

# Building Youth Service Partnerships



## Steps to building a strong partnership with community agencies:\*

### 1. **PREPARE BEFOREHAND: Prepare before contacting community organizations**

- Develop basic goals and guidelines for your program.
- Identify the issues in which youth and teacher/adult leader are interested.
- Learn which community organizations are addressing these issues.

### 2. **PLAN TOGETHER: Include community organizations in the planning process**

- Community organizations can offer a variety of resources:
  - Provide valuable insight into the needs of the community.
  - Furnish guest speakers or other services to your class or group.
  - Assist in the development or presentation of curriculum.
- Involve the organization's clients, if appropriate.
- Be clear about your expectations and realistic about your resources.
- Obtain the agency's "buy-in" and belief in your program.

### 3. **PARTNER: Involve community agencies as partners in your program**

- The agency has the final say in the service to be provided to their clients.
- Develop shared responsibility for the program (in areas such as orientation, training, project development, supervision, recognition).
- Develop a partnership that is mutually beneficial and on-going.
- Share costs where possible.
- Identify a contact for the agency staff to call if they have questions.

*\*Sources: Volunteer Exchange and the Volunteer Centers of California*

#### Where to Find Community Organizations for Partnerships:

- Referrals by Volunteer Center of San Francisco
- Community resource directories
- United Way
- Newspapers and other media
- Colleges, universities & professors
- Government agencies (e.g. Recreation & Park Department, Police Department)
- Phone book
- Libraries
- Internet/E-mail
- Youth, parents & teachers
- Your personal network
- Exploring your neighborhood