



Building LifeSkills

EMPOWERMENT

Young people are empowered to make positive changes in their community; they recognize and live up to their social and civic obligations.

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 Lorain County Children Services
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Key Building Blocks to Help Kids Succeed

Search Institute identified 40 building blocks of healthy development that help young people grow up healthy, caring and responsible. These building blocks are referred to as "assets." Local schools have united in identifying monthly "asset" themes for schools and communities to help kids reach their potential. December's theme is Caring and Positive values.

Conformity to drugs are not for me, we are the majority!

13 high schools gather today to promote youth rally today

By: Darrell Shumpert
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One of the most common misconceptions among youth is that everyone drinks alcohol or uses drugs to have a good time. However, local survey data shows that the vast majority of kids do not use alcohol or drugs.

Today Lorain County teens from 13 high schools will gather together to promote the 4th Annual "We are the Majority" Youth Rally! The event will take place inside the Elyria High School gymnasium in support of living healthy drug-free lifestyles. These youth will stand tall as one unified front stating: **DRUGS ARE NOT THE WAY TO BE... WE HAVE CHOSE TO BE DRUG FREE!**

At 11 a.m. youth will depart from Elyria High School and take the

excitement of the "We Are the Majority" message onto Middle Avenue and gather in Ely Square for a community-wide rally. The public rally at the courthouse kicks off at 11:00 a.m. with youth speakers, Elyria Mayor Holly Brinda, and Lorain County dignitaries.



In Columbus, teens will also gather at the same time and take the "We Are the Majority" message to the Statehouse. The goal is to influence our Ohio lawmakers to consider the lives of our youth before making policy changes, enforcing new laws, and reconsider pushing particular issues that will put our youth in harms way.



Above students perform during the 2015 rally. Below is a banner signed by youths participating in the rally.

The day belongs to our youth, who will talk about why and how they have remained drug-free. These teens are going to take us into their world and explain to us what it feels like to encounter the everyday pressures of being offered drugs, how they have fought to remain clean and positive, and to encourage their peers to stay strong against this ongoing epidemic in our county as well as our nation.

600+ Lorain County youth participated in the 3rd Annual "We Are the Majority" Rally last year in which was a collaboration between Teen Institute of Lorain County and Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services with support from Communities that Care of Lorain County, as a collaborative effort with Drug Free Action Alliance in Columbus.w

We encourage all Lorain County residents to come out today at 11:00 a.m. to gather with us around Ely Square in support of Lorain County teens who are making the conscious choice to live their lives healthy and drug free. Want to effect change in our youth?

Show you care, join us today in ELY Square