



Leadership Asheville 27 Leadership Learning Team (LLT) Project Descriptions

- **Asheville Middle School Listening Tour** - This LLT worked with the Asheville City Schools Foundation on a second listening project, *Listening to Our Teens*. This time the listening tour focused on middle school students. The results of the listening tour was to the community and provided a platform for developing new programs and services to this age group.
 - **Team:** Dan Anderson, Christina Corey, Bill Feste, Molly McNichols, Michael Rottjakob.
- **Peer Counseling Program for High School Students** - Peer counseling is an idea that, despite the expectations, has proven itself successful time and time again. As a pilot version that began in 1980 at a high school in Illinois, *Peer Ears* is still around today, helping high school students handle the emotional ups and downs of adolescence by pairing them with trained student counselors. This program has resulted in less truancy, detentions, and suspensions in the high school and has increased self-esteem, self-awareness, and self-monitoring in the students themselves. Parents have noticed that children are coming home less agitated and moody and are patient and more respectful of others in their household. Who better to understand an adolescent than an adolescent themselves? This LLT explored the opportunity and how to create such a program at the high schools in our area.
 - **Team:** Marilyn Ball, Carl Donovan, Kyley Ferris, Jim Pritchett, Brian Repass.
- **Youth in Philanthropy Project** - According to the Kellogg Foundation, youth philanthropy is a vehicle for creating positive leadership changes in communities, engaging young people as part of the strategy to enhance the quality of life. This involves training on issues of community assessment, diversity, leadership, conflict resolution, teambuilding and communication. Youth philanthropy challenges young people to identify, address, and seek solutions to community needs through the application of a comprehensive grant-making process as a strategy for nurturing a sense of social responsibility. As a result of their training and the grant-making process, youth are well-prepared to serve the community in other ways. They engage in volunteerism and stewardship. When young people are trusted and valued as an important community resource, they rise to the occasion and serve with pride. This not only helps youth participating in the project, but also creates role models for other youth, thus helping the overall community. This LLT reported to several organizations in the area on the feasibility of creating such a project.
 - **Team:** Julie Damore, John Locke, Christine Lowe, David Plaisance, Tami Ruckman.
- **Youth Indicators Project** - This project was a subset of a larger community indicators project that would have as its purpose: improvements in citizen engagement, community planning and policy making. Working with Children First, this team assisted in creating a broad range of measures designed to identify and communicate the health and well-being of the youth/children in our community.
 - **Team:** Latessa Johnson, John O'Neal, Brenda Macauley, Merry Michalsen, Fred Waldkoetter.
- **Youth Leadership Development Program** - Working with the City of Asheville Youth Leadership Academy (CAYLA), this LLT provided students with a more comprehensive, in-depth program on job/leadership skills that will run from 10:00 a.m. until noon for one week (Five two-hour sessions). This Leadership Learning Team designed the program and each team member will participate in conducting the training.
 - **Team:** Bob Bolak, Heather Nelson, Cynthia Sellinger, Roderick Simmons, David Smith.

- **Youth Community Leadership Awards** - By working with Giant Leap Consulting on a plan to reward and recognize youth for their community leadership and service, this LLT helped inspire and motivate more teens to make a difference in their communities. This team created and offered an annual award(s) for youth in our community. The first award(s) was given at Leadership Asheville's annual luncheon in September 2009.
 - **Team:** James Diaz, Tracy Gualano, Marie Hall, Tom Keever, Georgia Shannon.

- **AB Youth Commission** - Many mayors, governors and legislatures across the country have created youth councils: formal bodies made up of youth (typically ages 16-18) who advise high level decision makers and elected officials. These are youth councils, commissions, and advisory boards meant to guide government and community decision-making. It provides youth the opportunity to come together to learn leadership skills, to gain knowledge of how local government operates, and to serve in an advisory capacity to leaders in the public arena. Working with Leadership Asheville, this LLT researched and developed a structure and process that allows young people to have a meaningful role in the policy and decision-making processes in our community.
 - **Team:** Sherman Bass, Bradley Cain, Julie Duriga, Wanda Lanier, Phillip Murphy.

- **Kids Against Hunger** - With the mentoring and oversight of adults, can youth take the lead and responsibility for the packaging and mailing of food product to hungry children around the world? Working with Mission Healthcare Foundation, this project explored the question and in the process, determined the feasibility of creating youth-led businesses in the area.
 - **Team:** Rae Geoffrey, Brian Gompers, Sharon Owen, Mary Lynn Powell, Eric Thorp, Peter Wehr.

- **Community Partnership for Healthier Kids** - Working with two faculty members at UNC Asheville who are completing research on childhood health and obesity in the area, this LLT first understood the findings and implications of this research. Then, they prepared and implemented a plan and event to educate the community on the lessons learned from this study.
 - **Team:** John Dietrich, Nikki Reid, Sarah Nunez, Michael Richardson, John Mark Stroud.

- **Youth on Boards Project** - Youth serving on boards helps young people and adults think differently about each other so they can work together to build a stronger community. By developing a process for youth to serve effectively on boards, this team would provide a platform where young people could be more fully respected and treated as valued and active members of their families, communities, and society. The expectation is that the model developed for the YWCA will also work for other organizations in the community.
 - **Team:** Jan Blunt, Michael Carter, Lance Martin, Amanda Meyer, Jeffrey Piccirollo, Shelley White.

- **Caring for Children** - Caring for Children has been serving the needs of children and youth in Buncombe County for over 30 years. Beginning in 1975 out of a small study group from Central United Methodist Church, Caring for Children has expanded to incorporate residential programs, foster care programs, day treatment and respite programs, out-patient services, and programs that provide community support to parents and families. The organization and team helped create safety and nurture hope in the lives of children and families in crisis.
 - **Team:** Jerrell Deaver, Tim Flora, Linda Saylor, Don Watson, Kristen Weaver.

- **The Pecking Order (Bullying and the Power Continuum)** - The mission of the Center for Diversity Education is to increase the ways that diversity is included in the daily life of the classroom in grades K thru 16. It also offers exhibits and training programs to businesses, civic groups, and houses of worship. These exhibits, tours, and trainings help start a conversation among employees, clients and congregants regarding the issues of diversity and cultural competency. The Center for Diversity Education offers a myriad of workshops and training programs to educate all members of the community at various capacities.
 - **Team:** Blake Boyd, Lance Edwards, Jeff Ferezan, Monique Taylor, David Wilkerson.