

**Western New Mexico Service-Learning Gathering
Sacred Heart Retreat Center, Gallup New Mexico
April 16, 2008**

We Envision...

- Our youth to mature and develop into great leaders and do many great things for our communities and also help out others
- Young people doing positive, meaningful stuff in the community
- Resilient individuals
- Youth to be in touch with community
- Youth-initiated community service
- Youth empowerment
- Empowered youth to mentor and share with upcoming youth on learning projects

- The different age groups working together to make great changes in the community!!!
- Elders and youth in the community to work and volunteer together with service-learning projects
- Mentors to inspire and work with youth
- More volunteer work in communities, learning to work together
- Empowerment from within the community

- High achievers and motivated to learn
- An excellent education for every child
- Learning “outside our four walls” – the wide world is a classroom
- See more young people finish high school
- Love of learning, not just for jobs

- Activities for kids, after school, breaks, etc.
- Community multi-purpose building for youth programs and activities
- Productivity for youth and much needed recreation center
- More services for youth age 18-21

- To have a drug-free community
- Broader economic base
- Sustainability of ideas/initiatives

We Have...

- Lots of young people with not enough to do! (Amen!)
- Youth (adolescents) motivated to make change
- Future young leaders
- Limited resources for youth

- People focused on making our area better
- Creative people who support themselves without creative outlets
- Lonely people

- Many talented people
- Diverse people
- Underutilized resources – youth and services
- Community-based support for service-learning projects
- Programs that work with our youth, that shows them that they have positive choices that they can make
- Afterschool youth and service staff with learned knowledge and skills (hard & soft)
- NIYLP
- Collaboration with Navajo Nation Zoo
- Boys and Girls Club
- Recreation facilities
- Natural recreation areas!
- Forests and lands
- Two university branch campuses to tap into
- Research to tell us what really works with kids – let's use it!
- K-12 school contractual services
- K-12 school & Headstart
- Scholarship, employment & training programs
- A vocational approach to life
- Poverty
- Lots of prisons
- A lot of young people with limited funding for higher education/work; need resources
- A lot of out-of-school youth needing assistance to accomplish goals!
- Youth looking for positive role models and people to care about them and guide them
- Unlimited resources

We Can...

- Be more proactive!!
- Explain what it means to volunteer
- Encourage our youth about the importance of service-learning projects and the good that it has for the community
- Show that service-learning is worth doing; it brings out the “can-do” attitude in individuals
- Encourage student-initiated service-learning activities
- Give kids healthy activities as an outlet
- Get more youth involved with leadership program (afterschool and weekends)
- Turn “trouble” youth into successful adults
- Young people becoming leaders to help their communities
- Incorporate the findings of research into our educational system and quite doing more or what we know doesn't work!

- Raise our graduation rates
- Collaboration in enhancing the learning/teaching experience for youth
- We could get involved with the schools to turn troubled youth into successful adults
- Provide more out-of-school activities for our youth
- Reverse brain and human capital drain
- Broaden career alternatives and opportunities
- Collaborate with other programs/communities/organizations!

- Make a great and powerful community for our youth
- Improve our community by doing more good deeds for our youth/parents, more activities
- Use reflection to broaden the focus of students/community beyond present immediate survival
- Create service-learning initiatives that empower communities to meet their most pressing needs
- Enhance the health of our communities
- Make our communities more environmentally conscious
- Role model by doing; showing our communities and inspire them by doing it ourselves first

- Unlimited possibilities
- Have fun!

Service-Learning Opportunities in Western NM

Arts and Culture

- Arts Market – Volunteer Center of Grant County (Silver City)

Community Services/Development

- Thrift Store – Pine Hill School
- Food security – Volunteer Center of Grant County (Silver City)
- Community research – Volunteer Center of Grant County (Silver City)
- Community-wide Service-Learning, K-Higher Ed – Volunteer Center of Grant County and WNMU (Silver City)

Education

- Sociology students @ UNM-Gallup looking for projects
- Tutoring – NMSU - Grants
- Student retention, transitions – SETS Program, Ramah Navajo School Board
- Service-learning on-line – NMSU-Grants

Environment

- Navajo Zoo – NIYLP
- Botanical Garden (Proposed) – NIYLP
- Community Gardens – Ramah Navajo School Board, Pine Hill School
 - (Native foods, social & culture, language, nutrition, xeriscaping plants, horticulture therapy)

- Recycling – UNM-Gallup
- Solar power, wind turbines, H2O catchment storage systems – NMSU-Grants

Youth Development/Leadership

- Mentoring Program – Ramah Navajo School Board, Pine Hill School; NIYLP; NMSU - Grants
- Juvenile Justice Community Reintegration – CYFD
- Individual Development Accounts for education, housing, entrepreneurship – Contact?
- Arts Market – Volunteer Center of Grant County (Silver City)
- Youth Leadership training in experiential education – NIYLP