



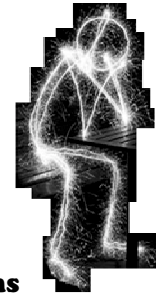
Spark Thought, Create Change!

17th Annual Youth Conference

Thursday, May 8, 2008

8:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Mahar Middle School, Orange



Sponsored by the Community Coalition for Teens

A Program of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and generous private donations

Conference Schedule

8:00 – 8:20 am:	Registration & Breakfast
8:30 – 9:00 am:	Introduction and Icebreakers with Community Action’s ALAANA Program
9:00 – 10:30 am:	Morning Workshops
10:30 – 11:00 am:	Lunch
11:00 am – 12:00 pm:	Performance by the Franklin Tech Conflict Resolution Theater Group
12:00 – 1:30 pm:	Afternoon Workshops
1:30 – 2:15 pm:	Closing Performance

Morning Workshops

M1 – Conflict Resolution – (Chad Champoux, Ashley O'Brien, Ashley Purington, and Sam Howe, Mohawk High School Peer Mediators) Everybody has his or her differences. Because of that, from time to time, there can be conflict or some sort of drama. In every school there is an abundance of both these. In order to get through school and life you need to get past all of the drama that adds stress to your life. We'll go into how to resolve conflict with your friends, in your school or in your community in a peaceful manner.

M2 – Counter Recruitment – (Raul Matta and Elvis Mendez, American Friends Service Committee) Have you ever seen a recruiter in your school? The pressure is on for them to bring in two new recruits per month. In order to bring young people in, recruiters are bending the truth and not telling the realities of military service. Come join the workshop and learn about real military service. While the military may be an option for your future, you should hear what the recruiters aren't telling. After this work shop it will be up to you to make an informed decision.

M3 – Crazy for Life – (Mark Keller, Sheri Ingerson, and collaborators of ServiceNet Transition Age Youth Program) Take a walk on the wild side of growing up with mental health challenges! Take a funny and compelling look at the teenage response to their peers who think and act differently due to illness. Come explore stigmas and myths and examine the ways in which people with mental illness enrich our lives.

M4 – Get a Job, Keep a Job (youth only) – (Erika Heilig and Gary Howe, Franklin Hampshire Career Center) Having a hard time getting beyond the job application? Employers want a positive attitude and more. Learn how to talk yourself up to prospective employers and learn how to negotiate with your current employer.

M5 – Histories of Queers in the Civil Rights Movement – (Brecklen Walters and Julian Padilla, Hampshire College) Did you know that MLK was taught about non-violence by a black, gay, communist, Quaker? Did you know that a working-class Puerto Rican trans-woman helped lead the Stonewall Riots that sparked the modern movement for GLBTQ liberation? Come learn about the history of GLBTQ people in the civil rights movement. Through interactive activities and Theatre of the Oppressed, learn the names, stories and art of major GLBTQ activists of color from the 50s, 60s, and 70s in a friendly and open environment.

M6 – How Homelessness Effects Youth Today (youth only) – (Rachel Smith, Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program) This workshop on youth & homelessness will give you the chance to make sense of this overarching issue that we deal with on a regular basis, no matter where we come from. Through games, questioning and discussion, we will come up with a course of action and discuss what the word "homeless" means in your own life. Come join these important conversations!

M7 – Oasis in an Alley: Turn Your Unused Outdoor Space into a Beautiful and Useful Garden Patio – (Jared Libby, Ruth Nervig, Karen Stinchfield, youth and farmer collaborators of Brick House) Do you have an outdoor space at your community center or home that isn't being used, and might be a bit of an eyesore? Turn it into an attractive and functional patio & snack garden. Do you know what vegetable and fruit varieties grow best in this climate and yield the greatest amount of snacking? Learn about creative solutions for composting, watering, and recycling, and start visualizing your own snack garden.

M8 – Promoting Your Project in Your Community! – (T.J. Lorenzo and Sarah Barber, Greenfield High School Collaborative Education Group) Student presenters from Greenfield High School will share successful service learning projects that they have created, as well as guide participants through the process of creating their own project. This is a great workshop for individuals and groups who want to make a difference and are looking for a good recipe to do it!

M9 – **Relationships 101** – (Ricshonda Crowder and Karina Pretto, GLASS Youth Program/Community Action) – What’s healthy in a relationship and what’s not? What can you do about your relationship and how can you support your friends? We will look at these different aspects and more in this peer led workshop.

M10 – **SURVIVOR: A Reality Game about Decision Making (youth only)** – (Joyce Fulmer-Community Coalition for Teens, Deen Leonard) The workshop will be an interactive and hands-on experience that will allow young people to walk through decision making choices and see where they end up.

M11 – **Changing Class Dynamics (youth only)** – (Ruth Trimarchi, Class Action) This workshop will be an interactive investigation of class and poverty. Discover through games and group activities how classism operates in your country, your community, and your life. Participants in this workshop will be offered the opportunity to publish their creative responses in a zine.

M12 – **What Fuels Your Life? Using Solar Energy and Growing Your Own Food** – (Deb Habib and youth leaders from Seeds of Solidarity) Are you concerned about global warming or the food you eat? Do you want some concrete ideas for how to use renewable energy like solar electricity and vegetable fuels, and grow food in our own communities for health, pleasure, and to reduce energy used to transport food from thousands of miles away? Come learn how Seeds of Solidarity and the SOL Garden youth program in Orange uses solar energy and grows food 10 months of the year. And, plant and take home something for your own garden!

M13 – **Yes We Can Empower Youth to Create Change** – (Jessica Fydenkevez and Karen Hakala, DIAL/SELF Teen Services) Is there an issue in your school or community that you really care about, but you don’t know how to advocate for it? Learn how to voice your opinions to the public. Become familiar with and practice different tools and skills that can be used to create change.

Afternoon Workshops

A1 – **Connecting Through Dance/Learn to Waltz** – (Katy Dieber and Val LaBelle, DIAL/SELF Teen Services) Dancing is not about how you move your feet; it’s about how you connect with another person. The waltz is an easy dance to learn, but once you become good at it, you have a solid framework for all types of partner dancing. This workshop will concentrate on forming that connection through “frame”. By the end of the workshop, you’ll be able to lead and follow a waltz, and have a chance to try it!

A2 – **Identity, Empowerment, and Fashion (youth only)** – (Genevieve Belleveau, Fashionism Inc.) Come join performance artist Genevieve Belleveau in an energetic session of dress up. You will be invited into the artists personal fashion closet where we will explore issues of identity, celebrity and the clothing we wear daily. We will inspire each other to break out of our habitual modes of dress and create some zany, self expressive outfits that announce to the world "Here I am!". Positive feedback and creativity will be fostered and participants are encouraged to showcase their creations in the closing session. Let's play and have fun!

A3 – **Intersex 101: Gender Fluidity** – (A. Vickie Boisseau, Mass Transgender Political Coalition, SpeakOut Boston) Intersex 101 is a romp through Gender roles. What makes a boy a boy or a Girl a Girl? Or are we made of Sugar, and spice, and Puppy dog tails!

A4 – **Mini-Help Increase the Peace Project Training** – (Wendy Brooks, Tiffany Maloof, Krystina Jeter, BJ Miller, and Tim Jeter, Help Increase the Peace Project) The Help Increase the Peace Project (HIPP) is a youth leadership, non-violence training led by young people from your community. HIPP helps young people process issues that affect them in order to foster youth as agents for social change. HIPP is a fun way to talk about serious issues happening in our society today and to build community and make new friends. Come learn how you can be an agent for social change!

A5 – **Moving Beyond Freaking Out or Numbing Out** – (Jade Barker, Suzy Polucci, and youth collaborators of Community Crisis Response Team and TMTC/Community Action) In a fun, interactive workshop, participants will identify stressors and trauma reactions common to anyone who has experienced or witnessed a traumatic incident. Participants will learn what works and what doesn’t and how to recover and integrate these challenging experiences.

A6 – **Sex Education: From Reproductive Justice to Tricks & Tips (youth only)** – (Jilly Fishman, Sex Educator) We’ll do way more than put some condoms on bananas! Come learn about the history of sex education in the US, while looking at how it is a part of reproductive justice. Learn new and exciting ways to lead your own comprehensive sex education programs. Don’t be afraid to get your hands a little lubey!

A7 – **Stories for Change** – (Amber Ortiz-Young Entrepreneur’s Society, Alyssa Schmidt and Katy Dieber-DIAL/SELF) Words matter! Our stories matter! Come and share your story—help create a story to spark thought and create change. Learn about digital storytelling, watch some stories that move, and then—get going. Create change—digitally!

A8 – **Telling Stories Beyond Our Borders** – (Briana Figarella, Noalanii Karakashian, Asha Khana, and Deqa Fera, Youth Action Coalition/Video Vanguard) This workshop will center on truth telling through camera use. We will explore the various identity borders we live within and how we challenge and subvert these borders. We will also practice basic camera and production skills. You will leave having begun a video piece of your own!

A9 – **Thriller** – (Melissa Terry, Antonio Pantoga, and Orieliz Gervacio, ALAANA Youth Group of Community Action) Come celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller!” Participants in this workshop will be watching the music video and will be directed by a youth choreographer to learn the steps to successfully complete the “Thriller” dance. Participants will perform the dance during the closing act of the conference.

A10 – **Trash and Stuff** – (Ruthy Woodring and Marie Despres, Pedal People) Come take a walk around the school and check out what’s in the trash. Where did it come from? Where will it go? And how can we stop making it before we bury all the earth’s resources in a trash heap?

A11 – **Understanding Conflict Resolution through Theater Games** – (Dean Scranton, Court Dorsey and the cast from Conflict Resolution Theater Group, Franklin Tech) This is a workshop designed to give participants an introduction to conflict resolution methods through improvisation, movement, and interactive games. No acting experience is necessary.

A12 – **What is Safe Sex? (youth only)** – (Meghan Snitkin and Becky Hawes-Sivitz, Tapestry Health) Do you have questions about sex that you don’t know who to ask? Not sure about your friends answers? If so, come to this safe, confidential workshop led by sexual health educators who will answer your questions and give resources so that you can take care of yourself and keep your body healthy.

Funding for this conference was made possible (in part) by grant number SP12262 from ONDCP and SAMHSA. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services or the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Join Us! Register by April 18, 2008

Fee: (includes lunch and materials, limited scholarships available)

Youth (under age 22): **\$10** **Adults: \$20**

Register as soon as possible. Space is limited to 250 participants. Before the April 18th deadline, we recommend that schools register up to 30 students and 5 faculty. If you would like additional spaces, enclose a note with your registrations and we will notify you after April 18th if there are spaces available.

Parents and/or teachers may want to review students' workshop selections before registration.

Send a separate form for each person, with checks made payable to:

Community Coalition for Teens
425 Main St., Ste. 20
Greenfield, MA 01301-3313

Forms with cash must be delivered directly to the office, located in the Franklin County Court House

Questions about registration or scholarships? Contact Davette Young, 413-774-3167 ext. 101

Questions about the conference? Contact Lani Blechman, 413-774-1194 ext. 118 or Rachel Stoler, ext. 116

Registration Form: Complete and send in one for each person

Attention schools and youth programs: Please include this statement on permission slips: Some portions of the Youth Conference will be photographed and/or videotaped for use in promotional or training materials and for media coverage. Any youth at the conference may be included in these photographs/videos unless parents expressly request otherwise in writing to the school principal.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **E mail:** _____

Agency/School: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ for _____ youth and _____ adults

Bag Lunch Preference (includes chips, cookie, fruit): **Turkey sandwich** _____ **Veggie wrap** _____

Workshop Choices: Please write the letter/number of the workshop. All workshops are open to youth and adults, unless otherwise specified. Workshops with less than 8 people registered will not be offered.

Morning: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

Afternoon: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

The following people have contributed to planning the conference:

- Lani Blechman**, Community Coalition for Teens
- Adam Goodwin**, Franklin County Technical School
- Nick Sweeney**, Mahar High School
- Brian McMahon**, Mahar High School
- Meghan Nichols**, Mt. Wachusett Community College
- Jeremy Parker**, Mt. Wachusett Community College
- Ricshonda Crowder**, Greenfield High School
- Norie Amet**, Greenfield High School
- Marilyn Lorenzo**, Greenfield High School
- T.J. Lorenzo**, Greenfield High School
- Rachel Stoler**, Community Coalition for Teens
- Amber Tidlund**, Greenfield High School

