

ADDITIONAL INFO

For additional information about the Search Institute's Developmental Assets and/or to accept the invitation to *Make A Difference*, please contact:

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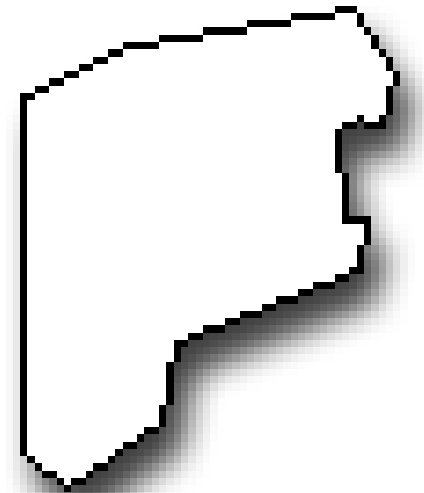
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**Putnam County Family Resource Network
Youth Wellness Task Team
P.O. Box 268
Winfield, WV 25213**

Putnam County
**YOUth
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE
Together!**



*Never doubt that a small group
of thoughtful committed citizens
can change the world, indeed,
it's the only thing that ever has.*

-Margaret Meade

WHAT YOUTH THINK

A survey* of Putnam County youth found they are concerned about the following:

- ▶ Violence (including sexual violence & school bullying)
- ▶ Drug Use (including alcohol & tobacco)
- ▶ Mental Stress
- ▶ Peer Pressure
- ▶ Lack of Drug-Free Activities
- ▶ Lack of Safe Spaces for Drug-Free Activities

To address these concerns, youth and adults in Putnam County need to work together to make a difference!

According to the survey, youth think adults can make a difference by showing respect, listening, paying attention, encouraging, getting involved in positive change, setting a healthy example, and providing prevention information.

*The survey was administered by the Putnam Youth Wellness Task Team during the 2001-2002 school year. 432 Putnam County youth were asked questions about wellness, health, and safety issues. Respondents included students from Buffalo Elementary, Buffalo High, George Washington Middle, Hurricane Middle, Hurricane High, Lakeside Elementary, Poca Middle, Winfield Middle, Winfield High and students who were home schooled. 117 of the respondents were elementary age (9-10). 204 were middle school age (11-13), and 111 were high school age (14-19).

WHAT YOUTH NEED

The Search Institute has identified 40 developmental assets that improve a youth's chance of choosing positive paths & growing up competent, caring & responsible.

Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets

External Assets

Support: Family, Other Adults, Caring Neighbors, Caring School Climate, Parent Involvement in Schooling

Empowerment: Community Values Youth, Youth as Resources, Service to Others, Safety

Boundaries & Expectations: Family Boundaries, School Boundaries, Neighborhood Boundaries, Adult Role Models, Positive Peer Influence, High Expectations

Constructive Use of Time: Creative Activities, Youth Programs, Religious Community, Time at Home

Internal Assets

Commitment To Learning: Achievement Motivation, School Engagement, Homework, Bonding to School, Reading for Pleasure

Positive Values: Caring, Equality & Social Justice, Integrity, Honesty, Responsibility, Restraint

Social Competencies: Planning & Decision Making, Interpersonal Confidence, Cultural Confidence, Resistance Skills, Peaceful Conflict Resolution

Positive Identity: Personal Power, Self-esteem, Sense of Purpose, Positive View of Future

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Your help is needed to help build these assets for our Putnam County Youth. We invite you to participate with the Putnam Family Resource Network's Youth Wellness Task Team and/or LifeBridge, Family Services of Kanawha Valley, the West Virginia Prevention Resource Center, Putnam County Schools, Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, WVU Putnam County Extension 4-H Program.

Help make a difference by:

- ☺ Sponsoring or cosponsoring a teen activity,
 - ☺ Volunteering,
 - ☺ Serving as a mentor,
 - ☺ Providing safe space for events,
 - ☺ Having youth serve on your Board of Directors or Advisory Councils,
 - ☺ Serving on Board of Directors or Advisory Councils, and
 - ☺ Providing community service (volunteer) opportunities for youth.
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