

YCoP Links

The Youth Community of Practice (YCoP) global listserv links professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to effective youth development ideas, information and best practices to help:

- *Design more effective, sustainable youth programs, and
- *Better integrate youth participation in USAID development projects

In This Links:

A Few Examples of Youth Work in the USA

While operating in different cultural and economic environments, youth programmers in international settings may find helpful this sampling of USA youth work resources and programs:

- Announcement - **Wanted: YCoP Member ideas & Nominations**
- Karen Pittman - A thought-leader in youth work
- The Forum for Youth Investment - Helping communities ready youth for life
- Youth Today - A youth work newspaper
- Two State-wide Youth Programs in Alaska: Spirit of Youth & Alaska ICE, The impact of a unified focus
- Search Institute - 40 Developmental Assets
- SERVENet & Youth Service America (YSA) - A database and youth volunteer resource center

Announcement

YCoP Links welcomes reader ideas, resources, best practices on effective youth program and youth participation and member nominations. Hit "reply" to send comments and nominations to YCoP Links.

Please share YCoP Links with other professionals and youth working with youth programs.

Karen Pittman

Karen Pittman is co-founder of the Forum for Youth Investment and a thought-leader in the field of youth work. In 1992, she wrote ahead of the thought curve in an article appearing in *Youth Today*, the newspaper on youth work, "There is an unprecedented opportunity to move a national youth agenda that has development, rather than deterrence, as its base." Her foresight has become a reality and has helped promote, shape and focus youth work in the U.S. and elsewhere for many years. Ms. Pittman's 15 years of thought-provoking, action-pushing, vision-inspiring articles appearing in *Youth Today* and other writings on youth work can be found at the Forum for Youth Investment website. (see the Forum description below.) [Here's a sample:](#)

Youth Consultants for Change

"Youth participation" is a given in youth agencies. "Youth as resources" has almost become cliché. "Youth organizing" is the new powerhouse phrase. But, consider "youth consulting for community change." That's food for thought. Youth consulting for community change takes this idea to the next level. Staff members train youth to act as generators within community organizations. Youth help organizations generate positive community change. And youth and adult staff come together to support a network of organizations devoted to changing the odds for youth. Pittman, K. (2003, May). *Youth Consultants for Change*. A condensed version of this article appears in *Youth Today*, May 2003, 12(5), 43.

<http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/portaldoc.cfm?LID=F3586C98-FF89-4AF8-AD5D672C2136E159&CID=B7FCD51F-8A51-49D1-8F4EEC2F342E311E>

The Forum for Youth Investment (the Forum) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to helping communities and the nation make sure all young people are **Ready by 21™ — ready for college, work and life**. This goal requires that young people have the supports, opportunities and services needed to prosper and contribute where they live, learn, work, play and make a difference. The Forum provides youth and adult leaders with the information, technical assistance, training, network support and partnership opportunities needed to increase the quality and quantity of youth investment and youth involvement. <http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/> [Here's a sample:](#)

International Insights, Volume II - Youth Participation: Facing the Hard Questions

This volume examines the importance of a sound evidence base for youth participation. Policy makers, governments and international agencies are ready to take youth participation seriously as a strategy for youth development and community development. However, with increased attention has come increased scrutiny. There is a growing need for a credible evidence base that demonstrates that youth participation makes a difference and identifies the practices that really work. This volume discusses the present state of evidence-building efforts. Articles included in this volume: "What Evidence Do We Have that Youth Participation Actually Works?" by the Forum for Youth Investment "Building Evidence: A Long Road, But the Way Is Clear: Steve Mokwena Speaks with Douglas Webb and Rakesh Rajani" by Steve Mokwena "Interview with Caribbean Youth, Edward Registe." The Forum for Youth Investment. (2001, Spring). "Youth Participation: Facing the Hard Questions." *International Insights on Youth and Communities*, Volume 1. Washington, DC: The Forum for Youth Investment. First appeared in *CYD Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 1. See:

http://forumfyi.org/_portalcat2.cfm?LID=D65B7C10-7713-4503-BB136F0D5B011C71 and go to "search" and type in "Youth Participation."

Youth Today, a newspaper read by 70,000 professionals in the youth service field on youth work that is published 10 times a year by the American Youth Work Center.

<http://www.youthtoday.org>

Two State-wide Youth Programs in Alaska with a Unified Focus on Youth

Spirit of Youth (SOY) is dedicated to creating, promoting and recognizing youth involvement in communities across Alaska. Youth engagement takes place through the following programs and events: Positive Youth Media Campaign; Alaska Teen Media Institute; Youth Civic Engagement; Youth Friendly Business Program; Local Recognition; Statewide Annual Awards Banquet. Since 1997, hundreds of positive stories about Alaskan youth have spread through television, radio and local newspapers. SOY reinforces the Developmental Assets all young people need to succeed in life (positive values and skills, adult and peer support, constructive use of time, and positive identity). Spirit of Youth is governed by a Board of Directors and the Teen Council. See: <http://www.spiritofyouth.org/>

The Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement (Alaska ICE) serves as the Youth Advocacy branch of the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB). Through the 40 Developmental Assets and various Community Engagement efforts, Alaska ICE works to give Alaskans at the local level the information, tools and assistance to work together and engage in the shared responsibility of preparing Alaska's children and youth for the future. <http://alaskaice.org> and <http://alaskaice.org/newspaper/kidsthesedays-mar07.pdf>

Search Institute is an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide leadership, knowledge, and resources to promote healthy children, youth, and communities. To accomplish this mission, the institute generates and communicates new knowledge, and brings together community, state, and national leaders. At the heart of the institute's work is the framework of 40 Developmental Assets, which are positive experiences and personal qualities that young people need to grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

SERVEnet.org is the largest database of volunteer opportunities in America. Users can enter their zip code, city, state, skills, interests, and availability and be matched with organizations needing help. <http://www.servenet.org> **Tip Sheets** - One SERVENet resource are tip sheets - short, useful bits of information that program directors and young people with little time to read studies and tool kits can easily use to strengthen their program's effectiveness, sustainability and scale.

http://www.servenet.org/cont/dsp_cont_item_article.cfm?actionType=view&contentId=5271&&timeStamp=15-Apr-0704:28:47. **SERVEnet** is a program of **Youth Service**

[America \(YSA\)](#), a resource center that partners with thousands of organizations committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for young people in America, ages 5-25, to serve locally, nationally, and globally. A strong youth service movement will create healthy communities and foster citizenship, knowledge, and the personal development of young people. YSA envisions a powerful network of organizations committed to making service and service-learning the common expectation and common experience of all young people in America.

To [unsubscribe](#) from the list, users should send an e-mail to listserv@info.usaid.gov with only "[unsubscribe youthcop](#)" in the body of the e-mail. (**No signatures please**).

Mission of YCoP

The Youth Community of Practice provides a forum for professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to gather, consolidate, archive, disseminate and exchange information, knowledge, ideas and best practices, particularly related to the incorporation of youth participation in USAID development projects. The Youth Community of Practice is an informal body of volunteer members, reached through a global list serve and Washington-based chapter. Both the list serve and DC chapter forums include USAID staff, youth practitioners outside of the Agency, and youth themselves. It is jointly sponsored by the office of education in the bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) at USAID and the Education Quality Improvement Program3 (EQUIP3), and implemented by the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC).

Disclosure The information and opinions expressed in materials posted by Youth CoP listserv participants are not necessarily those of the USAID or EQUIP3. USAID and EQUIP3 make no representations or warranties regarding such posted materials. For a copy of the guidelines and/or charter put the request in the subject line of the email and send to: youthcop@lists.info.usaid.gov Participants should be aware that the list is public and not private communication. When participants voluntarily disclose personal information on a list serve, that information can be collected and used by others and may result in unsolicited messages from other people.
