

WHAT WE DO



Promote a Research-Based Approach

Rather than focus on the problems facing young people, the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families builds on their strengths. Extensive research conducted by the Minneapolis-based Search Institute demonstrates that the more positive “assets” young people have in their lives, the more likely they are to make smart choices. Assets include family support, positive peers, a caring school environment, skills, and values, such as responsibility, problem-solving and goal-setting.

Through the *Connect with Kids* campaign, parents, teachers and community members can take simple actions to make young people feel more valued. To recognize those who are making a special difference in young people’s lives, each year the Partnership honors *Connect with Kids* Champions – ordinary community members who make an extraordinary effort to connect with young people. Our goal is to make asset-building a way of life in Arlington.

Identify Community Needs

Good decisions rest on good data. Based on 80 key indicators related to health, family stability, educational readiness and achievement, and community supports, the Community Report Card provides a statistical portrait of Arlington young people and their families. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey measures the health risk behaviors of teens, while the Profiles of Student Life/Assets Survey explores the risks facing young people, as well as positive influences on their lives. Through identifying the specific needs of children, youth and families, the Partnership makes data-driven recommendations concerning programs, policies and funding priorities.

Engage Young People

Central to the Partnership’s mission is listening to young people and allowing their voices to be heard. Through the Teen Network, our youth advisory board, we receive valuable guidance on issues facing local teens. Through the Teen Portal at www.arlingtonteens.com, young people can express their views, access information on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, learn about job openings, and connect with local services. In recognition of young people’s creativity, the Partnership sponsors annually the Arlington Youth Film Festival, which showcases the talents of hundreds of middle and high school students, encouraging their self-expression and celebrating their achievements.

Foster Collaboration



There are many dedicated individuals, nonprofits, businesses, schools and government agencies that seek to address the needs of young people and their families. Too often they work independently. The Partnership encourages dialogue and shared decision-making, by sponsoring community meetings, forums and focus groups to identify priorities and develop strategies for achieving them. **Our goal:** to create a community-wide network of support for children and families.

HOW WE DO IT

Resources and Initiatives

Raising Teens – Produced in partnership with Arlington Independent Media, these DVDs provide developmental information and tools for parents raising teenagers.

Risk Behavior Brochures – Available in Spanish and English, this brochure series gives parents information about risky behavior among teens, such as depression or bullying, and provides tips for parents on how to prevent the problem and where to go for help.

Community School at Carlin Springs Elementary – Launched as a pilot project in 2003, the Community School links students and their families with a range of academic, health and social-emotional supports. The school provides hundreds of students with after-school enrichment programs, and substantially increases parental involvement in their children’s education.

Too Smart to Start – This alcohol prevention program educates 5th graders and their parents about the dangers of alcohol. More than 2,000 students and parents in over 20 schools have demonstrated increased knowledge of the harmful effects of alcohol after participating.

WHO WE ARE

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Arlington Partnership For Children, Youth and Families



Arlington Partnership For Children, Youth and Families

Created in 1999, the Partnership is a community-led advisory group comprised of committed citizens, county government representatives and school staff that identifies local needs, works with community members to develop goals, and promotes collective action.

The **Vision** of the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families is an Arlington where all young people are cared for, valued and receive the support they need to become contributing, caring adults. Our **Mission** is to improve the health, well-being and safety of children, youth and families in Arlington through researching young people's needs, advocating for policies and programs to meet those needs, and engaging all members of our community as part of the solution.

Every member of our community can be a champion in a young person's life. All it takes is a smile, a word of encouragement, or simply listening. Together, we can make a lasting difference in how young people view themselves – and their futures.

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Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families

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Imagine!

Imagine the difference each of us could make if we took the time every day to connect meaningfully with a child.

Imagine a community where all young people's needs are met and their voices heard. Strengthening the bonds of our community –

and providing a network of support for its youngest members – is what the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families is all about.

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