

## **Donelson, Fran**

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**From:** Dawnese Openshaw [dawnese@machlink.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 07, 2011 2:44 AM  
**To:** Donelson, Fran  
**Subject:** MuscaTEEN Youth Group Proposal  
**Attachments:** MuscaTEEN Youth Group Proposal.doc; ModelsMatrix (2).doc; 40 developmental assets list.doc; Youth Affinity Group.docx; Muscatine Youth Advisory Commission Application.docx; MuscaTEEN Youth Group Participants.docx

Please review the following documents for the Youth Advisory Commission presentation:

- Youth Affinity Group notes the United Way organized committee that has worked in collaboration for over four years.
- Models Matrix is the research that the affinity group completed before originally presenting this concept to the Mayor, City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, and Councilman Phil Fitzgerald in October of 2010. This shows several working models that we have learned from and suggestions we can implement.
- 40 Developmental Assets List supports the need to engage youth and show we value them.
- MuscaTEEN Youth Group Proposal is something that the youth put together in addition to some information that had previously been compiled by the subcommittee of the Youth Affinity Group. This can serve as organizational bylaws if so decided.
- Muscatine Youth Advisory Commission Application is something the MuscaTEEN Youth Group compiled.
- The MuscaTEEN Youth Group document lists those young people who have participated over the past few months.

We will do a brief PowerPoint presentation and then have time for you to ask questions of the youth and adult supervisors who are present.

Thank you for your time,

Dawnese Openshaw

MuscaTEEN Youth Group Facilitator

## MUSCATINE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISION PROPOSAL

### **MuscaTEEN Youth Group – “The Future of Today”**

**June 2011**

The Youth Affinity group of the United Way’s Let’s Talk effort along with the Muscatine Community School District and several area youth are proposing the development of a **Youth Advisory Commission** for the city of Muscatine. This proposal includes recommendations along with accompanying research.

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of establishing a **Muscatine Youth Advisory Commission (YAC)**:

- To increase understanding and awareness of issues facing youth in Muscatine
- To promote communication between youth and adults within the community
- To develop leadership skills and awareness of social responsibility for youth
- To show community issues through a youth perspective and to help find solutions
- To give youth a voice in the community to help make decisions for themselves and their peers
- To work on projects that improve Muscatine
- To provide advice to the City Council on issues affecting youth
- To promote understanding and awareness of government among youth
- To encourage participation in community development and city government by youth

We hope this opportunity will serve to empower youth to become invested in Muscatine, learn new skills, be exposed to city government and to serve in the community now as well as later.

#### **GOVERNING BODY**

In order for the **Muscatine Youth Advisory Commission** to be successful it is recommended that a City Ordinance be adopted for the establishment of the group. We have included several such ordinances adopted by others (Appendix A-3). We also recommend the commission be modeled similar to other commissions as set by the City of Muscatine in terms of reporting and authority.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The recommended membership should consist of:

- A wide diversity of youth
- 11 – 15 total
- At least 3 adults: Staff liaison, Mayor or City Council Member, Let’s Talk Youth representative
- Other adults at large as desired

Varying ages/grades are represented among the groups studied but our group recommends grades 8<sup>th</sup> thru freshman year of college. In groups where there was not some level of staff or city

government present, the groups struggled to meet their mission. It is the intent of the Youth Affinity and Muscatine School District that the youth members represent a range of ethnic diversity, age, socio-economic status and interests. We recommend avoiding a total membership of the already over involved and overscheduled student.

Another consideration is to designate “at large” positions to guarantee representation at all levels (i.e. at large position for Phi Theta Kappa from MCC, United Way college intern, Youth Affinity nominated member, Ministerial nominated member, etc.).

## TERMS

1 or 2 years based on availability of student and alternating so that there are at least 5 members with experience at all times.

## MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Bring ideas that can improve group discussion and on topic
- Strive to get more youth involved in the community
- Help our community
- Show what youth can really do in a positive manner
- Take initiative

## MEETING STRUCTURE

- Location – City facilities if available, otherwise school premises or other appropriate venue TBD. Consideration should be given to the possibility of meeting on school premises, considering Muscatine has one High School and the students feel comfortable there. The United Way facility may also be conducive as a welcoming environment that has meeting space and kitchen facilities.
- Transportation - In order to remove any barriers for participation it may be necessary to provide transportation via MuscaBus, car pooling or otherwise have a plan in place to allow all youth opportunity to participate.
- Communication – All meetings shall have notes taken and distributed as regular business of City Council. These notes can be posted on the YAC page of the City website as well. The use of technology and methods of modern communiqué is encouraged (i.e., social networking sites, texting, email, etc.).
- Time/Day – consideration should be given to have meetings at times conducive to the student’s activities and availability (i.e., before school, early outs, weekends...). Meetings should be held once a month on a regular basis and sometimes more if needed to work on projects. Committee meetings would be as needed.
- Food/Snacks – youth enjoy food and when appropriate we can provide refreshments of some sort. We recommend considering healthy alternatives.

## RESOURCES

Most of the resources required for the **Muscatine Youth Advisory Commission** would be in-kind staff time, facilities and limited supplies.

The Youth Affinity group offers to serve as a resource in providing training and support in the development of the **YAC**. From this group, resources are available to assist council members, staff liaisons, and youth in decision making, goal-setting, communication and leadership skills. We are happy to provide the initial infrastructure to establish and sustain the group. If additional resources are needed we are open to working with the City Council to obtain those resources, financial or otherwise in addition to support from the local business community.

With the counsel of the **YAC** we hope that Muscatine will be more responsive to the needs of our youth, have open communication between young people and decisions makers, and keep Muscatine's young people in Muscatine. This would lead to the overall betterment of our community.

Local residents and service providers identified that services for teens was considered the most important need in the community and scored the lowest in terms of how well those needs are currently addressed\*. We feel it is a call to action for our City Council and Mayor to consider the **YAC** to help fill this need.

In the 2008 Iowa Youth Survey Results, only 39.1% of Muscatine students reported they felt they had supportive neighborhoods. Only 53% responded that they felt adults in their neighborhood or community spend time talking with them. Isn't it time to do something to make a positive difference in Muscatine's future and to help develop future leaders today?

*\*Muscatine Community Needs Assessment as conducted by the Vernon Research Group 2008*

"A youth is to be regarded with respect. How do we know that his future will not be equal to our present?" -- Confucius ("Confucian Analects")

# 40 DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS

This chart shows the 40 Developmental Assets grouped in the eight areas of human development. Percentages are the % of young people who reported experiencing each asset in the 2003 *Search Institute Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors* survey conducted in 202 communities and 27 states.

## EXTERNAL ASSETS

## INTERNAL ASSETS

asset type	asset name and definition	
<b>SUPPORT</b>	1. <b>Family support</b> Family life provides high levels of love and support. 2. <b>Positive family communication</b> Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parent(s). 3. <b>Other adult relationships</b> Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults. 4. <b>Caring neighborhood</b> Young person experiences caring neighbors. 5. <b>Caring school climate</b> School provides a caring, encouraging environment. 6. <b>Parent involvement in schooling</b> Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.	68% 28% 43% 37% 29% 29%
<b>EMPOWERMENT</b>	7. <b>Community values youth</b> Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth. 8. <b>Youth as resources</b> Young people are given useful roles in the community. 9. <b>Service to others</b> Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week. 10. <b>Safety</b> Young person feels safe at home, at school, and in the neighborhood.	22% 26% 48% 51%
<b>BOUNDARIES &amp; EXPECTATIONS</b>	11. <b>Family boundaries</b> Family has clear rules and consequences, and monitors the young person's whereabouts. 12. <b>School boundaries</b> School provides clear rules and consequences. 13. <b>Neighborhood boundaries</b> Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior. 14. <b>Adult role models</b> Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior. 15. <b>Positive peer influence</b> Young person's best friends model responsible behavior. 16. <b>High expectations</b> Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.	46% 52% 47% 27% 63% 48%
<b>CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME</b>	17. <b>Creative activities</b> Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts. 18. <b>Youth programs</b> Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in community organizations. 19. <b>Religious community</b> Young person spends one hour or more per week in activities in a religious institution. 20. <b>Time at home</b> Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week.	21% 57% 58% 51%
<b>COMMITMENT TO LEARNING</b>	21. <b>Achievement motivation</b> Young person is motivated to do well in school. 22. <b>School engagement</b> Young person is actively engaged in learning. 23. <b>Homework</b> Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day. 24. <b>Bonding to school</b> Young person cares about her or his school. 25. <b>Reading for pleasure</b> Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.	65% 55% 47% 52% 22%
<b>POSITIVE VALUES</b>	26. <b>Caring</b> Young person places high value on helping other people. 27. <b>Equality and social justice</b> Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty. 28. <b>Integrity</b> Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs. 29. <b>Honesty</b> Young person "tells the truth even when it is not easy." 30. <b>Responsibility</b> Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility. 31. <b>Restraint</b> Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.	50% 52% 68% 66% 63% 45%
<b>SOCIAL COMPETENCIES</b>	32. <b>Planning and decision making</b> Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices. 33. <b>Interpersonal competence</b> Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills. 34. <b>Cultural competence</b> Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds. 35. <b>Resistance skills</b> Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations. 36. <b>Peaceful conflict resolution</b> Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.	29% 45% 43% 41% 40%
<b>POSITIVE IDENTITY</b>	37. <b>Personal power</b> Young person feels he or she has control over "things that happen to me." 38. <b>Self-esteem</b> Young person reports having a high self-esteem. 39. <b>Sense of purpose</b> Young person reports that "my life has a purpose." 40. <b>Positive view of personal future</b> Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.	42% 48% 57% 72%

This chart may be reproduced for educational, non-commercial uses only. Download this and information on assets for younger children at [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org). Copyright 2006 Search Institute, 800-888-7828. Data are from surveys of almost 150,000 students in grades 6 – 12 (ages approximately 11-18 years) in public and alternative U.S. schools.



*City of* **MUSCATINE** *Iowa*

## **Youth Advisory Commission Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity:  Caucasian (White)  African Am.  Latino/Hispanic  
 Asian American  Native Am.  Other

Please provide 2 adult references from your community, who are unrelated to you, who could recommend you for the Youth Advisory Commission. (Teachers, Coaches, Youth Leaders, etc)

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer the following questions. Feel free to use a separate sheet of paper if needed.**

Why would you want to serve on the YAC? \_\_\_\_\_

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What leadership skills or experience do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are two (2) specific problems you see facing youth in Muscatine today? And what are some ways you think the Youth Advisory Commission could address these problems? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the Day(s) and Time(s) that meetings would work for you during the week.

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Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com

There is no guarantee that meetings will be able to fit everyone's schedule. However, as a part of the Youth Advisory Commission you would be required to attend regularly scheduled meetings and other activities. Are you willing to commit up to 5 hours to make the Muscatine Youth Commission a success?      Yes      No

In order of priority with 1 being the most important, please list the school and community organizations/clubs you currently belong to. Please estimate the time commitment for each group/activity on an hours/week basis.

### School/Community Organization/Club

### Time Commitment (hrs/week)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

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By signing below you are agreeing that all information contained on this form is accurate and pertains to your own work and ideas. All information gathered from this form will be used only to review students for the MuscaTEEN Youth Advisory Commission. **All questions about the application process can be directed to Dawnese Openshaw at 563-299-7825.**

### Student Signature

Date

City or County	Mission	History	Membership
Davenport - Youth Advisory Commission	DYAC shall work to promote understanding and awareness of government among youth, encourage participation in government by youth, provide advice to the Council on issues affecting youth, promote communication between young people and adults within the community, and work on projects that better the community.	Since 1994, started by the Mayor – issue based	Appointed by commissioners (11), ages 14-21, 2 yr. appointment
Clinton – Mayor's Youth Commission	The Youth Commission shall be an advisory body to the Clinton City Council. The Youth Commission shall make recommendations to the City Council on matters that may be referred to them by the City Council. The Youth Commission may make recommendation to the City Council on matters that are of interest to the youth of the community.	Started in 1994 to allow a forum for youth to give input.	Appointed by Mayor, with recommendations from the Youth Commission. 15 members that serve 3 year terms. Applications processed through Mayor's office.
Iowa City – Youth Advisory Commission	To promote understanding and awareness of Iowa City among Iowa City youth, allow a select group of youth to help make decisions concerning them and their peers, enable youth members to utilize and expand on their leadership abilities, to serve as a mechanism for communications between youth and adults in Iowa City and create a bridge whereon youth and adults can develop partnerships.	City Council established by Resolution.	7 members appointed by City Council, currently enrolled in Iowa City high schools.
Des Moines – Youth Advisory Board	The Des Moines Youth Advisory Board serves the City Council, providing a voice for youth in city government. The mission of the City of Des Moines Youth Advisory Board is to improve the community through youth involvement. They study and coordinate youth activities for the Des Moines area and make recommendations to the City Council and City Departments.	Created in 1996 to increase communication and partnerships between youth and adults, originally contained 7 adults and 5 youth, laws changed in 2002 to increase the number of youth reps to 15, today adults are only advisory roles	23 Members: 7 Adults and 16 youth members, youth reps from each high school in the district & 3 youth from community organizations, adult reps from public schools, police department, parks & recreation department, etc... 3 yr terms, no term limits

Ankeny – Mayor's Youth Council	The Ankeny Mayor's Youth Council provides Ankeny's young people with an active role in addressing youth issues. Serving on the Mayor's Youth Council offers leadership experience and active community involvement with the guidance of the Mayor, City Council and Ankeny Parks and Recreation.	Established in 2000 by Mayor Johnson	15 member organization of Ankeny high school students
Pinellas Co., FLA – Youth Advisory Committee	The Youth Advisory Committee is established for the expressed purpose of giving a voice to Pinellas County's young people and to allow them to participate in the government process. Subsequently, by virtue of membership in the Youth Advisory Committee, leadership skills are developed and an awareness of social responsibilities is encouraged.	Established in 2001 to provide input and assistance to Pinellas County Commission	Students grades 9-12 reside in Pinellas County. Apply and appointed by County Board of County Commissioners. Members serve until graduation from High School

City or County	Governing Body	Staff/Resources	Meeting Structure
Davenport - Youth Advisory Commission	Governed by terms of Youth Advisory Ordinance as contained by the Municipal Code of the City of Davenport.	Lead by Assistant City Adm., Tanesha Briley. Some dedicated dollars from CBG funds	Hold one business meeting and one committee meeting per month except in the month of July. Meetings held at a City of Davenport facility. Meeting schedule set for a period of one year. Special meetings shall be called by the Chairperson.
Clinton - Mayor's Youth Commission	Established through a resolution as established as Mayor's Youth Commission. Advisory to City Council. Operates similar to all other commissions, including passage of resolutions and motions and recording of minutes.	Meets regularly with a member of the city council.	Youth Commission elects, Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Secretary.
Iowa City - Youth Advisory Commission	City Council, operate like all other boards and commissions.	City staff member (City Clerk) and City Council liaison.	Meets regularly as other commissions, develop own agenda.
Des Moines - Youth Advisory Board	Youth Advisory Ordinances established by the City Council	City Manager	Meet once a month, typically first Tuesday, but is does change often to different days of the week at 3:30pm. City Council Chambers.
Ankeny - Mayor's Youth Council	Youth Advisory Ordinances established by the City Council	Mentored and advised by Steven Van Oort, mayor Gary Welch, council member Nick Lenox, recreation supervisor	Meet bi-monthly on a Sunday in City Council Chambers
Pinellas Co., FLA – Youth Advisory Committee		Staff Advisor: 4H Youth Development Educational Instructor	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 4:00 pm at the courthouse in general session. Provides regular reports to Board of Co. Commissioners at monthly night meeting. In addition committee plans and participates in several community projects throughout the year.

COMMENTS:

**Davenport** - Spoke w/ Parks and Rec, Theresa Hauman who said she has gone to group and used group as sounding board on many initiatives. Look at grants and currently a Healthy kids initiative. The Mayor is a driving force. They have a Jr. Theatre presentation that she offered they can come out and help market and promote youth voices.

**Iowa City** - see great video @ <http://www.icgov.org> - originally it was youth who sought out council liaison to assist in formulating the commission. Key to success having council liaison.

**Ankeny** - Since 2008, The Mayor's Youth Council hosts an annual Youth Leadership Symposium, an event designed to help Ankeny's youth in grades 8 through 12 develop important leadership skills.

**West Des Moines:** Officially enacted in 2006 by a workgroup of the WDM Community Education Advisory Board, made up of 14-16 youth and 4-6 adults, ended in 2009

Contact Info: Todd Seaman 515-222-3448 (Call anytime)

**Urbandale:** Enacted in 2006 by Mayor Andeweg, consisted of 13 youth members, ended in 2009

Contact Info: Mollie Wilhite 515-331-6792 (call anytime)

They both recommended using a wide range of youth, however they cautioned that those who have a lot of self initiative are greatly involved in a lot of activities. Possibly meet with issues or events, an annual youth summit is another idea that Todd suggested.



# Youth Affinity Group

## Facilitators

- Daleta Christensen
- Paula LeVasseur

*Iowa State Extension  
Trinity Muscatine*

## Committee Members

- Jodi Carrig
- Betty Collins
- Brianne Fitzgerald
- Edwin Colon
- Troy Kulland
- Michelle Kurz
- Molly McGreevy
- Kim Mills
- Jamie Cruse
- Ed Ellis
- Joni Kerr
- Brooke Oehme
- Dawnese Openshaw
- Krista Regennitter
- Dawn Sturms

*MCSD/Central  
City of Muscatine/Library  
United Way/Muscatine Community Volunteer Solutions  
MCSD/West  
MCSD/Central  
Family Resources  
MCSD/West  
New Horizons  
New Horizons  
MCSD/West  
Muscatine Youth Sports Foundation  
Community Volunteer/Muscatine Youth Theater  
Community Volunteer/MHS Coach/Muscatine Magazine  
Big Brothers/Big Sisters at the Community Y  
Family Resources*

## MuscaTEEN Youth Group Participants

A small group of students from Muscatine High School, West Middle School, and Central Middle School was selected by counselors, teachers, and administrators to help give their insights into this organization. Some were able to participate over the past few months more than others, but each offered valuable insights to learn from and apply when working with youth.

Each of these students recognized the value that a Youth Commission would bring to our community and the positive impact it would have.

Justin	York	West	8th
Dale	Reyes	West	8th
Betsy	McDonald	West	8th
Annie	Cahill	West	8th
Maria	Franco	West	8th
Derek	Zapata	MHS	12th
Jessica	Carlson	West	8th
Jeff	Failor	MHS	12th
Amanda	Clemens	MHS	12th
Gabriella	Garrido	MHS	10th
Amy	Ni	MHS	11th
Seth	Burton	MHS	9th
Emily	Much	Central	7th
Cheyenne	Arnold	Central	8th
Peter	Hutton	Central	7th
Openshaw	Randy	Central	7th

Thank you to these young people for their time, insights, energy, and passion about life and improving the community in which they live...Muscatine.