

Leadership Asheville 27
Leadership Learning Team (LLT) Project Descriptions

- **Asheville Middle School Listening Tour** - This LLT is working with the Asheville City Schools Foundation on a second listening project, *Listening to Our Teens*. This time the listening tour is focused on middle school students. The results of the listening tour will be reported to the community and serve as the basis for developing new programs and services to this age group.
- **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 will explore the opportunity to create such a program at the high schools in our area.
- **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 will be reporting to several organizations in the area on the feasibility of creating such a project.
- **Youth Indicators Project** - This project would be 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 will assist in creating a broad range of measures designed to identify and communicate the health and well-being of the youth/children in our community.
- **Youth Leadership Development Program** - Working with the City of Asheville Youth Leadership Academy (CAYLA), this LLT will provide students 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). The sessions could be held at City Hall. This Leadership Learning Team will design the program and each team member will participate in conducting the training.
- **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 will inspire and motivate more teens to make a difference in their communities. This team will create and offer an annual award(s) for youth in our community. The first award(s) will be given at Leadership Asheville's annual luncheon in September 2009.

- **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 will research and develop a structure and process that allows young people to have a meaningful role in the policy and decision-making processes in our community.
- **Youth Packing and Distribution of Food** – 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 should answer the question and in the process, determine the feasibility of creating youth-led businesses in the area.
- **Nutrition and Exercise Study** – Working with two faculty members at UNC Asheville who are completing research on childhood health and obesity in the area, this LLT will first understand the findings and implications of this research. Then, they will prepare and implement a plan to educate the community on the lessons learned from this study.
- **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.