

Community Collaborations: How they can be used to alleviate poverty

Mary Anne Poe

Rhonda Hudson

Objectives

- Explain why community collaborations are considered to be more effective for alleviating poverty
- Identify strategies used to form community collaborations
- Discuss strategies for managing community collaborations

Community Collaborations: What are They?

- Two or more groups or organizations working together to address a social problem
- May have formal or informal agreements
- Accountability based on an ongoing honor system, e.g. no hidden agendas, sabotage, control, etc.

Effectiveness of Community Collaborations

- Systemic nature of problems and strategies for alleviating poverty
- Collaborations expand the community investment
- Collaborations offer broader and multiple perspectives and interests
- Shared cost, shared benefit
- Builds interdependence in and for the community

Strategies to Form Community Collaborations

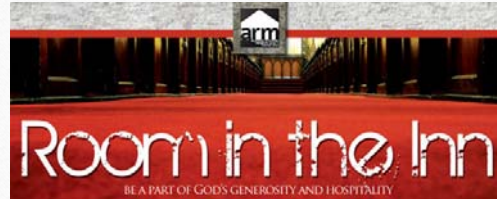
- Germination of an idea
- Build relationships around the idea
 - Town hall meetings
 - Focus groups
 - Lunch meetings
 - Existing coalitions
- Critical Decision Point: Take a Risk
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Establishing partnerships/commitments
- Develop/Implement Plans

Methods used and Examples of Programs

- Room in the Inn (RITI)
- Fresh Start
- Turning Point
- HUB Club
- MentorU (Mentoring Collaboration)

Room in the Inn (RITI)

- Collaborative partners:
ARM plus 46 churches
- Agency clearly leads, but 46 congregations are vital for the program.



ARM's Fresh Start

- Collaborative partners:
ARM plus businesses, individuals, city government, congregations, etc.



HUB Club – A Resilient Community

- Collaborative partners:

ARM, Jackson-Madison County Schools, Jackson Police, volunteers



MentorU

- Collaborative partners:

5 local universities and colleges and Jackson Madison County School System



Challenges for Community Collaborations

- “An unnatural act between non-consenting adults” – Linda O’Neal, Exec. Director, TN Commission on Children & Youth
- Maintaining healthy relationships, nurturing commitment
- Accountability
- Shared Credit/Blame
- Sustainability

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