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**Five Promises**

1. **Caring Adults**
2. **Safe Places**
3. **Healthy Start**
4. **Effective Education**
5. **Opportunities to help others**



**Why Positive Youth Development Matters**

From the first breath a baby takes until they are being handed a high school diploma and walk off into their future, we want youth to succeed. We want to watch them grow, learn, and enjoy living life. However, as many children grow up in settings where support systems can fail and pressures to make harmful choices are constantly present, we want something better.

As many parents, researchers, and youth professionals have considered ways to help youth grow up healthy and successful, they have arrived at the theory of Positive Youth Development. This is commonly displayed in programs that *“engage young people in intentional, productive, and constructive ways, while recognizing and enhancing their strengths. These programs promote positive outcomes by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and giving the support needed to build on their strengths as well as prevent risky behaviors<sup>1</sup>.”*

This strengths based approach is foundational to not only preventing problems, but providing the supports needed for youth to thrive. You can learn more about Positive Youth Development by clicking [here](#).

1 [http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/topic\\_pyd\\_evidenceEffectiveness.shtml#references](http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/topic_pyd_evidenceEffectiveness.shtml#references)



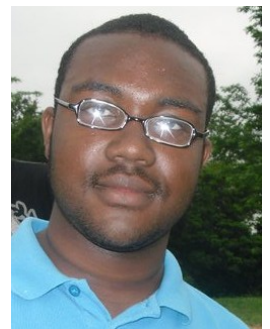
**150,000 Pills Collected**

During the recent Prescription Drug Take Back, 64,245 pills were collected. This brings our total for the last year to over 150,000 pills. This is a great step forward in preventing the abuse of medications. The next take back is scheduled for October 29th, 2011.



**Meet Jasmin & Cameron...**

Jasmin & Cameron are working with YC2 during the summer months. They have been very busy planning events, finding more ways for YC2 to engage youth, and making things more fun around the office. Thanks for all your hard work Jasmin & Cameron!



## Recommended Links

### [Cool Spot](#)

Fun site with lots of information for teens.

### [Boone County Indicators](#)

Wellness indicators for Boone County.

### [Family Guide](#)

How to talk to your kids.

### [Drugs & Alcohol](#)

Great site for kids and teens!

### [Free Vibe](#)

Informational site about drugs and their effects.

### [National Clearinghouse for Drug/Alcohol Information](#)

Find free resources about substance abuse and mental health.

### [Real Teen Resources](#)

A quick guide to many of the resources and services that teens need in the Boone County community.



**Youth Community  
Coalition**

**201 Switzler Street  
Columbia, MO 65203**

**573-443-2556, X 1284**

[bmarkt@columbiaha.com](mailto:bmarkt@columbiaha.com)

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## Constructive Use Of Time

By Cameron Blair, Hickman High School

One of the things that teens need in order to succeed is a "Constructive Use of Time". If Teens have a constructive use of time they will be less likely to end up doing illegal things like drugs, and under aged drinking and things of that sort. Examples of teens having a constructive use of there time are attending classes, physical activities, crafts, drama, and other things of that sort. A constructive use of time is important to teens because it teaches them responsibility. Suggest to your kids to join a local organization for the summer as a counselor or a mentor for children. Not only will it teach your child responsibility, but your child can feel good about what they do and enjoy it.



## Leadership Corner

By Jasmin Wang, Hickman High School

How do you define a leader? Someone who is willing to stick up for others? Someone who walks beside a person, not in front or behind of? The goal of the Youth Community Coalition focuses on helping youth define leadership and how they can achieve it. It's not easy for youth these days to be able to express themselves freely without having the feeling of being judged. However, just because they are youth does not mean their goals are impossible to attain, as long as they have the passion and dedication. Thus, the first step to attaining your goals is to find out what you're most passionate about. The more interested you are in a particular subject, the more likely you will be determined to reach your goals. After all...

***"A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position."***

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## Upcoming events...

**Check out [www.yc2.org](http://www.yc2.org) for more information**

July 21st/ August 18th 3:30-5:00pm	YC2 Meeting Blind Boone Community Center
August 3rd 11:30am-1:30pm	YC2 Connect Columbia/Boone County Health Department
August 13th 9-2:00pm	Back to School Health Fair Calvary Baptist Church
August 19 7-10:00pm	Teen Garage Band Bash Parking Garage, on 6th and Cherry St.
September 26	National Family Day <a href="http://casafamilyday.org/familyday/">http://casafamilyday.org/familyday/</a>