

Harvest from
Community Café—Investing in Your Community’s Youth: An Introduction
to *Communities That Care* (in the World Café format)

January 13, 2011 ☀ Tri Area Community Center ☀ Chimacum, WA

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Questions:

- 1. What is going on in Jefferson County and how is it affecting our youth and families?**
 - What is working well? What challenges are out there?
 - How does the current economy (“economic crisis”) influence what is going on?
 - What strategies and structures do you see in our community serving children and families?
 - Beyond programs, what do you know we have in place (formal/informal)?

- 2. What changes can be made?**
 - In a climate of more limited resources, organizations are struggling—what can be done to ensure children and families are still getting the support they need?
 - How do we continue? How do we maintain? How do we build? How do we grow our values of health and safety into actions?

- 3. What are your vision and goals for the youth and families of Jefferson County?**
 - What strategies need to be maintained or created for children and families to be safe and healthy?
 - Families
 - Birth-to-3
 - Ages 3-5
 - Ages 5-9
 - Ages 9-12
 - Ages 13-18
 - Ages 18-24

Harvest:

- **We DO have caring, committed resources (very important!)**

- **There is an untapped market of retirees (possibly could volunteers in various capacities)**

- **Alternatives to “social norms” are more accepted here, in many cases**
 - More open to alternatives

- **Jefferson County has educated and aware voters who do support community initiatives**
 - e.g. Proposition 1 last fall, PT Library levy

- **A new paradigm is before us:**
 - Government safety nets are going away, need to create cooperative community structures:
 - Currents examples include:
 - meals
 - childcare
 - parent education
 - transportation
 - community gardens/school gardens
 - community emergency preparedness programs
 - homeschooling groups
 - How do we expand this?
 - Many are informal arrangements
 - Should a central organization spear head efforts?
- **Need improved communication**
 - How do we accomplish this?
 - Let people know, reach more people
 - Educate & inform
 - Immediate communication
 - More online groups
- **Create more mentorship opportunities**
 - e.g. Aero Museum
- **Create more ways to bring safe & healthy programming to the schools**
 - e.g. “Peaceful Playground” at Grant Street Elementary (PTA/school supported)

Attendees & Organizations:

- *Bruce Bode, Quimper Unitarian Fellowship*
- *Amy Elizabeth Gordon, Sunfield School, Jefferson Mental Health Services*
- *Cynthia Koan, Jefferson County Community Network*
- *Kelly Matlock, Jefferson County Public Health*
- *Terri Naughton, Jefferson Teen Center*
- *Karen Nelson, Make Waves*
- *Karen Obermeyer, Jefferson County Public Health*
- *Kate Pike, Jefferson Teen Center*

Facilitated by: Anne Dean, Jefferson County Community Network