

Stoughton Youth Center Vision for 2010

- I. **Mission: To create a safe place for middle school age students to grow physically and mentally while serving the community during after school hours.**

- II. **Goals and activities to achieve the mission**
 - A. Social development: To help students successfully interact with others regardless of age or race.
 1. Structure through Youth Center rules
 2. Social gatherings (band nights, lock-ins, holiday dinners, movie nights)
 3. Informal interaction through use of video games, basketball area, pool tables etc)
 4. Late night basketball, pool use, trips, structured activity
 5. Planned activities with other centers
 6. Mentor opportunities
 7. Intergenerational opportunities (w/senior center)
 - B. Education opportunities: To provide students opportunities to do better in school as well as exposure to new programs and ideas.
 1. Good grade incentive program
 2. Homework assistance
 3. Computer use for school and fun
 4. Exposure to new activities
 5. Preparation for employment (application, resume, interview, successful job behavior)
 6. Programs provided by outside agencies and individuals (hospital, civic groups, churches)
 7. Cooking classes
 8. Running a small business (jewelry creation and sales, Syttende Mai stand)
 9. Youth Center TV Show
 - C. Physical growth: To assist students with ways to improve their physical well being through instruction and activity.
 1. Informal basketball, swimming, skateboard opportunities
 2. Weight training and aerobics
 3. Classes on proper diet, alcohol and drug use
 4. Opportunities with outside providers (fencing, self defense)
 5. Structured games and activities
 - D. Community service: To teach students the value of giving back to others through structured opportunities.
 1. Food drive for Food Pantry
 2. Leaf raking and snow shoveling for seniors
 3. Park cleaning
 4. Library book delivery

III. Staffing

- A. Parks and Recreation Director
 - 1. 15 hours per week
 - 2. Responsibilities
 - a. Through the Parks and Recreation Committee and City Council directs the Youth Center
 - b. Supervision and coordination of staff
 - c. Managing the budget.
 - d. Seeking and maintaining funding
 - e. Creation of programming
 - f. Managing physical assets
- B. Recreation Supervisor
 - 1. 15 hours per week
 - 2. Responsibilities
 - a. Assist the Youth Center Assistant with supervision
 - b. Create and administer on and off site programs
 - c. Assist in the promotion of the Youth Center
- C. Youth Center Assistant
 - 1. 20 hours per week
 - 2. Responsibilities
 - a. Daily supervision
 - b. Create and administer programming
 - c. Enforce on site rules
 - d. Handle the collection of attendance and other participant information
 - e. On site supervision of the Americorp and volunteer workers
- D. Americorp Staff Person
 - 1. 32 hours per week
 - 2. Responsibilities
 - a. Interact with the participants
 - b. Create and administer programming
 - c. Assist the Youth Center Assistant
 - d. Supervise the facility during extended open hours
- E. Volunteers and Interns
 - 1. Currently 2 days a week covered
 - 2. Goal is to have 5 days a week covered
- F. Staffing Challenges
 - 1. Increased recreation revenue expectations
 - 2. Loss of summer seasonal position in Recreation Department
 - 3. Difficult to give YC desired attention.

IV. Funding

- A. City of Stoughton
- B. United Way of Dane County
- C. Dane County Human Services

- D. Civic Groups
 - 1. Rotary Club
 - 2. Lions Club
- E. Business
 - 1. Cummins
 - 2. Stoughton Trailers
 - 3. Uniroyal
- F. Foundations
 - a. Bryant Foundation
 - b. Community Fund
- G. Fundraising
 - a. Syttende Mai
 - b. Band Nights
 - c. Letter Campaign

V. Promotion

- A. City website
- B. Facebook
- C. School email
- D. Newspaper/ Cable TV
- E. Weekly Rec Report
- F. Recreation guides
- G. School announcements, visits and flyer drops

VI. Assets

- A. New Youth Center Building
- B. 15 computers
- C. Kitchen area
- D. Game systems and televisions
- E. Basketball hoop
- F. Pool Tables (2)
- G. Air Hockey
- H. 2 staff computers
- I. 62 hours of on site staff time per week
- J. Special Gift Fund balance

VII. Desired Assets

- A. Second Americorp Staff
- B. Projector for movies and presentations
- C. Rebuilt skateboard facility
- D. Improved carpeting and furniture
- E. Better cleaning contract

VIII. Attendance

- A. Current situation
 - 1. School year numbers up

2. Summer numbers down without facility
3. Serving only grades 5-8

B. Goal Situation

1. Service grades 5-12
2. 40 students per day

C. Obstacles to higher attendance

1. Perception that the YC is for lower class
2. Lack of scheduled activities for all types of students
3. Lack of transportation for 5th grade students
4. Competition with other programming
5. Increased hours of supervision needed to add HS students