

Parrish Ravelli
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The Problem

Young people under the age of 18 make up more than a quarter of the U.S. population, yet their potential as a generation contribute to a better society is systematically ignored. Our nation is suffering economically, socially and civilly as a result.


The Solution

Empowering young people to participate in effective youth-adult partnerships is a proven, replicable approach to solving community problems.

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Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!)



- A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that started in 2008
- Staff is adults and high school students
- Mission: To empower youth, in partnership with adults, to create community change
- Developed nationally-recognized model of social change through youth empowerment
- Provides training and customized consulting to organizations and individuals to leverage the unique skills of youth

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What does a YOUTH Look Like?!



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The Youth Empowerment Model



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Skill Development

Learning How to Make Change

- Learning the basic facts about a subject matter
- Practicing how to speak in front of policy makers
- Learning about effective teaching and facilitation techniques for peers and youth
- Discovering how to run a group and create action plans



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Critical Awareness

Understanding the Deeper Issue

- Asking the “why” questions: *Why* is the U.S. facing an obesity epidemic?
- Analyzing survey and assessment results
- Strategizing on next steps and target audiences



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Opportunities

Taking action to create community change

- Bring youth to the decision making table...and KEEP them there!
- Allow youth to be at the microphone
- Speak with legislators, write a letter to the editor, start up a postcard campaign, etc



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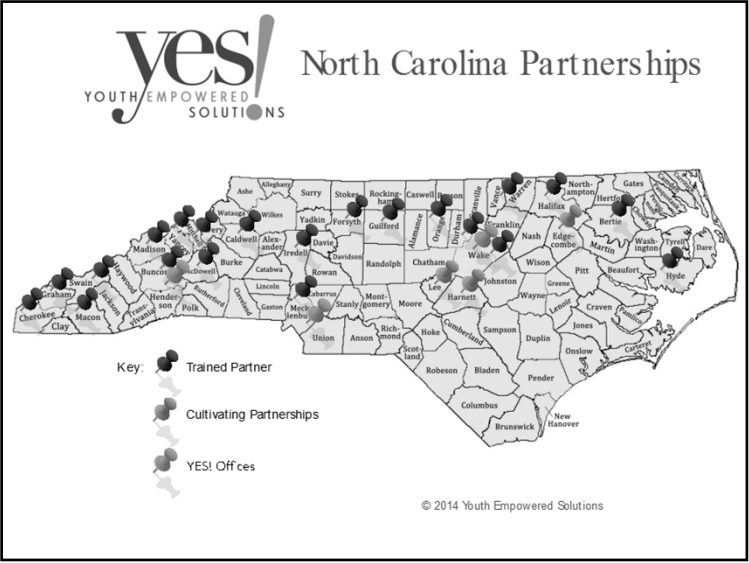
Real Food, Active Living Success Stories

Second Chance Breakfast
Lunch Room Redesign
Healthy Corner Stores
Asheville Transit Work





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Partnership: YES! + NC Alliance of YMCAs

- Align state-level policy focused on Healthy Food Financing and Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure
- Mobilize efforts by providing YES! youth & adult leader advocacy trainings and TA to move local policy, system and environmental changes
- Provide oversight of mini-grant funding, link to statewide level policy (NC Alliance of YMCAs)
- Impact the statewide advocacy efforts that support the SOS Southern Strategy
- Trained 30 youth and 20 adult teams –created action plans for local policy change
- Created a mobile food market, shared use agreement, legislative visit to community garden



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Youth Empowered Solutions! Custom Services

- Youth Trainings
- Adult Leader Trainings
- Learning Collaborative
- YES! Appraisal
- Technical Assistance and Consulting
- Resource Creation



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