



Building Life Skills

May Volunteerism

Young people feel valued by their community and have opportunities to contribute to others. Young people have a strong sense of their own power, purpose, worth, and promise.



Communities That Care



40 Key Building Blocks to Help Kids Succeed

Search Institute has 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.

- I follow the rules of my school.
- I admire adults who model positive, responsible behavior.
- I do well when my parents and teachers encourage me.
- I plan ahead to get things done on time.
- I use the S.T.A.R. model to help me make good choices.
- I stop and take a deep breath before making important decisions.
- I think about my choices and the possible consequences.
- I act on the best choice that will help me and will not hurt others.

Making Good Decisions for Community Change

Jordan Andrews
Teen Institute

The Teen Institute of Lorain County (TiLC) is a group of high school students who are committed to living alcohol and drug free lives and making healthy choices. This past January, members of the Teen Institute of Lorain County as well as other organizations took disposable cameras to different communities in Lorain County to take pictures of the negative elements they saw.

It was overwhelming to see how prevalent alcohol and tobacco was displayed and marketed throughout the county. Jordan Andrews, youth coordinator of the Teen Institute of Lorain County said, "You couldn't even see inside some of the stores because there were so many posters and signs advertising alcohol and tobacco products." There were a number of establishments that were in the walking paths to nearby schools. How are teen supposed to make good decisions regarding alcohol and tobacco when these things are constantly shoved in their faces?

The kids were tired of seeing alcohol and tobacco so glamorously portrayed so we decided to create a work of art that depicted a positive message. TiLC needed help so they called The Lorain Arts Council and the youth of the Lorain County Urban League to create a mural based on the Lorain Arts Council's Mural Project. They worked together every step of the way from brainstorming ideas for the mural to planning the unveiling event.

All of the youth involved made good decisions in working on this Mural

Project. They could have just as easily been tempted by alcohol, tobacco, or drugs, but instead they gave their time and effort to change the landscape of their community, which is a huge step in the right direction for overall community change.

Making the wrong choice can lead to unfulfilled futures for youth. It is important to make a conscious decision when deciding between making the right or wrong choice. Mike Ohle, a youth member of TiLC, and senior at Amherst Steele High School said, "I think about the consequences making that bad choice would cause. Between applying to colleges, maintaining good grades, as well as a good reputation, that bad decision would make all my planning for the future go to waste especially if it could have been prevented in the first place."

We can be hopeful that the Mural Project will allow the youth to see that they have a bright future ahead of them that is free of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

If you would like to get involved in helping the Teen Institute of Lorain County continue to make good decisions for community change then contact Jordan Andrews, youth coordinator, at jta102@yahoo.com or visit www.ctcloraincounty.org for more information.



Working on the mural are front to back, Ephrom Ball, Teen Institute of Lorain County, Rodolfo Perez, Lorain County Urban League and Mike Ohle, Teen Institute of Lorain County.

MONTHLY THEMES

- September.....Decision-making
- October.....Respect
- November.....Responsibility
- December.....Caring
- January.....Fairness
- February.....Trustworthiness
- March.....Positive Identity
- April.....Citizenship
- May.....Volunteerism
- June.....Support
- July.....Constructive use of time
- August.....Commitment to learning

Co-Sponsors of this page:

**Lorain County Children Services
Lorain County
Board of Mental Health
Lorain County
Domestic Relations Court**

*The unveiling of the Mural Project will take place on
Saturday, September 15th*

from 1-6 PM at the Black River Landing in Lorain.

The unveiling ceremony will be from 5-6 PM.

There will be free food, music, inflatable games, and lots of fun!