



***Municipal Network for Disconnected Youth E-Newsletter  
September-October, 2007, Volume IV, Issue 7***

**St. Paul, Minn.: Developing Youth on the City-wide “Second Shift”**

Proving the potential of partnerships to engage at-risk youth, the Mayor of St. Paul, Minn. (pop. 287,151) launched the “Second Shift” Initiative which has become a coordinated effort for youth development activities outside of the classroom. Launched with a mayoral summit in 2005, the “Second Shift” has become more than a rallying cry. City leadership, along with multiple agencies, such as parks and recreation, public libraries, the local and state school system and the St. Paul Ramsey County Health Department, collaborate to offer a wide-range of programming at all city recreation centers during out of school time.

This Fall, these efforts will be aided by a dedicated transportation link, the West Side Circulator, to increase use of the agencies’ services by disconnected youth and their families, and an online clearinghouse of programs making referrals much easier. <http://www.stpaul.gov/mayor/education/>

**Pittsfield, Mass.: Strengthening a Local Network to Reconnect Youth**

City leaders in Pittsfield, Mass. (pop. 45,793) have convened officials from public sector agencies and community organizations to develop two complementary programs to make a positive impact on at-risk youth. “Project Reconnect: Pathways to Success by 21” is a comprehensive, community-based approach focused on education and workforce development programs to re-engage their most at-risk youth populations,. Additionally, the Mayor’s School Violence Prevention program has utilized the same partnerships to improve the climate surrounding these youth.

Both efforts have strengthened the network of agencies focused on 16-21 year olds to establish a holistic case management system, regular mediation and health counseling and career exploration in three of the high need areas: construction, health care, and hospitality. After two years, students’ perceptions of themselves and their schooling have shown a marked increase on regular evaluations. <http://www.pittsfield-ma.org/mayor>

***Does your city have a promising example of cross-systems collaboration to reengage disconnected youth? Let us know today! [becerra@nlc.org](mailto:becerra@nlc.org)***

**NLC NEWS AND RESOURCES:**

**National Summit for Your City’s Families Highlights the Power of Partnerships**

With a record turnout from over 100 cities, the YEF Institute’s biennial National Summit for Your City’s Families provided a national platform for sharing promising practices on collaborative strategies for reengaging disconnected youth. Highlights of the two day Summit included a workshop for city-wide collaborative teams, municipal panels on Reducing Youth Violence and Helping Youth in Transition and a networking session

hosted by the Municipal Network for Disconnected Youth. Powerpoint presentations and resources from all sessions are available at: <http://www.nlc.org/IYEF/yefsummit.aspx>

**RSVP TODAY: Collaborating to Reduce Gang Violence Audio Conference- Oct. 31 2PM**

With many cities and towns experiencing a sharp increase in crime this year, keeping our communities safe and reducing the number of young offenders is too important a goal for cities to “go it alone” or depend solely on the law enforcement roles of police departments. Join this audio conference and learn of proven city-led strategies to confront crime in a collaborative fashion. Included in this program will be initial findings from NLC’s California Cities Gang Prevention Network. To RSVP, email [becerra@nlc.org](mailto:becerra@nlc.org)

**Six Cities Selected to Receive Technical Assistance for Youth Master Planning**

The YEF Institute announced the selection of six cities – Charleston, S.C.; Lakewood, Ohio; Lexington, Ky.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Portland, Ore.; and Washington, D.C. – to receive technical assistance in the implementation of comprehensive plans to support children and youth. This initiative, made possible by the MetLife Foundation, will assist cities and partners in building collaborations that support the effective implementation of a children and youth plan. For more information, contact [andrews@nlc.org](mailto:andrews@nlc.org)

**Youth Delegates at the NLC Congress of Cities in New Orleans**

Every year for the last five years, NLC has extended invitations to cities to bring youth (15-18 years old) to the National League of Cities’ Congress of Cities. Approximately 200 youth, who serve in a leadership capacity as part of their city or mayor youth council, task force, commission, boards, or summit, attended last year’s conference. This year’s Congress of Cities will be in New Orleans, November 13-17, 2007 and will offer youth delegates a range of exciting opportunities to have direct interactions with municipal officials during educational workshops and reception and will also provide opportunities for the youth delegates to network with each other and youth leaders from New Orleans during a series of activities that will allow the youth to have facilitated peer-to-peer discussions and a set of offsite activities that will include during sessions that will. For more information, contact Tiffany Mitchell at [fellow@nlc.org](mailto:fellow@nlc.org)

**Beyond City Limits & Career Academy Featured on NPR**

The impact of the Career Academy for at-risk youth in Baltimore was highlighted recently as a promising practice on National Public Radio. Featured in the YEF Institute’s case study publication, *Beyond City Limits: Cross System Collaboration to Reengage Disconnected Youth*, the collaborative academy is run by the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development and the Baltimore Workforce Investment Board, using both public and private sector funding, but is part of the city-school system. For more information about this story featured on NPR, <http://www.publicbroadcasting.net> To order a copy of the publication, email [becerra@nlc.org](mailto:becerra@nlc.org)

**YEF Institute Seeks Youth Development Professional**

The YEF Institute seeks a dedicated professional to provide primary program and research support for the institute’s work in areas related to youth development and leadership, including support for city efforts to develop youth master plans, engage young people in municipal decision-making, and assist youth who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system. For more information on this position, please visit [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org). If you know of any qualified individuals that would be interested, please encourage them to

apply. Send resume to: Human Resources, NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES, 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004, or email to [employment@nlc.org](mailto:employment@nlc.org).

**OTHER RESOURCES:**

**Local Solutions Improve Substance Abuse Interventions for Youth Offenders**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Reclaiming Futures initiative was designed to enhance the local coordination and effectiveness of substance abuse services for youth in the juvenile justice system. Working with 10 communities across the United States to develop and then implement the Reclaiming Futures Model, researchers found that it is a useful model for promoting effective partnerships between justice agencies, treatment providers, and community groups.

[http://www.chapinhall.org/article\\_abstract.aspx?ar=1446](http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1446)

**Teen Action Toolkit: Building a Youth-led Response to Teen Victimization**

This toolkit is intended as a resource for educators, law enforcement personnel, outreach workers, victim service providers, youth workers, teens, and others who might be interested in starting a youth-led effort to improve local policies, outreach, and services for adolescent crime victims. The toolkit provides a blueprint for engaging youth in community problem-solving around the issue of teen victimization. Published by the National Center for the Victims of Crime, it accompanies a regular web-based training series for victim assistance providers.

[http://www.ncvc.org/tvp/main.aspx?dbID=dash\\_Home](http://www.ncvc.org/tvp/main.aspx?dbID=dash_Home)