
— *adult* —
ALLIES

Tristan Hall, MPA, OCPS II

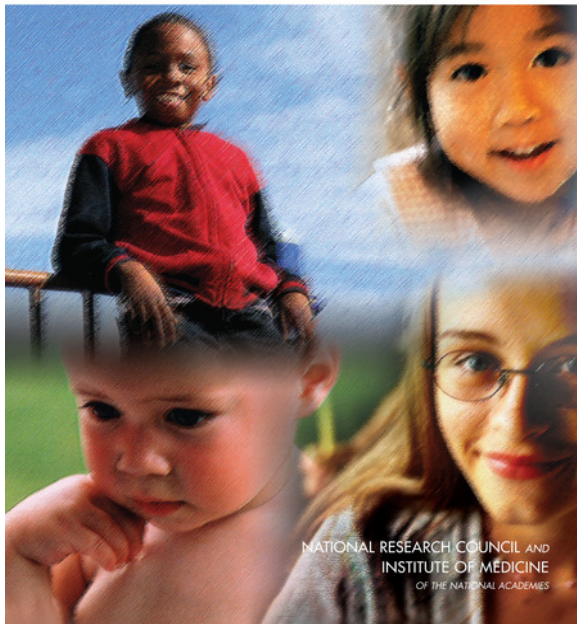
Director of Youth-Led Programs

Drug Free Action Alliance

Our Journey

Preventing Mental, Emotional,
and Behavioral Disorders
Among Young People

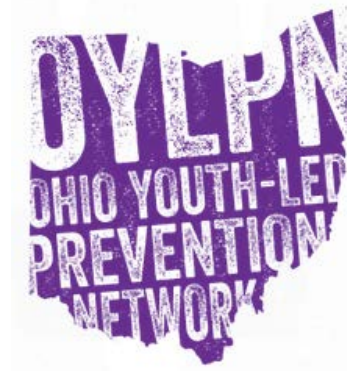
Progress and Possibilities



Balancing Act

Honoring Ohio's Rich History of Youth-Led Work

Planning for the Future of Youth-Led Prevention



Teen Institute
Taking the gamble out of life




OHIO
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Overarching Goal of YLP in Ohio

Young people will engage in the SPF to create and implement a strategic plan that uses evidence-based strategies to create community-level change.

Overarching Goal of YLP in Ohio




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Overarching Goal of YLP in Ohio

Leadership Retreats

Alternative Activities

Community Service



Young people will engage in the SPF to create and implement a strategic plan that uses evidence-based strategies to create community-level change.

WATM Rally

College Visits

Prom/Graduation Programming

Benefits of youth led prevention:

- Youth become part of a stable peer network
- Strong interpersonal skills enable students to maintain healthy relationships.
- Health and educational outcomes are influenced by the characteristics of peers
- Research shows it is an effective way of sharing knowledge
- Good way of communicating ideas
- Allows youth to see their peers as leaders and role models

Youth-Led Programs...

- is an effective way of sharing knowledge.
- is credible because it is based on real experiences.
- is a good way of communicating ideas.
- encourages a stable peer network.
- protects students from being victimized or bullied.
- encourages strong interpersonal skills
- enables students to maintain healthy relationships

Benefits of Youth-led Programming

For the community:

- Healthy messages are promoted to youth through the most effective channel: their peers
- Positive contributions by youth to the community
- Misperceptions of the norm are corrected

Benefits of Youth-led Programming

For the program:

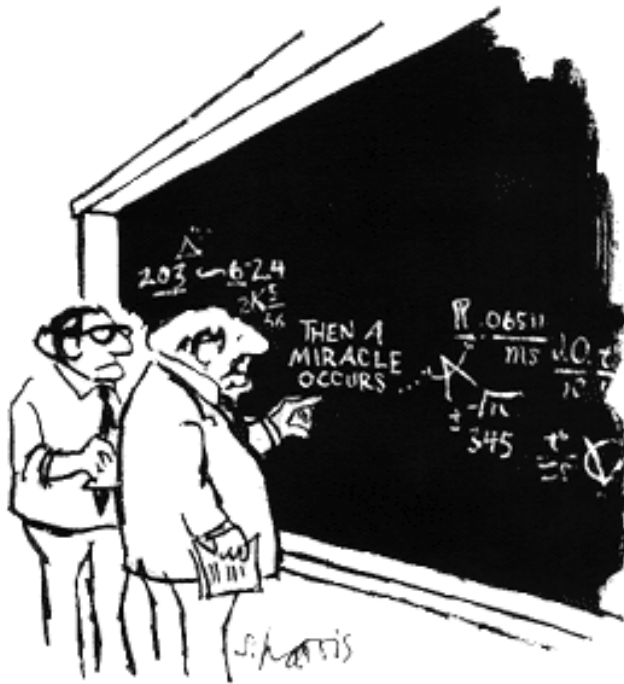
- Organizational effectiveness is increased
 - Youth know how to reach other youth
 - Youth perspective is at the table throughout the process
- Program activities are more appealing to youth
- The power of the Youth Voice is harnessed
 - Garners more power than adults, especially with the media & elected officials

Benefits of Youth-led Programming

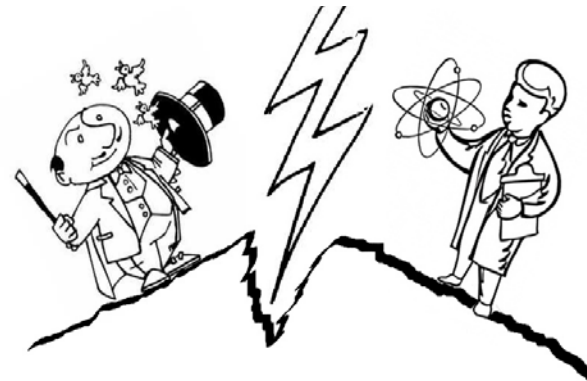
For the youth involved:

- Positive youth development
 - ❖ Leadership skills
 - ❖ Planning skills
 - ❖ Social competence
 - ❖ Positive values
 - ❖ Problem-solving skills
 - ❖ Reinforces healthy choices
- Youth empowerment
- Positive peer & adult interactions
- Youth become part of a stable peer network

Lessons Learned



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."



Vision

Hold the vision. Trust the process.



Call to Action

“It’s not just about coming together, it’s about having an impact.”

-Ms. Karen Pittman, Co-Founder, President and CEO, Forum for Youth Investment

Adult Role

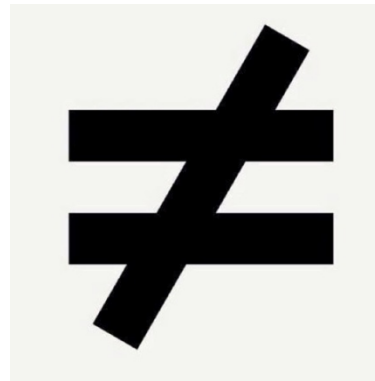


Adult allies serve as guides & play an important role in the process alongside youth.

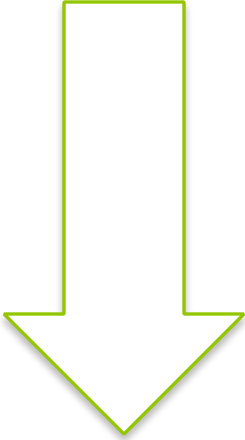
What is the Adult Role?

- Be a partner!
- Be an ally!
- Foster equal involvement
- Be a guide
 - » Safety, liability, money
 - » Content Expertise
- Run interference with adult systems
- Documentation

Youth-Led



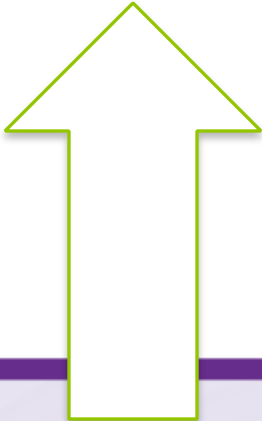
“Adults
Getting
out of the
way”



**Adults
Stepping
Forward
and
Back**



**Youth
Stepping
Forward**



* Credit for slide to Katie Richards-Schuster from University of Michigan

Youth-led is not:

- Adults telling youth not to do drugs
- Just recruiting youth to an activity
- Having “token” youth on adult boards and committees
- “Smoke & mirrors” for the program’s public image
- Youth doing all the “grunt” work
- An absence of adult involvement
- Just doing everything youth want to do
- Adults providing programming **“FOR”** and **“TO”** youth

“FOR them:

Adults are in control.

Youth simply participate.



Adult-led

“TO them”

Adults share their wisdom & experience.

Youth receive what adults have to offer.

“WITH them”

Adults share their wisdom & experience.

Youth are embraced as resources & partners.



Youth-led

Youth/Adult Partnerships

Three Conditions

- Adults are willing to share their power & responsibility with young people
- Young people are willing to take on responsibility
- Both need skills to successfully work together

The Spectrum of Adult Attitudes Toward Young People

Young People
Viewed as
OBJECTS

Young People
Viewed as
RECIPIENTS

Young People
Viewed as
RESOURCES

Style #1

Style #2

Style #3

For more information on OYLPN...



[DFAA HOME](#) [ABOUT OYLPN](#) [YOUTH MEMBERS](#) [ADULT MEMBERS](#) [CONTACT OYLPN](#)



Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network

<https://www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/oylpn>

Twitter: @BeTheMajority

Pinterest: InTheMajority

Instagram: bethemajority

For more information on Ohio Adult Allies...



Ohio Adult Allies

<https://www.ohio.edu/voinovichschool/services/ohio-adult-allies.cfm>

Twitter: @YL_AdultAllies

Instagram: YL_AdultAllies

YouTube: Ohio Adult Allies

References

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Most importantly, we offer our sincerest appreciation to the adult leaders of youth-led programs and the young people in Ohio who are committed to community change.

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