

Youth Focus Group, Harmony Café, Appleton on 15th January, 2004

Background

East Central, in cooperation with the United Way Fox Cities, held a regional youth focus group in January 2004. Seven young people, male and female aged between 15 and 17 years, from Appleton, Neenah, and Winneconne participated. Both the public and private school systems were represented.

The purpose of the focus group was to bring together a small group of young people who are active in their communities.

Adopting a nominal group technique, there were 3 key objectives:

- to listen to the participants' views and opinions on what they consider are the main issues and opportunities facing their communities and the region;
- to prioritize the identified issues and opportunities; and
- to begin to develop a vision for the future.

Issue and Opportunity Identification:

Participants were invited to consider the following two questions:

- What do you feel are the issues and problems that are currently facing your communities and the east central region: What do you not like?
- What do you feel are the opportunities and strengths that your communities and the region could build upon? What do you like?

Issue and Opportunity Prioritization:

Participants were asked to prioritize the issues and opportunities by awarding a total of 5 points to the issue(s) and, similarly, 5 points to the opportunity(ies) they considered to be important.

Envisioning the Future:

Participants were invited to think about their region / geographic area and respond in writing to the following three questions:

- What would you like to be preserved?
- What would you like to be changed?
- What would you like to be created?