

The background of the slide is a photograph of a thin, dark branch with two small, dried, brown leaves. The branch is positioned vertically on the left side and horizontally at the bottom. The leaves are positioned at the top left and bottom right. The background is a light, textured surface with some faint, brownish stains.

# Take the Cake

Establishing Partnerships to Influence  
Collaboration & Participation for Meeting  
Needs of Homeless Students

Granny always said:

“ Never go visiting to someone’s house  
the first time without food in your hands.”



# Brainstorming


How do we establish collaborative relationships with people and organizations we are dependent upon for our program's success?



As we do in any other relationship-


by making personal connections and allowing others to make a personal connection with you and your program!





What is a definition of  
Public Relations?

Public Relations are activities of persons or organizations intended to promote understanding of good will towards themselves or their products or services.



# Increasing Understanding

# What Do You Want to Do?

- Establish your expertise about your program?
- Build goodwill among your organization & the community?
- Inform and create good perceptions regarding your organization?
- Generate enthusiasm and support for your needs?
- The answer is YES, to all of these!





# Where Do You Start?

1. Define Your Identity-Who are you and what are your organization's goals?
2. Create a fifteen second introduction that explains your organization.
3. Decide what your needs are for meeting specific objectives.
4. Start making contacts with those people, groups that can potentially help you meet those needs.



# Project PRAISE

- Hi, I'm Courtney Carter- I'm a homeless liaison for the Putnam County Schools District where last year we had 526 homeless students identified.
- I have been trying to get support for a special project this year- many of our homeless students do not have adequate warm clothing to wear when it turns cooler- do you have any suggestions for helping us get sweatshirts and hoodies for our needy students?

# Your Turn!

- Turn to a partner- introduce yourself and your organization.
- What is a need you have? Make a sentence identifying that need and give an open-ended question to that need.





# Planning for Success

- Choose your goals carefully and wisely- make sure your goal is achievable for your audience.
- Prepare information and data that explains your need and position.
- Have a plan for recognizing those who help you.



# Project Christmas

Need: Christmas gifts for those homeless students who will get little or nothing.

Goal: Provide gifts for 125 homeless students.

\* Each student will have no more than \$50.00 spent on gifts.

Organizations select single student, family, group to sponsor; Sponsor is matched with a wish list from student sponsor purchases and wraps gifts, PRAISE staff delivers gifts with addressed thank- you note to be sent to sponsor PRAISE staff delivers framed certificate to sponsor in January.



# Collaborators

- Ministerial Associations
- Church Groups
- Women's Clubs
- Rotary, Jaycees, Lions,
- Community College
- Professional Organizations
- Probation Office
- Youth Groups (4-H, Girl/Boy Scouts)
- Businesses




# Shared Services

- Organizations that serve the community: SHINE, United Way, Red Cross, Christian Service Centers, St.VdP, Habitat, RCMA, Health Department, any organization that serves needs of community.
- Meets once a month to share, collaborate and network.
- All organizations sign up for a data base that whole group shares via email.



# Community Oversight

- Part of Grant
- Meets twice a year (October/May)
- October meeting: familiarize individuals and groups with Program, review data and information for the coming year: # applications processed, # of students currently enrolled, # school supplies delivered, # home visits, # transported, # receiving tutoring services, etc. Discussion of current goals and objectives, Discussion of needs

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- May meeting: Review of program  
Current data/ services done  
Review of objectives and comparisons to actual services  
Discussion of needs for following year.

Each meeting, all attendees sign-in with name, address, email- this builds data base for next meeting



# Connections

- School Connections
  - Administrators,
  - Guidance Counselors, Reading Coaches
  - Teachers
  - District Transportation- directors, route managers, drivers
  - Food Service- school qualifying personnel, cafeteria managers, district staff
  - Exceptional Education- psychologists, staffing specialists, district staff



# Developing Understanding

Providing basic information about your program.

Who are the homeless?

What does the McKinney-Vento expect of us?

What does our program do?

Sharing specific data that pertains to our clients.

How many enrolled now, compared to last year.

Number in tutoring program, being transported, receiving emergency services.

Identifying specific tasks or roles this group needs to participate in so to make program more successful.



# Different Groups, Different Delivery, SAME MESSAGE

- Bus drivers: emphasize transportation needs, identification by drivers who “see” children everyday.
- Cafeteria workers: emphasize free lunch
- Administrators, guidance: legal requirements, immediate enrollment.



# Formal School Site Visits

- Ask for an appointment
- Assemble general information for all
  - M/V basics, specific services
- Assemble site specific information
  - Roster of students at the site
  - Test scores, retentions, quick background, services given
  - Ask for input and needs



# The School is Ground Level

Let guidance, reading coaches, ESE specialists know:

**YOU KNOW** their students!

Have documentation (one great big spreadsheet) that connects information, attendance, discipline, retentions, test scores, current grades ESE info.

Encourage collaboration: What can our office do to support you?

Plan for future needs, meetings



# It DOES Take a Village

- Homeless children and youth, more than other students need multiple safety nets to keep them from falling through the “cracks”.
- Involve your school and community resources to provide that other pair of hands, eyes to watch over these “very, special students”



# Questions?

Contact:

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