

**KRONKOSKY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

TOPIC: Youth Leadership
DATE: July 16, 1998
PREPARED BY: Yolanda Uranga, OLLU Intern

Participants

Invited Agency representatives

Linda Claflin	President	Junior Achievement
Damon Herbert	Interim Associate Dean for Student Affairs	University of Texas Health Science Center
Ponce Duran	Scout Executive	Boy Scouts of America
Maria Ferrier	Executive Director	City Year
Cathy Grantham	Assistant Executive Director	San Antonio Girl Scout Council
Hector Gonzalez	Area Coordinator	National Hispanic Institute
Sallie Luedke	Director of Program Services	YMCA

Foundation Staff and Trustees

Palmer Moe	Executive Director
Megan Kromer	Director of Program & Evaluation
Mark Carmona	Grants Manager
Yolanda Uranga	Intern

Overview

- Leadership programs in the San Antonio area are comprised of activities that focus on three major themes
 - the development of traditional values (honesty, integrity, discipline, responsibility etc.)
 - service to the community
 - personal development

- For service providers, the key to the leadership development of youth is the act of viewing youth as a resource for the future.
- Participants are exposed to ethnic and socio-economic diversity helps in the development of cultural awareness.
- Mentors are an integral part of a successful program; role-models assist youth in visualizing goals

Leadership Development

- Programs approach youth development as "learning for life"
- Program curriculums adopted by area agencies include components for
 - (1) character development
 - (2) career selection
 - (3) the improvement of society
 - (4) building assets and skills
 - (5) adopting healthy lifestyles
 - (6) developing social competencies (conflict resolution, decision making etc.)
 - (7) leadership skills
 - (8) positive identity
 - (9) cultural awareness
- Internship programs and job placement are available through some agencies and are a practical way to provide hands-on training.
- One factor in leadership development is that of stressing the importance of service to the community. Service opportunities usually include job placement in non-profit agencies and volunteer projects.

Mentoring

- Area agency representatives agree that the use of mentors is a vital part of youth program service delivery. Mentoring is a way to provide support and demonstrate interest in the development of individual young people.
- Mentors sometimes provide lacking parental support in the lives of young people.

Issues Concerning Youth Leadership

- The break-up of families affects youth in many ways; two of these areas are economic and social (lack of parental support, single parent family)
- Parental support is a key factor for building resiliency in youth; there is a sense of hopelessness that is affecting youth and we need to instill hope for a better future
- We need to instill pride in our youth.
- We need to raise our expectations of youth
- Solutions for addressing these concerns involve the community changing its attitude about youth and valuing the contributions that youth make.

What is needed for systemic change?

- There is a need for trained youth workers to provide direct service to youth.
- Outreach to young people is needed; youth need to be introduced to available services
- Volunteers to work as mentors need to be recruited

Program Descriptions

Boy Scouts of America

One of the goals of the Boy Scouts of America is to instill values in young people in order to prepare them to make ethical choices in their lifetime. These values teach that a scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. The Boys Scouts of America works with youth between

the ages of 6 through 20 years old. At the present time there are 29,000 youth and 5,000 adult volunteers involved in scouting. The emphasis is on building character, which produces learning for life experiences.

San Antonio Girl Scout Council

The Girl Scouts is an organization for girls between the ages of 5 through 17 years old and is primarily concerned with character development, the improvement of society, and teaching traditional values. There are 23,000 girls and 5,000 adult volunteers participating in the program during 1998. The Girl Scouts presently has troops in every school district in Bexar County and in 7 other county school districts. Aside from the traditional programs, the Outreach Program, in 22 schools, involves elementary and middle school girls and is designed to enhance skills in science and math. There is also a Resource Center for troop leaders and a Service Center where Saturday programs are conducted.

YMCA

The YMCA is involved in developing positive values, leadership, positive identity and healthy lifestyles in the youth they serve. Some of the activities available are sports, aquatics, and camping. One program is designed to prepare youth for employment and focuses on career development through opportunities to learn business etiquette and computer skills.

City Year

City Year is a community service agency employing 17 to 24 year olds. This program was developed to give young people an opportunity to work for a year and earn money for college while serving the community. The agency provides opportunities for character development and mentoring. City Year is modeled after Americorps and has 70 members in 1998. One key element of this program is the diversity of its members who come from different socio-economic, racial, ethnic and educational backgrounds. This diversity is seen as an important element of in breaking down social barriers while serving the community.

National Hispanic Institute

The National Hispanic Institute is headquartered in Maxwell, Texas and has chapters in major cities of the U.S. The goal is to develop leadership skills and increase retention in college. The organization is led by student and parents and guided by a board of directors. Membership is open to high school students in the top 10% of their class. Freshman and Sophomore Students compete in various categories of public speaking and legislative processes. Junior and Senior students are involved in collegiate leadership.

Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement is an organization that teaches members, K-12th grade, about the free enterprise system and leadership. The program, which incorporates an internship, utilizes the skill of mentors from USAA and can be found in 136 schools in San Antonio. Junior Achievement prepares members to become productive members of the workforce through character and leadership development.

UTHSC

The School of Allied Health Sciences provides internship opportunities to students from the community who have an interest in science. High school students work in laboratories during the summer assisting with research projects. The primary goal of this project is to encourage students, particularly minorities and females, who want to pursue a career in science. The program also provides additional activities on data analysis, ethics in science, and test taking skills.