



## The *Community Guide to Helping America's Youth*

The *Community Guide to Helping America's Youth* located at [www.helpingamericasyouth.gov](http://www.helpingamericasyouth.gov) is an Internet resource designed to connect caring adults within communities and help them work together to make a difference in the lives of youth.

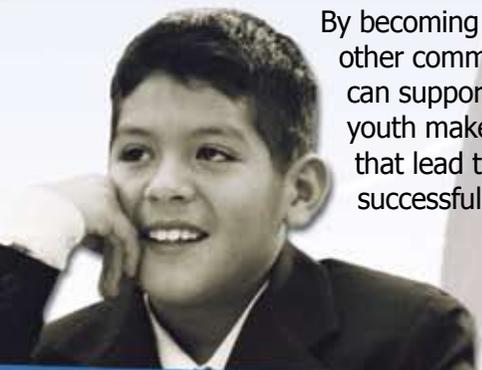


## A Commitment to *Helping America's Youth*

In his 2005 State of the Union Address, the President announced a broad effort to engage all Americans in helping young people become healthy adults. He asked Mrs. Laura Bush to lead this important effort, which became known as the *Helping America's Youth Initiative*.

*Helping America's Youth* is a nationwide effort to raise awareness about the challenges facing our youth, particularly boys, and to motivate caring adults to connect with youth in three key areas: family, school, and community. What matters most in a child's life is a loving, caring adult—whether that is a parent, teacher, coach, clergy member, neighbor, or mentor. Parents and family are the first and most important influence in every child's life, providing a foundation of love and support.

By becoming actively involved, other community members can support parents and help youth make better choices that lead to healthier, more successful lives.



## Community Partnerships

The President and Mrs. Bush believe that caring adults can also be effective when they are part of a community effort. Community partnerships bring together individuals—such as teachers, mentors, neighbors, parents, clergy members, police officers, social service providers and others—that can have a positive impact on a child's life.

## Care, Connect, Commit!

To help you, the *Community Guide to Helping America's Youth* offers advice and an assortment of tools:

- The *Community Guide* includes examples of how individuals can "**Get Connected**" with youth in families, schools and communities.
- The **Community Assessment Guide** is a step-by-step approach to learning more about your community. It explains what information is needed to describe the problem, where to get it, and how to utilize it.
- Using the **MAPIT** tool, you can access and display data that is already known and available, such as census data, and Federal resources.

- The **Community Resource Inventory** or CRI is a simple database that you and your coalition members can use to help locate services, programs and other resources. The CRI can show the location of these resources on a map.
- The **Program Tool** database contains programs that have been evaluated and found to successfully deal with risky behaviors. You can use this information to develop responses to your community problem.

Forming an effective community partnership can be rewarding and challenging. The *Community Guide to Helping America's Youth* can help you succeed. Start by exploring the *Guide* at [www.helpingamericasyouth.gov](http://www.helpingamericasyouth.gov).



## The Power and Influence of Caring Adults

We all have a part to play in *Helping America's Youth*. You can be a caring adult in the life of a young person by following the 3 Cs:

- Care**—take an interest, show concern, reach out
- Connect**—establish a relationship, provide guidance and support
- Commit**—pledge yourself, invest yourself over time



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