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Executive Summary 3

1. The meshing of youth development and community building 7
Joel Nitzberg

Youth development is an approach to help young people move toward maturity through sustained relationships and meaningful and empowering experiences. Community building offers a comprehensive approach to strengthening communities. Meshing these approaches creates powerful experiences that change both youth and the communities they live in.

2. Comprehensive community building initiatives—ten years later: What we have learned about the principles guiding the work 17
Anne C. Kubisch

For over twenty years, people across the country have engaged in comprehensive initiatives to strengthen their communities. The lessons learned have focused on changes that extend beyond individuals and what occurs at the community level.

3. Using the coproduction principle: No more throwaway kids 27
Edgar S. Cahn, Christine Gray

Coproduction provides an approach to youth development that says: enable youth to use the skills they have to help others; honor that contribution with rewards; and use the process of helping others as an opportunity for youth to gain social and communications skills, self-knowledge, self-respect, problem-solving competence, anger management, and conflict resolution abilities.

4. Youth using research: Learning through social practice, community building, and social change 39
Alexander Lynn

Students, teachers, and staff are learning how to develop an educational philosophy and practice that is predicated on serving the community.

5. "I love ballet": Arts incentives for adolescent health and community development 49

Lisa S. Fliegel

Art therapy can be a community-linked treatment, integrating the knowledge of diagnostic categories and symptomatology with a therapeutic response grounded in theories of adolescent mental health treatment.

6. Teen Empowerment: Youth, police, and neighbors in partnership 61

Mary Fusoni

The Center for Teen Empowerment inspires young people, and the adults who come in contact with them, to think deeply about the most difficult social problems in their schools and communities.

7. Hand-drumming to build community: The story of the Whittier Drum Project 73

Nathan Neil Stone

Drumming can be used in a tangible way to focus on building community. The power of drumming includes enabling youth to express their individual voices while blending with a group.

8. Somerville Youth Council 85

Remi Manoela Owadokun, Pearlíe Avilés

The Somerville Youth Council was developed by youth over a four-month period to create opportunities for youth in this Massachusetts city to identify the needs of their peers and formulate strategies to address these needs.

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