FYI Adults

October 2001
## Agenda - FYIAgent101701

**10/17/01**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to the Meeting</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting Objective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identify, Discuss and Prioritize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Key Issues That Concern Youth in Our Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Current Level of Youth Involvement in the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Key Obstacles/Barriers to Youth Having a Voice in the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Ways to Engage Youth in the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:40 AM</td>
<td><strong>Demographic Survey (Survey)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:50 AM</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to the Group Decision Center (Categorizer)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>Current Level of Youth Involvement (Categorizer)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:40 AM</td>
<td><strong>Identify Areas for the Greatest Potential for Youth Involvement (Vote)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
<td><strong>Youth Issues (Categorizer)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Generate a List Of Key Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Refine the List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discuss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prioritize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:40 AM</td>
<td><strong>GDC Evaluation (Survey)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographic Survey (Survey)

Survey Results

1. Gender

A) Ballot
   Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)
   Descriptions: Choose one
   Number of Choices: 2

B) Results Spread

Statistics
Total 2.00
N 27

Table Sorted By Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results Chart (1. Gender)
2. Employment

A) Ballot

Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)
Descriptions: Choose all that apply
Number of Choices: 15

B) Results Spread

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistics</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table Sorted By Total

C) Text Responses

1. Non-Profit
2. I am Regional Director of the Mental Health Association in ND
   I am an advocate for persons with mental illness and their families
3. Currently working on renewing my RN nursing license, and studying for ordination in the Episcopal church here in Fargo
4. Funder of social service agencies
5. Artist
   Clergy
6. Non-profit arts organization public information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government: City, County, State or Federal</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Industry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banking</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay at Home Parent</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction and Trades</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results Chart (2. Employment) (1 of 2)

- Government: City, County
- Education
- Other
- Medical
- Business
- Self-employed
- Service Industry
- Banking
- Retail
- Stay at Home Parent

Total:

0.0
3.0
6.0
9.0
12.0

Results Chart (2. Employment) (2 of 2)

- Construction and Trade
- Technology
- Law Enforcement
- Students
- Lawyer

Total:

0.0
3.0
6.0
9.0
12.0
3. Age

A) Ballot

Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)
Descriptions: Choose one
Number of Choices: 5

B) Results Spread

Statistics
Total 5.00
N 27

Table Sorted By Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61+</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results Chart (3. Age)
4. Ethnic Background

A) Ballot
   Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)
   Descriptions: Choose all that apply
   Number of Choices: 6

B) Results Spread

   Statistics
   Total 1.00
   N 27

Table Sorted By Total

C) Text Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results Chart (4. Ethnic Background)
5. Size of Family: include all residents of your home

A) Ballot

Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)
Descriptions: Choose one
Number of Choices: 4

B) Results Spread

Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table Sorted By Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 +</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results Chart (5. Size of Family: include all residents of your...)
6. Stage of Parenting

A) Ballot

Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)
Descriptions: Choose all that apply
Number of Choices: 7

B) Results Spread

Statistics
Total 7.00
N 27

Table Sorted By Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6-8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 years of age +</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 9-12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparents</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k-5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infants/toddlers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results Chart (6. Stage of Parenting)
7. This community allows youth involvement in decision making that directly affects youth.

A) Ballot

Method: Agree/Disagree (5-point) (allow bypass)

Descriptions: SA-Strongly Agree  A-Agree  N-Neutral  D-Disagree  SD-Strongly Disagree

B) Results Spread

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA(5)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A(4)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N(3)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D(2)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD(1)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics

Total 81
Mean N(3.00)
Mode ??
High SA
Low SD
STD 1.07
N 27
n 27

Results Chart (7. This community allows youth involvement in...)
8. This community encourages and supports youth involvement in decision making that directly affects youth.

A) Ballot

Method: Agree/Disagree (5-point) (allow bypass)

Descriptions: SA-Strongly Agree  A-Agree  N-Neutral  D-Disagree  SD-Strongly Disagree

B) Results Spread

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA(5)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A(4)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N(3)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D(2)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD(1)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics

Total 82
Mean N(3.04)
Mode A
High A
Low SD
STD 1.09
N 27
n 27

Results Chart (8. This community encourages and supports youth...)

Printed: 04-17-02  12 of 62
9. The youth of this community should to be involved in decision making that directly affects youth.

A) Ballot

Method: Agree/Disagree (5-point) (allow bypass)

Descriptions: SA-Strongly Agree  A-Agree  N-Neutral  D-Disagree  SD-Strongly Disagree

B) Results Spread

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA(5)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A(4)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N(3)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D(2)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD(1)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics

Total: 126

Mean: SA(4.67)

Mode: SA

High: SA

Low: SD

STD: 0.83

N: 27

n: 27

Results Chart (9. The youth of this community should to be involved...
10. The youth of this community want to be more involved in decision making that directly affects youth.

**A) Ballot**

- **Method:** Agree/Disagree (5-point) (allow bypass)
- **Descriptions:** SA-Strongly Agree  A-Agree  N-Neutral  D-Disagree  SD-Strongly Disagree

**B) Results Spread**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA(5)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A(4)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N(3)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D(2)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD(1)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statistics**

- Total: 109
- Mean: A(4.04)
- Mode: A
- High: SA
- Low: SD
- STD: 0.94
- N: 27
- n: 27

Results Chart (10. The youth of this community want to be more...)

---

**Facilitated by:** GDC, NDSU

**Printed:** 04-17-02
11. Identify the level of youth of this community.

A) Ballot
   Method: 10-Point Scale (allow bypass)
   Descriptions: Rate from 1 to 10, with 10 the highest value.

B) Results Spread

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics
- Total: 160
- Mean: 5.93
- Mode: 6
- High: 10
- Low: 3
- STD: 1.92
- N: 27
- n: 27
Results Chart (11. Identify the level of youth of this community.)
Questions and Choices in Original Order

1. Gender
   1.1 Female
   1.2 Male

2. Employment
   - Lawyer
   - Construction and Trades Industry
   - Technology
   - Service Industry
     2.1 Education
     2.2 Medical
     2.3 Retail
     2.4 Banking
     2.5 Business
     2.6 Law Enforcement
     2.7 Government: City, County, State or Federal
     2.8 Self-employed
     2.9 Students
     2.10 Stay at Home Parent
     2.11 Lawyer
     2.12 Construction and Trades
     2.13 Technology
     2.14 Service Industry
     2.15 Other

3. Age
   3.1 20-30
   3.2 31-40
   3.3 41-50
   3.4 51-60
   3.5 61 +

4. Ethnic Background
   4.1 African-American
   4.2 Asian
   4.3 Caucasian
   4.4 Hispanic
   4.5 Native American
   4.6 Other
5. **Size of Family:** include all residents of your home
   
   5.1 1-3
   5.2 4-6
   5.3 6-8
   5.4 9 +

6. **Stage of Parenting**
   
   6.1 Infants/toddlers
   6.2 Pre-school
   6.3 k-5
   6.4 Grade 6-8
   6.5 Grade 9-12
   6.6 18 years of age +
   6.7 Grandparents

7. **This community allows youth involvement in decision making that directly affects youth.**

8. **This community encourages and supports youth involvement in decision making that directly affects youth.**

9. **The youth of this community should to be involved in decision making that directly affects youth.**

10. **The youth of this community want to be more involved in decision making that directly affects youth.**

11. **Identify the level of youth of this community.**
Introduction to the Group Decision Center (Categorizer)

IDEA GENERATION

1. KIDS CLAIM THERE IS NOTHING TO DO IN FARGO
2. KIDS WANT ADULTS TO RESPECT THEM
3. KIDS WANT SOMEPLACE TO HANG OUT
4. SAFETY
5. KIDS WANT TO HAVE FUN
Current Level of Youth Involvement (Categorizer)

Current Level of Youth Involvement: Identify Ways Youth Are Involved or Have a Voice in the Decisions Related to Youth--Issues/Needs/Services--in the Following Areas

1. THE QUESTION WE AREN'T REALLY ADDRESSING IS HOW DO WE GET KIDS INVOLVED IN A MEANINGFUL WAY IN THE DECISION-MAKING OF THESE SECTORS????? ON AN ON-GOING BASIS????

   Exactly, that is where we are going after we take the read on where we are--good point {#104}

   We really need to respect their views {#176}

   Empower the kids--if you begin to show them that their ideas are taken seriously and that they truly have a voice, they will become more interested. {#193}

   Great point #193. Kids who feel valued are less likely to seek constant stimulation from external sources (namely negative and destructive ones). {#349}

   I agree (#193). For instance, just last week I requested student participation in a discussion on youth issues and she responded by saying, "they never listen anyway, why would I waste my time going to one of those things again, nothing happens as a result of what we comment on." Obviously, this is an issue that needs to be addressed further. Perhaps providing the youth participants with information (IE: what will happen as a result of their input) will greatly increase involvement with the decision making efforts in Fargo. {#439}

2. YOU CAN'T HAVE ADULTS TELLING TEENS HOW TO GET INVOLVED. NEED TO DEVELOP A PROCESS THAT ALLOWS THE YOUNG ADULTS TO COME UP WITH THEIR OWN INVOLVEMENT PROCESS.

   That's true, but the adults (who are currently making the decisions in isolation) have to buy into the process, or nothing will change. They have to sit down with the kids and listen to their criticisms/ideas and have a meaningful exchange for things to improve. {#135}

   That's probably what can happen in this type of process where the two sectors come together {#154}

   Unfortunately teens have the ability to get involved but they choose not to {#157}

   I do believe that it will take much more than just making opportunities available. We have to be extremely creative, and persistent, in pursuing youth involvement. It may not be in the form of serving on committees and commissions all the time, but to have other mechanisms to get that input. The most important piece of this, however, is that adults truly listen to the input and not just set it aside as "unrealistic" or whatever... {#161}

   I think a great amount of kids think that their voice is not hear so why speak up at all {#180}

   Youth often express that they want to be a part of the decision making process but are often not able to commit to a committee that will consume a lot of time. Creative planning by students and adults may be the solution. {#186}

   Those decision making processes that have an impact on area youth could have several different ways for young people to have input. Community forums, surveys, interactive web sites that accept input. If we want a broad base of input on any issue, multiple paths for gathering the input must be available. Unfortunately, this usually means added time and expense to any decision making process. {#187}

   I think adults can be a source of information and encouragement--they don't necessarily have to "tell" teens how to get involved. {#198}

   We need to consider what they go through every day in school and at home. How much of junior high and high school is spent listening to an ADULT ramble on about how the world works? How many high school classes welcome critical thinking from minds that are not quite developed? How many kids are told to be seen and not heard? Many youths are discouraged by teachers, family, and peers from speaking their minds ( or that is how they perceive it). There is an underlying shameful belief about themselves. If you go to the park, or other hangouts where chemicals and behaviors are abused, you
will encounter kids who live with these issues regularly. Then they are asked to participate in public awareness? Will they trust us? For some of our actions to be effective, we need to seek out the kids who are struggling with these issues. (#362)

Providing different avenues of communication and involvement is the key. Utilizing the community’s resources and advancing technology will be a crucial step to incorporating an arena for the youth to blossom. Electronic exercises such as this may be the best way to communicate with the youth. An on-line chat type setting allows them as well as adults to spend time when available, as kids are often times faced with day to day routines in the school system and extra curricular activities. (#462)

3. YOUTH ARE THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY, COMPANIES, ECONOMY AND REGION. THEY ARE OFTEN NOT WELL-PREPARED TO ACCEPT AND ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN LIVES AND THE LIFE OF THEIR COMMUNITY. NOT ALL OF THEM WILL WANT TO ACCEPT THAT IDEA AND RESPONSIBILITY, AT LEAST NOT AT THIS AGE/TIME. HOWEVER, ADULTS SHOULD UNDERSTAND AND CONSIDER THEIR NEEDS AND INTERESTS EVEN AS WE ASK, TRAIN, NURTURE AND INVOLVE THEM AS OUR FUTURE/LEADERS/EMPLOYEES/CITIZENS.

we need to continue to nourish them with the leadership ideas role modeling is a key for them (#184)

4. IN MY MIND, THE OTHER MAJOR REASON TO DO ALL THIS, IS TO ASSIST THE CURRENT DECISION-MAKERS IN MAKING BETTER DECISIONS. I REALLY BELIEVE THERE ARE BENEFITS, NOT ONLY FOR THE KIDS, BUT FOR THE ADULTS ALSO.

Decisions made with the input of the population most likely to be impacted are often better decisions. (#199)

5. YOUTH ARE INVOLVED IN THE CHAMBER LEADERSHIP SERIES

Could you expound on that? Which youth group? The disenfranchised? or the popular confident ones? (#368)

The Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead facilitates a Youth Leadership program and has since 1995. Area high school sophomores and juniors are asked to submit applications and donate one full day a month from September through April to learning about the community as well as leadership skills. Through this program the participants learn about a variety of topics including, their own personality traits, the justice system, education, health and human services, business and economic development and quality of life. Participants then go recap the year through a graduation ceremony that combines all the aspects of the year’s activities. They are also required to do homework projects such as making business plans, mock trials and interviews with community leaders. This program is offered cost free to the students to insure participation is available to all who want to attend. Donations from area businesses as well as the school districts funds the program. To this point, the Chamber has accepted all that apply. In the past two years the program has seen significant expansion from 35 students to over 100. (#476)

6. OUR REFUGEE FAMILIES AND YOUTH ARE SELDOM INVOLVED. THE CITY AS A WHOLE IS MISSING OUT ON AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND EXPAND OUR HORIZONS.

Some see this population only as an employable commodity rather that a cultural asset. (#294)

How much have we been doing in our schools to educate the kids about new American families? Especially since September 11th! There needs to be some serious sensitizing in our schools. I know many adults who are frightened in this community since the 11th ... is there anything being done in the schools to foster awareness ... real knowledge and not just rumor ... to help everyone cope with the issues that have been raised? (#479)

7. MAYBE WE USE OUR STATE, COUNTY, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND DEVISE A WAY THAT THE KIDS COULD EARN SOME MONEY WHILE DOING SOME SERVICE. AFTER SO MANY HOURS OF VOLUNTEER WORK, THEY COULD QUALIFY FOR PART TIME PAY.

8. YOUTH INPUT IS HIGHLY UNDER UTILIZED, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT PERTAINS TO THEIR NEEDS!!

Much of this issue boils down to who they trust, if anyone. (#370)
9. I DON'T SEE CHURCH AS A PARTNER HERE ANYWHERE. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE COMMUNITY AND SHOULD BE PART OF OUR PLANS.

I agree -- faith communities are a great place to access adults who could be willing to work with youth and to plan programs/activities that would be good for youth. Those programs need to be "open" to kids of all faiths so that youth who are not affiliated with a church/worship group can have the opportunity to be involved. {#318}

Multidenominational youth workers who would be willing to work with youth would be a good place to start, but may also turn off some kids {#361}

We'd have to be careful with this issue. Religious fanatics can turn people away quickly. It is very annoying when someone smugly tries to "save" you when you're confident you don't need it. If it is presented from a neutral, yet spiritual place...maybe something constructive can come from it. {#376}

10. Our approach to getting youth involved is after the fact, not proactive. Too often it's after a young person falls out of line, gets into trouble, or shows problematic behavior before we see a glaring need to get them involved.

Doesn't much of this start in the classroom? How can we stop children from feeling alienated and disenfranchised? After all, kids who feel alone among their own age group probably will not respond well to adults, will they? {#379}

Remember, it takes a whole community to raise a child... and that doesn't mean the school system has that job. {#398}

Service Sector Business

1. KEY CLUBS

I have visited with the key clubs in the area and they are very involved with service projects. More than I was aware of. {#81}

Service projects are the name of the game for Key Club. {#90}

We need to get them PR. They often feel unappreciated {#101}

Yes the PR is needed. The community needs to know how they are involved. {#111}

The same PR should then be available to student council, Scout groups, etc. {#118}

Pr is important for all service groups including a directory of some type. It is difficult to track down groups that want to be involved without making numerous phone calls and having the feeling that someone was forgotten or overlooked {#196}

Are the kids that are interested in these activities the same kids that we are trying in vain to reach? {#209}

A great way to get kids involved in service projects. {#356}

Any volunteer service, not just key clubs, is great for the youth as well as the adults. {#400}

2. Internships

This could have great potential. If we considered, and made available, high school internships in leadership, we would be offering youth opportunities to strengthen their leadership skills, involve them more in our community and give them opportunities to be involved in decision-making. The internships could be in government, social service and business. There would need to be a collaborative effort so that there was agreement on what the overall goals of the internships should be. {#182}

Great idea! It needs to go far beyond the take your daughter to work day or shadowing a professional for a few hours {#201}

This would be more appealing to youth if it was a paid internship. A couple of years ago Job Service was offering a "Summer Youth Employment Program" in which youth were placed in a paid internship and also received school credit. I think with the amount of education and business services in this area, it would be a great asset. {#224}
I agree with 201; an Internship program needs to expand beyond taking your child to work. It's more than just showing them off at the office. I have personally been involved with Expanding Your Horizons for several years and think this is a great opportunity for young women from all over the state to participate in. However, maybe there is a way to incorporate the template for EYH into the classroom, with a speakers bureau from local businesses and organizations that the students choose, specifically. A representative could come to the classroom/school and after learning about the business/organization, students would have the opportunity to discuss a possible internship. {#444}

3. LITTLE OUTSIDE OF VOLUNTEER OPTIONS

Not necessarily true, they are the major work force {#66}

Maybe kids just don't know what their employment options are? There are more jobs than just flipping burgers, not that there is anything wrong with that. There are jobs at assisted living/nursing homes, convenience stores, grocery stores, retail. {#441}

5. YOUTH PROVIDE A LARGE PORTION OF THE SERVICE SECTOR'S EMPLOYMENT BASE: THE NEED TO INVOLVE IDEAS AND OPINIONS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE SEEMS VERY VITAL IN KEEPING THEM CONNECTED WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND SCHOOL MATES AS THEY TRY TO MIX WORK WITH ALL THE OTHER THINGS GOING ON IN THEIR LIVES.

Is there a reason why our teenagers need to work? The stress of school and just being a teenager is overwhelming {#178}

Sometimes it is pure economics--the family has to have the extra income {#239}

This is a very interesting question. Why do so many students work? Because they need to pay for the car, gas and insurance are some of the reasons. They are at their jobs more than they are at home. That may be good, as usually they would be home alone with too much unsupervised time on their hands. {#254}

There are also the kids who are working to support themselves. I'd bet money there are more than we realize. I started paying rent when I was 15 and by the time I was a senior, I transferred to Woodrow Wilson because I was working until 4A.M. three nights a week. This was in the 1980s of course, but I knew of many others in the same boat. Many of us thought the world belonged to the "jocks" and "rich" kids. As distorted as that view was and still is, it was very real to us. I'd bet that 1 out of at least every 15 kids in my social status and common attitude went on to college and/or felt like they could contribute. How many scholars and future leaders are never discovered because they don't have a clue what they are worth? Depression masks many of our bright youth. {#393}

I, too, started working at a very young age. My catalyst was wanting to take a summer trip with friends. My parents made a deal with me that if I got a job and raised half the cost, they would put the other half in for the trip. I may not have loved going to work everyday after school and on weekends, but I started to appreciate the value of a dollar. I also think that allowing teens to work is a good way to force them to stay busy. There are some teens out there that may just not be interested in any type of extra curricular activity offered through the school. {#437}

6. WORK COOP'S

What is a work co-op and how does it get formed? {#207}

7. EARNING HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE CREDIT AT A PAID INTERNSHIP.

This is a great idea but it is difficult to pay for limited capabilities. {#358}

8. PERHAPS WE CAN MATCH UP SCORE PARTICIPANTS WITH YOUTH AVAILABLE AND WILLING TO SERVE.

What are SCORE participants? {#440}

Leisure Opportunities

1. I BELIEVE KIDS ARE REAL INVOLVED IN PARKS AREA PLANNING/SURVEYS

It would be good to have a youth advisory council to the Park District or Park Board. This would give youth an active role in planning and evaluating programs. The youth appointed/chosen for this advisory
council should be encouraged to visit with other youth (not just their friends but a broader base of youth) to get their input. {#189}

I think we have a tremendous amount of programs for our youth. we just need to encourage them to get involved {#194}

Involvement is the most challenging {#344}

Some kids just don't have the desire to get involved in these sorts of things {#374}

Many of them don't want to get involved because they feel threatened or unsafe from peers. What can we do to encourage them? {#399}

2. THERE ARE MANY LEISURE AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR TEENS IN FARGO. GETTING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IS THE CHALLENGE.

Were the youth involved in deciding what activities would be available? {#62}

Do agencies talk to each other to avoid duplication {#67}

It seems as though they don't talk to each other much and it certainly doesn't appear to include faith-based community. {#72}

It can be challenging, time consuming and expensive to market to youth about activities that would be highly beneficial and engaging for them, however, recently, my organization was allowed to go directly into classrooms and talk to every art class in every school in West Fargo, Fargo and Moorhead (except one Moorhead Middle School) about a worthwhile summer art program on political commentary. {#179}

I don't believe that there are enough opportunities for youth especially that have a dual role such as teaching accountability and responsibility. {#188}

I think kids are willing to participate however many cannot due to limited transportation due to parents working {#190}

#188 accountability and responsibility should begin at home and should not be placed in others hands - we as parents need to teach by example {#197}

There are many available leisure and recreational activities in the area but are often cost prohibitive or have a travel factor that some families can not overcome. Programs need to be branched out into neighborhoods which allow greater usage by those with travel and financial concerns. These programs could be basketball camps in the neighborhood school gym or introduction to softball in the neighborhood park etc. {#220}

#197 I agree that this should begin at home--too bad in many cases it isn't!! {#232}

Amen!! {#364} {#365}

#197 but we have to be realistic about what kinds of homes some of these kids live in. Some things fall on the burden of the community whether we like it or not. We can't let them fall through the cracks because it is their "parents" responsibility. What if their grandparents never taught their parents the responsibility in the first place? It has to start somewhere. We have the opportunity to teach them something that can have exponential effects once they grow up and pass it on to their kids, and so on... {#409}

Let's also remember that some of these kids are at risk at home... and the way to survive is to get out of that environment, as inconceivable as that is. Sometimes our strictness forces them to go to where the "risk" is, and that's not something we understand easily. {#416}

I think there are many opportunities for younger children ... baseball etc in the summer ... however I think there needs to be more opportunities for our older youth ... not everyone is inclined toward sports {#431}

#431 has an excellent point. Not everyone has an interest in sports. Offer neighborhood community theaters. Offer music and art opportunities. Offer cooking or maybe even woodworking or something. Anything to engage kids - of all ages. If we could help every kid find at least 1 thing that they love to do - and that they're good at -- that would be success. {#448}
3. AVERAGE INPUT WITH THESE IDEAS

4. EMPLOYEES IN VARIOUS LEISURE-RELATED BUSINESSES

5. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVITIES FOR ALL FAMILIES. COST IS PROHIBITIVE FOR MANY TO BECOME INVOLVED. THIS IS TRUE OF SCHOOLS, YMCA, PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAMS - BOTH PRIVATE AND HOSPITALS.

This is true. The information about scholarships needs to be promoted more and funds more available. (#166)

My family started a scholarship for economically disadvantaged music students through the Fargo Public Schools Foundation. In so doing, we discovered that if any student needed an instrument, it was made available. Also, many scholarships to International Music Camp were available. The only thing lacking was for incidentals such as mentoring/private lessons, special clothing. That is why the scholarship is available. It took almost a year, however before any teaches accessed the funds even though a mere phone call is all that is needed to access the funds. I think awareness of the fund was the problem. (#192)

I agree regarding awareness of funds available. Many organizations do offer scholarships (and often receive grants that help cover those scholarships). Perhaps organizations need to do a better job of making that known. The other situation is that many families are not willing to request the help. I’m sure it’s an uncomfortable situation to ask for help/assistance but I would hope parents would put aside pride and realize that their child would benefit if they would accept the help. (#202)

Transportation is a real barrier for many families - especially when young children are involved. Offering free or low cost youth activities in neighborhood centers can really help get some of the community’s most at-risk kids more involved. Providing transportation to activities is an option but, probably isn’t as desirable as having geographically dispersed programs and activities. (#434)

6. PARTICIPANTS IN VARIOUS LEISURE ACTIVITIES

7. PROMOTE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS FOR THOSE WHO CAN NOT AFFORD PROGRAMS

This plays a large part in parents getting kids involved. Having the means. (#128)

I know that the following groups have scholarships available to kids, however, costs in addition to registration fees may still make these inaccessible: Fargo Flyers Hockey, Fargo Raiders Hockey, Fargo Patriots Hockey, Park Board Girls 12 & under hockey, All City Hockey (grades k-3); Red River Soccer (summer traveling, competitive); Plains Art Museum art classes. I suspect many other organizations offer scholarships. It would be interesting to compile a directory and distribute it where kids/families who could benefit could see it. (#206)

There are some scholarships available but how many people know about them? (#227)

#206 - I agree. Half the battle is getting the information out to the people that need it and also to make the programs easy for families to use (having a simple application process could be the difference between a time strapped parent taking the time to get their child into a program and that child missing out on the opportunity). (#438)

8. NEED MORE SKATEBOARD PARKS, HOCKEY RINKS, AND A DRAG STRIP

A drag strip? Vroom, vroom! (#170)

A new hockey rink is being worked on in a partnership with the Fargo Park District. (#210)

Our communities do need to respond to the need for skateboard parks. There are many youth who are very interested in skateboarding who do not participate in other sports. If we don’t encourage the activities they are interested in, they will eventually find activities that are inappropriate (smoking, drinking, etc). The lesson to learn is to respond to what the kids are interested in -- not what we think they should be involved in. (#211)

I would love to see a youth directed skate park facility. In Moorhead, the kids did most of the planning and at least some of the fundraising. Think of the life skills and leadership skills they acquired in so doing. (#214)
Facilitated by: GDC, NDSU

Grand Forks has a skate park equipped with ramps. (#228)

There are a lot of main stream sports activities available either through the schools, traveling teams or the Park District. The students whose interests lie in non traditional sports as skateboarding, inline skating find little opportunity to practice their sport or compete with others. (#235)

The Park District is currently in conversation with the skate board community about the need and placement of a well designed and maintained skate park. It will be interesting to see if the plans ever come to fruition. (#241)

I agree with all 3 of the ideas. The idea of a drag strip is a lot like the idea of a skate park. There are a lot of kids in the community that are interested in cars. If you saw all the local racers that attended the movie "Fast and Furious", you know that's true! Right now, their playground is 13th Avenue and sometimes Main Avenue or rural roads outside of the City. If efforts could be made to work with the drag strip near Glyndon to offer "Friday night Fun Racing" or some other low cost race option, it could really provide some opportunities for these kids to enjoy their hobby, work with adults in a meaningful way (by interacting with other racers at the track) and even improve the safety of the City streets by providing a safe place to race. The facility exists - it's just marketing the right opportunity... (#443)

9. CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

Fargo's Park Board does a great job of providing sports opportunities for young people. The programs in place are wonderful. There seen to be gaps in ages served, esp. for junior high school and high school aged youth. (#217)

And church league softball ... and other sports. My daughter has participated on our church softball team for four years and loves it! It is a great opportunity to enjoy a sport-- for youth who just want to have fun and not be competitive. Too many organized sports "weed" youth out by the time of high school, leaving only a very few top players with the opportunity to participate. We have to provide opportunities for youth to stay active ... we need to downplay the overly-competitiveness of only the very best being able to play. And church-sponsored leagues fit that bill perfectly! (#222)

I agree -- there are gaps in ages served for junior and high school youth. Why do so many programs stop after elementary years? (#225)

The athletic system in Fargo weeds out the competitors at a very early age. It often seems that if you can't afford the extras like camps, traveling teams or weight training programs you will never make the team. Sports are becoming the games for the wealthy. Church leagues or intramural sports are less competitive and offer students a chance to ENJOY playing a sport. (#248)

I agree with 248. The problem is that some of the churches are too small, or budgets are too stretched to have these programs (#378)

#248 hit the nail on the head. There are thousands of kids in this community competing for a very few "elite" spots on sanctioned teams. The whole idea of sports is to have fun. Not everything has to be so competitive that only the best of the best are allowed to compete. Having robust community leagues would be great! And keeping them affordable would not only add to the fun but would definitely allow more kids to play. Hockey is a good example - there is no reason playing hockey has to be so expensive - you can organize used equipment swap meets, use outdoor ice, etc. Just give kids a chance to play! (#445)

I agree with 248 and 378; the community, as a whole, needs to look at the emphasis placed on winning every sports event ever scheduled. There are some really great kids out there who probably really want to try out for a team or sport, but are intimidated because they think they're not good enough or their folks can't afford all the "extras" that go along with being in an activity. (#447)

10. LET'S ASK THE KIDS WHAT THEY WANT... WE MAY HAVE OUR EYES OPENED. AND MAKE SURE IT'S A DIVERSE CROSS-SECTION THAT'S ASKED.

11. KIDS SHOULD HAVE A SAY IN WHAT TYPES OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THEM. BUT ALSO CONSIDER HAVING THEM WORK AT A NEW FACILITY OR BE RESPONSIBLE FOR GROUNDS WORK/CONSESSIONS, ETC. GOOD WAY TO TEACH ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.
Secondary Education

1. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAMS

What do you mean by school improvement teams? {#382}

2. STUDENT COUNCILS

I am very pleased with the opportunities for student leadership in our grade schools, middle schools and junior highs. {#216}

It's good to offer this but, by high school, it becomes an "elitist" activity ... it allows very few students the opportunity to learn or use their leadership skills and those students have to be voted in. The election process is too much like a popularity contest, leaving many students out of the process. {#231}

Amen to the second comment {#299}

Some kids would rather not face the humiliation of not being voted in, so they don't try it {#384}

3. ACTIVITY COUNCIL

Current activities should be made available to a larger percentage of students. {#226}

I agree! And it is not sufficient to just have the activities available. We need to determine why some students aren't able to participate -- costs, transportation, lack of parental interest. Organizations providing activities need to consider what they need to do to make things affordable or innovative ways they can involve youth who may have either transportation issues or parents who don't encourage them. {#237}

We cannot expect our schools to do everything....teach and provide a myriad of recreational opportunities to all youth. Other agencies and groups need to step in and take on some of the responsibilities {#257}

#257 Parents need to be the first step. Too much hope is placed on schools along with "other agencies and groups." {#268}

All students should have an opportunity to participate if they so choose {#306}

4. FOCUS GROUPS

The Plains Art Museum has used youth planning groups to determine what kind of activities they want to see happen in the museum. This has been very effective in attracting youth to the museum. {#219}

More organizations -- of all types -- need to follow the Plains Art Museum's lead and involve youth in planning and implementation of programs {#240}

5. SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAMS

6. INTERNSHIPS, SUMMER ACADEMIES WITH SPECIAL FOCI, EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS AND LIFE/CAREER/FAMILY EDUCATION.

7. WE SHOULD HELP STUDENTS PREPARE FOR LIFE IN THE 21ST CENTURY, GLOBAL VILLAGE AND NEW ECONOMY. WE SHOULD ALSO HELP THEM TO UNDERSTAND AND EXPLORE THEIR CAREER OPTIONS, AND TO BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND REGION, INCLUDING FUTURE CAREER OPTIONS THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE HERE...AND NOT ALL OF WHICH REQUIRE A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE.

Some of the latest research shows that only 20% of the jobs of the future will require a 4 year degree. Most jobs will require technical or vocational training. This is in big conflict with our communities' expectations of our youth. {#164}

And our community's tradition of higher education. (Most parents seem to want their kids to go to college and get a four-year degree.) (We also have institutions that have been developed - and have a vested interest - to provide them.) {#171}

That 20% figure is fascinating!!! How does that compare to students currently? That seems awfully low? What technical jobs? This hardly seems possible, with the "information age" we're living in.... {#173}
I think secondary education is wonderful, but not necessarily a 4 year degree. I think more companies getting involved in working with the schools such as working with Junior Achievement would give kids an idea of what careers there are in the area. Sadly, not all schools do not want to participate in these types of programs as there is a conflict with their student lessons. \(\#223\)

I believe the Youth Leadership program of the Chamber of Commerce, the entrepreneur program of the GNDA and other programs like this can really make an impact on how our children grow up to contribute to our society, mainly because they don't use standard classroom settings. They are not a substitute but an important adjunct. \(\#233\)

I agree that the Chamber's Youth Leadership program is a great opportunity for youth to learn leadership skills, learn more about our communities and to learn how they can get involved and have an impact. It's great to see that the Chamber has expanded the program rather than limiting the number of youth involved. In past years, they offered it to just 30-some youth. They now have three groups and nearly 100 students involved. \(\#245\)

Where did you get this information on \# 164 \(\#388\)

8. EVERY STUDENT SHOULD HAVE AN ADULT THEY CAN MENTOR WITH IN SOME CAPACITY

We need to develop ways of addressing this. There is so much talk about what parents should do with/for their kids ... but a lot of "lost" youth do not have parents who are willing to be involved or encourage their kids. That means the rest of us need to step up. We can't take the attitude of "if the parents don't care, how can we?" We need to truly foster an environment of each of us taking responsibility for connecting with a child -- not necessarily just our own. It's a cliche but it's true -- it takes a village to raise a child. \(\#251\)

We really need to get back to some basic family time not just placing our students into more activities \(\#323\)

Every kid needs a meaningful relationship with an adult other than a parent. \(\#371\)

Adult role models are so important. I work with the kids at our church and in the schools, and see so many kids starved for positive attention from adults. \(\#395\)

9. IF IT WERE NOT A PROBLEM WITH SUPERVISION, IT WOULD BE GREAT TO HAVE KIDS WORK OFF SOME OF THE FEES THAT COME ALONG WITH PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. NOT JUST SELLING CANDY AND PIZZA, BUT CLEANING, RAKING, MOWING, WHATEVER EXTRA WORK THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE ON OUR CITIES BUILDING AND GROUNDS.

I think the idea of working off participation fees with labor-related activities is a great idea. I once wanted to try out for the high school volleyball team but had to have a physical first. My family couldn't afford a physical so I never got to play. I also think that this is another great tool to teach kids responsibilities. You also have the opportunity to associate a dollar value with a service, which may help kids/adolescents begin to understand and respect this relationship. \(\#432\)

\#432 Perhaps service would be valuable even for the students who had the $$ \(\#436\)

Post Secondary Education

1. STUDENTS ARE INVOLVED IN ALL FACULTY CTES, I BELIEVE

2. STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Government is a wonderful experience but elected by popular vote \(\#332\)

3. STUDENT ACTIVITIES PROGRAMS

4. SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAMS

5. MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO ENROLL IN CLASSES OF INTEREST WITHOUT HAVING TO BE IN THE COLLEGE TRACT IN HIGH SCHOOL.

6. WE SHOULD ASK AND ENCOURAGE OUR POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS TO OFFER BOTH TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMIZED PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS BASED ON A VARIETY OF
LEARNING NEEDS AND CAREER PREPARATION OPPORTUNITIES, NOT ALL OF WHICH REQUIRE FOUR-YEAR DEGREES OR WILL ATTRACT "TRADITIONAL," FULL-TIME STUDENTS.

7. THIS IS AN AREA WE COULD EXPAND AS WE HAVE THREE COLLEGES AND SEVERAL TRADE SCHOOLS IN TOWN. WE SHOULD BE COOPERATING IN ANY MANNER POSSIBLE

8. I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE SCHOOL TO WORK PROGRAMS. I'D LIKE TO HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WORKING WITH ME TO TRAIN THEM AND HAVE THEM WORK PART-TIME WHILE ATTENDING COLLEGE. HANDS ON IS THE BEST TEACHER...SOMETHING THEY DON'T ALWAYS LEARN IN A CLASSROOM. WITH OUR WORKFORCE SHORTAGE, WE AS EMPLOYERS NEED TO WORK WITH THE SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS.

Retail/Business

1. MANY EMPLOYED IN THIS SECTOR

   The youth of Fargo are seen in many retail, fast food business throughout Fargo and they do a fantastic job {#200}
   
   We tried for years to get our teenager to take responsibility for certain duties. His job in a fast food business has helped him learn so much: time management, pr skills, keeping his clothes laundered and ready for work, so many things. The job goes way beyond what he earns. It is not an intrusion into his life but has been essential to his attainment of life skills. {#247}

2. ARE THERE ANY ENTREPRENEUR CLASSES FOR YOUTH?

   Some are through Junior Achievement {#112}
   
   Yes in the high schools {#113}
   
   Do the students feel comfortable with junior achievement clubs? {#204}
   
   Every summer in Dickinson, the GNDA has a youth business week long program which is excellent. {#249}
   
   Actually the high schools have a very successful business class and club that the kids take national honors every year. A lot of the students go on to get scholarships {#302}

3. FM CHAMBER YOUTH LEADERSHIP COURSE

   Excellent opportunity for youth -- good to see that the Chamber has expanded this to include rather than exclude more youth. {#259}

4. Internships and summer employment

   Summer employment for high school age group through the park district and many other employment opportunities in Fargo-Moorhead are available {#212}

5. YOUTH SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET FRINGE BENEFITS, JUST AS ADULTS DO. I THINK YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY AVAILABLE FOR WORK IN THIS AREA.

   There is a correlation between working kids and alcohol use. They're more independent, so think they can participate in more "adult" activities. I don't know what can be done with this one, but employed youth is not necessarily all good. {#165}
   
   Employment can also keep kids away from some of the negative activities. It is good to know when my son is at work. {#253}

6. SO MANY OF OUR STUDENTS HAVE OUTSIDE JOBS. THE EMPLOYER HAS A CERTAIN OBLIGATION TO THE YOUTH TO TRAIN THEM IN THE WAYS OF THE WORKPLACE.

   employers do not seem to want to take the time out to train effectively as many feel these kids come a dime a dozen and will quit, again this is where the parents/teachers need to drill in the responsibility and respect for self and others {#230}
   
   My son's employer, the Dairy Queen, has been excellent and he has stayed with them for several years. He may be able to continue with this chain when he relocates for college. {#255}
Hornbachers helps the kids learn to interview {#311}

Courts/Law Enforcement

1. YOUTH COURT

Youth court is a great program for kids. One of Lutheran Social Services true successes. {#75}

My impression is that it is more effective than being assigned to a probation officer {#121}

Youth court is the only one I know of too {#43}

I am not aware of the LSS youth court {#221}

This is a great program and should be more known to the community. {#238}

This program is excellent {#258}

2. NEED FOR YOUTH FORUM IN CITY COURT

3. THE DRINKING AGE OF 21 MAKES THE TIME FROM 18-21 A NO MAN'S LAND. LAWS HAVE TO BE ENFORCED. BUT ARE THE PRESENT LAWS REALISTIC? I REALLY SUPPORT COLLEGE SPONSORED CHEMICAL FREE ACTIVITIES. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS WHO ARE NOT IN COLLEGE?

Do other countries have the same problems with this age grouping? It appears that some countries have a more lax attitude towards alcohol and youth consumption and their young adults accept the responsibility to consume in moderation. {#162}

I am thrilled that so many of the Greek orgs are going dry. It sends a strong message to the younger siblings and youth of the community {#229}

The "norming" program being promoted by Fargo Public Health is an excellent idea and being conducted by very competent people. In this program, they let kids know that not every kid drinks every day and when they do, they don't necessarily drive or binge drink. {#261}

There is a fairly large body of research coming out of Europe, specifically Ireland, Russia and Norway that identifies excessive alcohol consumption as a major health threat. Especially to young males. The responsibility to consume in moderation may be true in some areas. However typically, penalties for say, DUI are by far and away more severe. Several of the Scandinavian countries have a 0.02 BAC as the cutoff level for DUI. {#341}

None of this deals with the discrepancy in 18/21 age problems. At 18 you are old enough to fight for your country, to vote for the leadership of your country ... to go to jail as an adult ... and yet you are not considered old enough to make decisions about alcohol intake. Canada has varied alcohol ages ... it goes by Province but they are all either 18 or 19. This does not represent a lax attitude toward alcohol consumption. Rather, it represents an acknowledgement of adulthood. The issue of hazing etc is a very real problem regardless of the legal age for consumption. {#446}

4. THIS IS AN AREA THAT NEITHER THE YOUTH NOR THE PARENT UNDERSTANDS WHAT A DUI, OR SIMILAR ARREST CAN DO TO THE STUDENT'S FUTURE.

5. SOME PARENTS HIRE A GOOD ATTORNEY AND GET THEIR STUDENT OFF AFTER AN ARREST. PARENTS NEED TO BE RESPONSIBLE

Protecting our children from their actions is extremely wrong! We are teaching them if they break the law and get caught their consequences are way too easy! We need to teach responsibility to our children! {#243}

I am glad to see that the high schools are stepping up their response to students who are alcohol or drug involved. Adults need to stop looking the other way and giving students that drinking and drugs are ok as long as you don't get caught or have the money for lawyers to get you off. {#263}

Amen!! Far too many parents overly protect their kids when their kids have done something seriously wrong. They run in to "make it all go away." This has got to stop! {#264}
The Love and Logic parenting program done by Village Family Services has an excellent video on this subject. After seeing it and going through the course, we will definitely not hire an attorney to get our kid off. We would not blow this chance for our child to learn an important lesson. {#267}

Great comments above. {#345}

Let us not forget that addiction is an illness. If a student has an addiction issue ... and is not simply out having a good time ... then treatment is required and it is simplistic to think that "learning a lesson" will solve much of anything. {#449}

6. OUR YOUTH ARE BEING TARGETED BY SELECTED ENFORCEMENT OF NOISE / PARTY ORDINANCES AS A METHOD TO CURB UNDERAGE DRINKING. OUR ENFORCEMENT METHODS ARE QUESTIONABLE AND UNFAIR AT TIMES. WE DON'T USE DECIBEL METERS AND OUR OFFICERS ENTER WITHOUT PROPER WARRANT OR PERMISSION.

I agree. I don't think youth are much different than 30 years ago. There's more law enforcement now and more public awareness. I don't think they should be the target of sting operations etc. {#390}

7. Have them visit with a young person (age 21) in prison. Reality is sometimes the best cure.

City Government

1. NONE THAT I'M AWARE OF

DUI's are a growing concern in our community our youth need to know the consequences {#283}

2. DO THE MAYORS STILL HAVE YOUTH INVOLVEMENT ON THEIR YOUTH TASK FORCE?

If you're wondering about the youth group that was meeting between all four communities, talking about issues common to all youth -- that group has been suspended. The meetings were being rotated between communities and there was no designated staff to ensure the continuity and so it died. {#78}

If these ideas are going to work a central, funded office may need to be established. {#347}

Good projects need dollars. {#347}

3. SOME ADVISORY GROUPS, BUT NOT SURE

I don't know of any... {#82}

A metro-wide Youth Advisory group was established four years ago and slowly disintegrated because the students would not attend. {#387}

4. NEED MORE INVOLVEMENT WITH YOUTH IN ADDRESSING ALCOHOL RELATED PROBLEMS

5. CREATE/USE A CITY YOUTH COUNCIL TO (HELP) PRESENT YOUTH ISSUES AND REPRESENT YOUTH INTERESTS/PERSPECTIVES

Moorhead has a youth advisory bd (to their City Council). That may be a possible model to use. {#86}

I like that idea. How has the Moorhead group fared? {#103}

As far as I know, it's been pretty successful. They regularly advise the CC on issues that have an impact on youth. They are also looking at further ranging issues, as well, providing new ideas to the mayor/council. It, however, takes dedicated staff. It has to be perceived as important enough to devote resources... {#147}

6. CREATE MENTORSHIP RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CITY OFFICIALS AND STUDENT LEADERS

Great idea!! {#87}

The public library met with students this week at my school to gather input by just announcing at school an approx. 25 students stopped in to give input. We need to do more of this. {#130}

Formalizing more "internship" opportunities might be a way to create mentor relationships. Time is always a factor so, if we could make sure that the time city officials and student leaders spend together is meaningful for both parties - that would probably increase the chances of success. {#453}
7. YOUTH DO NOT ALWAYS EVEN UNDERSTAND WHO OR WHAT CITY GOVERNMENT DOES, OR WHY THEY SHOULD CARE.

That is so true. Making public service and civic involvement relevant to kids is absolutely essential. So often, the message that is sent is that the government is incompetent or is the place you go to work if you're not good enough to work in the private sector. If we can do a better job of explaining the role of government and why kids should care and be interested - I think it would make more sense to the youth as to why they should get involved. {#455}

8. THE METRO AREA SHOULD PROMOTE ITSELF AS AN AREA THAT CARES AND CATERS TO KIDS. GET THE KIDS AT SCHOOL, CHURCH, SPORTS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. DON'T JUST DO FOR THEM, GET THEM INVOLVED WITH THE PROCESS.

9. DUI'S ARE A GROWING CONCERN IN OUR COMMUNITY YOUTH NEED TO KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES

10. UNDERAGE DRINKERS ARE SOMETIMES TOLD BY THE COURT TO DO SOME COMMUNITY SERVICE. THIS REALLY OPENS SOME KIDS EYES-AND THEIR HEARTS. THE PROBLEM COMES WHEN SOME ADULT TRIES TO HELP OUT BECAUSE THEY THINK THE SENTENCE IS TOO HARD.

Many sentences imposed are too light and kids tend to get off too easy. {#342}

11. WHY NOT A YOUTH MEMBER OF THE LOCAL CITY COMMISSION?

The commitment of time and knowledge necessary to serve on the Commission might not be the best opportunity for a young person to serve - not to mention that not all the topics are very exciting! However, an committee made up of youth could serve in an advisory capacity to the City Commission on youth issues. {#461}

12. ENGAGE KIDS BY ASKING THEM TO ADDRESS ISSUES FACING CITY GOVERNMENT AS A CLASS PROJECT

There are a lot of interesting topics that city officials could use fresh ideas on. If you frame the issue and let the kids at them - you would probably get a lot of great ideas. Kids (and their ideas) are a resource that's often sorely underutilized! {#466}

13. YOUTH LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED

Maybe the Forum could help. {#468}

County Government

1. CREATE AN ANNUAL, COUNTY-WIDE STUDENT LEADERSHIP (DEVELOPMENT) ACADEMY

This would be a great idea. The FM Chamber has their Youth Leadership Program, but I am not aware of any follow-up with the kids. They would be a great source for numerous advisory councils. {#85}

Setting up internships (or even less structured experiences) with city/county/state government, in conjunction with government classes in the school system would be great! {#92}

Many of the graduates of the Chamber's Youth Leadership go on to help plan the subsequent years' classes. {#274}

we have a number of youth that participate in service projects already, they really enjoy them and feel really good about them {#275}

2. WE SHOULD HAVE MORE COUNTY WIDE EFFORTS FOR OUR YOUTH

3. WE COULD HAVE A YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT COUNTY WIDE THAT PAIRED THE KIDS AND SOME OF OUR SENIORS WHO COULD GET A CREDIT ON THEIR TAXES OR SOME SUCH THING.

4. RURAL AND URBAN YOUTH NEED TO BE BROUGHT TOGETHER SO THEY ARE NOT STRANGERS.
State Government

1. CREATE AN ANNUAL STATEWIDE YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY AND INVOLVE STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS PRESENTERS/MENTORS
   - Set up internships (or less structured experiences) as follow-up. (#94)
   - Having presenters/mentors come into the schools give the youth the opportunity to see if that is something they are interested (#270)
   - Girls and Boys state does that. (#276)

2. I DON’T KNOW, NEVER HEARD OF, ANY YOUTH GROUP SPECIFICALLY TO ADVISE STATE GOV'T...

3. THERE COULD BE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUTH STATE WIDE. WE COULD UTILIZE OUR CAMPUSES FOR MORE ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES FOR A BROADER GROUP OF YOUTH

4. THE STATE IS BEST POSTURED TO DISPLAY OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF YOUTH, AND TO CELEBRATE SUCH DIVERSITY. HOW ABOUT A YOUTH CONGRESS PATTERNED AFTER THE SILVER HAIR LEGISLATURE CONCEPT?

5. MANY OF OUR LEGISLATORS AND STATE OFFICIALS HAVE FORGOTTEN WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE YOUNG. SOME ALSO DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED. INPUT FROM YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL. WE MAY THINK WE KNOW WHAT'S IN THEIR BEST INTERESTS, BUT DO WE, REALLY?
   - Oh, they remember, they just hope the truth never comes out. (#406)

Health Care Services

1. CNA POSITIONS/HOUSEKEEPING

2. PROVIDING MEDICAL ATTENTION TO THE YOUTH OF FAMILIES THAT CAN'T AFFORD HEALTH INSURANCE WILL BE KEY TO THIS COMMUNITIES FUTURE.
   - A fulltime school nursing program would be of great help in this area (#79)
   - This is underway 79 (#105)
   - I agree that a fulltime school nurse program is good and I would also like to suggest that we have depression screenings in the schools (middle and senior) for every student on an annual basis. (#355)
   - We need to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) to a larger number of families. (#359)

3. PROVIDE CONSISTENT, CONTEMPORARY HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY THAT ARE "CRADLE TO GRAVE," PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, AND FOCUSED ON HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELLNESS
   - Teach respect for self and others, biggest issue with teenagers having sex, pregnancy, doing drugs is they don't respect themselves or others, (#278)
   - Health education needs to include understanding and awareness of mental health issues. (#369)

4. I WORKED IN THE HEALTH CARE FIELD FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND I DON'T BELIEVE THERE ARE ANY YOUTH "ADVISORY" TYPE GROUPS.
   - It would be helpful if youth advisory groups would consist of individuals who would share their health experience with others to help understanding and acceptance of health problems that may be controversial.....or cause embarrassment. (#380)

5. OUR YOUTH ARE GETTING MORE EDUCATION ON HEALTH ISSUES, BUT THAT DOES NOT SEEM TO CARRY OVER INTO THEIR PERSONAL LIVES.
   - I think a lot of our youth are very responsible for their actions they have a lot of knowledge and awareness on health issues and act responsible. (#252)
Facilitated by: GDC, NDSU

They are getting educated, but many feel that they are immune to these health issues {#316}

6. OUR YOUTH NEED CONFIDENTIAL SOUND ADVICE RELATIVE TO SEXUAL ACTIVITIES, DRUG USE, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL / SOCIAL ISSUES.

It is important that youth over age 12 are screened for depression and/or substance abuse. When results of screening are discussed with the participant, advice or referral can be given to address the need if necessary. {#394}

7. SCHOOL NURSES CAN POSITIVELY IMPACT THE WELL BEING OF OUR KIDS-WE NEED MORE OF THEM

Recreation Facilities

1. OUR AREA HAS MANY FACILITIES FOR RECREATION BUT LITTLE INPUT FROM TEENS ON THE NEEDS

Not all youth are "jocks" and want to participate but not feel like a loser cause they are not on "the team" {#265}

I agree with #265. There is a lot of discussion about sports ... I think there needs to be a safe and "cool" place just to hang out {#435}

2. FARGO HAS EXCELLENT FACILITIES AND THERE ARE EASY TO ACCESS IN THE COMMUNITY. AGAIN THE CHALLENGE IS TO GET CHILDREN INVOLVED WHO ARE NOT IN THE MAINSTREAM. I.E. ATHLETICS, SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, WORKING.

What are the barriers?? {#234}

How do you find these kids? Who are they? What will peak their interest in getting involved? Tough questions {#271}

Some barriers include ... cost ...transportation ... adults who will help them get involved {#272}

Cost is the big factor, where can they go to just play games, pool, ping pong, a safe fun place to hang out without having to pay an arm and a leg {#313}

3. THE PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH ARE DESIGNED TO PROMOTE WINNING TEAMS. IF FAMILIES ARE NOT WILLING TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO GETTING THEIR CHILDREN INVOLVED EARLY (6,7 OR 8 YRS OF AGE), AND PAY THE FEES AND THE COSTS OF EQUIPMENT AND TRAVEL, KIDS WHO WANT TO BE INVOLVED HAVE A HARD TIME TO COMPETE WITH THOSE WHO HAVE THE MEANS, TIME, AND COMMITMENT.

Great facilities, but not enough of them-gyms-indoor ice time--these are not necessarily open to just any kid to use {#59}

This is very true and has been this way for years. {#99}

There is a major gap in services for those youth, 7th gr through 12th gr, who do not want to be involved in structured sports activities, but are spending too much time in unsupervised environments... By not having an opportunity to give input into the development of recreational activities, those kids don't get serviced... {#120}

Church league basketball is one of the best options out there for kids that just want to play. {#122}

An area of major need is for our youth between the ages of 10 - 16 {#137}

Does anyone know about the Fargo youth commission and the teen building they set up? {#138}

The Youth Commission's teen building no longer exists. They discontinued it after numerous problems. That is a very difficult program to manage. {#148}

Community supported or grant driven scholarships and some sort of mentoring program may open doors to youth with financial or supportive barriers. {#244}

Many kids involved in Babe Ruth, Fm Athletics truly love the sports, unfortunately all volunteer coaches mostly father's with egos that want only to win, many kids are turned off and quit, Schools made big mistake by allowing FM Athletics to take over 7 grade football as many kids did not play because of the
reason mentioned above also because their parents could not afford the cost of FM Ath - they wanted to play for the school because they wanted to feel a part of the school now another year will go by and they have to wait. {#260}

Why do programs for youth have to be specifically sports oriented? What about the arts? or gamers? {#277}

"Amen" to all three thoughts above.

4. NOT ALL STUDENTS ARE "INTO" GOLF, BASEBALL/SOFTBALL OR HOCKEY. HOW CAN WE DESIGN AND PROVIDE RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES THAT MEET A VARIETY OF NEEDS/INTERESTS AND PROVIDE MODEST-COST, "POSITIVE" RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH, THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES?

Amen!! {#150}

Ask them what they want - Frisbee golf is big and might not be as expensive to setup. {#153}

Many unstructured recreational opportunities. Recreational trails, parks picnics, kite flying that many times are not taking into consideration. These activities are not tracked or measured in any way. Community leaders need to be aware that not every level of participation needs to be involved in a structured program! {#169}

How are those unstructured activities marketed? Are they supervised? {#174}

There are often many students who are into some of the above mentioned sports and activities, they are just not able or interested in a high level of competition. Are there intramural opportunities available for them? {#256}

Recreation is not always about sports. We need to think about the student who is interested in the arts, computers or technologies. What about the kids who love mechanics? Is a family or teen center an idea that will work in this community Most teen centers do not have much success and it would be interesting to find out why they do not succeed. {#288}

Recreation for some kids involves music and jamming with their friends, we need more opportunity for these kids {#404}

6. OUR GYMS ARE FULL EACH AND EVERY NIGHT. THERE IS NO TIME FOR 'FUN' LEAGUES OR ACTIVITIES

This is definitely true. Our facilities are available only to those kids who are dedicated (and able to afford) sports that they hope to compete in throughout high school. We have to say it is ok for kids to just get together to have fun with sports/games/activities. We have to stop stressing competition! It will take awhile to change our collective-mindset but, eventually, it would be great to see a return to youth getting together just to have fun -- in facilities that are supervised and safe. {#285}

Right now the facilities that are filling the need for kids to get together for fun are the local churches and their church youth groups. Church leagues are growing more and more popular with the youth. {#296}

My son is in several team sports but the most fun he has is when he and his friend (age 14) are simply taken to the park and get to play pickup football with this group of men. I like it because these are excellent men, there is no cost and he gets exercise. Both of these boys have distant fathers. These men have given them such a gift . . . of their time. {#298}

7. GET STUDENTS ON THE PARKS BOARD, AS EXOFFICIO MEMBERS AT A MINIMUM. AND INVOLVE THEM IN SUB COMMITTIES.

Other

1. HOW TO INVOLVE THE YOUTH OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES WILL BE AN ON-GOING ISSUE IN THIS COMMUNITY

One idea is to take the meetings to the McCormick community {#115}
It will be difficult to involve the new American youth but not impossible. Again we need to find out what they want and need. Many of these youth do not have the finances or transportation to bring them out into the community. How do we go to them?  

2. EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON WHAT IS AVAILABLE IN FARGO  
I think this is very true. There needs to be more communication within the community about programs, services, events that are offered to youth and youth planners. 
Marketing and managing the programs, especially for kids with behavior problems (and how many of us didn't exhibit some behavioral problems), is a need. 
FirstLINK is the "home" of Hotline. Although most people think of Hotline as crisis-based only, it is actually an information and referral service that could be utilized more by all of us for all sorts of reasons -- including what is available for youth and families. 

3. INVOLVING THE PARENTS IN SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THEIR TEENS IS KEY TO A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

4. A WEB SITE OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND OPTIONS FOR INVOLVEMENT-FIRSTLINK MIGHT HAVE THIS

5. I SOMETIMES WONDER IF WE HAVE THOUGHTFUL PLANNING AND CONSISTENT LEADERSHIP WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY THAT IS FOCUSED ON EDUCATING THE PUBLIC, BUILDING COOPERATION AND CONSENSUS, AND SETTING PRIORITIES THAT WILL BENEFIT THE "MOST" WHILE STILL CONSIDERING THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF "OTHERS."

6. ARE ADULTS MODELING APPROPRIATE LEADERSHIP, BEHAVIOR AND SUPPORT THAT WILL BOTH EMPower AND INSPIre THE YOUTH OF OUR COMMUNITY TO BECOME BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS AND THOUGHTFUL, INFORMED AND INVOLVED CITIZENS?

I work with a youth group and getting any parents to help out and attend meetings is a huge chore. 
Certainly there are adults who don't model appropriate behavior, but there are many who do. We need to tap into those and connect them, in a sustainable way, to the youth in this community. We need a structure/process to do that. 

7. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURS AND OTHER PIONEERS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY AND REGION. CAN WE DEVELOP AND PROVIDE PROGRAMS AND FIND OTHER WAYS TO TEACH AND NURTURE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN CHILDREN, YOUNG ADULTS, ALL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIE

8. NEED TO FIND AWAY SINCE 9/11/01TO GIVE OUR TEENS CONFIDENCE THAT THEIR FREEDOMS WILL BE INTACT AS THEY GROW OLDER.

One way to do this is to help them to understand their role and responsibility in government, citizenship and service, and then to involve them in community leadership, decision-making and service activities to help demonstrate and reinforce that. 

9. PARENTS AND TEACHERS NEED TO STOP TRYING TO BE THEIR KIDS FRIENDS AND START BEING THEIR EXAMPLE

YES!!!! {#295}
Amen! {#301}
I don't think you would get any argument from law enforcement on this thought either.  
Parents need to teach their children about responsibility and accountability--this is greatly lacking in too many families. 
Couldn't agree more. I see too many parents who are too concerned about their child "not liking them" if they discipline. Give our children everything they need and not so much of what they want.  

10. BRIDGE RURAL AND URBAN KIDS, AS WELL AS OTHER DIVERSE CROSS SECTIONS OF OUR POPULATION. INTENTIONALLY BRING THEM TOGETHER FOR SHARING AND COMMUNITY.
11. ASKING YOUTH TO GET INVOLVED THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM AND MENTORSHIP WITH NEW AMERICANS

Opportunities to Engage Youth in the Community Decision Making

1. Areas With the Greatest Potential for Youth Involvement in Decision Making

- Non profit organizations such as the museum, zoo, symphony, theatre, etc. (#305)
- What about more intramural athletics for kids who feel intimidated to try out for high school varsity athletics? (#411)
- Service opportunities of all kinds (#421)

2. THIS IS AN AREA THAT NEEDS TO BE EXPANDED. POSSIBLY STARTING IN THE SCHOOLS

- We cannot expect the schools systems to be the answer to everything. They do not have the manpower or the desire to add more to their plates. (#337)
- Then we need to help the schools accomplish some of these goals. The classroom is where many kids develop their social attitudes and self esteem. (#414)
- 337 and 414 are on the right track; the teachers and educators have enough on their plates already. However there must be a way to start teaching children at an early age about the decision making process; perhaps in the home. And also encourage children to be vocal when asked for their opinions regarding a decision being made. (#454)
- I think when kids are educated in large schools, the potential exists for shy kids or kids that simply aren't yet comfortable asserting themselves, to get left out of decision making. Conscious efforts have to be made to encourage all kids to be involved to their full potential. (#470)

3. GREAT PLACE FOR CITY GOVERNMENT TO TAKE THE LEAD

- City government may seem to far out of reach to kids, schools should take the lead (#284)
- Why not encourage kids to see what the city govt is all about? Maybe they need to see that our leaders are humans who were once kids? Seeing the big picture can be a big part in helping kids feel empowered. We can't dump everything on the schools. (#417)
- Involving kids with city government is a great idea ... a youth sitting on the human relations commission is an idea that has been talked about. (#451)
- I agree; youth involved in some capacity with city gov't is a great idea and a good way to get them exposed to learning how our communities function. (#458)
- It's also important to make that involvement meaningful for the kids - and the city officials they are working with. Too often youth are token representatives on committees. Need to find ways that their involvement matters! (and that they feel like the time they invested made a difference!) (#473)

4. TEENS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED IN TEEN PROGRAMMING. WORKING WITH FARGO SCHOOLS

- How so? (#460)

5. INVITE YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND DECISION-MAKING AND THEN PROVIDE THEM WITH ACCESS POINTS AND LEGITIMATE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SO.

- If we are going to offer youth the opportunity to participate in decision-making procedures/events, their attendance and input at these events needs to be much more than just for "show". If they are going to put forth the effort to attend these events and meetings, we as citizens, need to take their ideas and suggestions seriously. (#464)
- Agreed. (#474)

6. ADULTS, STUDENT ACTIVITIES/EMPLOYMENT, LACK OF INTEREST, LACK OF OPPORTUNITY, NO CONSISTENT APPROACH OR EFFORT, ETC., ETC.
7. TRADITIONAL SYSTEMS, VIEWS AND PRACTICES.

Please explain {#132}

Thanks for asking for clarification. It is my perspective and experience that "adults decide things and youth live with those decisions." Adults do have more experience and responsibility, and must provide leadership, supervision and continuity. But to the extent that we don't think that kids can or should make decisions, they don't learn how to do so. Also, I think we are more likely to understand, support and carry-out decisions (or programs) that we have been a part of making (developing). I'm just as guilty as anyone else of sometimes thinking "I know what's best in this situation"...but I may not know everything, or have to live with the results of the decision. I suspect we may make better decisions involving youth if we involve them in making the decisions. {#167}

I am consistently astonished and impressed with what kids come up with when we simply ask them to think about and solve their own problems. Two good things happen: they practice thinking and the problem gets solved. {#132}

Also, I think we are more likely to understand, support and carry-out decisions (or programs) that we have been a part of making (developing). I'm just as guilty as anyone else of sometimes thinking "I know what's best in this situation"...but I may not know everything, or have to live with the results of the decision. I suspect we may make better decisions involving youth if we involve them in making the decisions. {#167}

I am consistently astonished and impressed with what kids come up with when we simply ask them to think about and solve their own problems. Two good things happen: they practice thinking and the problem gets solved. {#132}

I agree. Problem-solving is something taught in business school. It's a necessity in life and should be a part of our education as youth. {#140}

8. IT IS AMAZING HOW THE YOUTH WILL RALLY WHEN THEY SEE A CAUSE THAT INTEREST THEM, IE. THE JUICE BAR LICENSING ISSUE BROUGHT A NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS TO THE FARGO CITY COMMISSION.

I would like our community to change its orientation from how to stop youth from being youth into how we can celebrate the many facets or their youth. {#314}

Great comment #314 ... I know many kids who are harassed simply because they skateboard ... while the roller bladers whirl right on by. Let us learn from them ... let us celebrate what they do and what they are. {#456}

And you know - the fact that kids came out to support a juice bar says something. They don't feel like their needs are being met. In this case, it was dancing in a place that didn't serve alcohol. If Fargo wants its young people to stay - efforts had better be made to let the town act a little younger (loosen up!!). {#478}

Let's help youth get a dance club started. {#480}

9. IF YOUTH ARE INVITED TO BE A PART OF THE DECISION MAKING PROCESSES THEN ADULTS NEED TO BE READY TO APPRECIATE AND RESPECT THE IDEAS THAT ARE GENERATED BY THE YOUTH.

I agree. {#408}

Adults and youth should recognize that sometimes we just have to be bad -- and it's okay. {#450}

10. BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME. WE NEED TO MAKE SPACE FOR YOUTH AT OUR DECISION-MAKERS' TABLES. ON THE CITY COMMISSION, PARK BOARD, SCHOOL BOARD, COUNTY BOARDS, ETC.

Yes, I could not agree more! All decision making groups should make room for youth. {#401}

I would like to see kids from the junior highs and high schools and local colleges invited to submit applications to fill a designated number of student seats on the park board and school board especially, it would be an honor if accepted. {#415}

11. PROVIDE MORE INTRAMURAL ATHLETICS FOR KIDS WHO ARE INTIMIDATED BY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY ATHLETICS.

Once again, I think we need to approach the kids. {#459}

What are the Barriers to Youth Involvement in this Community

1. MANY YOUTH ARE ALREADY INVOLVED IN SPORTS, CLUBS AND OTHER EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES THAT FEW HAVE THE TIME.
Actually, I think some (the minority) are really involved ... but most are not. A few kids are doing everything and most kids aren't doing much. We need to find a way of addressing this. {#309}

Athletics provide activities for only a very few students. We need more activities and opportunities for the majority of kids. {#348}

We have to consider the disenfranchised kids. The kid who had trouble making friends in first grade is often the last one to think he/she has a right to be involved in anything. Many think they don't have their peer approval (by default). THIS IS A BIG PART OF OUR YOUTH POPULATION!!! {#424}

And many youth are not involved in anything... they don't fit the mode of the movers and shakers, and aren't made to feel welcome or comfortable mixing in, making change, rocking the boat. {#428}

A teacher here in town once told me that he tells his students they are all geniuses ... they just haven't discovered their area yet. How wonderful it would be if we could find a way to reach the disenfranchised ... to help them find their voice ... their niche. {#465}

2. MAKING THEM AWARE OF WHAT IS AVAILABLE AND GETTING THEM INVOLVED

How about involving the youth in discussing what the would like to do and then working to achieve it {#95}

3. UNFORTUNATELY MANY OF THEM CHOOSE NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The issue might be parent's lack of interest and involvement in a kids life. {#145}

Unfortunately many students like to be recognized in some way for their efforts and often they do not receive feedback when they are doing the right thing. {#151}

Perhaps it is just too boring to the youth {#422}

Maybe they don't believe we will actually give them the authority and the responsibility. {#426}

Why are the parents always taking the rap here, #145? There are some kids who just get left behind ... for all kinds of reasons. And you're right #422 ... some of it is probably too boring. Let's try to stop pigeonholing the kids and find out what they want. {#469}

4. SOME BARRIERS ARE SELF IMPOSED. TOO MANY WANTS--IN TERMS OF MATERIAL NEEDS, OR THINGS THEY WANT TO DO--MEANS LESS TIME FOR THE YOUNG ADULTS TO GET INVOLVED IN MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY ENDEAVORS.

I agree, for whatever reason, having a job and earning money is often a high priority for young persons. Sometimes to the detriment of academic performance and potential social opportunities for community involvement. {#273}

Yes, yes why do we want to push our kids to work they are just kids, materialism leads to self centeredness which does not leave much room for the willingness to reach out to others {#297}

Some of the students who have jobs work because they have to not because they want to. If the parents had a lot of money the student would probably be one of the kids on a sports team rather than a burger flipper, {#315}

Working can be an excellent teacher and confidence builder. I see nothing wrong with it. {#317}

My experience is that when kids are asked to get involved, all they want to do is have a dance/party. {#350}

Many of the activities for youth involvement are offered during the day when students are in school. {#351}

Many of these kids are working. {#352}

5. HOW EXCESS ABLE ARE THE SCHOOL'S TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION TO YOUTH ON OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES?

I would guess pretty open to having things posted and flyers available. {#159}
We promote many outside agency events. There simply is not enough out there {#172} 

There is a monthly pamphlet sent home w/ the kids that has many park board activities and private organizations, dance, martial arts and etc... {#310} 

My experience is that the schools are very open to providing information to the students. Just talk to the schools and find out how to get info out. {#319} 

You refer here to Adventures for kids (Fargo k-6) and Moorhead has a similar publication. West Fargo does not yet have such a publication and no such publication exists for the older kids, thus making it difficult to reach them. It is NOT easy to post these things or get them distributed, either. {#325} 

Schools are able and willing to distribute information to the homes. {#353} 

6. STUDENTS NEED TO BE CHALLENGED TO BECOME INVOLVED. WHEN THEY ARE TOO YOUNG TO DRIVE, THEY ARE THE MOST WILLING TO BECOME INVOLVED. THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ARE TEAMING WITH KIDS WANTING TO HELP OUT THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD 

Absolutely. I think about things like school opportunities to do small amounts of volunteer work in nursing homes, senior centers or other arenas that will expose them to the concepts of community and service. {#286} 

Youth's ideas need to be respected. {#407} 

7. LACK OF COORDINATED EFFORTS! 

Definitely a problem. {#322} 

True, many parents, teachers are stretched to the limit handling family and careers {#331} 

8. COST - IS OUR COMMUNITY READY TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS FOR YOUTH IDEAS? OR WILL THERE IDEAS AND CONCERNS BE TURNED AWAY DUE TO FUNDS? 

Where will the funds come from? School District? City Government? Federal $? All have limited resources now. Businesses? {#354} 

I don't think we can afford not to fund this. {#472} 

9. INSECURITY 

The fear of failure or fear of the unknown is the biggest barrier to children and adults. The way to overcome it is to just do it but the Nike commercial hasn't quite done the trick. Our youth have less fear than adults but they DO fear criticism, especially from their peers. {#410} 

Fear of making a fool of himself or peer pressure-maybe it's not cool to be involved {#420} 

The peer thing is a really big deal ... {#475} 

10. PARENTS SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUTH ACTIVITY EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY BE THE MOST WONDERFUL PARENT, JOINT COUNSELING WITH YOUTH 

11. A BIG BARRIER IS THE GAP BETWEEN GENERATIONS. YOUTH OFTEN THINK OLD FOLKS JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND. SOMEHOW, WE'VE NOT COMMUNICATED THAT WE'VE BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, AND THAT WE UNDERSTAND. 

I'm sorry to say this, but the "been there, done that" attitude is what often alienates kids from their elders. It is patronizing. Things are NOT the same from generation to generation. We have to give them credit for their unique experiences and views. The truth is, we THINK we understand, but we don't..... {#429} 

Amen 429!!! I consider myself a fairly young person, but I'm not naive enough to think that the issues I dealt with as a 9th grader back then are the same as 9th graders are dealing with now. Let's not patronize our kids and pat them on the head and tell them that it's all going to be ok. Find out what issues they are dealing with (sex, drugs, peer pressure) and really find ways to help them cope. Show that we care and are willing to be open to what they're going through. {#471}
Best Ways to Get Youth Involved in Decision Making Opportunities

1. **Offer Classes or Clubs Through the Schools. Have City or County Officials Start After School Programs Involving Opportunities.**
   - The time between when school gets out and when parents are home from work does seem like an ideal time for any number of programming opportunities. (#292)
   - Agassiz has excellent Club Tiger at the after school time (#329)
   - The after school hours are evil.....that is when most of the bad choices are made by our youth. Parents are leaving their kids home alone at a younger age. If we could have schools and churches and city groups together work on programming, we could really make a difference. (#343)
   - Youth need to be valued. Identify needs of other youth and provide a match for one youth to another. It would require confidentiality and trust but making a difference in someone's life is very valuable. (#418)

2. **Making Them Aware of the Benefits**
   - Public relations exposure to youth involvement in projects can be helpful as a motivation for involvement. (#413)

3. **Get Youth on Development Committees**

4. **Tie It to a Credit in School**
   - What about the youth who have left school --Physically or mentally? How do we get them involved?? (#110)
   - This needs to become a community wide idea. One school cannot make a community. (#242)
   - Academic credit can be a strong motivator. It would be important to make the activity meaningful. (#304)

5. **Ask Them to Get Involved, Show Them How to Do So, Provide Them with Training and Support and Then Provide Them with Legitimate, Meaningful Opportunities.**
   - Many non-profits that serve people in our community could benefit from a youth volunteer program. Schools should support and develop these volunteer opportunities in collaboration with participating non-profit organizations. (#425)

6. **Young Adults Aren't Much Different Then the Mature Population. Crisis Brings Out the Best in Them--Flood of '97 is an Example of How the Youth Served the Community in a Time of Need. Did the Community Show Enough Appreciation for Their Efforts?**
   - Youth aren't much different (#143)
   - We continually hear from the media when our youth do something wrong. Our community needs to hear about the vast majority that are doing great things everyday not just during times of crisis (#155)
   - Excellent example and perspective. I hope we can learn from your good thought here and do a better job in the future! (#168)
   - Froggy 99 has a new program starting to address the issue of only hearing bad. Granted, it appears to be motivated by them wanting people to listen to their channel, but appears to be a well-thought out, sustainable program of youth recognition none the less. (#334)

7. **Kids and Parents Need Things They Can Do Together Also. It Does Not Always Have to Be Competitive**
   - If all parents would feel the same way we'd be on to something, it's easier to dish out the money for entertainment and etc... then to say let's go visit a nursing home and play bingo with them (#303)
   - Excellent points above. Sometimes it seems we expect our kids to value things we say we value when our actions do not reflect those values, working at a food pantry, taking needed items to a women's shelter, helping clean up church grounds these are all things everyone would agree are important
things to do but the vast majority of us leave those things for someone else. Actions always speak
louder than words, Always. \{#{328}\}

Parents and kids do a lot together until the child is in high school. Then it isn't cool to be seen with your
mom or dad. How do you overcome that? \{#{330}\}

Our kids hate it when we make them ring the Salvation Army bell each year at Target or Kmart and
make us take them to the one furthest away to avoid their friends but we are confident that they will
remember it fondly as they mature and probably make their kids do it as well. \{#{338}\}

#330 it's now to cool in jr high, parents just think their kids don't want to around them, they don't invite
them to do things, heck decorating cookies and jumping in the pile of leaves is still ok they just need to
be invited or an idea given to them. \{#{339}\}

#339; kids or parents need ideas? I think probably both could use some fresh ideas in the "Fun things
to do with my folks/kids and not be embarrassed" department. Maybe kids and parents should make a
deal; each week one chooses the coordinated activity. No backing out or excuses if Mom doesn't want
to learn how to skateboard. This will show respect and tolerance for both generations. \{#{477}\}

8. WE (AS A COMMUNITY) NEED TO SHOW OUR RESPECT FOR THE YOUTH AND ENCOURAGE
THEIR PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY BASED ACTIVITIES.

we need to give the kids the confidence that we believe in them and not always second guess them
\{#{321}\}

9. IF WE SAY WE WANT THEIR INPUT - WE BETTER STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND TAKE THEM
SERIOUSLY

10. WE NEED TO EMPOWER THE YOUTH IN THIS COMMUNITY!!

"Empower" is a very usable buzz word. More explanation of your real intent would be helpful. \{#{367}\}

11. ASK THEM. WE ALL HAVE A BASIC NEED TO BE NEEDED. SOME KIDS/ADULTS DON'T
STEP FORWARD ON THEIR OWN. ALL IT TAKES IS SOMEONE TO ASK THEM TO BE INVOLVED.

Kids are reluctant to step forward to assist unless asked to do so by a group or individual \{#{402}\}

12. GIVE THEM OFFICIAL POSITIONS AT KEY LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, AND MAKE SURE ALL
SUB COMMITTEES HAVE SEATS DESIGNATED FOR YOUTH OF DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS.

What do we do when the kids don't show up for their assignments? How do we keep their interest?
How do we select the representatives? \{#{405}\}

There needs to be a commitment and a responsible action. If they don't show up, have a replacement
method in place with future leaders "groomed" to fall into place, not out of the blue sky. \{#{412}\}

13. GIVE THEM A MENTOR ON THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE WHO IS THEIR RESOURCE
PERSON

14. YOUTH ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO MAKE AN EFFORT BY TAKING ON RESPONSIBILITY AND
SHOWING LEADERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY
Identify Areas for the Greatest Potential for Youth Involvement (Vote)

Voting Results

10-Point Scale (Allow bypass)

Number of ballot items: 11
Total number of voters (N): 28

Mean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Number of Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Leisure Opportunities</td>
<td>9.26</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Recreation Facilities</td>
<td>9.23</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Secondary Education</td>
<td>8.07</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Post Secondary Education</td>
<td>7.93</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. City Government</td>
<td>7.48</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Courts/Law Enforcement</td>
<td>7.41</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Health Care Services</td>
<td>7.26</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Service Sector Business</td>
<td>6.63</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. County Government</td>
<td>5.89</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. State Government</td>
<td>5.89</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Retail/Business</td>
<td>5.78</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Votes in Each Rating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>STD</th>
<th>n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Leisure Opportunities</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Recreation Facilities</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Secondary Education</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Post Secondary Education</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. City Government</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Courts/Law Enforcement</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Health Care Services</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Service Sector Business</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>2.19</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. County Government</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>1.95</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. State Government</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Retail/Business</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ballot Items in Original Order

1. Service Sector Business
2. Leisure Opportunities
3. Secondary Education
4. Post Secondary Education
5. Retail/Business
6. Courts/Law Enforcement
7. City Government
8. County Government
9. State Government
10. Health Care Services
11. Recreation Facilities
Youth Issues: Identify Key Issues for Youth in This Community

1. LACK OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents who are not involved are the we need to try to get involved (#30)

It truly "takes a village to raise a child", especially with the working families, etc. that make that difficult. There is a need for neighbors to look out for neighbors' kids, etc... (#35)

We need employers to be much more "family friendly". Even those who claim to be are expecting staff to put in 60-70h weeks. That is not conducive to being engaged with your kids!!! How can you make sure your child is doing okay with homework and other concerns if you're spending 1 hour a day with him/her and that's when you're winding down from a stressful day at work? (#43)

How did we get to the point that the parents don't take responsibility for their children's actions--is this too much of a generalization? Being involved in soccer for many years, it appears that the 'soccer mom' syndrome can be both good and bad. Sometimes you just need to let the young adults play and not have parental pressure to succeed. (#45)

I'm wondering if our community could make a special effort and emphasis on youth and family issues, and look for ways that businesses, faith-based organizations, service clubs and even city government and the school system could work collaboratively to provide opportunities, training, encouragement and support for youth and their families, including mentoring relationships for youth who want or could benefit from them. (#46)

Parental involvement is key to solving any crisis we might have in this community involving young adults. Maybe we need to focus as much attention on getting parents involved as we do the young adults. (#48)

Many parents are involved for the wrong reason (#58)

How so? (#80)

To make sure there child makes the varsity or gets the most playing time. Parents pressure coaches and administrators. Many times they do not support decisions of administrators and support their child even when their child is doing wrong. (#99)

A rhetorical question -- what has made parents so distrustful of other adults in authority type positions (school adm, coaches, teachers, etc)? Is it because they've become so disconnected themselves, they don't know/trust those people? (#102)

It could be that they believe their son or daughter can do no wrong (#104)

I think some parents have become viewers in their child's life. They go to the events and watch--kids don't play ball even as youngsters without the parent sitting in the stand. That is not quality time with your family. It leaves almost no time at the end of the day for kids and parents to interact and be a family. (#110)

I think family involvement is critical for the success of our children, we need to be very flexible and sensitive to the working families and the time already required to be involved (#114)

Sometimes parents take their children's side even in the face of overwhelming evidence the child is wrong. It seems they are trying to be a "Buddy" or to make up for other shortcomings like involvement in their child's life. (#118)

A lot of parents want the schools to do their job for them. They want to be the good guy and the teacher to be the bad guy. It has thrown the balance out of whack. (#144)

What ever happened to supper at the table? (#178)

There is a school in Bismarck that has a monthly prize drawing for all the families that have dinner together at home once a week! The staff was blown away by the interest in the program. Unbelievable that you have to resort to prizes to get families to eat together. (#187)
Although kids try very hard not to, they often mirror their parents. How can we get more parents involved and make them feel welcome? Many of the kids who are confident are so because they have parents who are involved and/or confident. (#195)

Maybe parents should spend less time chasing material goods and start chasing balls with their kids instead. I hate to see materialism get in the way of spending time with the family. I see it too often (#200)

Kids need adult guidance and support, not always in the form of parents. We need to as a community “adopt” kids who have such deficits in their environment. (#204)

If parents either aren't involved or can't be involved for some reason - it seems to be so important for kids to have some positive adult role models and constructive things to do. Times have changed - it's not always possible or desirable for kids to just go out and amuse themselves. (#257)

2. DRUG & ALCOHOL

Youth alcohol use (#5)

What is the community perception of this issue? That we are at a point where it is out of control? That it is the adult thing to do. The parents don't care or don't know? How did we get here? It isn't any worse then when the parents were growing up. (#36)

This is a huge educational issue. Student opinion is that everyone is doing it (80-85%) and self-survey shows much lower (30-40%). Still a huge problem (#39)

The prevalence of alcohol use may not be greatly worse than when we were kids, but the “depth” of the problem is. Kids are drinking to get drunk. Binge drinking is much worse. It's gone way beyond a “social activity” and has become more dangerous, as a result. (#47)

The other issue is the potency of the drugs used today versus in the 70's (#52)

I think youth alcohol use (and other "destructive" behaviors) is as much a symptom as a problem...a symptom of a larger problem of a lack of leadership, authority, responsibility and love in their lives. Not everyone, adult or child, is going to be responsible, but to the extent that adults (/parents) or institutions ignore or surrender their responsibility, the problem is going to continue...to get worse. Perhaps we need to rethink what truly matters, and to demonstrate our values through our expectations and behavior, individually and collectively, within our community. (#59)

When inappropriate behavior takes place adults will most often not report when they know about it. They do not want to get involved. This sends the message that the behavior is OK. (#60)

Parents support children when they are doing wrong, not coach or schools (#70)

Are we using the big stick approach to this problem—which seems like the American way—by enforcing the laws and giving out stiff penalties for first time offenders [in Fargo the first offense for a minor can costs the young adult and their parents $800 to $1500 in fines; 90 days revocation of driving privileges; and numerous counseling sessions, not to mention an increase in car insurance]. This hasn't appeared to stop the flow of offenders into City Court. Maybe a combination of a more low key education program with stronger penalties for repeat offenders might work better. (#71)

71- $1500 ???? (#73)

This includes legal fees. (#85)

What low key approach would work? Sometimes you have to use a big stick to get a problem out in the open (#112)

I think in order to tackle the drug and alcohol issue we need to focus on a variety approaches—one approach alone will not suffice. (#119)

Kids have changed very little. They are always testing, pushing the envelope if you will, to see what society really expects of them. What may have changed is our willingness to push gently back. Not necessarily law enforcement. Parents. Neighbors. Faith communities. (#131)

Excellent point #52! (#140)
Biggest social problem we have, particularly with underage youth. {#192}

I went through treatment four times as a teenager. I had problems with drugs and alcohol. Why? Well...the addiction is another story. But the feelings that I was trying to numb out centered around social disenfranchisement and alienation. It was nobody else's fault that I had the problems. But my REACTIONS to my environment are where the help was necessary. There are the kids who are just rebellious, and then there are the kids who are really in pain. Binge drinking often happens because they believe in the "drink it while ya got it!" philosophy. Also, infrequent drinking spells reduces the chance of getting caught. But addiction manifests itself in ways other than frequent use. Many people who have the problem might not drink often, but lose control when the bottle touches their lips. It doesn't help when mom and dad set the example either. {#207}

Risk behaviors such as etoh and marijuana use are among the biggest problems we face in this community. Parents need to pay closer attention to what their kids are doing, an discipline them rather than excusing them. I know of parents who have bought alcohol for a party in their home, saying that at least they know where their kids are! {#209}

We need to identify substance abuse early. Screening after age 12 should be included in the school health programs as routine. Self medicating may be part of the problem and therefore, screenings for depression should be included in the school health programs as routine. If we could identify these problems earlier and intervene and refer to treatment or other appropriate programs, we could impact on this issue. {#244}

Trust is important... if it is a confidential environment and is based on trust, kids may see hope. Otherwise, they may see it as more adult manipulation. {#250}

I applaud #207 for bringing up the issue of addiction vs use. All the great parenting in the world, all the good intentions will not stop the addictive youth from becoming addicted. And #244 great point. There are so many stigmas attached to the ADD kid or the depressed kid, the kid who's "different" wouldn't it be great if the entire community could become educated about mental illness and addiction. {#260}

Parents do need to take an active role in this issue. Kids have to know where their parents stand. Kids may not always listen to their parents right away but, they have to know what's acceptable and what's not - and WHY it's not acceptable. Be ready for kids to ask why you have certain rules, and be ready for them to seek consistency between your thoughts, words, and deeds! {#263}

3. PLACES TO MEET WITH PEERS

They always say there is nothing to do {#25}
Possibility a place run by teens & directed by adults {#24}
Churches generally have a youth space {#28}
The old YMCA teen canteen and lock-in were big {#29}
I have been to a coffee house run by the youth, populated by the youth and directed by the adults. Profits were used to bring in bands and other events. {#31}
Barnes and Noble has been great about having kids study there and drink coffee. {#33}
Many available {#34}
The YMCA Teen center is used frequently on school out days and weekends. Especially when the weather is lousy. {#37}
When we have evening dances at school about 1/2 of our students attend. We have increased to 1 a month and they still want more. {#49}
The coffee house is a great idea! {#50}

It seems the secret here is having enough of these, with a variety of venues to appeal to various interests, and then marketing... None of which can be done without having youth tell us how to do that!!! {#53}
School dances are a big event for the kids and just getting bigger. The schools should not have to "babysit" in the evenings though. I feel sorry for those folks. {#54}

More communication and joining ideas between our agencies. {#62}

How about asking kids where they would like to meet and what they would like to do (that is fun and constructive) based on programs and facilities (including our churches and schools) that are already available? And then how about, as United Way of Cass-Clay is now doing, that we allocate our resources (including adult supervision and financial support - and even school transportation and city transit systems) to help meet those needs? How about also letting kids know that not everything can be done, and spur-of-the-moment, and ask them to plan and prioritize, too? {#67}

#67 This sounds like a step in the overall action for the joint discussion of the adults and youth groups {#78}

We have heard the cry, "No where to go, nothing to do!" forever. Is it perception or reality? Or, is it we want someplace where adults aren't? Then can they handle the responsibility of running the show? {#79}

What were problems with the youth commission building? {#83}

In response to #83, I believe they were getting dangerous behaviors (a knife was pulled) on the grounds outside. It scared off the parents and kids from using and the attendance went spiraling down. {#86}

#86 That is to bad. I thought that place would be a hit. {#87}

#86 & 87 How about dealing with the problems and setting clear expectations for the youth {#96}

#96 -- resources are always the issue... {#97}

Resources are often/always the issue, which is why we need to plan, prioritize and focus, to reduce gaps and avoid overlaps. (For example, what if we asked certain agencies to specialize in certain areas, to reduce overlaps between good programs with limited resources?) {#101}

Need a place to have fun pool, ping pong "Archies" remember the Fonz? Would need for the whole community not just focus on the southside {#113}

It would be nice to have a family center but it has to be carefully planned and monitored. These centers cost a lot of money and are not self supporting. So where would the funds come from? How do you keep kids actively engaged? How do you keep the center a cool place to be seen at? {#121}

Kids need to get together. They need to be able to talk, goof around and simply get to be kids without everyone judging their every move. Because of safety issues, we hardly allow them to even do that at school. Open gym, just a spot to hang out safely. {#123}

Why are we not using the Fargodome for more "fun family" nights not just farm shows, concerts, games {#129}

response to #129 The cost of renting the Fargodome is highly prohibitive. It is also such a huge space that unless the event is carefully planned and designed it will have an empty feel to it {#173}

#129 The Fargodome question is a good one. The alerus center in GF has already had these type events. {#174}

Most of the teens I know are not in the party scene. They get together and watch movies, play games (yes, even board games) have coffee or a meal together. They often gather at the house with the most room and the biggest tv. If the parents are home to monitor behavior this is a valid activity for the kids. Do they want or need more? That's what we need to ask them. {#177}

#177 -- Excellent point. Our kids need to be happy and connected but it doesn't have to be some activity that will fit on their resume or get them into a better college. Our goals for kids are often too "success oriented" instead of just saying kids should enjoy themselves and enjoy each other -- in healthy settings. {#184}
We may be on to something here. My son says that the kids need to come to our house because I will be home if he has friends over. Just to watch tv and goof around. I also still make them go home at a certain time. Some of the other parents evidently didn't know that curfew was still in vogue. (#190)

We have to accept that kids will want what they can't have. Many ADULTS even have trouble knowing what they want to do for fun! But adults get too busy to think about it anymore. We live in a "get ahead" capitalistic society that defines success in economic and materialistic terms. I agree that we can't keep trying to influence them into doing things "we" think are fun. Sports are always fun. Why not offer more athletic involvement for kids with less athletic ability/confidence? (#215)

My teen son loves to have friends come over and watch movies, and I am always there to supervise (listen) one floor away. I like that he feels comfortable enough with his home to have friends over. The other place they meet is at the mall, nothing ill has come of this yet, but the mall shouldn't be the place to hang (#218)

So, what's wrong with cruising Broadway anyway?? (#220)

I would like to see some sort of "teen" center. When I was young, not in Fargo but elsewhere, there were dances every weekend either at schools or at the Y and we just kind of hung out at the Y (#264)

#220 - I don't know. I think kids need a place to be kids together, an in an unstructured way. Public places like Broadway have always been a popular choice. I don't think there's anything wrong with cruising - if problems do arise - then they can be dealt with. We sometimes seem overprotective when it comes to our kids. (#269)

Responding to #86 - I think people's perception is oftentimes way out of whack with reality. Broadway is not a scary place. Unfortunately, I think isolated incidents can get blown out of proportion. It really comes down to people being scared of anyone that isn't like them. (#271)

4. A LACK OF "CONNECTEDNESS"

Need to reach out to unattached kids from some adult outside of family. (#19)

Encouraging and involving youth in the life, awareness and decisions of their community. (#6)

Kids need an adult who believes in them and is there for them unconditionally. Peers are important, but without an adult involved, they will not be validated. (#42)

The "connectedness" can be with schools and/or communities, as well. That will happen if kids are engaged, and invested, in what's happening. (#55)

Service projects are a great tool for our youth to feel connected and also can build pride in oneself and in our community (#69)

We truly need to think how to involve the immigrant populations [youth and adult]: Language barriers, cultural differences, lack of jobs and larger family sizes are issues that are already causing concerns and problems for land lords, police, and educators. After school programs and meeting sites for social and recreational needs have already been raised by refuge families. (#91)

Not only refugee populations, but the minority populations who feel "foreign" to our community. We need to pull them in and integrate them much better. (#94)

Having an adult who truly believes in that children so so important, a neighbor, church youth mentor, caring for who they are and what they are doing, showing an interest. (#142)

Each and every human, no matter the age, needs someone who thinks they are important. If we can show our youth that we are a community that cares about them, and ourselves, we might be on to something. Why do you think that so many people return to this area to raise their children. Even when they might not be making as much money as they would elsewhere, (#151)

The kids who feel the most connected are the extremely active kids-the ones that are often over-involved in school and church. How do we reach the other kids to get them connected? (#181)

Working with the children of refugee families is so important. There are literally hundreds of children that have the potential of being very isolated because of language, religion, or culture. But really,
they're just kids looking for ways to get involved with other people and to feel important. This is an area
where the community definitely has to step in - before it's too late. (#272)

5. PRESSURES TO BE SUCCESSFUL

Make aware of non competitive opportunities (#44)

Back off on competitive sports a bit!!! I know.... that's not realistic. (#57)

Need for adults to stop trying to meet their needs through the activities of their children. Why are adults
shouting at their children during sporting events? Maybe kids should be able to participate without
parents around. Or at least if present, they have to be silent. More encouragement for effort given in
activities. Less emphasis on winning. (#61)

We can, however, mute the competition by raising the community's valuing other activities. I know of a
young man who would not allow a prestigious award in art, because he would be ostracized by other
kids. We’ve got to make sure that other skills/interests are valued as much as sport skills. (#63)

Instead of pressures to be successful, how about opportunities to be successful - based on kids' abilities and interests, and then recognition and reward for that instead. (Incentives rather than punishments where possible.) (#72)

Society places a lot of pressure on kids to be successful in school, sports, peer acceptance, physical
appearance. Kids will often become either an overachiever or will drop out and rebel. Society needs to
adopt an attitude of acceptance. (#130)

57 -- I agree with you -- why isn't it realistic? It would take time to change our mindset but I think that is
one key. So few youth, by the time they are in high school, get to participate. By that time, sports are
only for the most competitive and most gifted athletes. That leaves LOTS of kids without the
opportunity to just have fun with a sport. (#134)

#57 the problem again is cost, you have parents coaching and trying to live their lives through their kids, FM athletics took 7th grade football out of the schools, the school district should be ashamed, most kids have waited a long time to play and become part of the school, yet this opportunity was taken away at the cost of $85 a child, some parents can't afford (#143)

Fargo public schools is taking away some of the perks of the music program but we get more sports
complexes what's up with that!! Many kids do not fit into the competitive sports world. (#149)

Good point #130, kids learn what is important from media and peer groups but also from authority
figures like parents. Parenting school age kids provides multiple opportunities daily to model
acceptance. (#150)

Money money money. Taxes alone should not support our activities for our youth. If we had a better
system to get money into the programs, we could expand them. We are getting older as a state and do
not put a great deal of money into our kids. (#155)

Everything comes down to the almighty dollar, (#157)

I AGREE WITH #149-MUSIC IS THE GODSEND FOR MY SON WHO WAS CUT FROM A
COMPETITIVE SPORT IN THE 6TH GRADE! (#233)

Is success any more than a gleam in the eye? At any age?? (#240)

(#155) have you tried raising money? It is a tough market out there. This is not to say I disagree, we
should have other monetary resources to support youth programs, but where is it going to come from?
(#258)

Have we considered teaching lifelong sports rather than referring to them as "competitive"? Life doesn't
have to be competitive all the time. Instilling ways to exercise and be part of the community through
lifelong learning will provide a healthy society in the future, rather than the burger king era we're in.
(#261)

Great thought #261 ... how about tai chi ... yoga ... personal fitness? How about meditation? (#267)
great point #261- sports as exercise, as opposed to life and death battles with the "enemy" - what a concept! {#274}

6. AVAILABLE POSITIVE OPPORTUNITIES

This is a long list and FIRSTLINK has a book of volunteer options for kids. {#56}

Marketing is an issue... {#66}

How about linking work and play so that kids can have positive learning and service opportunities, followed by food and fun? And instead of paying someone else to do the work, perhaps funds could be used to support these programs instead. {#76}

Involvement of the media seems like a key element of bringing out the positive. A few more stories with the sappy background music about the good things in our community would be a start. {#95}

Media could be a big help {#98}

I don't think linking work and play is an answer. Kids today are not that shallow that they want food for a reward. They need meaningful opportunities with realistic rewards such as improved self awareness or improved self esteem. {#139}

The 6 & 10 news coverage - news, sports and weather - there is a whole other world our students are involved in not just sports. Where is our emphasis!! Amen to #95 {#156}

After school programs need to collaborate with community nonprofit agencies to provide meaningful, supervised, volunteer opportunities for youth in order to make a difference in someone's life. Media should report on those activities! {#239}

We need more neighborhood centers - more gathering places that are fun places for kids to go and that offer things to do. We have one in town that's a great model - there should be more!! They may not be used or needed by the "well-resourced" kids but they are definitely needed for the community's more "at-risk" kids. {#277}

7. GETTING THEM INVOLVED! THERE IS A LOT OF PROMOTION THROUGH ADVERTISING, WEB SITES AND BROCHURES. BUT STILL MANY CHOOSE NOT TO GET INVOLVED. VERY FRUSTRATING ARE SO MANY PROGRAMS AVAILABLE THROUGH SCHOOLS, PARKS, YMCA AND OTHER AGENCIES.

How can we reach those not involved? {#65}

Reaching those uninvolved takes resources. The community has to come to the plate, willing to devote resources to doing that. We've got to value this enough to do that. {#68}

Making youth activities available that do not always cost money. Having funds available to allow kids to participate. {#81}

What about having a space and supervision available on a monthly basis for youth rock bands, etc... to perform for their peers {#84}

This is a great idea. I think the kids like to go to the coffee shops because other kids are performing. {#141}

This is a tough one. If given the opportunities, kids do respond. I think of how the students at Ben Franklin Jr High raised $ for both a fellow classmate and a teacher who were having medical problems. Similar to the flood of 97. But why does it always take a crisis to get them motivated? Maybe it is no difference than with us adults. {#88}

Many events are free. Community picnic, battle of the bands {#89}

Web sites brings up another idea. Students love designing web pages. Could we set up a youth group that could help small businesses in setting up a web page? {#90}

Is it possible that there are too many opportunities and competing distractions? Using myself as an example, I like more than one choice in most situations, but if I have too many, I find it hard to decide what to do. Again, if we could ask students when, where and how they might like to get involved with "what," and provide them with opportunities, supervision and support to do that, we might get more and
better involvement without having to continuously create new opportunities (except as their needs and interests generically change over time). {#93}

One thing that might be helpful would be for existing programs to try to address barriers at a grassroots level. Carpool sign-ups, scholarship funds for park board activities (for a baseball mitt or a hockey fees). These aren't big solutions but they might get people thinking about possibilities. {#165}

There are scholarship funds for park district activities that are based on income. However having more dollars available for equipment is a great idea. Could the parks district or schools sponsor an athletic equipment rummage sale? People could buy sell or trade gloves skates etc. {#189}

(#88) we're seeing the crisis situations inspiring the entire nation. Why does it take such a situation to get people involved? Personally, I think people get too rapped up in the everyday happenings and routines to notice some of the great activities that are already available. Often times a truly great event or program is not well received based on lack of information or time constraints. {#266}

Good idea #84 - music is so often an outlet for kids and they really have no where to show off. That would be a huge hit - and would go a long way toward making Fargo more "youth friendly"! {#278}

there are some places in town that have been extremely generous in allowing kids to show off ... The Trentino on Broadway ... they have had jazz combos from the high schools ... folk singers ... even rock stars from middle school. Maybe more places could be so kind. {#283}

8. LACK OF STRONG ROLE MODELS WHO CAN MENTOR--ADULT/PEER

Create peer training, leadership, mentoring and counseling programs for youth. {#16}

More youth as mentors {#13}

Parenting, teaching, mentoring and modeling values and behavior (to) youth. {#10}

Not necessarily a lack of these folks, trouble with identification. {#38}

This is what the Boy Scouts is all about. {#41}

And along the line of asking youth to teach us: How about using youth to teach classes in areas in which they have expertise and where groups of adults do not. {#21}

There are many youth who would help with mentoring. They just need to be contacted. Key club, student council, etc. {#51}

The schools are always developing mentoring opportunities for kids. Peer tutoring, presentations to younger grades, etc {#64}

Moorhead has a process, through the Mhd Healthy Communities Initiative, which is recruiting and preparing adults to be mentors for the various programs which actually run mentor programs. We need to replicate that in Fargo. Since we do not have unlimited resources to do everything, we have to do it wisely. Some coordination of mentoring activities would be good. {#75}

Let's publicly thank and recognize some of the long standing programs that have done the mentoring thing for years

YMCA-Scouts/Campfire/4-H {#82}

#82 True. A number of agencies are running very good mentor programs. {#92}

why do we feel that one should push off responsibility on others, when you become a parent you take on the responsibility, yes people need help, but let's try {#122}

#122--You are so right on track--parents are also the first ones to lay blame elsewhere when their precious little boy/girl gets into trouble. {#126}

My son has asked to be a mentor for either a refugee or a big brother....you have to be over 18. He would be a good mentor. {#137}

#137 There are peer tutoring programs for your son--at the schools and even at the refugee program. {#146}
#75 -- To follow-up, Moorhead Healthy Community Initiative’s "MentorLink" program (that recruits and trains adults to be mentors) is available to anyone in our community -- not just those in Moorhead. So, we would not need to have a separate program in Fargo. {#147}

Scouting has done a wonderful job of this for years, even though they take a lot of flak from the media {#191}

Sure, Scouting is fine if you intentionally want to discriminate against some kids or adults -- and if you want to successfully teach narrow-mindedness to our next generation.... this, coming from a former Scout, who also knows that at risk kids don't need to be ruled out of positive activities due to their sexuality. {#208}

#147 - good point. Are those training programs including mental health and substance abuse issues? Can we include youth in the training? {#211}

(#41) Not to bring up controversy, but aren't we trying to instill cultural diversity into our area? The boy scouts have a backwards approach to unifying a community if they will not allow all aspects of that community to be heard and utilized. Openly gay men should be allowed to mentor these students. If the Fargo Moorhead area wants to continue on the path of growth it has seen over the past years it can not rely on an organization that does not support all walks of life. Diversity is needed and necessary. {#270}

#270 and #208 - AMEN! {#281}

and amen #270 {#286}

9. OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INPUT

Here's a wild one - how about asking youth to teach us some things sometime? {#17}

Great idea!!! Interesting that should be considered "wild". Says something about where we are, as adults.... {#20}

Telling youth what adults believe to be important issues and interests in the community, and then asking and listening to youth as they tell us about theirs. {#11}

Lack of forum to receive youth input on key issues involving them {#12}

Advisory boards, surveys, youth forums, youth focus groups, web site "suggestion boxes" specifically for youth.... {#77}

Kids have a lot to say but we adults rarely ask them. They think differently than we do-not better or worse-just differently. having a forum to educate us on what they think about various issues would be truly valuable. What is important to my generation may have little or no significant value to theirs. We need to accept each others views as valid and then work out a compromise when needed. {#145}

We need to be better listeners. Our kids have a world of things to share with parents. But do we hear them? {#161}

#161 I agree, how many times have we said to our children you weren't listening were you? You need to listen! We need to learn that as well {#167}

Create positions for them in public places. Set up community forums for their input. Let the youth create and or participate in media activities... radio shows of their own, newspaper space they can access, television documentaries / explorations into youth related initiatives, issues, etc. LET THEM TALK TO US, if we dare. {#224}

Open house forums are a good idea. However, we must be careful when organizing such events as the topics tend to be from A to Z. Identifying a few key topics will provide in depth conversation on the issues. {#273}

10. GREATER INVOLVEMENT BY FAITH BASED GROUPS

It would be important for the faith-based groups to be looking beyond their organizations for this to happen. {#23}

Youth for Christ is a great organization and it is growing {#26}
Kids should be able to do things in their home church #27

Can faith-based groups provide facilities for neighborhood youth/family programs, and might they receive some funding for these programs from government, especially in light of President Bush's faith-based initiative? #32

Many churches have youth programs, obviously religious in nature. Could they develop less-religious youth programs that teach positive values while welcoming a broader audience into their facilities (which could lead some youth to become more interested or involved with their faith-based community)? #40

How can you involve Faith based groups without having the fringe element use this as a recruitment tool? #100

By making it a collaborative community effort that faith-based groups are a part of, and making it clear what role they have? #103

I agree about the fringe. My daughter went to a faith-based org for a "fun" night and literally got locked up (they could not leave -- a parent actually came to retrieve his child) for 30 minutes, listening to the beliefs of that particular org... #105

We cannot ask church groups to become social clubs for everyone. The mission of a youth group is to involve and engage the participants in a faith based lifestyle. Most youth groups are open to any one who wants to attend, no matter what their belief system is but their primary focus is faith based. #152

We can ask the churches to become more involved!! #153

most churches have youth groups that they can barely get their parishioners kids to join #169

I agree with #169, youth groups have a hard enough time with their own parishioners participating. #241

11. LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

this stems from home, many parents feel guilty for working easier to given in an look away than to put our foot down #115

#115 We, as a society, are now living in a culture of fear. We fear even reprimanding our kids out of fear of social services knocking on the door. #124

maybe society needs to get a clue - social services would have less work if parents were parents #148

Many youth do not have to worry about being held accountable because Mom or dad will stick up for them completely and blame everyone else for the problem. We need to teach our children that every action creates a reaction that they ARE responsible for--not the neighbor, not the kindergarten teacher #154

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree, parenting classes? #162

Also choices and consequences--every choice you make... #164

Love, healthy lifestyle, guidance and follow through is the name of the parent class and a parent success's in the end!! God bless all #175

#162 Exactly....how can we expect our young people to be any different than the example we set. Do as I say and not as I do? #199

Yes #175 and #162, our kids emulate what they see at home. #243

How about jobs? This is not to say they should work a million hours a week but a couple here and there will implement responsibility and accountability. Several of the students I work with have no idea what the value of a dollar is... balancing a check book, credit card applications, financial aid for college? Most have no clue what is next to come. #280

12. UNABLE TO ENVISION AN ECONOMIC FUTURE HERE BECAUSE IT IS SO LIMITED

Most youth cannot envision an economic future anywhere due to focusing on the here and now. #111
This I don't get. If the economics of FM are so grim why are there so many new cars and $300,000+ homes around? {#158}

We make this a self fulfilling prophesy. We talk about how bad it is, how little we pay our employees, how few opportunities there are for our youth. Of course they are going to leave town. (#170)

I agree # 170 but is this the media again! Or is it the parents that are living here? {#176}

It is our basic North Dakota attitude that we really don't deserve to have it all. More and more we seem to expect someone else to take care of our problems. The media plays into it only because we have forgotten how to be positive about what we all have to offer. We export the best product in the US....our kids. {#182}

#182 what problems are we talking about having others take care of {#185}

Youth will remain here, and those who leave will come back, when the salaries and benefits are more closely aligned with those available in the larger metropolitan areas. We need better paying jobs. (#198)

Many young people leave because they want to experience the world. They want the diversity and culture. Fargo is slowly getting there, but we don't have the opportunities many larger cities offer. Many of them are coming back after they tire of the pace of big city life and realize their roots and values are right here. (#223)

Don't forget that it is often "not cool" to stay where you grew up. There are many who think they must live elsewhere to represent the "moved on to bigger and better things" philosophy. Also, has anyone LOOKED at the cars in the high school parking lots?! Who are these parents who are giving their TEENAGERS cars that are often worth 50% of some other kids' homes? What are we doing here? Why do so many kids have cars much like the ones WE worked for years to afford? What are their parents teaching them? They are being set apart from other kids at school, and setting a bad precedent for what is successful and rewarding. The word "spoiled" meant having cable TV, video games, and a nice bike when I was a kid. I feel bad for the kid who has a car that is worth less than 5k nowadays! {#245}

#245; True...what do we expect when many kids are handed material items on a silver platter? And why is this happening? Are mom and/or dad trying to compensate for working 80 hours a week? Not paying enough attention to their kids? sorry about the messy divorce? Who knows? I agree, however, no 16 year old I know deserves a new Lexus. If a kid is going to have a car, they should also shoulder part of the responsibility that goes along with it. And that not just cars, folks, that's everything. (#276)

#245 - I agree wholeheartedly. There is much to be said for having to earn things of value. That's a life lesson that can be taught no other way and I worry about kids that have never had to learn that. (#282)

(#176) We can not place blame on the media for everything, we're the ones who tune in every night. Their job is to show us what's happening and maybe we need to extend information that focuses on the positive things the community rather than the negatives. (#284)

Not only do we need good paying jobs - we need to make Fargo a fun place to live. That's actually the final factor in a lot of relocation decisions - "do I WANT to live there or do I want to live here?" We're going a long way toward being "family friendly" as a community but, we also need to be "young adult" friendly. Loosen up on the liquor licensing, on the dance club restrictions, on the outdoor concert noise ordinances, and all those other "little things" that conspire to give Fargo the rap of being a "boring place to be". We also have to highlight the amenities that make this a great place to be. Skate parks and drag strips, in addition to basketball courts and baseball diamonds, in addition to bike paths and farmers markets.... It's the culmination of little things that adds up to big results. (#285)

13. ABSENCE OF FATHERS IN SO MANY HOMES, CHILDREN AND MOTHERS SHIFTING FOR THEMSELVES

14. LOW LEVELS OF CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS AND/OR LACK OF COLLECTIONS OF SAME, THEREBY PLUNGING CHILDREN INTO POVERTY WITH ALL OF ITS PERILS
This is the most common problem I hear about. How do we get our state and county departments working together to fix the situation?  

Well, don't emulate Minnesota where welfare is not cut off after five years total service... WHERE IS OUR HEAD?  

15. WE HAVE TO TEACH RESPONSIBILITY  

Who's we? Parents are key  

Parents, service groups, educators, church groups, coaches etc  

#117 I think we is everyone. It goes back to the story of the village and small town. Everyone is accountable for the raising of the children. We as employers, citizens, parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends need to reinforce that we're all responsible for our actions and inaction.  

I think that ultimately it should be the responsibility of the parent, with selective help from the "village". The schools are also a great place to learn responsibility  

We are approaching this stuff as a community. We need to quit focusing on the parents. Many are failing.  

It's often discouraging to see people bring children into this world who have no responsibility of their own. Why have a child if you do not want to dedicate the time to raising them? By instilling accountability and responsibility at home parents can make the jobs of "the village" much easier.  

What about those of us who chose not to have children? Why are we being held accountable for the failure in today's society? Many of us chose not to have children for a reason, we didn't want the responsibility. On the other hand, most of us love to share that responsibility for a short while based on the premise they will be returned to you at the end of the day.  

16. KIDS WANTED TO BE HUGGED AND TOLD THEY ARE LOVED AND CHERISHED WHY IS THIS SO HARD  

I think it is because we adults have gotten so busy we don't have time. Then when we do have the time, they are on to something else.  

Then adults can't really complain with the insensitive irresponsible youth  

#132 That is just another excuse we use when we are finally faced with looking in the mirror and asking why did my child do this!! We would much rather play the blame game then to take responsibility.  

#133 AMEN!!!  

#132 That is just another excuse we use when we are finally faced with looking in the mirror and asking why did my child do this!! We would much rather play the blame game then to take responsibility.  

AMEN, AMEN and AMEN  

But for a very brief time in a family's little unit are they there, they grow way to fast. A precious gift, we need to always treat them with that much love  

It's usually because those parents haven't healed their own childhood. Since they didn't receive the love and hugs, it's difficult for them to give the loves and hug. They don't realize the importance of it until it's sometimes too late.  

It's not just the kids that need and want to be hugged. Parents require it also.  

This is the key to happy kids-they just need love and acceptance from parents who need to divert their attention to their children more than they are now  

The "inner child" philosophy strikes again! There is actually a twelve week group therapy at the Counseling Center in Fargo that teaches codependency and family of origin issues. If you ask me for a dollar, and I don't have a dollar...I can tell you to go away or simply talk about money without giving you any. How can a kid's mom or pop give him something they never received? Many people from the Baby Boom generation and earlier believe that working hard and providing material comfort is what love is all about. It is only a small part of it. Love is always the answer to any problem. But love is something often misunderstood and elusive. A big question: how can we get kids to love one another? How can we get the kid "on top" to let go of his/her insecurities and defenses and embrace and love the...
kid "on the bottom?" That kid "on the bottom" could end up being a great leader some day with the right encouragement, or he/she could end up dead from a drug overdose. The line is quite thin, people. (#238)

17. KIDS AND COMMUNITIES NEED EACH OTHER. KIDS NEED TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE PART OF THE COMMUNITY AND ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE

Expected are invited? (#135)

They feel neither. (#138)

One of the problems is that we never "expect" anything from our kids. Therefore they never feel that they need to live up to anything. We cannot always invite-beg-plead and bribe kids into doing the right thing. We need to set a standard of behavior and expect them to live up to it. They just might surprise us! (#168)

Again example is the key, how do you expect certain things from our kids, when they can't EXPECT certain things from us (#172)

Example is the key. (#180)

They have to feel welcome first! (#186)

Youth need to be involved in the decision making levels of our community to feel that they are part of the community. (#232)

#168 is on the right track. Don't give kids an option to not give and not be a part of the community. Start when kids are young and lead by example. If Mother Nature does her job, kids will pick up on that and those values will be instilled. On the other hand, the communities need to be willing to welcome kids into roles of leadership and decision making. (#268)

18. WHERE DOES MONEY FIT INTO THIS PICTURE? KIDS COST MONEY-- CRIMINAL KIDS COST MORE MONEY. BUT WHAT IS OUR OBLIGATION?

Tough question! What is our obligation? (#171)

If your neighbor needed help you'd help then do our kids that have had a tuff start!! (#188)

75% of kids in the ND correctional system have mental health and/or substance abuse issues. Yes it costs more and we could save $ by providing programs at the community level to identify and treat these kids before they hit the corrections system. (#229)

Maybe it would cost less to be proactive to their issues than reactive to their behavior. Oh how the apple pie puts a spell on the dieting adult! It is no different to a kid who is told not to do something. (#230)

#229 You're right. In the long run, it makes more sense to be prepared and proactive now than waiting for 10 years to treat these kids for some mental/social disfunction that may have been preventable or at least treatable in the first place. I don't know about money. But aren't our children's futures valuable? There are grants and funding available for youth programs. It just is going to take someone who is going to be willing to dig them up and get youth programs going. (#265)

19. WHERE IS THE COMMON SENSE?

What does this refer to? (#179)

Common sense some how applies to teen angst? Feelings are irrational, but real. That is our great obstacle with people in general...especially youth. We are talking about gray issues. That is why our brains are made up of "gray matter!" (#228)

20. AT RISK YOUTH HAVE LITTLE SENSE OF SUPPORT, ADVOCACY AND DIRECTION. KIDS NEED TO FEEL SAFE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR RELIGION, ECONOMIC STATUS, SEXUALITY OR SEXUAL PREFERENCE, RACE OR CAPABILITIES.

Youth also need, related to those issues mentioned, a safe place to go. A transition residential facility to get away from an immediate conflict or to receive some extra help regarding a mental health or substance abuse issue. (#202)
How do we reach out to the kids who are struggling with sexual identity issues, for example? Some 10 percent are gay, another group is bisexual, and as many as 4 percent of your babies are born with some kind of gender anomaly? These issues, besides, religion (Muslim in Fargo, or Jewish), and issues of capability (kids who are heavy, who are learning disabled, who have cleft palates, or who are cross-eyed; tons of examples) create constant challenges of our open mindedness, our acceptance levels, our understanding even of the basic issues and the realities they result in. (#235)

I can't tell you how many times my own children have been ridiculed ... punched ... pummeled ... in the halls of Fargo South and Discovery ... for being of another faith ... for allegedly being gay ... and they will not let me do a thing. Why? Because it would only make it worse for them. What on earth does this do to a child's perception of justice ... freedom and liberty for all? And they certainly will not tell the teachers or counselors ... because nothing ever really gets done. They feel completely without voice ... without power. How do we reach all of the others who feel the same way? (#275)

21. SOME LIVE IN ABJECT POVERTY. THEY HAVE LITTLE MATERIAL ABUNDANCE, NO HEALTH INSURANCE, SUBSTANDARD HOUSING, INADEQUATE DIETS, AND INSUFFICIENT ADULT MENTORSHIP, RELATIVES OR OTHERWISE.

Awareness is the key to change. People in this area don't have any idea of the poverty right here in our own city. (#212)

North Dakota is now part of the growing "rural ghetto." Ain't that special. (#214)

Seriously...awareness? People know it is out there. They even "care." But we get too wrapped up in our own lives and just "hope" and "pray" that someone else will help. Involvement is what must increase for these kids to have a better chance. (#219)

Involvement by whom, the kids or the adult community? How do we adopt them and their needs and do it without a payback of some sort or other? (#221)

ND needs to expand State Children's Health Insurance Program to 200% of poverty. At least more children could access health care! (#234)

Something like 12 percent of our youth are in this category...a lot of kids, no new tennis shoes, no new bikes, no vacations to Florida, no parents with new homes, no funds for hockey or extracurriculars, etc. It's endless. Then, what about the lack of health care, or the fact their parents, if they have them, can't or won't take them in for health care cuz they are dysfunctional or maybe don't even have insurance... (#237)

#221 Why should there by a payback of any type for helping our fellow citizens??? If we are so concerned about the youth of this country being the future leaders, we need to lead by example and take them under our wings. Adopt a child from a shelter to have to your home once a month for a good dinner and some games. (#262)

22. DIVERSITY NEEDS TO BE FOSTORED AND ACKNOWLEDGED AS A COMMUNITY ASSET, NOT AS A LIABILITY.

And celebrated! (#205)

The question is how to get that point across to our fellow citizens. Many in this state have lived a sheltered life and don't want to see things change. It was too comfortable to have life as status quo. (#210)

Education, loving based education, is needed. Often people are relieved when you let them know they don't have to perpetuate prejudice or narrow-mindedness. They really truly don't like it, deep down, but do it as a matter of habit. Hence, we as a community get to create new habits, new patterns of behavior. (#213)

Offering the new Human Relations Commission to the community as an opportunity for youth to report their issues regarding discrimination both as an opportunity for problem solving and an opportunity for education. (#225)

Do we have a place for youth on the Human Relations Commission?? (#246)

246 A good question--Is that a place to start (#249)
#246 - I do not think there is a designated place but a discussion with the existing members of the Commission could generate an outreach particularly to youth and get "the ball rolling." (#251)

Youth on the Human Relations Committee is an excellent place to start. This shows that the community values their concerns and appreciates the issues they are dealing with. Also a good way to teach about issues of diversity. (#259)

23. WHAT ABOUT A FORM OF AN HONOR SOCIETY FOR KIDS TO SERVE IN THAT REACHES OUT TO OTHER KIDS WITH SOME OF THESE SOCIAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROBLEMS? IT COULD START WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS, THEN PARENTS AND COACHES, AND FINALLY THE KIDS WHO WILL MAKE UP THE ACTUAL SOCIETY. IT IS SOMETHING THAT THEY CAN PUT ON A BRAG SHEET, BUT ALSO WILL OPEN THEIR MINDS TO HOW THE OTHER TYPES OF KIDS REALLY LIVE. MOST DISENFRANCHISED YOUTH JUST WANT ACCEPTANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THEIR PEERS. IN FACT, IT IS OFTEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ACCEPTANCE OF ADULTS!

24. DIVERT MORE FUNDS FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL APPREHENSION AND INCARCERATION TO PREVENTION, WELLNESS AND ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES.

Exactly....there was a town built on the edge of a cliff and the children of the town occasionally fell off the cliff. The city commission met and couldn't decide whether to buy an ambulance to place at the bottom of the cliff or build a fence along the edge of the cliff. The old cliche's really are true....an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. (#236)

Bravo!!! (#247)

This is an excellent idea! (#256)

25. SAFETY.

What type of safety? (#248)

Say a kid is being abused at home sexually or emotionally? They need a safe place. What if they are gay and in a public school? They need safety. What if they are another race or origin, they need a sense of safety. Not all homes are safe places for kids, we need to know that. (#252)

Safety is a big issue ... there are lots of kids who feel unsafe at school ... never mind at home. How can we empower them? (#279)

26. PEER PRESSURE. I'VE WATCHED A GROUP OF YOUNG GIRLS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. THERE HAVE BEEN A RASH OF BREAK-INS IN THE AREA AND THIS GROUP SEEMS TO SCOUT THE AREA. SOMETIMES IT TAKES JUST ONE WITH TOO MUCH IDLE TIME AND THE OTHERS WILL FOLLOW SUIT.

Has anyone approached these young women? Maybe all they need is for someone to acknowledge their activities and offer them consequences and alternatives. (#255)
GDC EValuation (Survey)

Questions and Choices in Original Order

1. Did this session meet your expectations?

   I really did not have any expectations for this session, just came to give input.
   Yes. I wasn't sure what to expect, but it seemed like a good process and session, and I hope my participation was helpful.
   Yes, it actually was much more interactive than I thought.
   I have heard about this process before arriving, but didn't have any expectations.
   Yes, it was a great start to hopefully a growing discussion
   It was not what I expected. However it was very interesting! I look forward looking the results
   Yes! I appreciate the software that makes it possible to get the comments from everyone and to make it all make sense.
   As long as these issues are addressed and implemented. To many times we come up with great ideas and nothing gets done.
   I agree.... This must turn into action. I get soooo tired of plans being generated, but nothing happening....
   I hope to see more communication between all our agencies.
   Yes it was what I thought it would be.
   Yes, if this is taken seriously and not just a feel good item regarding the Mayors task force etc...
   I enjoyed this piece, but I really hope we can act also.
   It was a better process than I expected.
   This is a great process. Participants do not feel intimidated. Everyones comments carry equal weight. It surpassed my expectations
   Yes, this is a good start. I hope this leads to action.
   I didn't have any expectations for this, i've enjoyed the interaction hopefully it will bring some positive changes for our youth
   I did not know what to expect, but this was truly enjoyable. I look forward to participating again!
   Yes and no. More participants would have helped. I like the interactivity of it.
   It met my expectations.
   Yes, this met my expectations. I didn't know it would be this format until this afternoon. This has been a positive event.
   I had not heard of this type of discussion until I visited with someone who told me about the format. I guess I was slightly apprehensive about discussion on a computer since I am not the best at it, but I found it to be interesting and useful.
   Yes. This center is impressive. I look forward to discussing youth and other issues here in the future.
   I didn't know what to expect either, the comments will hopefully be utilized positively.
   I had absolutely no idea what to expect. I think this a brilliant way to dialogue.
   I didn't know what to expect but it was an eye-opening experience. I like that we can all express our opinions, feelings, experiences without being bullied or intimidated.
   I didn't know what to expect but I like the format. It seems like a good way to talk about big issues.
2. What worked well for you in this session?

I enjoy the ability to have members "speak" their mind.

It is intriguing that some many ideas could be generated in a short period of time.

It amazes me how much discussion can take place with no one talking

To submit your comments anonymously.

All the ideas and suggestions.

The system, the facilitation and the on-line discussion. The opportunity to read and think about other perspectives while I formulated my initial and additional comments. The refreshments and parking pass are also appreciated. Thanks, Sharon.

To be able to express my opinion and to see others' viewpoints immediately. I did learn alot about how to use this very interesting approach.

I do appreciate the anonymity and the discussion that seemed to spark as the hour went on.

The fact that I could say what's on my mind and not get the LOOK....

To have ideas and opinions expressed.

All of the above!

The interaction between all of us. The opportunity to share ideas/thoughts without "vying" for the opportunity to "speak" out.

TO SUBMIT THE PROCESS ANNONAMOUS

This was a great way to generate lots of good ideas in a fairly short period of time.

The more interactivity the better. Once ideas began flowing that were original to this group, it flowed better.

I liked the ability to respond at my own pace. The anonymity creates a more open atmosphere. Some good ideas.....

Reading the above comments makes me realize that I am not alone with insecurities of speaking my mind in front of groups. Especially the kind involved with community leadership (it can be quite intimidating). The anonymity is great, plus it is easier to let my thoughts blossom and flow.

To find that there are others that have similar concerns and that there is a commitment for helping kids. I also appreciated the group ideas once they began flowing.

I LIKED THE ANONYMITY, AND I LIKED THE ABILITY TO READ WHAT WAS WRITTEN DURING PREVIOUS SESSIONS

Having the freedom to read what I was interested in and truly express myself.

The anonymity. It's much easier to be honest. Reading the comments ...

Going at my own pace and being allowed the opportunity to clearly evaluate what my reaction is to other comments. Often times in regular meeting settings, the topics shift rapidly and this venue incorporates all aspects of the meeting without the verbal dialog. .

I like being able to write what I think - and to see others express themselves in the same way. Oftentimes we don't really hear what other people are saying - this is one to get around that.

3. What suggestions would you have for the next session?

I thought there were too many categories in the first part of the discussion. I'm not certain that the discussion didn't bleed over across them and I thought they were a bit cumbersome...

I would like to see a summary of the other groups discussions ahead of time, unless adequate time is built into the session to review what they said.

Keep the groups to a manageable size.
Give a better overview of where this is going.

An agenda with leading questions can often stimulate thoughts prior to meeting.

This seemed like a good process and amount of time. Not knowing who all is participating, I hope and trust that you are engaging a variety of stakeholders and perspectives, including youth, parents/guardians, grandparents, educators, youth service organizations, business and community leaders, representatives of faith-based and culturally-diverse groups.

I too would like to get the summary of this meeting before we meet again. I'm looking forward to the next one.

I thought that the caps and the lower case was confusing. I could never remember which to use.

To move into a planning stage--What can we do to....

Better notice, maybe an agenda

No suggestions.

What are our objectives

Sharon did an excellent job of leading us through the process. One suggestion I would make is to remind people that the idea section should be brief and be a "headline" -- not an entire thought-process.

More participants.

I like the format and don't have any suggestions for change.

I can't think of any improvements. This was great. I want to keep going!

Maybe spend a little more time getting to know the other participants.

Soda pop machine!

I would like to get more specific on issues and problem solving.

In addition to an agenda, a summary of what has taken place thus far would be helpful.

What are the main objectives/goals of this activity and what has the response been so far from others who have been involved?

I can't think of any suggestions ... seems great just the way it is!

More participants - and maybe more time. There were a lot of ideas to go through and react to.

Do all of the group activities, IE the voting at the same time. This will allow as much or little time on each topic needed. I didn't make it half way through the discussion pieces and would have taken more time if I wouldn't have slowed everyone else down. Maybe having access on the net would also work.