

# Indiana Youth Philanthropy: A Framework for Best Practices

Youth Philanthropy in Indiana is as diverse as the communities that make up our state. The best practices of youth philanthropy are comprehensive and have common elements; **Serving, Giving, Leading and Engaging**. These form the four pillars of youth philanthropy in Indiana.

To be most effective in growing new generations of philanthropists, organizations may decide to *integrate* philanthropic concepts into existing programs, or *initiate* a new youth philanthropy program. A Youth Philanthropy program educates and engages young people in intentional and on-going serving, giving, fundraising, and grantmaking for the good of a community. YPII has gathered views and helpful ideas from many of Indiana's successful Youth Philanthropy programs to provide the following key points for best practices:

## Strategic Best Practices (External)

- Recognize the organizations that may already be promoting youth giving and serving in the community.
- Develop a community approach that partners with multiple groups and organizations.
- Incorporate the four pillars of youth philanthropy into the program: serving, giving, leading and engaging.
- Assist the youth with identifying the needs of the community.
- Build on the community assets which support lasting change.
- Expand and promote community leadership roles for youth.
- Communicate and recognize the good work of young philanthropists.

## Programmatic Best Practices (Internal)

- Encourage youth to personally serve and give in order to develop lifelong habits of philanthropic behavior.
- Design opportunities for effective and meaningful community service experiences for youth.
- Provide training and education to help youth understand and appreciate the concepts of giving, volunteerism, civic engagement, fundraising, leadership and community involvement.
- Encourage youth/adult partnerships where both groups are able to learn from each other as equal partners.
- Involve youth and adults from diverse cultures and backgrounds.
- Engage families in passing on their philanthropic traditions with their children.
- Assess activities and outcomes annually to continually strengthen the philanthropic aspect of the work.
- Develop sufficient and sustainable sources of funding.