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Make a difference in your community.

Economic crisis... the words everyone uses to explain why school funding and programs that benefit the poor and the marginalized are being dropped, why more children are falling through the cracks. Programs that foster community, keep kids off the street and out of trouble, and build strong connections that go beyond the classroom are required, and we must find innovative ways to bridge the gap between the budget crisis and the desperate need most communities are facing.

What Can You Do?

One solution that can benefit the entire community is the development of strategic partnerships between corporations, faith-based organizations, and non-profits. Addressing community needs through strategic partnerships offers a timely, powerful solution and provides an opportunity to build a stronger community by providing critical support to the education and family support systems when they need help the most. There are many things you can do to help the youth in their community. It all begins with *choosing* to be involved.

Building Relationships

Faith-based and non-profit organizations must partner with businesses whose futures depend on a strong and vital community. To help build relationships in your community, you can:

- Organize paid and non-paid internships with local businesses
- Providing partnership information to interested organizations
- Spearhead supply donations for local schools
- Invite guest speakers to share information about additional opportunities and services

What Faith Based Organizations Can Do

- Pray for the schools in your community
- Host breakfasts for the teachers and provide them with support
- Adopt a school (provide practical training, support, volunteers, tutors)
- Mentor students and provide them with leadership skills

How Other Non-Profits Can Help

- Provide regular workshops that provide training and service for community partners
- Host meetings and act as a liaison between interested agencies to identify needs and solutions

Local Businesses Can Make a Difference

- Act as a liaison with the chamber of commerce, advocating for needed support
- Organize an education committee for the chamber of commerce in your business or community
- Make financial contributions, sponsor after-school programs, and support local programs
- Mentor and provide training to students and teachers and encourage employees to get involved