



Youth Empowerment Solutions For Peaceful Communities (Y.E.S.)

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A New Beginning to Prevent Youth Violence

The Centers for Disease Control; the University of Michigan, School of Public Health and Flint's Youth Violence Prevention Center have joined together to start a new program in the Holmes Middle School attendance area.

We believe that by forming partnerships between students from Holmes and the Neighborhood groups in the Holmes attendance area we will be able to reduce youth violence and build a more peaceful community in the area.

We will use a three pronged approach:

1) Youth Empowerment Activities.



2) Neighborhood organization development.



3) Community development projects with youth and the neighborhood organizations working together.



After training the young people in the areas of:

- * Violence Prevention
- * Leadership Skills
- * Character Development
- * Community Organizing

They will work with their neighborhood group to develop and implement a violence prevention project.

Work to Begin in the Spring of 2005

YES will begin in the spring of 2005, by recruiting the young people who will form the YES Council and selecting the neighborhood groups. We will be asking the YES Council members to go through their neighborhoods identifying conditions they feel are leading to youth violence.

This knowledge will be shared with the neighborhood residents and community policy makers.

We will pilot some projects which will serve as possible models for the remaining three years of the project, as well as introducing Y.E.S. to the community.



Y.E.S. Highlights

- ☺ Empowering young people to be actively engaged in their community.
- ☺ Developing the capacity of neighborhood groups to work effectively with young people to improve their neighborhoods.
- ☺ Creating an environment that will promote peace in our community.
- ☺ Bringing together schools, neighborhoods, churches, community organizations, government and citizens to create a better community for us all.
- ☺ Creating our leaders of tomorrow, by training our young people today in the art of creating peaceful communities.
- ☺ Bringing the generations together to strengthen the bonds of our neighborhoods and our city.

We Couldn't Do It Alone

We also want to give special thanks to our partners: The Flint Board of Education, particularly the folks at Holmes Middle School and Bridges to the Future, a program of the United Way of Genesee County, Genesee Intermediate School District and Flint Schools, and the Flint Odyssey House,

Health Awareness Center.

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