



## ***Strong Organizations . . . Strong Youth***

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Learning Network Convenes in Baraga County**

Great Lakes Center for Youth Development has organized a new partnership in Baraga County to help the most vulnerable youth improve their success in school and lead to positive adulthood--the Vulnerable Youth Learning Network. Multiple stakeholders including schools and community organizations met in Baraga on Wednesday (Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>) to plan how their collaboration will work.

Baraga Area Schools Superintendent Jennifer Lynn is one of the Learning Network participants. Ms. Lynn commented: "Because our mission as a school is to work in partnership with parents and the community providing opportunities for each student to learn within a safe, diverse, respectful and nurturing environment, we hope the Learning Network will support our community by connecting data, resources and people to better assist struggling children and families."

To help provide data to guide the Learning Network's progress, the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development has partnered with Portage Health to administer a survey to all 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Baraga and L'Anse schools. The Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes & Behaviors survey is a survey created by the Search Institute out of Minneapolis and measures the 40 Developmental Assets. The Vulnerable Youth Learning Network will use this data in their community work with the schools. The data will help us learn more about how to improve the outcomes for those youth with the least number of Developmental Assets. This data will be released to the public after the members of the Learning Network have an opportunity to analyze the data.

The Baraga County Learning Network is a series of meetings, workshops and facility tours in which participants collaborate to increase support of youth, particularly those youth that are most vulnerable and least prepared to transition into adulthood successfully. Five to seven teams from local organizations study and explore issues related to youth in the community over the course of approximately one year. Learning Network sessions will take place over the next year with the goal of improving the community for Baraga County youth.

If you are interested in joining the Baraga County Vulnerable Youth Learning Network, please contact Paul Olson at 906-228-8919 x29 or polson@glcyd.org

**11-16-11-convening.jpg Cutline:** Many community and tribal leaders who work with Baraga County youth attend a meeting to learn about the Learning Network.

**11-16-11-brainstorming Cutline:** Participants brainstorm community issues in Baraga County and topics of interest as they relate to youth, particularly those youth that are most vulnerable and least prepared to transition into adulthood successfully. Over the course of the year, Learning Network participants will meet to increase understanding and implement improvements pertaining to these special topics.

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