



Youth Development Network

Who We Are

HISTORY

The Youth Development Network (YDN) collaborates with individuals, organizations, families and communities throughout the Sacramento region committed to promoting positive development of children and youth. YDN began in 2000, as a result of two studies conducted by Sierra Health Foundation and the Sacramento County Integrated Services Team. These studies identified a need to support youth providers with training and networking activities focused on promoting youth development research and practices.

VISION and MISSION of YDN

YDN's vision and mission is to **foster holistic development of young people so that they can achieve personal and academic success, be connected to adults and their community, have a positive vision of their future and grow up to be healthy, productive and civic-minded adults.** YDN believes that training and professional development for people who work with youth is a critical component of achieving our vision. YDN's training programs, resources and public policy efforts all work together to improve the quality of youth services and promote youth development principles into a broad cross-section of youth serving organizations and businesses.

Our Organization's VALUES

Relationships – We believe that having positive relationships is the key to our human existence. Having positive relationships means we treat and care about all people with genuine interest and mutual respect. It is through our collective relationships that we can support the healthy development of youth.

Social Responsibility – We believe that social responsibility is a shared, collective action, based on justice, equity and access; that promotes respect to diversity, inclusion and collaboration in support of all young people. We promote social responsibility through education, community awareness partnerships and engaging activities that address the overarching goal of developing a diverse community of thoughtful, responsible and involved citizens.

Change – To foster change, we believe it is important to be curious, rather than certain; to regularly reflect and put our learning and insights into action; to be in a mode of continuous improvement. We seek to be a catalyst for change in ourselves and others. We work to transform ourselves, our organizations, and our community to provide high quality environments for youth, whose lives and circumstances are always changing.

GREAT Service Learning



- Combines service with skill building
- Service that meets a community need
- Involves partnering with others in the community
- Youth voice: Youth help choose and plan projects
- Civic responsibility: Learn that making change is possible, and it feels good!
- Reflection (thinking about what you have learned) happens constantly
- Evaluation process includes your opinions