

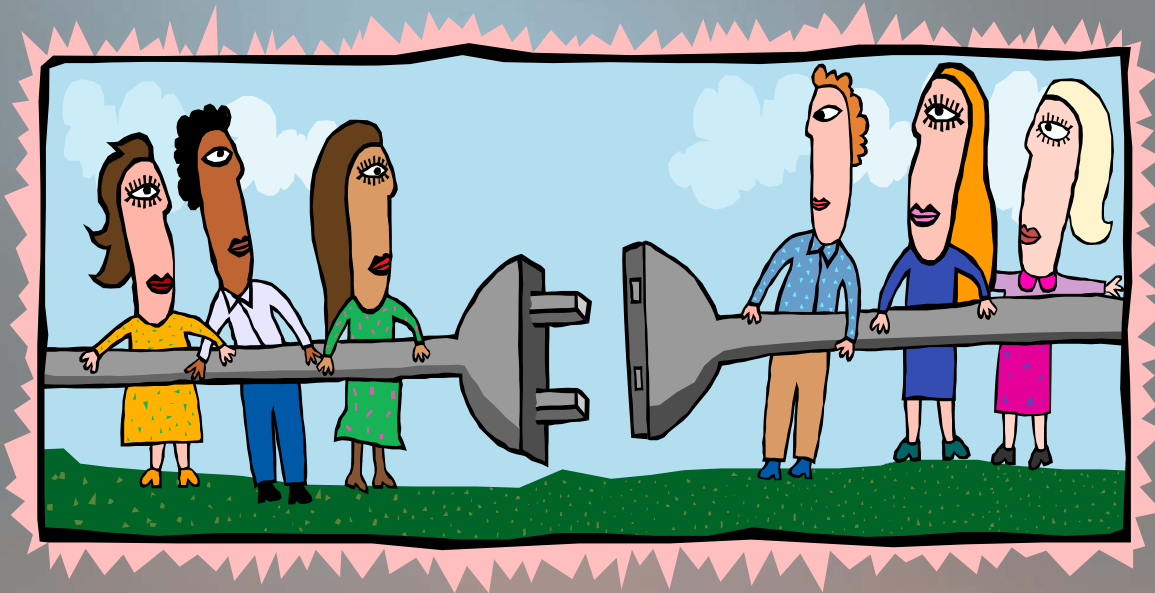
# Common Ground

Positive Options

for Youth in Conflict with the Law

# Positive Options: Beginning

- Probation & Children's Mental Health



# Thinking in the Box

## Legal Charges

Possession of Illegal Substances

Uttering Death Threats



Physical Assault

Car Hopping

Sexual Assault

Escape from Detention

Multiple Probation Breaches

Trafficking

Assault with a Weapon

Break & Enters

# Thinking in the Box

## Mental Health

Mood Disorders

Conduct Disorder

Oppositional Defiance  
Disorder

Learning Disabilities

Complex PTSD

Attachment Disorders



# Stigma

- Feel trapped in the system
- Self-fulfilling prophecy
- People don't give you a chance
- Changes relationships with family & friends
- Less opportunities to be successful

Brett

# Positive Options

- ✓ Assessment – Psychological & Criminogenic
- ✓ Recommendations
- ✓ Treatment Options
- ✓ Community Referrals
- ✓ Tutoring



# Common Ground

A Youth Engagement Model

# Thinking Outside the Box

## Josh's Story

# Thinking Outside the Box

- Youth & Adult Partnership
- Design group
- Evaluate group
- Keep flexible
- Protected from Probation
- Community service hours



# Thinking Outside the Box

- Safe & comfortable environment
- Helping each other based on own experiences
- A shoulder to lean on
- Caring confrontation
- Flexible structure
- Good food!



# Developing Common Ground

- Youth contract for 6 sessions
- Break for 2 weeks
- Re-contract and/or new people are invited
- Six youth in group
- Males & females
- 4:30 to 7 pm



# Developing Common Ground

- Sign oath of confidentiality
- Sign attendance contract
- No bragging about crimes
- Develop “guidelines” for safety
- Develop Menu for Good Food!



# Common Ground Format

- Youth discussion regarding past or current challenges
- Issue Jar
- Problem-solving
- Break
- Youth Social Action Project



# Is It Working?

Des

# Is It Working?

Jordan

# Skill Building

- Leadership skills
- Conflict resolution skills
- Communication skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Respectful listening
- Taking responsibility for own actions

# Youth Social Action Project

- Group members brainstormed ideas
- Chose issue
- Educated selves about the issue
- Identified how to deliver the message
- DVD, presentation, facilitators manual

# Youth Social Action Project

- Identified community consultants
- Created a time line
- Operationalized project
- Worked on a funding proposal
- Wrote the script
- Interviewed, video-taped, acted
- Created presentations

# Community Partnerships

- Sarnia Police Services
- Criminal Lawyer
- Judge
- Movie director
- St. Clair Child & Youth Services
- Youth Probation Services
- High schools
- Laurentian University



# Skill Building

- Project planning
- Organizational skills
- Time lines
- Negotiation
- Data entry and analysis
- Filming & editing
- Acting

# A Sneak Peek

The image features a smooth gradient background that transitions from a light blue at the top to a warm orange at the bottom. A dark blue curved line follows the bottom edge of the frame, creating a sense of depth and framing the content.

Want to create your own group?

Take a  at your:

- Beliefs about youth
- Ability to share power
- Skill to support without control

# How Can You Start A Group?

## Organization:

- Belief in youth capabilities
- Provide room
- Provide funds for food
- Provide supplies & resources

# How Can You Start A Group?

## Youth:

- Share a common history
- Something to give to others
- WANT to be involved
- Need a strong leader
- Social interaction
- Work towards a goal

# How Can You Start A Group?

## Adult Partner Responsibilities:

- Partnership rather than control
- Provide safe environment
- Provide meaningful involvement
- Opportunities
- Make youth feel empowered & respected

# How Can You Start A Group?

## Youth:

- Design group
- Create format for group
- Create their own guidelines
- Evaluation forms - flexible group
- Brainstorm ideas for Social Action Project
- Assist with raising funds for project

Is It Working?

Jamie's Story

# Imagine the Possibilities



Youth  
Teaching  
Youth