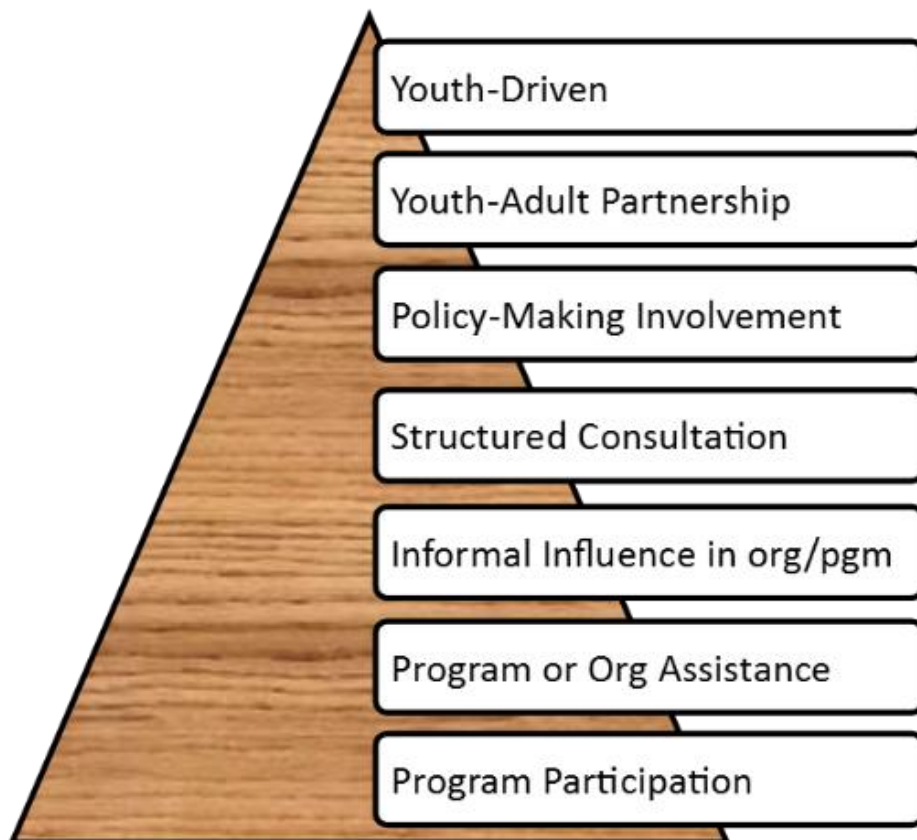
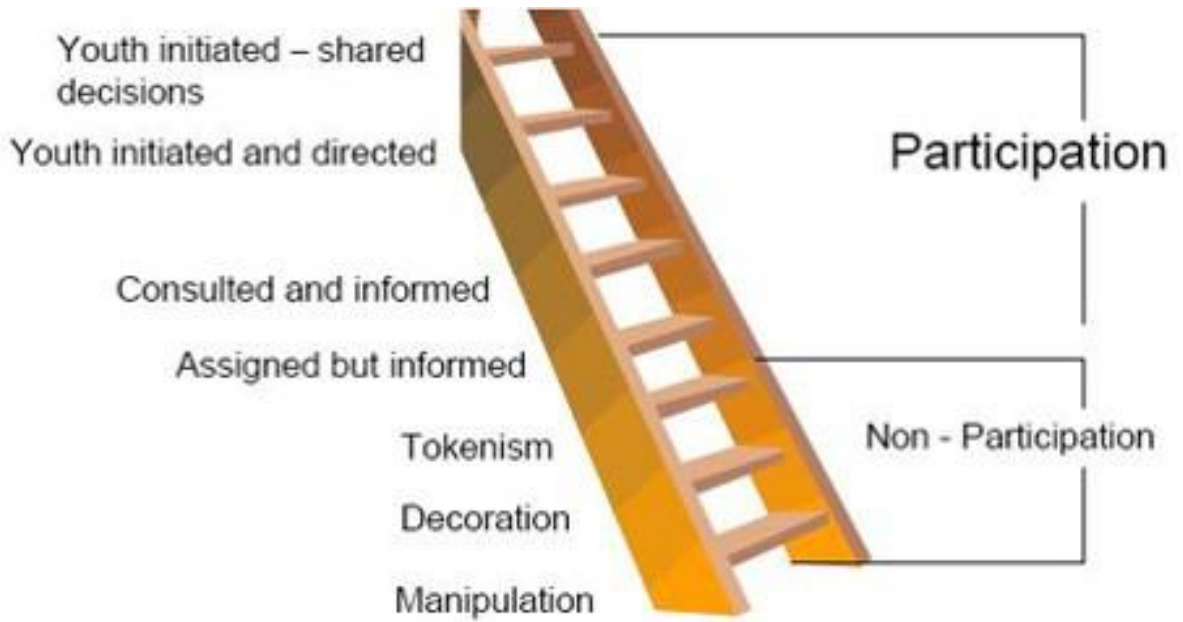


Youth Position Interim Report

Maddie Wallace
Youth Programs Assistant
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End of January Interim Report

Over the past couple of months, I have delved more into the Youth in Philanthropy section of my position. I compiled a series of survey questions in order to conduct both external (surrounding Community Foundations) and internal (organizations within Cranbrook) interviews regarding this project, and have received some excellent feedback. I have completed my external networking and have begun networking internally. I have had the pleasure of talking to Dana Osiowy and Frankie Hols and will be attending the YSPN (Youth Service Providers Network) and CBK (Cranbrook) Youth Committee meetings in order to gain some further insights. I was also able to interview Karin Penner from the Sweet Heart Society, who gave me some very helpful pointers. In order to proceed with this project, I will need the board to review the data I have collected as well as the model set-up I have created, and come up with what direction they would like to take with our YIP group.

I was fortunate enough to have eight Community Foundations from across B.C. reply to my email survey (Victoria, Grand Forks, Sunshine Coast, Whistler, Richmond, West Vancouver, Golden, and Surrey), and was able to talk to two Foundations over the phone (Revelstoke and Kelowna). The origins of their YIP groups varied from using money and support from the Vancouver Foundation, to being inspired by Vital Signs, to recognizing that youth involvement was needed in their Foundation/community. Though their origins were mostly different, the majority of the groups faced the same problem: getting the youth interested in joining.

While some Foundations were able to move past this problem and establish a successful group, others could not keep the group up and running due to lack of interest. After going over my data, I have concluded that not every class of students is the same, and while some kids would love to be heavily involved in the community, others would not. It would be easiest to go after the ‘over-achievers’ as they are always looking for another activity to add to their resume. However, I feel that limiting ourselves to this group would not give us an accurate portrayal of the average youth voice. Therefore, I am currently working on ideas on how to recruit kids from the rest of the population, not just the ‘over-achievers’.

Another commonality between the Foundations was how they got funding for their group. While an endowment fund worked for many of them, I do not know if this method will work effectively for us. Other options of gaining funds dealt with fundraising (I have compiled a few ideas regarding this approach - see Fundraising Report) and applying for (government) grants.

The biggest point that I learned from this data was that in order for our group to be successful, we are in need of committed directors with continuity. Without these directors, it will be very difficult for the YIP group to stay organized and productive. I would recommend that the group has some sort of Social Coordinator or Youth Adult Advisor whose purpose is to solely work with/guide the group in their endeavors.

Using the data I received from these Foundations, I was able to construct a layout for different models of Youth Involvement in Community Foundations (see document). This layout provides many different options for how our YIP group could be set up; however, these models do not have to correspond numerically. For example, Model 1 under Age Range **does not** have to be paired with Model 1 under Funds. One can simply pick what model they prefer (1-3 or to 5 in some cases) under each section in order to create a completed outline for the YIP group.

These models do not include information from my internal interviews as they are not yet completed. However, this does not mean that the data I have so far collected is unimportant. When I have completed my internal interviews, I will write up a report that solely summarizes that information. Until then, I will include what I have so far collected regarding these interviews so that the board can get an idea of what I am doing.

In conclusion, in order to proceed with this project, certain aspects of the group must be decided upon: namely the issue of funding, and whether the directors will be volunteers, or have paid positions. Until then, not much action can be taken, and this project will remain as a blue print.

External Youth in Philanthropy Contacts

Vancouver Foundation:

- Nicole MacLellan – Manager
nicole.maclellan@vancouverfoundation.ca
- Vi Nguyen – Director
vi.nguyen@vancouverfoundation.ca
- YPC general email: ypc@vancouverfoundation.ca
Tel 604.688.2204

Central Okanagan Foundation:

COFFY (Central Okanagan Community Foundation for Youth)

- Phone: (250) 861-6160
- Email: info@CentralOkanaganFoundation.org
- Bruce@CentralOkanaganFoundation.org

Comox Valley Community Foundation:

- Phone: 250-338-8444
- Email: cvcf@shawcable.com

Creston – Kootenay Foundation:

- Tel: 250-223-8004
- Email: ckfcreston@gmail.com

Golden & District Community Foundation:

Golden Youth Opportunities Council (GYOC)

- Phone: 250-344-8610
- Email: admin@goldencommunityfoundation.ca

Kamloops Foundation:

Youth Advisory Council

- Tel: 250-434-6995
- Email: fdo@kamloopsfoundation.com

Parksville-Qualicum Foundation:

- Tel: 250-752-7202
- Email: pqcf@shaw.ca

Phoenix Foundation of the Boundary Communities: *YSHIFT, Youth Advisory Committee*

- Tel: 250-443-1899
- Email: phoenixfoundationbdry@gmail.com

The Prince George Community Foundation:

- Tel: 250- 562-7772
- Email: pgfoundation@telus.net

Revelstoke Community Foundation: *Revelstoke Youth Advisory (YPLAY)*

- Tel: 250-837-5345
- Fax: 250-837-4223
- Email: foundation@revelstokecf.com

Richmond Community Foundation: *Richmond Youth Foundation*

- Tel: 604-270-4483
- Email: info@richmondfoundation.org

Shuswap Community Foundation: *Youth Advisory Committee of the Shuswap*

- Tel: 250-832-5428
- Email: info@shuswapfoundation.ca

Squamish Community Foundation: *Squamish Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council*

- Tel: 604-815-5076
- Email: info@squamishfoundation.com

Sunshine Coast Community Foundation:
Youth SCOOP (Sunshine Coast Organization of Philanthropy)

- Tel: 604-741-7360
- Email: sccfoundation@dccnet.com

Surrey Foundation:
Surrey Foundation Youth Council

- Tel: 604-591-2699
- Email: info@surreycares.org

Victoria Foundation:

- Tel: 250 381-5532
- Email: info@victoriafoundation.bc.ca

West Vancouver Community Foundation:
YAHU (Young Adults Helping U)

- Tel: 604-925-8153
- Email: westvanfoundation@telus.net

Community Foundation of Whistler:

- Tel: 604-935-8080
- Email: info@whistlerfoundation.com

External Survey Questions

- 1.) What made you decide to start a YIP group in your community?
- 2.) What were the greatest difficulties you faced when starting the group?
- 3.) How did you get the youth in your community interested in joining?
- 4.) How did you stress the importance of YIP and volunteering?

- 5.) What type of charitable activities is the group involved with? Future activities?
- 6.) How frequent are these events/activities?
- 7.) What events/fundraisers were the most successful?
- 8.) How often does the group meet?

- 9.) What is the average age range of participants?
- 10.) How many years do participants stay involved with the group/organization?
- 11.) How do you get equal involvement from people who are 12 and people who are 25?
- 12.) Are all of the people involved with your YIP group local?

- 13.) Is transportation ever a problem for the members of the group?
- 14.) How do people like to get their information?
- 15.) Does your Newsletter have a YIP section?
- 16.) Are volunteers/youth more likely to attend meetings or do they prefer to be involved in special events/hands-on activities?

YIP Survey Answers from Phone Interviews

Questions correspond to External YIP Survey

Revelstoke:

Note: need directors with continuity. Now have social co-ordinator – to establish community Youth Initiative co. in high school. YIP – Education piece. Projects MUST be developed and enacted by the students. FOOD.

1.) What made you decide to start a YIP group in your community?

Vancouver Foundation Initiative – funds

~early 2000s

2.) What were the greatest difficulties you faced when starting the group?

Small community – accessing youth difficult outside school system.

Accessed w/in school, in grades 7-9

3.) How did you get the youth in your community interested in joining?

Lunch time meetings – Pizza, promoting YIP, funds

5.) What type of charitable activities is the group involved with? Future activities?

No charitable activities

~issues: grab attention of people who will soon be leaving (gr. 12 students) – back to square 1. No consistency. Focusing on grades 5-7 (hand holding with teachers)

7.) What events/fundraisers were the most successful?

Cake Walk

~musical chairs?

~pay to participate

~winner gets cake

Music Concert

~bought tickets

~musicians & facilities donated time/equipment

~consider roadblocks

14.) How do people like to get their information?

Meet w/them, broadcast system, social media

15.) Does your Newsletter have a YIP section?

YIP in Newsletter years ago – acknowledgment piece

Central Okanagon:

- 1.) What made you decide to start a YIP group in your community?
Felt it was important to engage young people.
- 2.) What were the greatest difficulties you faced when starting the group?
Recruiting members – have other obligations.
- 3.) How did you get the youth in your community interested in joining?
Ongoing – info sessions 1st week of classes.
~COFFY (Central Okanagan Community Foundation for Youth) make presentation
- 5.) What type of charitable activities is the group involved with? Future activities?
Volunteering – prepared dinner at homeless shelter, makes grants every spring.
~given \$ to distribute
- 7.) What events/fundraisers were the most successful?
Don't do fundraising.
- 8.) How often does the group meet?
Once a month.
- 9.) What is the average age range of participants?
21-24.
- 10.) How many years do participants stay involved with the group/organization?
3-4 yrs.
- 12.) Are all of the people involved with your YIP group local?
All local.
- 14.) How do people like to get their information?
Through advisor, emails, meetings.
- 15.) Does your Newsletter have a YIP section?
No newsletter, feature COFFY in annual report & on website.

Survey Responses by Email

Victoria:

1.) What made you decide to start a YIP group in your community?

The program started here in 2003 – well before my time. We modeled our program after the Winnipeg Foundation's. We renamed ours Vital Youth to better resonate with our Vital Signs report.

2.) What were the greatest difficulties you faced when starting the group?

Also, I'm not sure. I can talk with our CEO who initiated this program, after the holidays.

3.) How did you get the youth in your community interested in joining?

Rather than offering one group where students across the city get together to work through the granting process, we offer the program in 8 high schools. School committees work individually and then we have an event at the end of the program (April or May) when students present their grants and talk about their processes, and meet the other school committees.

4.) Where did the funding for the group come from? Did your foundation have a youth endowment fund developed ahead of the formation of the YIP group?

We ask sponsors to commit to funding the program for 3 years - \$2500 per year for granting and \$500 per year that we contribute to the school's endowment fund. We would love to expand the program but that is dependent upon securing more funding.

5.) Does the group do any fundraisers?

No. We always let the students know that they can put their research and community knowledge to good use – but we leave it up to them if they want to take on any other projects or fundraising efforts. Usually I think they do so much fundraising for other initiatives through their leadership classes at school and sports teams.

6.) What type of charitable activities is the group involved with? Future activities?

We leave it up to the individual committees. One committee found it so hard to visit several charities that they couldn't provide funding for and volunteered some of their own time there. This year, as a result of our Youth Vital Signs report, a school committee decided to organize a Mental Health Week at their school; they plan to invite feeder schools, as well as students from other schools in the district.

Another school is organizing this blackboard project in their school this year to find out what their peers want in their school and community. As a program overall, however, we don't organize any community activities beyond the scope of the program.

Grand Forks:

1.) What made you decide to start a YIP group in your community?

I took over from a previous leader but from what I understand the group began when Barb McMillan from the Vancouver Foundation approached the Phoenix Foundation to be one of the first community foundations in BC to begin a YIP program.

2.) What were the greatest difficulties you faced when starting the group?

As the program had already been established as well as funds and endowment already in place, we didn't face too many difficulties starting the group. As we are a volunteer board, one of the challenges was finding time for planning and meetings alongside family, work and other volunteering roles. A difficulty the current board is faced with upon my leaving is finding a replacement for running the group. I found in the later years of the group, finding a partner to help run the group was also a challenge as people that qualified to fit the role were already very busy and had not time for another volunteering role.

3.) How did you get the youth in your community interested in joining?

We approached the secondary schools and alternate schools to recruit youth who wanted to get involved with our program. We promoted it as a 'Youth Helping Youth' group with funds for operations, a great space for meetings, raising money for youth projects and taking trips to meet other youth in other communities. Another great draw was scholarship potential for the youth involved. Many of the youth we had involved went on to receive large scholarships from volunteering. A challenge we sometimes faced was the youth involved with our group were also involved in other groups so finding time to meet could be difficult.

4.) Where did the funding for the group come from? Did your foundation have a youth endowment fund developed ahead of the formation of the YIP group?

Our initial funding came from the Vancouver Foundation with matching funds from our foundation to begin the endowment. The interest gained from the endowment is split with ½ going back to endowment and ½ to operations. Our operating funds also come from our dividends from the endowment as well as fundraisers and grants that we apply for.

5.) Does the group do any fundraisers?

Yes, we have held silent auctions, a fashion and talent show, spaghetti feeds as well as grants for projects and activities.

6.) What type of charitable activities is the group involved with? Future activities?

We have assisted with other charitable groups doing volunteerism for them such as assisting with a local daycare and family support program. As the group is not running at the moment, no future activities are planned.

Whistler:

1.) What made you decide to start a YIP group in your community?

It had been started because of the Whistler Youth Fund to grant money for youth specific programs.

2.) What were the greatest difficulties you faced when starting the group?

Getting the word out about the foundation.

3.) How did you get the youth in your community interested in joining?

Each year we present to the Grade 10s about WYF. We give reasons for getting involved –volunteer experience, resume building. We hold meeting at lunch time, usually 2 per semester. The students get to choose which grant applications they support.

4.) Where did the funding for the group come from? Did your foundation have a youth endowment fund developed ahead of the formation of the YIP group?

It is a flow through fund. Most of the funds are from the Whistler Valley Trail Run.

5.) Does the group do any fundraisers?

The WVT Run is the only fundraiser.

6.) What type of charitable activities is the group involved with? Future activities?

The main focus is grant giving and strategizing on ways to make life better for youth in Whistler. One goal of Sunday opening of library was achieved last year via letter writing to town council.

Richmond:

1) What made you decide to start a YIP group in your community?

RYF started mainly because of need approximately six years ago. A young-adult board member of the Richmond Community Foundation, Martin Hui, recognized that there was insufficient youth voice, philanthropy, and a youth governance/board of any type in Richmond that really enables youth themselves to take charge entirely, plan their own events/activities, and voice their opinions on issues they thought were important; and so with the help of other board members, created a youth in philanthropy initiative, the new Richmond Youth Foundation (RYF).

2) What were the greatest difficulties you faced when starting the group?

Attracting proper funding was difficult. It was hard to get businesses and community leaders to invest in youth.

3) How did you get the youth in your community interested in joining?

Initially, interested youth were recruited primarily through connections; however, as the Richmond Youth Foundation grows, we are also able to advertise about recruitment via social media and via school counsellors.

4) Where did the funding for the group come from? Did your foundation have a youth endowment fund developed ahead of the formation of the YIP group?

The funding for an endowment fund came from various sources, from several local businesses, philanthropists, and also the Richmond Community Foundation itself.

5) Does the group do any fundraisers?

Yes, the group has numerous fundraisers. Each year, we hold a Benefit Brunch, which is a morning of inspirational adult and youth speakers, and networking between adults and youth attracting 100+ attendees annually. We also hold what is known as Musically Yours, a city-wide youth talent show with no competition, where those who want to perform can perform without any pressure. We do also hold various smaller fundraisers periodically, including “games nights” - where youth can come together to network/play board games and also “pub nights” targeted towards the older youth population.

6) What type of charitable activities is the group involved with? Future activities?
In addition to the above-mentioned activities, RYF is also engaged in a granting program whereby we grant out funds to youth or youth organizations to initiate projects/initiatives that support youth in Richmond. We also hold an annual competition known as Zenith in Action whereby high school students pitch their project ideas to the public at a local mall or community centre and compete for scholarships and grant funding, decided upon by a public vote. We are also launching a new high-school mentorship program known as “Adopt-a-Project” to help high school student’s kick-start a philanthropic initiative (a group of high school students are paired with a university/college-aged student). Lastly, our team often helps out at various community events and festivals as event volunteers throughout the year as well.

Sunshine Coast:

1.) What made you decide to start a YIP group in your community?

We started YIP because it was new to CFC, a donation became available from a local donor who wanted to direct it towards “youth” and because the Vancouver Foundation had matching start up grants in this area.

2.) What were the greatest difficulties you faced when starting the group?

We are a rural area spread over 80 KM with not a good transportation system that made it difficult for the other schools to participate.

3.) How did you get the youth in your community interested in joining?

We were able to find one really great leader in grade 10 at one of our three secondary school who was keen on starting the group. She was able to bring about six of her friends on to the group but was not successful in bringing others from the other schools.

4.) Where did the funding for the group come from? Did your foundation have a youth endowment fund developed ahead of the formation of the YIP group?

Unfortunately the YIP group only lasted for three years but during that time we were able to establish a Youth Legacy Fund.

5.) Does the group do any fundraisers?

The group had one fund raising event that raised about \$2000. The balance came from other community donations and the matching program from Van Foundation.

6.) What type of charitable activities is the group involved with? Future activities?

During the three year period, our YIP assisted the Foundation's granting committee in selecting youth projects to support.

Notes: If we were to do this again, I would like to see a close relationship with an existing leadership structure in the secondary schools. Their role with the Foundation might include promoting philanthropy, helping to grow the Youth Legacy Fund and assist the granting committee to choose youth projects to fund. I think it also very important that there be at least one Foundation Board member assigned to the YIP group.

West Vancouver:

1.) What made you decide to start a YIP group in your community?

Our youth group was started in 2004 and was chaired by a board member. The board at the time thought the youth needed to be part of our Foundation.

2.) What were the greatest difficulties you faced when starting the group?

Succession, it is still a challenge today. When the students leave high school it is difficult to recruit the younger students.

3.) How did you get the youth in your community interested in joining?

We have the youth group members and with the support of the local schools, we hold information sessions at the schools.

4.) Where did the funding for the group come from? Did your foundation have a youth endowment fund developed ahead of the formation of the YIP group?

We have two funds, one endowment and one flow-through and it was established once the group was formed.

5.) Does the group do any fundraisers?

Yes, car wash, selling donuts, chocolate bars, bubble tea.

6.) What type of charitable activities is the group involved with? Future activities?
This year the group volunteered to decorate the senior's bus, at Easter they are planning to host a babysitting drop off.

Golden:

1.) What made you decide to start a YIP group in your community?

Not sure. Before my time. 5+ yrs ago.

2.) What were the greatest difficulties you faced when starting the group?

Not sure. We are not continuing it because kids weren't interested. It has not been active for a few years now. Bribing with pizza worked to get them out to meetings, but there seemed to be little interest in doing more.

3.) How did you get the youth in your community interested in joining?

Identified the over-achievers. Unfortunately, everyone wants that group and they are overwhelmed with resume building activities, which doesn't make them very dependable. Also, they are most likely to leave town to go to post-secondary school, so they have a limited durable impact in the community.

Upon reflection, it makes the most sense to grab the junior high group. They are enthusiastic, open to ideas, not overwhelmed with extra-curricular activities, and not too cliquey yet, which allows their activities to benefit the entire class.

6.) What is the average age range of participants?

16-17. Any older and they are focused on marks and getting into university.

7.) How many years do participants stay involved with the group?

Use to be 5-8 youth

8.) How do people like to get their information?

Not sure now. Emails didn't work 4 years ago; morning announcements didn't work either.

Surrey:

1.) What made you decide to start a YIP group in your community?

There is a bad stigma regarding youth in society, and I wanted to show the community that is indeed not the fact. Instead, I wanted to show the community that there are youth who want to contribute to society. More importantly, I wanted to give youth the opportunity to openly express their opinions and be heard.

2.) What were the greatest difficulties you faced when starting the group?

My first thought was recruitment, but it is now clear that there is demand for this type of group in the community. However, sustainability is definitely difficult since the majority of the participants have been in grade 12.

3.) How did you get the youth in your community interested in joining?

It has been mostly word of mouth promotion, social media and promotions through the schools in Surrey.

4.) Where did the funding for the group come from? Did your foundation have a youth endowment fund developed ahead of the formation of the YIP group?

In our first year, the funding was provided through a government grant under the Welcoming and Inclusive initiative. Since then, we have been lucky enough to receive funding through the foundation.

5.) Does the group do any fundraisers?

Not yet, but there is one being planned.

6.) What type of charitable activities is the group involved with? Future activities?

In the past, the participants have volunteered with the Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Surrey Food Bank. The intention is to create our own initiatives that are planned by youth for youth. This year, the team is intending on planning one fundraiser and a youth community leadership initiative.

Models of Youth Involvement in Community Foundations

Age Range:

Model 1: ages 15-25 (starting in grade 10)

Model 2: ages 12-18 and 19-25 (junior and senior groups)

Model 3: ages 12-25 (starting in grade 7)

Funds:

Model 1: “Golden Method” - Grad Class Legacy. Grad class sought funds from City ~ then these funds were matched by CBT. From there the Grad class assists with disbursed decisions.

Model 2: Endowment Fund – matched by Vancouver Foundation

Model 3: Fundraising – see Youth Fundraising Report

Charitable Activities:

Model 1: Annual volunteer projects all throughout community

Model 2: Volunteer projects centered around youth

Model 3: No charitable activities

Directors: *volunteers or paid positions?

Model 1: Social co-ordinator – to establish community Youth Initiative in high school + directors

Model 2: Directors always available by text or email – constant support during project

Model 3: Directors email info, appear at meetings – limited support, centrally student effort

Group Operations:

Model 1: School committees (junior high, high school & college) work individually and then at the end of the program (April or May) students present their grants and talk about their processes, and meet the other school committees

Model 2: Meet monthly to discuss plans – all work together

Model 3: Meet twice a month – work in mixed age groups

Advantages of Group:

Model 1: Leadership credits (high school)

Model 2: Resume building

Model 3: Scholarship opportunities (high school & college)

Model 4: All of the above

How to get Youth Interested:

Model 1: Info sessions during 1st week of classes (high school & college)

Model 2: Scholarship opportunities and trips to other communities

Model 3: Presentations on YIP (middle schools & high school)

Model 4: PIZZA at meetings

Model 5: All of the above

Information:

Model 1: Meetings and emails

Model 2: Social media – Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Model 3: Text message

Model 4: All of the above

Youth Fundraising Report

After doing some research and brainstorming, I came across a fantastic list of ways for youth to raise funds. While it is not guaranteed that they will work, it offers a variety of options that will – if anything – be enjoyable to the youth putting them on.

Some of these activities include:

- 1.) **Choose the Torture** – Have donors pay \$1 a vote to decide which form of “torture” to inflict on your organization’s leader (i.e. dye hair, dress as a clown, trade a job for a day).
- 2.) **Smoothie Stand** – A healthy and yummy twist on the tired ol’ lemonade stand.
- 3.) **It’s a Wrap** – Coordinate with a store to offer gift wrap services during the holidays.
- 4.) **Bail Me Out** – Handcuff two willing fundraisers and let them lose when they raise “bail”.
- 5.) **Holiday Shop** – Collect new and gently used items from your volunteers and resell them in gift baskets at a holiday shop.
- 6.) **Spa Night** – Offer to have female volunteers give manis, pedis and 5 minute massages at a Women’s Night Out for donations.
- 7.) **Social Media Call** – Let potential donors know about your fundraising need through Facebook and Twitter.
- 8.) **It’s a Bust** – Sell balloons for \$10 each and insert a number in each that corresponds to a raffle ticket given to the purchaser. Pop a balloon for each available prize and read off the winning number.

*For more fun ways to raise funds, check out:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/nonprofit/50-creative-and-easy-fundraising-ideas.cfm>

It is important to have a variety of fundraising options as the youth participating come from different backgrounds and have different interests. Not everyone will want to strictly do bake sales or shovel drive ways, so changing the method of finding funds will make it more fun for the youth. Also, the more interesting the fundraiser, the more the community will be intrigued by it. While some fundraisers (ex. dunk tank) are usually quite entertaining, the selling the same catalogs or merchandise can get dull, and the public interest may dwindle. In order for our youth fundraising ventures to be successful, we not only must find

committed youth volunteers, but also make the experience enjoyable for them to ensure their continued involvement.