

2008 YOUTH COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM WORK TEAM (YCA PWT)

ANNUAL REPORT

Youth Community Action Program Work Team (YCA PWT)

Reporting to Barbara Schirmer

YCA PWT Co-chairs

- June P. Mead*, Senior Extension Associate, Department of Human Development, Cornell University, jm62@cornell.edu
- Kay Telfer, Extension Educator, Family, Youth & Community Development, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County, kct1@cornell.edu

* Co-chair responsible for finalizing this report

Activities

- Plans for the "R U RDY?" Leadership Team project were initiated at the YCA PWT meeting on June 5 with a discussion about YCA opportunities in community disaster preparedness. Ellen Abend discussed her ideas about engaging youth in community disaster management. Chip Malone saw opportunities to integrate GIS/GPS community mapping into disaster preparedness; Kay Telfer introduced the idea of disaster preparedness for pets/animals and the "Masters of Disaster" Red Cross curriculum; Marcia Eames-Sheavly discussed ideas about fruit/crop preparedness. Barb Schirmer pointed out that the opportunities for youth discussed by the group were "cross-cutting" spanning all three of the youth PWTs (i.e., YCA, Healthy Lifestyles, and Science, Engineering and Technology).
- Following this discussion about the potential for youth involvement in disaster preparedness, the group decided there was sufficient interest to move ahead with preparing a proposal in response to the CCE Director's RFP in Support of PWT Special Needs. The proposal was submitted and subsequently approved.
- Marcia Eames-Sheavly is collaborating with June Mead and the Community Improvement Through Youth (CITY) Project on ways young people can combat climate change through YCA projects. Through the "One Seed at a Time: Alleviating Climate Change through Youth Community Action" project, youth in the CITY Project in Broome County pilot tested various youth-led activities and shared these at State Fair. In addition, youth and partnering adults presented a workshop at the Trans4mations Conference in Rochester in October.
- Kay Telfer highlighted projects undertaken by the CITY Teen Leaders in Broome County and New York City through the CITY Project: the Operation 4 Cooperation Youth/Law Enforcement Summit, the Binghamton Story Project, a collaboration with Binghamton University; 4-H @ Madison Square Garden WNBA game Sunday, June 8 and the First Ever Affordable Fashion Show--both in New York City.

- Youth and adults from the CITY Project presented a workshop on strategies for building collaborations to promote sustainability entitled, *Building Bridges in the CITY Project: Strategies for Intentional Collaborations*. Four CITY Teen Leaders, Asia Ambler and Calya Perricelli, CCE-Broome County and Sherrye Safford and Kimani Lewis-Ashley, CUCE-New York City presented highlights of their completed community improvement projects and spoke about what they have gained from their participation in the CITY Project and related 4-H activities and events.
- JoAnne Baldini coordinated the State Teen Action Rep Retreat (STARR) in April 2008, a three-day event where 4-H teens participate in a variety of YCA-related workshops and activities meant to challenge, excite and further develop life skills. Overall themes and ideas for workshops and activities come from input and efforts of teens and adults serving on the youth/adult STARR planning committee. Based on degree of skill and knowledge gained in attending different workshops, teen participants worked out individual action plans so that upon their return to their home counties, they were prepared to begin implementing their plans. Highly noted program areas addressed issues related to Healthy Food Choices & Physical Activity; Emergency Preparedness; Sod Sculptures; Games Facilitation; and over Leadership for moving programs forward.
- JoAnne Baldini conducted a YCA training in New York City in October 2008 for CUCE NYC staff and community partners. Feedback from the participants was very positive. Outcomes include: greater understanding of 'citizenship' in youth lives; the value of youth and adults working in partnership; as well as staff and community volunteers having a 'tool kit' of ideas and resources to more effectively engage youth in the process of change within communities.

Accomplishments

- The YCA PWT submitted a proposal for \$1000 in response to Helene Dillard's Special Needs RFP and received approval to support the development of a promotional display and brochure to be used at 2008 NY State Fair and at the 4-H Educators conference, Trans4mations (October 2008) to generate interest in youth involvement in emergency/disaster preparedness.
- Working with 4-H youth identified at the 2008 STARR, members of the YCA PWT, and interested 4-H Educators, we formed the "R U RDY?" Leadership Team to explore a process and resources for engaging youth in community disaster management. Our purpose is to generate interest statewide, share ideas about the potential of youth involvement in community disaster management, and support the "R U RDY?" Leadership Team in moving forward on this project.

Outcomes and Impacts

- "R U RDY?" 4-H Youth Involvement in Disaster Preparedness: Through funding from the Extension Director's Special Needs Funds and the 4-H Foundation, the YCA PWT kicked off a new 4-H Youth Development statewide initiative with a workshop for youth/adult teams, November 15, as part of the Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H Choose Health and More Volunteer Forum, held at the Holiday Inn, Auburn. Each youth/adult team attending the "RU RDY?" Leadership Team Kick-off helped plan statewide efforts for the initiative, learn about using GPS/GIS in disaster preparedness, how to help animals and pets be disaster ready, and received an "RU RDY?" 4-H Youth Involvement in Disaster Preparedness Toolkit. Plans are underway to work closely with the 4-H Youth Development State Office to plan next steps in terms of rolling out the statewide initiative.
- *Planting One Seed at a Time and Alleviating Climate Change through Youth Community Action:* The Community Improvement Through Youth (CITY) Project helped pilot test Planting One Seed at a Time and Alleviating Climate Change through Youth Community Action, a new approach developed by Cornell's Garden-based Learning Program to combat the impact of climate change through various types of sustainable gardening projects, activities, and practices. All activities took place in conjunction with normally scheduled CITY Project's afterschool and summer programming, May through September 2008. The project began in the spring with a meeting between six of the CITY Project Teen Leaders; CITY Project staff; Ann Supa, 4-H Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Broome County; Christine Hadekel, Dept. of Horticulture; and two Cornell student interns from the Dept. of Horticulture and the Dept. of Fiber Science and Apparel Design.
- *Workshop at the 2008 NYSACCE4-HE Conference:* In October, June Mead, CITY Project Director, Dept. of Human Development, Vicki Giarratano, CCE, Broome County and Christine Hadekel presented a workshop at the 2008 NYSACCE4-HE Conference: "Trans-4-mations" in Rochester. They presented highlights from several of the climate change projects completed during the pilot test by the CITY Teen Leaders in Broome County and made suggestions on how other 4-H and Youth Community Action groups can use this new approach in their communities.
- *National 4-H SET:* June Mead continued serving on the National 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Evaluation Design Team. She is helping coordinate the efforts of the YCA PWT and sharing information with the Science and Technology PWT through Barbara Schirmer, State Program Leader, 4-H Youth Development.
- The following YCA-related presentations were given at CSREES's Children, Youth and Families At Risk (CYFAR) 2008 Conference, May 6-9, San Antonio, Texas:

Advancing Youth Development: A Curriculum for Youth Worker and Youth- Serving Organizations
Eduardo González, Jr., and Lucinda Randolph-Benjamin, Cornell University
Cooperative Extension-New York City

Building Bridges in the CITY Project: Strategies for Intentional Collaborations
Kay Telfer and Vicki Giarratano, Cornell Cooperative Extension-Broome County
Jackie Davis Manigaulte and Jamila Simon, Cornell University Cooperative Extension-
New York City
June P. Mead, Cornell University
Celeste Carmichael, Cornell Cooperative Extension-NYS 4-H Office
Asia Ambler and Calya Perricelli, CITY Teen Leaders, Broome County
Sherry Safford and Kimani Lewis-Ashley, CITY Teen Leaders, New York City

Creative Communication Tools – Simply Done
Celeste Carmichael, Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development

Jamila Simon, Cornell Cooperative Extension–New York City

Exploring Promising Practices: How to Make a Difference in Teen-Focused Programs Addressing Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting, and Sexuality (APPS)

Jackie Davis-Manigaulte, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, New York City

Finding a Way Through the Maze: A Day in the Life of Children and Teenagers

June P. Mead, Cornell University

Jackie Davis Manigaulte, Cornell University Cooperative Extension–New York City

- *4-H Families Count: Family Strengthening Award: The CITY Project*, a Youth Community Action 4-H Signature Program, received the 2008 4-H Families Count: Family Strengthening Award from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, at the annual National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) during the Galaxy III Conference in Indianapolis, IN. As project director and evaluator for the Community Improvement Through Youth (CITY) Project, June P. Mead, Dept. of Human Development, received the first \$10,000, and will receive the remaining \$5,000 after sharing best practices relating to their programs with others in the Cooperative Extension System. In addition, while at the Galaxy III conference, the CITY Project received the 2008 MetLife Foundation Excellence in Afterschool Award.

YCA PWT Co-chairs complete their term: June Mead and Kay Telfer completed their second year as co-chairs of the PWT. They will continue to serve throughout 2009, and mentor new co-chairs to assume leadership for the PWT in 2010.

Active Members of the YCA PWT

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