

IDENTIFY ISSUES AND ASSETS

Session 7

60 minutes

OBJECTIVE:

Youth will understand the differences between charity and change. Participants will apply these concepts to the issues or problems in their community.

Charity and Change

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION:

- Paper, pens, markers, and clipboards.
- Copy *Charity and Change* (Master Copy 3.7) before the session: one for each participant.

I. OPENING: ATTENDANCE, SNACKS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AGENDA OVERVIEW (10 MINUTES)

Opening Circle Statement (Around the World): Name a person or an organization working to make positive change in your community. Write down what youth say where everyone can see it. You will use this later in the session.

II. WARM UP: BIG WIND BLOWS (10 MINUTES)

Arrange a circle of chairs, providing one less chair than there are people in the group. Stand in the center of the circle, with everyone else sitting in one of the chairs, and name a quality or strength that you think members in the group display. Anyone that thinks this quality applies to them should stand up and switch seats. When this happens, take one of the empty seats. One person will now be left without a seat. This person then names a different strength or quality and then tries to find an empty seat when other youth stand up to switch. Do this about five times, prompting if necessary. Debrief: Is it hard or easy to talk about and admit to your strengths? Why or why not?



III. CHARITY AND CHANGE (30 MINUTES)

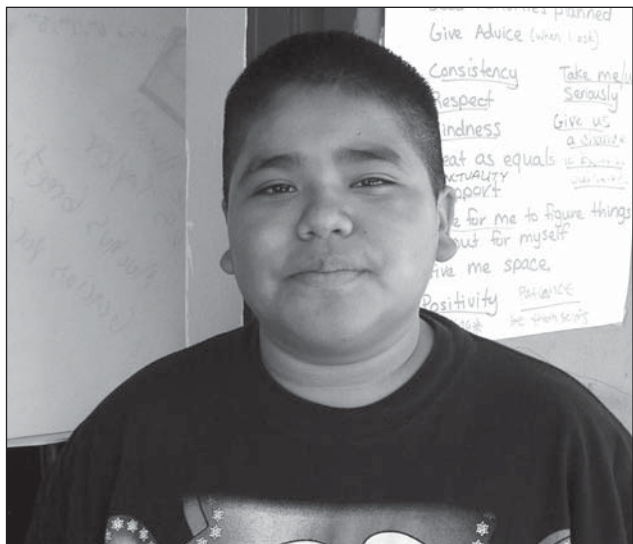
Step 1: Brainstorm examples of charity and change. Start with an example like homelessness: Charity would be volunteering at a soup kitchen or setting up a homeless shelter; change would be figuring out why homelessness occurs and finding ways to prevent it. Think of examples of charity and change throughout the world. Examples range from donating clothes to the poor (charity) to helping the unemployed find jobs (change). See example below.

Problem/Issue	Charity	Change
Homelessness	Spend a Saturday helping at a soup kitchen.	Interview homeless people about why they became homeless, then acting on those reasons.
Litter	Spend an afternoon cleaning up a park.	Raise money and provide bright-colored trash cans for areas where there are none.

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Step 2: Hand out the *Charity and Change* worksheets to all participants and divide youth into pairs. Have youth:

- (1) Identify the differences between charity and change using the examples from the opening circle.
- (2) Brainstorm examples of charity and change related to their selected issue or problem.

Step 3: Have pairs share out some of the things they discussed. Ask for responses from the group.

IV. DEBRIEF AND CLOSING (10 MINUTES)

- Which seems more powerful in addressing the issues that concern us – charity, change, or both? How do charity and change work in combination?
- How will these ideas help us in thinking about our project? How does research connect with charity and change?

Example from Practice:

YELL program youth used both charity and change approaches. For example, youth researched student experiences of bullying and stereotyping, and presented the findings to school leaders. They then made several recommendations, including a peer mediation program, teacher training in positive classroom management, and bringing the Challenge Day curriculum to their school. To promote Challenge Day, they wrote letters to local businesses and held fundraisers to help raise money for the one-day event.

Research Topic Debate Preparation

TOPIC: _____

**1. WHY SHOULD WE FOCUS ON THIS TOPIC OVER THE OTHER(S)? WHY IS THIS TOPIC IMPORTANT?
WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF THIS TOPIC?**

**2. WHAT ARE SOME WAYS THAT RESEARCH ON THIS TOPIC MIGHT HELP TO CREATE CHANGE?
HOW CAN OUR RESEARCH ON THIS TOPIC LEAD TO IMPROVEMENT OR POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS?**

3. WHO DO YOU THINK WOULD SUPPORT YOU AT THE SCHOOL AND IN THE COMMUNITY?

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD RESEARCH TOPIC:

- Specific and focused
- Affects people in your school and community
- Easy to understand and explain what it is and why it matters
- Important to other youth
- Could use more examination and deeper understanding
- Has realistic or possible solutions