



Identify Your Project: Community Mapping

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE

Every community has unique social needs and assets. By listing what your community has and what it needs, your team will be able to identify the focus of your service project for GYSD.

Step 1: Break the group into smaller teams of 3 or 4 youth.

Step 2: Give each group a large piece of paper. Have each group draw a line down the middle of the paper: one column for *Community Assets* (good things in the community), and one column for *Community Needs* (what your community lacks).

Step 3: Participants in each group discuss and list in the appropriate column, the *Community Assets* (e.g. open spaces for children to play, friendly businesses) and the *Community Needs* (e.g. safe playgrounds, company for elderly people living alone). You can also provide local newspapers to stimulate ideas.

Step 4: Participants from all groups come together, share the *Community Assets* and *Community Needs* they have listed and identify common issues raised across groups.

Step 5: Select the *Community Assets* and *Community Needs* that have been listed by several groups and write them down on a new sheet of paper. This gives the whole team a good idea of what they see as their community's strengths and wants.

Step 6: Broaden the discussion by asking if participants would like to add any items to this list, both on the *Community Assets* and the *Community Needs* side. Write down new ideas.

Step 7: Have each participant place a check mark next to the *Community Need* they would like to address for Global Youth Service Day 2005.

Step 8: Count the check marks as votes: *Community Need* with the most checkmarks is the one the group feels most strongly about addressing with their project. If there is more than one item checked several times, discuss whether your team will organize more than one project.

Step 9: Discuss with participants what learning objectives they can identify in relation to the project/s they will address.

REFLECTION:

At the end of this exercise, engage participants in any of the following activities:

- A discussion to compare what different groups identified as priorities and why
- Research and writing about the underlying causes of the problem identified
- Reading articles about local service projects that addressed the issues identified
- Reading about legislation and policies being implemented to address these issues

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