VOLUNTEERS
The Heart of the Community

Building Connections:
Community Leadership Program

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; it’s the only thing that ever has.”
Margaret Mead

Volunteer Trends
- Early 1900s – social welfare expanded
- Professionalism emerged = fewer direct service volunteers
- Volunteers continued to serve on boards, raise funds, and make policy
- 1950s-1960s – more service volunteers were recruited to strengthen programs

Why Volunteer?
- Desire to help others
- Support an issue or cause
- Make a difference in their communities
- Gaining skills and an advantage for their job/career
Hats in the Community

- What type of volunteer or resource person in your community wears this hat?
- What resources would this person bring to the program as a volunteer?

Benefits of Volunteers

- Improve the quality of services or programs
- Save the organization money
- Increase public support for programs or improve community relations
- Provide services or levels of service that otherwise could not be provided
- Give more detailed attention to the people served
- Bring specialized skills to the organization

ISO T UR E

- ISO T UR E (Boyce, 1971)
- Identification
- Selection
- Orientation
- Training
- Utilization
- Recognition
- Evaluation

Needs-Based Volunteer System

- Do your homework:
  - Review local needs
  - Assess local capacity and resources
  - Consider community values
  - Review the organization’s mission and vision
Assessing the Current Situation

- Assessing the Current Situation
  - Take a community organization and complete the worksheet.
  - How did you rate?

Supporting the Vision with a Plan

- Take-home assignment
  - Use this as a road map to implement your plan