

Community Leaders' 2nd Initiative Planning Summit

Close to 100 youth-oriented local leaders, educators and others involved with young people gathered at the Columbia Center Rotary Event Center in Kennewick today for a Youth Summit to begin brainstorming ideas for the 2nd Community Solutions initiative, called Prepared by 20 – An Alliance for the Second Decade.

The group discussed the adoption of the “40 Developmental Assets” developed by the Search Institute as building blocks for raising healthy children and youth. The 40 Developmental Assets include elements such as family & community support, motivation, constructive use of time, social competence, service to others and positive identity.

Last fall, with input from the community at-large, community leaders decided that education should be the area of focus for the next Community Solutions initiative. Mentoring and positive adult influences were further identified as important elements that affect education and young people's lives. The broad goal of Prepared by 20 is to increase graduation rates, literacy, community involvement, and post-secondary education participation. It is also the initiative's goal to decrease truancy, gang activity, substance abuse and teen pregnancy.

In the coming months, the group plans to assess services and programs that currently exist within our community, as well as identifying where additional support is needed.

“Raising a successful child takes more than a single family, school, or program. Through this initiative we hope to create an even more engaged community that works together to make a difference in the second decade of a young person's life,” said Mark Griffin, Scout Executive, Blue Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America and the past President of Columbia Center Rotary.