

Description of youth participation project

Youth participation is the active involvement of children and young people in public life (decision-making and social activities).

Name of project: From a friend to a friend

Cities for Children contact person

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Executive organisation

Name of organisation: Riga Christian Secondary School

Type of organisation: governmental organization

Website: www.rkry.lv

Additional information: -

Project description

The project provides a solution to the following question/problem: how to involve youth into charity projects, youth passivity

Project idea conceived by: Student government of Riga Christian Secondary School

Date started: few months before main activity

Date of completion (main activity): 27.01.2007.

Targets: to develop in youngsters feelings of brotherly love, the ability to hear and help their peers in grieves, pains and difficulties

Target group: school aged youth, the children for department of blood cancer of Children clinical hospital

The project reached approximately 300 young people

Working method: (for example, *making an inventory of the needs of young people in the community, communicating policies, organising a workshop, attracting youth and senior officials to the workshop, conducting the workshop, linking youth and senior officials with future plans, etc.*)

Attracting youth to the concert with main aim to raise money for children suffering from blood cancer

How are young people involved? Youngsters started with formation of group of organizers and creation of the idea. Team gathered information on sponsors, involved volunteer musicians, made good cooperation with the head of the hospital and mass media.

What is the role of young people? They organize all activities by themselves without adult supervision.

How many young people participated? More than 200 youngsters

How many young people were involved in the organisation of the project? The core group of 6 – 10 youngsters from school's student government came up with this idea and they involved volunteers from school to deal with all necessary things.

What was the role of the executive organisation? School acted as a supporter and provided concert with appropriate premises.

What other organisations were involved? Different popular music bands and newspaper "Education and culture"

Finance

What is the budget? This was charity project and it was organized only by support of musicians, school and students

Who provided the finances? Earned means were donations for children suffering from blood cancer which were used together with hospital stuff to purchase the gifts and toys for children. As it is described above, musicians participated on volunteer basis and other technical support was provided by school.

Outcome

Have the targets been achieved? The targets have been achieved completely. Organizers believe that other youngsters have learned:

- to understand the pain of other person and realize importance of feeling of support;

- to get knew friend and understand the strengths of cooperation;
- to evaluate own abilities, opportunities and qualities;
- to develop event management skills witch is very important for they future!

What were the success factors? The most effective way to deliver information to youth is involving youth in the delivering processes. The success factor is complete trust in youth.

What were the pitfalls? The only pitfall was lack of publicity!

Future plans: It has become a tradition to organise such charity projects involving famous Latvian musicians and next project will be organize in April 2008.

Quotes and opinions of young people:

Rihards R. "The idea and concert atmosphere was so positive and inspiring, that I can only be happy for youngster's courage to organise such event. Positive was the thing that bands performed their music without any reward. I am satisfied to realize that there are good people on the earth".

Rūdofls T. "This was the best school's event I've ever participated!!! It was so fun and merrily that all participants were involved into activities. And I am exalted of thought that our donations will reach children suffering from blood cancer. Thank you for great event and good luck in future".

Any other remarks: In total LVL 544,64 (Euro 775) were collected which is great number for school event

Photograph: -