



2008-09 Action Learning Projects Abstracts

Family Services, Inc: Head Start

“Head Start Promotes Global Exposure”

The objective of this project evolved to creation of a working reference of potential guest speakers/facilitators to broaden the horizons of Head Start children. The Action Learning Team was able to get over 30 organizations to assist Head Start. The team compiled a database of committed agencies to give Head Start students a point of reference.

Cancer Services

“Plan for increased connection with Latino population in Cancer Services’ region of service”

The Action Learning team met with local Latino “gatekeepers” and discussed cultural norms along with possible outreach opportunities. Data was gathered concerning contacts Latinos could reach out to for health and cancer services. The team provided an executive summary and detailed report with recommendations and supporting data.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

“Diamond in the Rough”

The ReStore needed to re-think their practice of receiving donations, pricing policies, moving and loading, sales floor organization, and employment practices. The Action Learning team ultimately came down to one issue: improve the flow of donated items into and out of the ReStore. They turned to transforming a warehouse into a retail store, adopting some best practices from Lowe’s Home Improvement Centers. The team provided a list of recommendations for re-organizing the store and increasing customer traffic, with many suggestions implemented before the end of the project.

Smart Start of Forsyth County

“Developing Highly Educated Child Care Providers”

The Action Learning teams’ goal was to increase the number of childcare educators applying for scholarships for early childhood education, in order to ultimately increase the education level of educators. The team interviewed childcare educators and current scholarship recipients, reviewed current processes, and recommended changes to the application process and content as well as practices to promote the scholarship program.

Winston-Salem Youth Arts Institute

“Research Regarding WS/FC School System High School Dropout Prevention Efforts”

Dropout prevention and making appropriate suggestions to the institute was the main target for this Action Learning team. The team reviewed current dropout/suspension prevention documents, contacted school officials, and provided a detailed outline of recommendations to the institute to enhance their own efforts in dropout prevention.

Forsyth County Aging Services Planning Committee

“Recommend Options for a County-wide Healthy Lifestyle Program for Older Adults”

The Action Learning team’s goal was to identify providers to support a county-wide program that engages older adults to be more active and adopt healthier lifestyles. Providers were identified, but the team discovered there was no user-friendly index where the elderly could find this information. The team not only incorporated this into their recommendations but also partnered with the local community college to



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develop a user friendly website that not only raised awareness but also connected seniors with pertinent programs. The website was such a success that it was shared state-wide.

Department of Social Services – LINKS Program

“Developing a Mentoring Program for Foster Care Youth”

The purpose of this project was to compile a broad range of resources that would offer the LINKS management team a strategic framework for future development of a youth mentoring program. This Action Learning team conducted a national survey, interviewed program managers, and met with youth currently/previously in foster care, and compiled the results. They provided recommendations and a manual with recruitment strategies, a consultant framework, and guides for LINKS as they continue to serve the local foster care youth.

Family Promise of Forsyth County

“Family Promise Resource Guide”

Becoming familiar with the plight of homelessness was the first step for this Action Learning team in assisting a start-up nonprofit in supporting homeless families. As they learned more, their goals expanded beyond the original project scope to develop a resource guide, a resource database, and provide technical assistance with the agency’s first Cardboard Box City Fundraiser. Team members continued to stay engaged, including joining their Board of Directors, after the project was completed.