

Asset-Building Notes

Saturday, April 24, 2007



SUMMARY

Step One - We were asked to brainstorm assets from these categories: Physical, Individual, Associations & Institutions, and Economic Assets

Step Two - We then placed all the assets on a wall and took some time to familiarize ourselves with everything posted

Step Three - Understanding the needs of junior highers (especially all the changes they are going through) we then began to individually cluster assets together to create an event, program or ministry that we could possibly plan.

Step Four - Lastly, we each chose one idea that we felt the most strongly about.

OUR IDEAS GENERALLY FELL INTO THESE CATEGORIES:

SERVICE

- Volunteerism
- Connection to the local community
- Connection to outside the community
- Can help build self-esteem and leadership
- Additional service opportunities apart from what we are already doing in Thrive



Can be organized and promoted quicker than other ideas.

SEXUALITY

- Retreat for father/son, mother/daughter
- 4-6th grade should focus on puberty
- 7-9th should review puberty and go into dating, etc.
- Careful to look at the theological message
- At least a couple of religious groups do this for families (could be good resources)



Very important and appeared to be a consensus among the group that we address this need.

SELF-ESTEEM

- Extremely important for this age!
- Should be helped by other ideas



Needs some careful planning and recruitment of speakers and other volunteers. If Thrive is "tweaked" (see below) could these could be done in conjunction with the Thrive program?

DANGERS

- Internet, Porn, MySpace, Music, Drugs, Predators
- Retreats or other special events

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

- Divorce, addiction, violence, etc.
- Seminars for parents
- Support groups
- Education for youth and/or parents



Harder to accomplish without skilled leaders (counselors, pastors, social workers, etc.) and requires a lot more resources. The group decided this is a worthy long-range goal.

WE ALSO TALKED ABOUT:

- **Investigating Thrive curriculum** to focus more on important topics facing early adolescents while still presenting Luther's Small Catechism. While the Catechism has important faith messages it often does not connect directly to things most important to youth (peers, family, drugs/alcohol, sex, culture, etc.). How can we connect the two better?
- **Finding ways to connect with other churches.** Our youth connecting to other Christian youth as well as jr. high leaders from other churches getting together.

We did not discuss whether we should continue trying to offer the more purely social events like Ski Trip/Six Flags Trip, Pizza and Movie, as well as overnight retreats to East Bay Camp and LOMC.

Asset-Building Notes

Specific Ideas



The following were groups of assets clustered together and the subsequent main IDEA is indicated below the cluster.

The list of assets are not what is most important! The most important item in the list is what is after the “=” sign!!!! The idea is not dependent on the specific assets, the assets helped brainstorm the main idea or program.

-Training Classes
-Chef
-Kitchen
=Take Groups to DISH to create dinners for new moms
Notes: Could also create a program for new parents of St. John's.

-Home Theatre
-Truck
-Heat & A/C
=Offer “How-To” classes for junior high (and a parent?) with a spiritual focus using members with various talents.

-Mission organizations
-Building/construction skills
-The church's “short bus”
-Mission sponsorship
=Jr. High mission trip
Notes: SALT Camp is half mission, half summer camp. This idea would be an experience the same as or similar to our sr. high workcamp

-Snow removal
-Westminster Village
=Help Others

-DVDs
-Prison Ministry
=Donate items

-Prayer Chain
-Cheerleader
-Youth
=Start a prayer group specific for junior high

-Public Relations
-
-Thrivent
-Council
=Resources and support needed to create ministries that can reach a more diverse junior high population (not just those currently attending)

-Church organ
-Altar decorations
-COJ Band
=Intentionally invite more jr. higher to be worship leaders

-Room 200 (where the Genesis program meets)
-Vans
-Rock bands
=Take youth to Christian concerts



-Old furniture to donate
-Gas
-Van
-Recycling for Families
=Delivering of furniture to families in need



-Parks and Rec
=Fairview Swimming Event
Notes: The junior/senior high did a combined night swim at Fairview for several years and eventually stopped due to low attendance. Maybe time again to try?

-Faith
-Scholarships
-Talents
=Use grants, mentors, etc. to build and encourage jr. high in their individual gifts and talents and use them in the mission of the church

-Friends
-Doctor
-Website
-Music/CD's
-Sr. high youth
=Education about My Space and other worldly dangers affecting jr. highers

-Light worship
-Coffee
=Create a hospitality ministry for jr. high to provide and serve

-Safe Harbor
-Energy
=Serve meal or volunteer @ Food Bank

-Potential
-Curriculum
-Mentor
-Care Cards
=Intentional ways to help self-esteem

-Pastors
-Parish Life Center
-LOMC
=Create a Sexuality retreat at church or offsite. Perhaps father-son, mother-daughter

-Motivational speakers
-Skilled “MC”
-Listening
-Family
-Shared Trials
-Becoming an adult
-Life stepping stones
=Support groups for jr. high families in tough situations

-Presenters/Speakers
-Kitchen
-Clare House
-Round Tables
=Invite those in need to a dinner night. Feed stomach and soul