Community Youth Organizer’s Bookshelf

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Lifting New Voices
Center for Community Change
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COMMUNITY YOUTH ORGANIZER’S BOOKSHELF

Young people are creating community change worldwide, but their level of participation varies from one area to another. In some communities, people are formulating ideas and taking action. In other communities, young people have ideas but are unsure how to proceed, or want to proceed but lack information for implementation.

Community Youth Organizer’s Bookshelf is for those who work with or who want to work with young people in ways that contribute to their personal, organizational, and community development. It is our hope that this guide will serve to better prepare people who work with youth to support organizing activities with data, tools, and models from other youth efforts. This reference guide includes information from scholarly and popular books, articles, reports, and other publications in the field.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articles, Books, and Reports</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <em>Kids in Action:</em></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Participation and Youth Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <em>Learning by Doing:</em></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Service and Service Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <em>By Youth, For Youth:</em></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voices of Young Writers on Creating Change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergenerational Partnerships</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <em>From the Ground Up:</em></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Capacity-Building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <em>Making it Happen:</em></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategies for Creating Community Change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. <em>Reviewing our Process:</em></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Evaluation with Children and Youth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Journals and Newspapers | 23 |

| Websites | 27 |

| Organizations | 33 |
Articles, Books, & Reports

Provides annual data on children and youth for each state nationwide.


Describes case studies of community-based organizations that are empowering young people and transforming communities.


Outlines the assets that the Search Institute considers necessary for young people to become successful members of society.

Reports on the needs of young adolescents and on some of the programs and strategies seeking to serve youth.


Examines the situation of young people and the status of organizations serving youth during non-school hours.


Presents major strategies for involving young people in neighborhood development.


Distinguishes among mass mobilization, social action, citizen participation, public advocacy, popular education, and local services development as strategies for creating change.


Addresses societal factors that limit the positive development of children in the United States.


Explores the transition from childhood to adulthood and identifies some of the challenges facing young people and provides examples of successful youth programs.

Presents information on more than 500 American youth organizations, such as academic clubs, religious groups, sports teams, and political organizations.


Outlines some of the key issues that the Network for Youth Development has identified in the area of youth development.


Reports on an evaluation of youth-serving organizations and their contributions to youth development.


Provides data on the status of late-adolescents and young adults in the United States who are 18-24 years and includes information on schools, post-secondary education, youth services, youth employment, family structure, and resources for young people.

   Discusses the context for after-school programs in inner-city communities.


   Presents information on young people in various family-like organizations and identifies some of the organizations’ common elements.


   Examines how youth development programs use a theory of action in which strategies lead to outcomes.


   Describes community youth development as a field which views youth as assets and seeks to provide them with skills to become productive members of society.


   Reports on adolescent life in American communities and presents some characteristics of successful youth programs.

Analyzes the Jesse White Tumbling Team, a group of young people from Chicago’s Cabrini Green housing project and describes how the tumbling team is an alternative to life in the gangs and provides both social status and structure to youth.


Advocates for reconsidering educational policy in light of the roles of youth in society and argues that the current view of youth as victims challenges their efforts in creating social change.


Examines the risks facing young people and features programs and policies that promote positive youth development.


Presents the proceedings from a national forum on common ground for the development of youth professionals.


Views young people as resources and discusses how rebuilding communities can contribute to youth development.

Profiles community youth initiatives and provides information on assessing and strengthening youth services.


Describes the importance of relationships in youth development.


Presents a theoretical framework and identifies strategies for promoting youth development.


 Defines “positive youth development” and offers a rationale for enhancing the role of community organizations in its promotion.


Explores the role of sports in young people’s lives, and identifies the risks and opportunities, developmental needs, barriers to participation, and options for action.

Examines youth organizations and their impacts on the youth who participate in them.


Outlines the lessons learned from the foundation’s youth project and includes information on involving youth in the philanthropy of nonprofit organizations.

8 • Community Youth Organizer's Bookshelf

Advocates for civic education programs that help students confront social problems and apply what they learn from the experience.


Argues that public problem-solving better prepares youth for citizenship than direct service in individual agencies.


Reviews research on the impacts of school-based community service and finds that service contributes to educational reform, academic learning, and psychosocial development.

Provides resources for adult educators working with youth who are involved in community service and volunteering.


Reports on findings from a national survey with case studies of youth participation in communities.


Written by young people to promote and support student volunteer work.

Provides an oral history of a 16-year-old Latino teen growing up in the South Bronx.


Written by a young person to illustrate a case example of young people organizing and mobilizing to defeat a charter school.


Describes interviews with young people about their lives and their futures.


Reports on interviews that were conducted with young people 7-13 years old. Includes information on parents, siblings, sex, school, money, happiness, and respect.

Includes interviews and oral histories of young people experiencing violence nationwide.


Presents interviews with young people who have dropped out of school, returned for another try, and are struggling to stay thee


Provides an oral history of youth involvement in the civic rights movement.

Examines youth-adult partnerships as a strategy for youth development and community building.


Provides practical tools and step-by-step process plans to guide adults who are interested in working with young people to create community change.


Identifies on exemplary programs that bring together youth and mentors in Maine, Massachusetts, and Michigan. The author describes the benefits of participation, characteristics of successful mentors, and lessons learned from programs.

Provides a resource and training manual for young people and adults building communities together.


Serves as a practical guide to forming youth and adult partnerships at the community level.


Presents a framework for building healthy youth-adult partnerships.


Discusses positive effects and best practices in mentoring programs drawing on research from Big Brother/Big Sister programs nationwide.


Describes research and practice models for intergenerational programs, including programs in schools, organizations and communities.


Includes information on engaging youth and adults in problem-solving and dialogical activities.
From the Ground Up:
Organizational Capacity-Building


Addresses how to establish youth advisory committees in community foundations and other types of organizations.


Examines ideas, strategies, and techniques to help community organizations involve young people in their community-building activities based on a national research project.


Provides guidelines for community collaboration. Includes sections on involving youth organizations, businesses and other groups in the community.


Presents information on involving young people in community organizations’ decision-making.


Analyzes the impacts of youth decision making on organizations and on community change.

Presents interviews with youth organizers nationwide and discusses case studies with lessons learned from the field.


Identifies tools for young people to create social change, with information on planning campaigns, conducting meetings, creating budgets, and working with media.


Includes brief stories of young women activists at the community level.


Describes a community effort to save a quiet interracial neighborhood from drugs and violence.

Provides practical tools and step-by-step process plans to guide young community change agents.


Reports initial findings and lessons learned from Lifting New Voices, a project promoting youth participation in community change efforts.


Details curriculum aimed to improve the skills of middle-school and high-school students in assessing communities, examining policies, and taking public action.


Guides young people in planning, implementation, and evaluation of their own service projects. It includes worksheets for setting goals and developing action plans.


Presents an approach to community organizing from a multicultural perspective.
Edwards, K. (n.d.). *Youth leadership, youth development, youth voices: Tools and resources for change.* Portland, OR: Northwest Regional Education Laboratory.

Includes practical information and action tools for young people creating change.


Discusses information for youth activists on issue identification, goal setting, conflict management, and leadership development.


Provides a how-to manual on youth leadership includes examples, activities, and skill-building exercises.


Examines the theory and practice of involving young people in community development Through case studies of youth participation around the world.


Features popular education for strengthening social movements.


Provides practical information on expressing opinions through the telephone, letters, television, and other media.
Kretzmann, J.P., & McKnight, J.L. (1993). Building communities from the inside out: A path toward finding and mobilizing a community’s assets. Evanston, IL: Asset-Based Community Development Institute, Northwestern University.

Describes how people can map assets and build on strengths in their communities.


Offers practical information to teenagers on conducting community forums, running effective meetings, making persuasive presentations, using existing networks, and publicizing projects.


Provides a guide for young people who are learning to create community change.


Identifies a comprehensive roadmap on how young people can embark on their own community change campaign.


Presents tips, worksheets, and skill-building exercises for young people interested in social action. Includes information on using the internet and getting media coverage.

Discusses seven elements of leadership development: counteracting the effects of oppression, nurturance, building leadership skills, experiencing success, educating about issues, overcoming academic problems, and organizing to have an impact on the world.


Outlines practical tools for social planning agencies to empower youth at the county level.


Presents a curriculum that was developed for educators, environmentalist activists, and youth leaders that includes lesson plans, teaching aids, and a bibliography for organizing environmental campaigns.


Provides curriculum for working with adolescents on participatory action research.


Describes the student evaluator model as a tool for allowing young people to assess their own effectiveness and the impact of their programs.


Presents a guide book for youth and adult community evaluation teams involved in Lifting New Voices.

Documents and analyzes coverage of young people in the New York Times. This study was conducted by young people.


Examines a youth-adult research study of organizations supported by the San Francisco Children’s Fund.


Identifies models of children’s participation in community change work and discusses children’s participation in community-based research.


Reports on findings from the author’s year long participatory research study with youth and adults.


Documents a participatory action research process with young people in an inner-city community.


Analyzes the impact of ten years of youth grant making by the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Youth Council on youth and community.

22 • Community Youth Organizer’s Bookshelf
Journals & Newspapers
BUILD

Highlights inspirational stories of young people taking action at the community level in a quarterly publication.

ColorLines: A Quarterly Magazine of Race, Culture and Action
Oakland, CA: Applied Research Center and the Center for Third World Organizing.

Features matters of race, culture and community organizing.

Community Youth Development Journal
Waltham, MA: Institute for Just Communities and the Institute for Sustainable Development.

Focuses on youth as resources and as community builders in quarterly issues.

Evaluation Exchange: Emerging Strategies in Evaluating Child and Family Services
Boston, MA: Harvard Family Research Project.

Contains articles, book reviews, and website reviews relevant for people who evaluate youth and community programs.
Program Evaluation Newsletter  
Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence.

Provides information designed to assist programs in making decisions about program evaluation issues.

Speak Up  
Little Silver, NJ: Power to the Youth

Features youth voices on topics ranging from growing up to educational reform in an online publication (zine) found on the Internet at www.youthpower.net.

Who Cares  

Provides information for young adults managing non-profits and community-based organizations. Each issue focuses on a different aspect of organizational management including fundraising, staff development and program design.

Youth Outlook  
San Francisco, CA: YO!

Written for and by young people as a project of the Pacific News Service, an international network of writers, scholars and journalists.

Youth Today  
Washington, DC: Youth Today.

Reports on youth advocacy, employment opportunities, grants, conferences, and training workshops.
Websites
**www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/fysb/youthinfo/index.htm**

Youth Info is a government web site with statistics, research reports, and publications on adolescents.

**www.childrensdefense.org**

Children’s Defense Fund is an organization that advocates for all children. This site includes research and publications about policy and advocacy issues as well as links to related sites.

**www.cyfc.umn.edu**

Children, Youth and Families Consortium at the University of Minnesota provides an “electronic library” with information related to the health, education and well-being of children, youth and families. This site includes links to research reports, books, articles and other information of interest to those working with youth.

**www.commchange.org**

Center for Community Change is a national leader in training and technical assistance for creating community change in low-income areas nationwide.
www.cool2serve.org/homeofc/home/htm

Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL) is a national non-profit that helps students start, strengthen, and expand their community service programs.

www.cyfernet.org

Children, Youth, and Families Education Research Network provides practical research on children, youth, and families, including information on curricula and training as well as links to web sites related to child care and family resiliency.

www.dosomething.org

Do Something, Inc. is an organization committed to serving young people and motivating the spirit of activism.

www.fourhcouncil.org

The National 4H Council provides extensive information and resources for people seeking to promote positive youth development, youth-adult partnerships, and youth leadership.

www.giraffe.org

The Giraffe Project finds, commends, and publicizes people who stick their necks out for the common good of society. This is an interesting site for rewarding service work.

www.girlnet.org

Girlnet is a site created and maintained by girls and for girls. It includes news of interest to young women and links to other pro-girl web sites.
www.impactonline.org

Impact Online helps to turn concerns into actions by connecting youth with information about social issues, and provides links to organizations that are addressing social concerns.

www.theinnovationcenter.org

The Innovation Center provides training and technical assistance, curricula, toolkits, email discussion opportunities and a number of publications for young leaders and youth workers about youth development.

www.inetwork.org

This site provides information on research, planning, and evaluation for nonprofit organizations.

www.iyf.org

International Youth Foundation promotes positive youth development worldwide. The web site includes information on domestic and international initiatives, links to other youth web sites, and research results related to youth development.

www.kidnews.com

Kids News is an on-line news and writing service written by and for young people with a section for adults and teachers who work with youth. More than 6000 young people have contributed stories to Kids News.

www.nicsl.coled.umn.edu

National Service Learning (K-12) Clearinghouse includes information on resources about service-learning programs.

www.nydic.org

The National Youth Development Information Clearinghouse includes information on resources for youth development.

30 • Community Youth Organizer’s Bookshelf
www.nylc.org

The National Youth Leadership Council promotes youth leadership in communities nationwide. This site has information on research, publications, and conferences.

www.pacificnews.org/yo

Youth Outlook! (YO!) is an on-line newspaper written by and for young people. YO! also produces a weekly radio show on issues of interest to youth.

www.pitchin.org

Pitch In is an online magazine (e-zine) dedicated to the discussion of volunteerism by youth. Of particular interest are the articles, all written by young people for young people who are interested in volunteering and volunteers.

www.quest.edu

Quest International supports adults as they work to help young people in community service. This web site helps adults find practical ways to enrich children’s lives and to guide them toward a strong future.

www.rockthevote.org

Rock the Vote aims to help young people realize and utilize their power for civic and political change in communities.

sdgateway.net/topics/77.htm

Articles found on this web site provide examples of successful youth initiatives.
www.servenet.org

SERVEnet is the premier web site on service and volunteering. Through SERVEnet, users can enter their zip code, city, skills, interests, and availability to be matched with organizations needing help. The site also provides other resources for service and volunteering.

www.teaching.com/act

This website contains the Youth In Action Network, a site for young people to discuss important issues, take action, and learn skills such as petition making, survey creation, and public advocacy.

www.yar.org

Youth as Resources supports youth participation in philanthropy and grant-making. This site has ideas on how to start your own youth grant-making council.

www.yes.ucla.edu

Youth Enhancement Services is a network of web sites for young people that includes pages on community service, educational opportunities, publications, and on-line book stores.

www.youthpower.net

Youth Power is a website for young activists who are interested in creating change in their schools. The online publication, Speak Up, can be found at this sight.

www.youthlink.org

Youthlink serves as a communication center for the voice of youth with information on youth conventions and youth platforms.

www.youthserve.net

National Youth Service Day tool kits and service-learning curriculum guides for all grade levels. Also provides project ideas for National Youth Service Day.
Organizations

* Contact information for locating the publications listed in the bookshelf.
Activism 2000  
phone: (800) KID-POWER  
website: www.youthactivism.com

American Youth Policy Forum  
phone: (202) 775-9731  
website: www.aypf.org

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Youth Council  
phone: (734) 663-0401  
website: www.aaacf.org

Annie E. Casey Foundation  
phone: (410) 223-2890  
website: www.aecf.org

Asset-Based Community Development Institute  
Northwestern University  
phone: (847) 491-3518  
website: www.nwu.edu/IPR/adcb

Carnegie Corporation of New York  
phone: (212) 371-3200  
website: www.carnegie.org

Center for Community Change  
phone: (202) 342-0567  
website: www.communitychange.org

The Center for Urban Research and Learning  
phone: (312) 915-7760  
email: pnyden@luc.edu

Chapin Hall Center for Children  
phone: (773) 753-5900  
website: www.chapin.uchicago.edu
Chardon Press  
phone: (888) 485-8588  
website: www.chardonpress.com

Co/Motion  
phone: (202) 822-6070  
website: www.afj.org

Community Youth Development Journal  
phone: (866) 293-4636  
website: www.cydjournal.org

Constitutional Rights Foundation  
phone: (213) 487-5590  
website: www.crf-usa.org

Do Something, Inc.  
phone: (212) 523-1175  
website: www.dosomething.com

Educational Video Center  
phone: (212) 725-3534  
website: www.evc.org

Fund for the City of New York  
phone: (212) 925-6675  
website: www.fcny.org

Harvard Family Research Project  
phone: (617) 495-9108  
website: gseweb.harvard.edu/~hfrp

Innovation Center for Community and Youth Development  
phone: (301) 961-2837  
website: www.theinnovationcenter.org

Institute for Community Research  
phone: (860) 278-2044  
website: incommunityresearch.org

Lifting New Voices Evaluation  
phone: (734) 615-5613  
website: www.communitychange.org

GirlSource  
phone: (415) 554-8990  
website: www.girlsource.org

Project Adventure  
phone: (978) 468-7981  
website: www.pa.org

Project South  
phone: (404) 622-0602  
website: www.projectsouth.org
Public Private Ventures  phone: (215) 557-4400
website: www.epn.org/ppv

United Way of America  phone: (800) 772-0008
website: www.unitedway.org

Who Cares Magazine  phone: (202) 588-8920
website: www.whocares.org

Y-Press  phone: (317) 334-4125
website: www.ypress.org

YMCA  phone: (312) 269-1151
website: www.ymca.net

YO!  phone: (415) 438-4755
website: www.pacificnews.org/yo

Youth Action  phone: (505) 873-3345
website: www.youthaction.net

Youth Force  phone: (718) 665-4268
website: www.youthforcenyc.org

Youth In Focus  phone: (530) 758-3688
website: www.youthinfocus.org

Youth Leadership Institute  phone: (415) 397-2256
website: www.yli.org

Youth on Board  phone: (617) 623-9900
website: www.youthonboard.org

Youth Today  phone: (202) 785-0764
website: www.youthtoday.org