



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS COMING TO DALLAS, TEXAS

(Minneapolis, MN, July 26, 2005) —This November, nearly 1,500 adults and youth of all ages and from all backgrounds will unite at the *Healthy Communities • Healthy Youth Conference* in Dallas, Texas to celebrate their efforts in a growing social movement to create a world where all young people are valued and thrive.

Now in its ninth year, this energizing, intergenerational get-together is designed to equip youth and adults with the knowledge, tools, and motivation to make positive, long-lasting differences in their communities and young people. The Conference incorporates Search Institute's<sup>SM</sup> framework of Developmental Assets<sup>TM</sup>—the qualities, values, and skills that research has shown all young people need for positive and successful development—into a variety of learning sessions, assemblies, and special events.

This year, the Conference will explore the theme: *Creating Intergenerational Community* and will showcase the ways youth and adults are building bridges across generations to unite communities. More than 80 learning sessions hosted by experts in Developmental Assets will feature strategies, best practices, and research findings on how asset-based initiatives work across sectors, forge new collaborations, engage youth in leadership opportunities, and bring elders and young people together. Conference attendees will benefit from insightful assemblies, sector mini-assemblies, and chat rooms; spend an evening at the *Circle R Ranch*; relax or connect with others in the Lava Lounge, Art Studio, and Youth Center; browse products and services in the exhibit hall; and explore a wealth of other opportunities available only at the Conference.

This year's highlights:

- **Opening assembly:** Search Institute President **Peter Benson**, and students **Elizabeth Steger** and **Ali Bandedali**, will share their personal stories about creating strong intergenerational communities; Founder and Chair of *Free the Children*, **Craig Kielburger's**

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presentation, *Moving From Me to We*, will give examples of how people of all ages can improve their lives through service to others; and **Larry Long**, America's Troubadour and Founder of *Elder's Wisdom—Children's Song* will sing his song, *Be the Change*.

- **Dr. Nancy Henkin:** Join Dr. Henkin, Executive Director of Temple University's Center for Intergenerational Learning, to explore ways and real examples of how youth and adults can serve as resources to each other and to their communities.
- **Corey Jones:** Mr. Jones leads a fun, interactive assembly that shows how family stories can help strengthen relationships across generations and equip youth with the sense of self they need to succeed. Adults will share their past trials and triumphs and youth will choose from a variety of theater techniques to modernize their stories and demonstrate how yesterday's lessons apply today.
- **Don Coyhis:** President of White Bison, Inc., an American Indian non-profit organization, Mr. Coyhis will blend current events with Native American prophecy to provide a vision of possibilities for communities and show how a *small* group of people can create *powerful* community change.
- **Drum Café:** During this unique assembly, participants will become part of an energetic percussion experience—an exciting exercise in collaboration, listening, and contribution.
- **Circle R Ranch:** Thursday evening promises a “Taste of Texas,” in which participants head out to *Circle R Ranch* for an all-you-can-eat barbecue dinner, a DJ with line dance instruction, outdoor camp fire, horseshoe pits and volleyball courts, billiards, and electronic games.
- **Youth Center:** The “place to be” for youth, the center hosts an Art Studio, Cyber Cafe, movies, games, pool, coffee shop, karaoke, hip-hop dancing with *DANCE Empowerment*, a chance to win cool prizes, and more!

For more information, Conference fees, exhibitor or sponsorship opportunities, and a downloadable Conference registration booklet, go to [www.search-institute.org/hchy](http://www.search-institute.org/hchy). If you are interested in exhibiting at the Conference, contact Shirley Henning at 800-958-8875, or [shirley@bestmeetings.com](mailto:shirley@bestmeetings.com).

Search Institute is an independent, nonprofit, nonsectarian organization whose mission is to provide leadership, knowledge, and resources to promote healthy children, youth, and communities. For more information on the 40 Developmental Assets, visit: [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org).

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