

News Release

Organizations work to make Gogebic County a great place for youth

March 10, 2008

IRONWOOD – Twenty community leaders from more than a dozen agencies in Gogebic County are working together in a unique program to make the county a better place for youth. They are participating in the Adolescent Development Learning Network sponsored by the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development (the Center).

In the Learning Network, a first in Gogebic County and third in the U.P., participants learn from each other while addressing concerns about the healthy development of adolescents. Working together, Learning Network participants:

- identify challenges the community faces in working with youth
- present current practices that address healthy youth development
- share knowledge about the community organizations that work with, or are concerned about, youth
- Explore ways to improve youth outcomes in the community
- Identify and strengthen collaborative efforts to improve services for youth
- Learn principles of total quality management, a strategy commonly used in private industry, to improve the organizations they represent

“The Learning Network is a great way to build organizational development while promoting collaborative learning designed to improve the community,” said Judy Watson Olson, president of the Center. “We are excited about working with the many innovative thinkers in Gogebic County who are willing to work together for their young people.”

The Gogebic County Learning Network meets monthly until May. Participating agencies include Ironwood Carnegie Library, Domestic Violence Escape Inc. (DOVE), Gogebic County MSU Extension, Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District, Boy Scouts, New Beginnings Pregnancy Support Services, Our Lady of Peace Church, Grand View Health System, Lac Vieux Desert Tribe, Christ Lutheran Parish, Ironwood Area School District, Wakefield Marenisco School District and Bessemer Area Schools.

Recent sessions have included issues such as bullying, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and raising the level of academic performance of 7th to 9th graders.

The Center, based in Marquette and serving the entire U.P., is a nonprofit organization that strengthens the organizations that serve youth. Much of the Center’s work is based on the Search Institute’sSM 40 Developmental AssetsTM model. Research shows young people who possess more of these assets are more likely to make better choices for themselves and their communities.



Strong Organizations ... Strong Youth

307 S. Front Street • Marquette, Michigan • 49855
(906)-228-8919 • www.glycd.com

News Release

The Center runs the Learning Network every two years and seeks new topics and interested partner organizations. Past Learning Networks have focused on adolescent girls and low asset youth.

For more information about the Learning Network or other services of the Center, visit www.glycd.org or call 906-228-8919.

###