

**BUILDING A
FOUNDATION
FOR
COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP**

**INVOLVING YOUTH
IN COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS**

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Center

Building a Foundation for Community Leadership

Involving Youth in Community Development Projects

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Preface

We have developed this handbook so that other communities can work to mobilize their youth as partners in community development projects. The handbook is the culmination of five years of work, beginning with the experiments involving students in Martin County, Kentucky. Since that time four additional pilot surveys involving students have been conducted in Shelby County, Kentucky; Immokalee, Gadsen County, and Union County, Florida. Needless to say, we have learned a lot, and the lessons have been incorporated into this handbook.

We want to express our admiration of the students, in partnership with teachers, community leaders, adult volunteers, and Cooperative Extension Service professionals for accepting the challenge to improve their communities. We appreciate having the opportunity to work with and to learn from them.

The handbook also benefited from comments and suggestions of the project consultants team. In addition, we wish to thank Erika Gettig and Anne Fugate for assisting with the handbook's technical editing and Judy Rogers for assisting with graphics, layout and word processing. We recognize, however, that this document can be improved. We hope that community leaders, Extension professionals, and school teachers will use the handbook and share stories of their successes and lessons learned with us. Please write to Southern Rural Development Center, Box 9656, Mississippi State, MS, 39762-9656.

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