



Stand Up For Kids

A Proposed Team Service Project

Public Allies Hartford

Submitted December 1, 2005

Revised December 30, 2005



According to the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness 13,000 children are homeless in Connecticut.

According to the US Census 1% of the population of Hartford is homeless on any given night, one of the highest rates in the Northeast.

“One missing child is one too many” – John Walsh, host of America’s Most Wanted and activist for children’s protection

MISSION

The Hartford Team of Public Allies Connecticut intends to complete a team service project that maps the characteristics of the homeless youth population and existing services, that connects the homeless youth population to these resources, and that generates public awareness about the challenges facing Hartford’s homeless youth population.

VISION

Public Allies is an AmeriCorps program that develops diverse young leaders to strengthen their communities through service, education and collaborative projects. **The Hartford Team** (hereafter our Team) will be engaging in a six-month long **Team Service Project** (hereafter Project) that aims to improve the access of Hartford homeless youth to the services that exist in our city and make others aware of the challenges they face.

We plan to serve this population by modeling the **three-step program of StandUp For Kids**.

- Step one is to identify the real issues surrounding the homeless youth and street kids’ issues.
- Step two is to articulate these issues to supporters, sponsors, and prospective volunteers.
- Step three is to use the completed survey as a resource list of services that are available to homeless, street kids and other at risk youth.

Our project will focus on the first two steps of this process.

StandUp For Kids is a national organization that focuses on helping homeless youth (aged 21 and younger) and unaccompanied street kids find resources and create resources where they do not exist. According to the Stand Up For Kids Annual Report 2004,

The mission of STANDUP FOR KIDS is to help homeless and street kids. This mission shall be carried out by a national volunteer force whose on-the-streets outreach efforts will find, stabilize and assist homeless and street kids in their efforts to improve their lives. The organization's mission shall also be furthered through deterrence and resource programs provided in schools and via the internet. All facets of this mission shall be guided by the mandate that our volunteers shall tell kids they care about them and then, at every turn, prove it.

Stand Up for Kids (SUFK) works towards this mission in several states already, but they aim to have a SUFK chapter in every state. In the past, Stand Up For Kids has collaborated with our parent organization AmeriCorps to train groups to work with at-risk youth. Because there is no chapter in Connecticut, we have decided to initiate the process. We aim to determine, through the help of our Advisory Committee, whether StandUp For Kids is a good fit for Hartford, and if

it is, develop the framework in which our Advisory Committee will take the final steps to start a chapter.

REASON

Deciding what population our Team wanted to concentrate on and subsequently what our Project would look like was a challenge for our Team. Half of our Team was very passionate about working with the **youth** and the other half felt that the **homeless population** of the city of Hartford had a greater need for help. Our Team voted on several project proposals in these areas, including creating a resource handbook that targeted the general homeless population, implementing a child care program at the Chrysalis Center¹, and a winter coat drive. Working with StandUp For Kids will enable us to work with both the homeless population as well as the youth population along with their families. Upon contacting the StandUp For Kids national office we discovered that 37 people in the greater Hartford area were interested in developing a StandUp For Kids chapter in Hartford. It was clear that **interest had been demonstrated**.

In conjunction with our decision-making process we began researching the **problem of homelessness** in Hartford. Three primary agencies are coordinating and overseeing the efforts to address the problem of homelessness in Hartford: The **Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness**, the **Continuum of Care** and the **Mayor's Commission to End Chronic Homelessness**. The Coalition published a report highlighting US Census 2000 figures: Hartford has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the Northeast, twice as high as New Haven and Bridgeport, respectively. The Continuum of Care is the primary agent through which the City of Hartford coordinates the resources and services for the homeless population. In June 2005 the Mayor's Commission released a ten-year plan to end chronic homelessness. The report outlines seven critical areas for strategic planning, none of which directly pertain to youth. The fifth critical area is Data Collection and has been targeted by the Coalition in its Homeless Management Information System, which has been gathering data on utilization of homeless services since 2001. This system also does not specifically target youth.

One of our main considerations was **sustainability**--would the program or project that we put in place still be in existence after the Public Allies class of 2005-2006 has graduated? Our main concern with the coat drive was that it would be a one-time event, and we were concerned as to how the program would keep going after we were gone. As we will discuss in a later section, this project has the power to make an impact in the community long after our program year is over.

Time was also a factor. While we had high aspirations, we also needed to set reasonable goals given our time constraints. Each member had to figure out how much time each week they would have to dedicate to the project in relation to how much time would be spent at placement. We also considered how much time was left in the Public Allies program year and if it was sufficient to meet our goal.

We held a **community conversation** on November 29, 2005 which was attended by three **youth** and two **adults**. We held another conversation with Youth Build students (**young adults**) on December 2, 2005. Most of the feedback centered on the **stigma of homelessness** and how it is **difficult to identify** street kids. Both the youth and young adults demonstrated that there are two ends of the spectrum. On one side there are kids that **will not admit** they are homeless. On the other are kids that **want the image associated with life on the street**. We discovered that there are many reasons why youth end up on the street, ranging from personal choice to no

choice at all. The groups also identified that shelters are often stringent in their policies; they will not let anyone in that is using drugs (“they need to clean up their act first”). When asked what can be done to help street kids, the young adult group identified points in the system where services **fail**. **Returning from prison and aging out of Department of Children and Families** services were unanimous cases where youth and young adults are **forced to the street**.

PLAN

Our Team will be engaging the homeless population of the city of Hartford in a process to:

1. **Identify resources and programs available to at-risk, homeless and street kids,**
2. **Identify gaps in the system,**
3. **Inform and educate the at-risk, homeless and street kid population about these services,**
4. **Raise the awareness of the general population about homelessness and youth, and**
5. **Determine whether a Hartford chapter of the SUFK organization should be developed.**

Outcome 1: Identify resources and programs available to at-risk, homeless and street kids.

The Project will consist of two outreach and research activities that inform each other and ultimately aim to document the needs of the at-risk, homeless and street kid population of Hartford.

Activity 1: Outreach and surveying of the at-risk, homeless and street kid population of Hartford.

We will conduct a survey, developed by StandUp For Kids (Appendix 1), of the homeless youth population of Hartford in order to discover firsthand what issues they face and what resources they most immediately need to find. For our purposes we define homeless youth to be an individual 24 years and younger and having spent one night without a roof over his/her head (based on definition of youth by Our Piece of the Pie and definition of homeless by US Census Bureau). We will also be surveying adults that were homeless as youth. Surveys will consist of one-on-one interviews and written response (see Survey Methodology, Appendix 2). We will also conduct “conversations” that will consist of group discussions and will cover similar material but will not provide aggregate data.

Our point of entry into the community will be through shelters and community groups. Volunteers will be recruited to aid in the search for and surveying of this population (see Volunteer Description, Appendix 3). We aim to build rapport with the support service agencies for homeless youth (e.g. shelters) in order to access at-risk, homeless and street kids. Through our subsequent conversations with this population (aided by our volunteers) we hope to foster trust in our group and a sense of hope (the central tenets of SUFK). By building strong relationships at every level of our surveying and outreach, we hope to reach those kids that are hardest to access and most in need of our support.

Activity 2: Web-based and personal communication research on the services and organizations within Hartford that cover the at-risk, homeless and street kid population.

We hope to find and document, as thoroughly as possible, the resources that exist in the city through the City and Resource Surveys set forth by SUFK. This thorough survey includes which services are provided by an organization and contact information of who the kids should talk to. For example, in researching area homeless shelters, we hope to find out which ones will allow youth without parents, what resources they offer, how long a youth can stay, etc. Focus areas include: Youth Shelters, Outreach Centers, Street Outreach and Apartment Support, Medical Clinics, Drug Rehab and Counseling, Education, Youth Commissions, Public and Non-profit Community Services, The Media, Hotline Phone Numbers, and Churches.

Deliverables for Outcome 1:

- Setup interviewing times with different shelters to come in and interview the homeless DUE – January 17, 2006
- Interview at least 40 homeless youth and as many adults that were homeless youth as possible (rationale below) DUE – February 17, 2006
- ***Setup a databank to keep track of all interview surveys DUE – March 2006
- ***Setup a databank of services and resources DUE – March 2006

According to US Census figures there are roughly 120,000 people in the City of Hartford. The US Census also estimates that about 1% of the population is homeless on any given night. Given the reasoning that roughly one-third of homeless are homeless youth (by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness), we roughly approximate that 400 youth are homeless in Hartford on any given night. Aiming for a sample size of about 10%, we intend to survey 40 homeless youth.

Measures of Success for Outcome 1:

- Obtain 40 complete, meaningful and informative surveys of homeless youth in Hartford by February 17, 2006.
- Compiled dataset of information from 40 surveys in databank prepared for analysis and report generation by March 2006.
- Completed databank of services and resources in the focus areas of the SUFK City Survey (Youth Shelters, Outreach Centers, Street Outreach and Apartment Support, Medical Clinics, Drug Rehab and Counseling, Education, Youth Commissions, Public and Non-profit Community Services, The Media, Hotline Phone Numbers, and Churches) and area Shelters by March 2006.

Outcome 2: Identify gaps in the system.

We will synthesize the information our Team gathers and identify gaps in the system that serves the at-risk, homeless and street kid population. We will determine whether certain services are lacking, whether these services are desired or needed by the population, whether they could be useful for the population and whether SUFK could provide these services. To make these determinations community leaders and youth on our Advisory Committee as well as the SUFK national organization will be consulted. We will use “The Ten Essentials” by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (Appendix 4) and the three fundamental Components in the Continuum of Care system (Prevention, Outreach and Supportive Services; outlined in detail in the Mayor’s Report) to serve as a guide in assessing needs.

Deliverables for Outcome 2:

- Look into people in the community we want to be on our Advisory Committee DUE – December 2005
- Invite all those that come to our Community Conversation to be a part of our Committee DUE – December 2005
- Inform the Committee of their responsibilities and how they will be working with us on our Project DUE – December 15, 2005
- ***Finalize Advisory Committee DUE – December 15, 2005
- ***In consultation with Advisory Committee, SUFK and guidance by National Alliance, identify Hartford's gaps in homeless youth services DUE – May 2006

Measures of Success for Outcome 2:

- Operational Advisory Committee composed of at least five (5) members and at least one (1) youth by February 2006.
- Identification of gaps in services to homeless youth in Hartford and written report outlining conclusions by May 2006.

Outcome 3: Inform and educate the at-risk, homeless and street kid population about these services.

Our Team intends to publish a Resource Guide and develop a Website to provide the at-risk, homeless and street kid population of Hartford the information they need to get help and improve their respective situations. We hope to publish our findings in English and Spanish and may develop a children-centered version. The Resource Guide will then be distributed to a number of sites throughout the city that are easily accessible to everyone in the community, including shelters, schools, libraries, and other organizations in the Hartford area, as well as our own Stand Up For Kids website. The Resource Guide will focus on services available to youth but ultimately will be useful for all homeless people since many services are overlapping and are not youth-specific. This first objective of the publication thus will be to inform to provide access. Our Team also intends for the Resource Guide to serve community leaders, organization directors, and service providers; in other words, to inform to improve services provided. The Website will be developed to provide web access to the resources for the at-risk, homeless and street kid population as well as to present our findings in the Street Youth Report (Outcome 4) on the internet.

Deliverables for Outcome 3:

- Organize volunteers to gather data and information on resources to put in the guide DUE – March 2006
- Editing information in guide DUE – April 2006
- Finding some resources to sponsor the guide's publication DUE – April 2006
- Finding places to distribute guides to make sure it reaches those that need the information DUE – April 2006
- ***Final version of Resource Guide DUE - April 14, 2006
- Compiling resources and creating links on the website, which will be accessible to those who use the internet DUE – April 2006

- Making the website viewer friendly and accessible to all that come to use it DUE – April 2006
- Getting permission from all sites we will link on the website DUE – April 2006
- Finding ways to get the website address advertised so people know it exists DUE – May 2006
- ***Final version of Website DUE – April 28, 2006

Measures of Success for Outcome 3:

- At least 800 copies of Resource Guide distributed to libraries, schools, shelters, and other youth gathering places by May 2006.
- At least 20% (100) of Resource Guide copies no longer remain at distribution sites one month following release.
- Operational Website by April 28, 2006.
- If hits can be tracked, at least 50 hits on the Website in first month of operation.

Outcome 4: Raise the awareness of the general population about homelessness and youth.

The Street Youth Report will synthesize the findings of our interviews and surveys and will educate the general public about the issues facing the at-risk, homeless and street kid population of Hartford (i.e. inform to raise awarenessⁱⁱ). Our Team will distribute these resources throughout service providers’ organizations, schools, churches and other community gathering sites. To kickoff the raising awareness campaign we will hold a “Community Presentation,” to which members of the Hartford community will be invited, to present our findings to the public in an open forum. This may occur in conjunction with our Public Allies Presentation of Learning. We will also try to present at public hearings and meetings (e.g. with CT Coalition to End Homelessness and the Mayor’s Commission to End Chronic Homelessness).

Deliverables for Outcome 4:

- ***Final draft of Street Youth Report DUE – April 2006
- Find a location for the Community Presentation DUE – March 2006
- Send out invitations DUE – April 2006
- Create and send out a flyer DUE – April 2006
- Decide on information that will be presented DUE – April 2006
- Decide who will be invited DUE – March 2006
- Decide when all flyers and invitations will be sent out DUE – March 2006
- ***Tentative date of Community Presentation – May 18, 2006

Measures of Success for Outcome 4:

- At least 500 Reports distributed within public, business, and non-profit sectors by May 2006.
- At least 75% of attendees to Community Presentation report an increased awareness about the issues surrounding homelessness and youth in Hartford (measured through self-survey).

Outcome 5: Determine whether a Hartford chapter of the SUFK organization should be developed.

With the help of our advisory committee, we will determine whether or not Stand up for Kids is a good fit for the city of Hartford. This will involve close communication among SUFK national, our Team, and our Advisory Committee. During our community mapping process we will have an ongoing dialogue with SUFK concerning Hartford's resource and service organizations as well as its needs to determine whether a Hartford chapter of SUFK would benefit the youth population. The survey and service identification materials provided by SUFK will act as a starting point to help inform our work; discussion with SUFK administration and other SUFK chapters will serve as a definitive aid in formally evaluating the potential success of SUFK in Hartford. We will aim to identify leadership within the Advisory Committee to carry on our project and potentially encourage next year's Ally class to continue it.

Deliverables for Outcome 5:

- Identify committed and interested leadership within Advisory Committee DUE – May 2006
- Determine fitness of SUFK to Hartford DUE – May 2006

Measures of Success for Outcome 5:

- Identified leadership to continue homeless youth project and prepare following year Ally class by May 2006.
- An informed and consensus decision is reached by the Team and Committee on whether to develop a SUFK chapter in Hartford by May 2006.

RESPONSIBILITY

As described above the steps in our project will require the active involvement of our Team, our Advisory Committee, the volunteers recruited to help carry out surveys and community conversations, the SUFK national organization and chapters, non-profit organizations and service providers of the at-risk, homeless and street kid population, and, most importantly, the youth of Hartford. Our Team has currently determined the following ten **roles** to be filled and **responsibilities** carried out by the listed members of our Team:

- Advisory Committee Liaisons (Jessica Harrison and Sasha Levy): Coordinate Committee meetings, communicate regularly with Committee, sit on all Committee meetings, serve as link between Team and Committee, raise concerns of Team to Committee, and convey advice of Committee to Team. Also act as point people to develop leadership within Committee.
- Data Manager (Jessica Harrison): Compiles and manages all data from community mapping process including (but not limited to): interview results, contact information, and resource descriptions.
- Meeting Facilitator (Katrina Council): Drafts agenda and facilitates every Project meeting. (Agenda must be out in email form 24 hours prior to Project meeting).
- Outreach/Communications Director (Sasha Levy): Acts as the point person between our Team and the community. Reviews all communication sent on behalf of our Team to the

community and is responsible for reaching out to community members for our Team. Primary fundraiser and grant writer.

- Project Manager (Joe Picoraro): Oversees timing and implementation of plan. Checks in with team members on their progress. Holds team members accountable to their self-scripted workplans.
- Secretary (Amanda Yoczik): Keeps all records of our Team activities. Records all Project meeting minutes and reports them out to our Team within 48 hours. Completes TSP section of the Personal Impact and Service Documentation system for our Team.
- StandUp For Kids Liaison (Jessica Harrison): Responsible for all communications between SUFK national organization and our Team.
- Treasurer (Shontrice Starks): Manages all financial aspects of our Project. Manages the budget and raises financial concerns to our Team. Administers Thank You notes and appreciation letters to our collaborators.
- Volunteer Director (Lauren Nuckols): Recruits, educates and coordinates all volunteers and volunteer activities of our Project. Acts as point person between volunteers and our Team and helps develop the integration of volunteers into our Project.
- Website Coordinator (Katrina Council): Develops and coordinates implementation of Hartford Public Allies Team Service Project website.

Each team member will develop a **workplan** for each significant portion of work they undertake in service to the Project's goals. We will use the established Public Ally Individual Development Plan as the format to complete these workplans. The Project Manager will be responsible for overseeing that these workplans are completed and will hold team members **accountable** for completing the committed work therein.

We will also have a weekly check-in on Wednesday so that we can update one another on our work in these roles. This will help us to monitor our progress. We will complete a progress report halfway through the project that critically reflects on our work until that point. This report will be substantive and will serve as good material for our final Project presentation.

Our **Advisory Committee** will also play a central role in our evaluation process. We will regularly consult the members of our Committee to evaluate the progress of our Project and gain input on future action. They will be able to critique our work and our Project as it unfolds. They will have a chance to evaluate the directions we take, and to determine whether it makes sense for us to implement certain aspects of the Project. They will also be able to evaluate the success of the Project, and to help us in the final decision of whether StandUp For Kids is a good fit in Hartford.

We will engage our Committee by inviting them to one of our Project meetings per month so that they can give us pointers on how to improve our Project. We expect the Committee to meet once a month. We will conduct our meetings at various places, such as the Hartford satellite office at Veeder Place or the homes of the members of our Team.

Volunteers will serve a crucial role in our Project. **Volunteer recruitment** will be through various outlets, including:

- United Way
- Hartford AmeriCorps (article in newsletter; members have permission to earn extra service hours with us.)

- Area colleges and universities (community service centers, career centers, relevant academic programs such as Sociology)
- Articles & submissions to certain local free papers such as the Hartford Undercurrent
- CCYF mailing list
- Word of mouth

Volunteers will complete an application and interview with Lauren Nuckols, Volunteer Director, with other Allies present if time permits. Once accepted, the volunteer will be provided with an in-depth overview of our Project and our interviewing and surveying methods. They will meet the team and then, if conducting interviews themselves, will meet the people who run the shelters, case workers, etc. with whom we hope to have an established positive relationship. On the first day, an Ally may go to the shelters with the volunteer to help the volunteer become acclimated. Volunteers are requested to work with us for at least two hours a week for four weeks.

If the volunteer is not earning hours for a specific end, s/he will work on an honor system, which will be supported by the number of surveys completed. If the volunteer is earning hours for an end, we will track those hours in cooperation with the shelter supervisors, who will be requested to sign for the hours. Volunteers will submit all survey results to the Volunteer Director, who will subsequently give the results to the Data Manager for compilation. The Volunteer Director will maintain an excel chart to track volunteers, contact info, hours served, dates, and the number of interviews completed by each volunteer. She will check-in with volunteers on a bi-weekly basis to stay on top of their hours and their results. Upon ending their volunteer service term, volunteers will be requested to complete an evaluation form, in order to evaluate the experience, and to enable the Volunteer Director to become a better volunteer manager/supervisor.

OPPORTUNITY

Our Team foresees several obstacles to our described goals. The one most pressing is the **access to, rapport with and communication with the at-risk, homeless and street kid population** of Hartford. The homeless are a challenge to locate and, because of privacy issues, it is difficult to get into shelters to conduct surveys of them. Because the homeless population is often beyond the “radar” of the community there is no straightforward procedure for gaining access to them. We hope to overcome this challenge through the guidance of SUFK and the community leaders and organizations that strive to serve homeless youth. We intend to develop relationships of trust that encourage open and honest dialogue with the at-risk, homeless and street kid population through recruitment of volunteers that most closely connect with and maintain consistent contact with them. As they are often left out by most of the people in their lives this is a fundamental challenge of this population and we ultimately hope SUFK will provide them the opportunity to develop trust and connectedness with the community at large.

Our Team foresees the internal challenge of **conflicting views and separate vested interests**. It is our hope that we will improve our ability to identify the common threads within our diversity and pursue those ends with the coordination of our individual strengths and talents.

Our Team foresees **redundancy in the system**. We anticipate the services and resources of Hartford to be uncoordinated and often overlapping and, in some areas, severely lacking. It

will be challenging to sort through these in order to assess the city's needs and determine the fit of SUFK.

Our Team foresees the challenge of **time management and conflicting commitments**. Because the Americorps Public Allies apprenticeship is a demanding program and each of us leads a separate and full life, we anticipate the management of our individual and collective time to play an important role in our Team's success.

Lastly, our Team anticipates that the **long-term vision** of our project may lead to the absence of a **concrete conclusion** at the close our commitment. If an SUFK chapter is determined necessary and sufficient for Hartford, we will need to put in place the elements to continue the project after we discontinue our efforts.

In many respects our TSP depends on the **involvement of the community**. The success of the community mapping portion will rely directly on our ability to engage the volunteers, community organizations, and at-risk, homeless and street kids of Hartford. Because of this we will communicate regularly (through modes that best suit them, e.g. telephone, email, in person visit) with these groups and individuals and seek to maintain a positive and productive relationship with them. This will be accomplished, in part, through constant dialogue and assessment of needs. We will seek to ask questions constantly to find out what will aid our constituents in helping us map the community.

SUSTAINABILITY

When initially deciding on a project, our group voiced a concern of sustainability. We wanted to do something that would have a lasting benefit for the community and have a project that would possibly continue after the end of the program year. This was a major factor in our final decision for our Project. To ensure that the benefits of our Project would be maintained after the completion of our apprenticeship, our group came up with a number of ideas in order to keep our Project lasting and successful.

The **resource guide will be available long after our Project has ended**. If Hartford is a good fit for a chapter of **StandUp For Kids**, we hope that a **chapter** will be founded in the city. Not only would the existence of this organization assist us in the steps to bringing a chapter to Hartford, it could possibly ensure the sustainability of our Project and exceed the success of our Project by further meeting the needs of the homeless and at risk youth in Hartford once they have become established.

Our Advisory Committee will also assist us in carrying out our Project. We have drafted guidelines for our Committee (modeled after the Government of Ontario Municipal Heritage Committees) outlining the **Committee's purpose, expectations and roles**:

Purpose

The Advisory Committee is charged:

- To advise and make recommendations to the Hartford Public Allies Team
- To provide knowledge and expertise about homeless, youth, and the community(ies) of Hartford
- To be sensitive to the community which it represents
- To promote good will and trust within the homeless and youth community and the Hartford community

- To uphold the Public Ally core values of Collaboration, Inclusion, Community Participation, Continuous Learning, and Integrity.

Expectations

Each member of the Advisory Committee is expected to:

- Show up to scheduled meetings (one per month to fit their schedule)
- Communicate regularly with Advisory Committee Liaisons
- Facilitate the sustainability of the Project beyond our termination date in June 2006
- Fulfill the overall Purpose of the Advisory Committee

Composition

The Committee shall be composed of community leaders that have direct experience and knowledge of the at-risk, homeless or street kid population, the homeless population, or the youth population, of Hartford.

It will include no less than five (5) and no more than twelve (12) Committee Members with at least one (1), but preferably two (2), youth.

Role

The Advisory Committee will interact directly with the Public Ally Hartford Team unless the committee deems it necessary to conduct meetings and activities on its own and report proceedings to the Team. The Team reserves all decision-making rights of the Project.

Along with StandUp For Kids, the Committee will be part of our transition of leadership for our Project. Throughout the duration of our Project, our Team hopes to identify and appoint a specific point person within the Committee to head the Committee after our termination date. Their main responsibility will be to keep our Project successfully benefiting the community after our term is finished. This may involve collaborating with other organizations, like StandUp For Kids and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. We hope that if a StandUp For Kids chapter is needed in Hartford, the Committee will be willing and able to make the next steps to make this existence possible. The Committee will also be encouraged to introduce our Project to the following year's Ally class and present it as an option for their Team Service Project.

COLLABORATION

Collaboration involves three main components that are essential to providing homeless youth the opportunities they deserve and the chance to succeed: **trust**, **support**, and **connectedness**. Our youth and our homeless need more than a solitary conversation or a phone number to call; they need a community.

We will build the **trust** of the **resource and service providers** and garner their **support** of the homeless youth population.

Through sensitive, receptive and respectful dialogue with the **homeless youth** we will aim to build **trust** in our Team and the community of Hartford. We will demonstrate the **support** systems available in the city and reemphasize their importance in the Hartford community.

In all activities we will make **connections**, from homeless youth to resources, from service providers to other service providers, from the **greater Hartford community** to the challenges facing homeless youth.

We also hope to foster the development of **leaders**. Each community needs leaders of various types and roles. Within the **homeless youth** we hope to instill the opportunity to become leaders. Within our **Advisory Committee** we hope to develop leaders to carry on our project. We will look to our **volunteers** to serve as role models and leaders of their neighborhoods and peer groups. **Leadership** will be the key to our lasting impact.

Our Advisory Committee will (tentatively) be composed of:

Martha Jackson
City Of Hartford
(860)547-1426 x.7552

Kenya Rutland
KJR Consulting
(860)286-9557
kenya@kjrconsulting.com

John C. Thomas
Our Piece of the Pie
(860)296-5068
john.thomas@opp.org

Sally Mancini
End Hunger CT!
(860)560-2100
smancini@endhungerct.org

T.T
Youth Build
(860)216-4020
goofeytroop@aol.com

Tyshone Anthony
Youth Build
tyshoneanthony@yahoo.com

Muhammed Ansari
Open Hearth Shelter
(860)922-1160 or (860)525-3447 x 118
ansari@theopenhearth.org
P.O Box 1077- Hartford, CT 06106

Maurice Mark
Tamara Gray
(860)231-9385
travisl@rp.epals.com

Latiqua Patterson
Kalisha Patterson (parent)
(860)206-6923

Tiffany Bell
YWCA of Greater Hartford Region
(860)727-0645 x. 18
102 Pliny Street- Hartford, CT 06106

Eliza Halsey
New Haven Program Manager
Public Allies Connecticut
203-776-PACT (7228)
elizah@publicallies.org

We have established relationships with the following people:

Richard L.Koca
Founder and Chief Executive Director
StandUp For Kids
1510 Front Street Suite 100
San Diego, California 92101
800.365.4KID
RickK@standupforkids.org

Rick has been our primary contact with the StandUp For Kids national office. He has provided us with survey resources and SUFK materials and has contacted the 37 other individuals in the Hartford area interested in SUFK. He will be consulted regularly throughout the duration of our Project on its direction and outcomes and will play a crucial role in the process to bring SUFK to Hartford (if it indeed is determined to be appropriate).

John Thomas
Senior Program Director
Our Piece of the Pie, Inc. (OPP)
427 Franklin Ave
Hartford, CT 06114
T) 860.296.5068 F) 860.296.3477
john.thomas@opp.org

John has volunteered to be a member of our advisory committee. The organization itself will also be an important collaboration. It provides some important youth services and so it will be a great resource to put on our map/guide.

Hartford AmeriCorps
Julia Mastronardi
Julia.Mastronardi@opp.org
Zohra Ayub
Zohra.Ayub@opp.org

The Hartford AmeriCorps program has agreed to collaborate with us in volunteer recruitment. In their weekly newsletter Lauren Nuckols will be writing a brief article about our project and volunteer positions available. The corps members need to earn volunteer hours, and the staff is allowing this to count towards their hours. Also, Zohra has volunteered before with SUFK in California, and she would like to help us in any way possible.

Rose Fichera Eagen
Christ Church Cathedral Soup Kitchen
860-527-7231 (office)
860-523-8700 (home)

Rose has organized the soup kitchen and got it started, she started off with 40 homeless, usually men, and it has grown to an average of 100+ every Sunday. Rose will be allowing us to come in an interview the men and we will be helping with serving at a least two times a month and aiding in the collecting of slightly worn clothing.

Captain Travis Lock
Pastor/Corps Officer
The Salvation Army – Southern New England Division
100 Nelson Mandela Way
PO Box 928
Hartford, CT 06143
860.543.8421

Captain Lock provided us space to hold our Community Conversation and has offered his help in recruiting volunteers and assessing homeless youth.

We intend to cultivate relationships with the following organizations:

Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness
Mayor's Commission to End Chronic Homelessness
The Hartford Continuum of Care
Leadership Greater Hartford
American Red Cross Emergency Shelter
Department of Social Services
Department of Children and Families
Hartford Interval House
My Sisters Place I
My Sisters Place II
My Sisters Place III
The Salvation Army Marshall House Family Shelter
The Salvation Army Marshall House Youth Shelter
South Park Inn
Mercy Housing
YMCA Youth Emergency Shelter
Community Renewal Team Supportive Housing (I and III)
Hartford hospitals
Hartford public schools
Hartford Police Department

ⁱ Chrysalis Center is a non-profit healthcare agency that provides rehabilitation and healthcare support to individuals and families that are homeless, have a mental illness, suffer from substance abuse, and/ or have HIV/AIDS).

ⁱⁱ We will be working not to directly influence policy decisions, but to educate the public and to raise awareness, and so our project does adhere to all Americorps guidelines. We will not be involved in any prohibited activities while doing this project.