



### Youth First Events and Activities

- Packets of Success
- Grant and Scholarship Program
- Skate Park Event
- Youth Page in City Newsletter
- Talent Show
- Teen Center
- McKnight Project
- Many other events and activities sponsored by community organizations that serve youth

### Youth Advisory Council

is made up of High School and Middle School students from the Coon Rapids area who are making a difference in their community. Their goals are:

- to plan and organize activities for the youth of Coon Rapids
- to make youth aware of existing activities
- provide a youth perspective to the city
- contribute to the betterment of their community and schools
- to create a Teen Center in Coon Rapids.

Youth First is based on the asset building model created by the Search Institute of Minnesota. Search Institute is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the healthy development of all children. Search Institute conducts research and evaluation, develops publications and practical tools, and provides training and technical assistance to others dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of youth.

**Want to know more about Search Institute?**  
 Go to [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org)

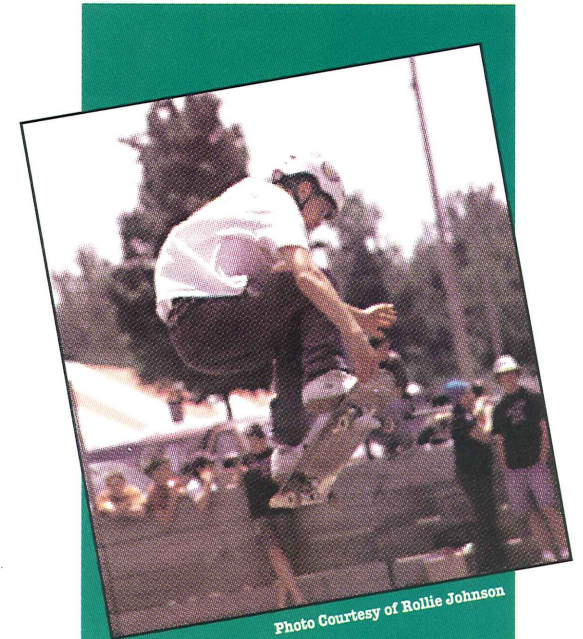
© 2002 Adapted from Andover, Anoka, Ramsey Youth First

11155 Robinson Drive  
 Coon Rapids, MN 55433-3761



**Coon Rapids**

Foundations For Our Community



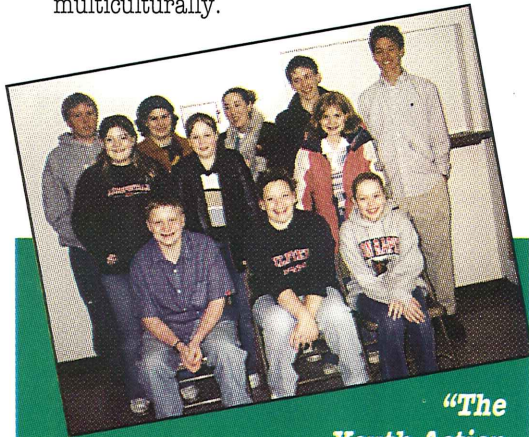
**You Can Make  
 Youth First  
 in your life!**

## Youth First is . . .

a partnership of many dedicated individuals of all ages from Coon Rapids working together to support families. It is our mission that every Coon Rapids resident will be responsible and support each other so that our youth and community as a whole will flourish.

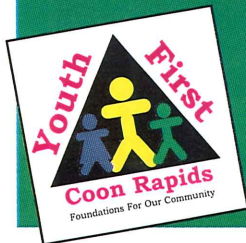
## We Pledge to . . .

- take a personal responsibility for building positive characteristics (assets) in children and adolescents.
- support and educate families so we are equipped to build healthy relationships.
- make neighborhoods a place of caring, support and safety.
- think and act intergenerationally and multiculturally.



*"The Youth Action Council is very unique in a sense that they have the power to be heard and the passion to follow through."*

— Neal Katorosz



## Make Youth First in Your Life! Practical suggestions for building assets in youth.

### Responsibility

- Don't make excuses
- Take care of your possessions
- Be helpful before you are asked
- Be truthful

### Respect

- Keep neat, clean, rested and physically fit
- Follow rules and instructions
- Don't attack or ridicule
- Avoid thoughtless actions

### Social Competence

- Plan ahead
- Make good choices
- Have empathy, sensitivity and friendship skills
- Resist the temptation to do wrong

### Compassion

- Consider another person's feelings
- Be kind even when others are not
- Give to others who are in need
- Place a high value on helping others

### Appreciation of Diversity

- Accept others of different skill levels or abilities
- Place high value on promoting equality
- Show acceptance for all
- Stand up for your beliefs

### Commitment to Learning

- Be on time
- Do what you say you will do
- Always give your best effort
- Turn off the TV, video, computer

### Integrity

- Treat all people fairly
- Be willing to do what is best for everyone
- Tell the truth despite the consequences
- Follow the rules

### Constructive Use of Time

- Mentor someone
- Use time wisely, plan ahead
- Volunteer time in your community
- Spend time each week with scheduled activities

### Support/Cooperation

- Do your share when working in a group
- Accept others' ideas as worthy
- Be willing to listen
- Spend time together

### Values/Assets

- Smile at a youth
- Listen to their stories
- Accept them as they are
- Leave a note for someone that says you care
- Learn their names

© 2002 Adapted from Andover, Anoka, Ramsey Youth First

**Come join us! Coon Rapids Youth First meets at 7:00 a.m. the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Coon Rapids City Center.  
For more information, call 767-6565, ext. 278.**