



## PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Laurie Masanz  
Phone: 952-563-8904  
Email: lmasanz@ci.bloomington. mn.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 2, 2009

### **THE SEARCH FOR YOUTH-FRIENDLY PLACES IS ON Bloomington Youth Action Crew will be Canvassing the Community**

Bloomington youth will be searching for youth-friendly opportunities in their community during the months of July and August. This valuable information will benefit other youth as they become more aware of what is available to them in Bloomington.

The youth members are participants of the Bloomington Youth Action Crew. These youth will survey Bloomington businesses, retailers, organizations, and others in teams of two or more. From the surveys they will learn what these locations offer youth.



When completed, the Bloomington Youth Action Crew will design and distribute a map highlighting the places they deem youth-friendly. To be considered youth-friendly, places need to offer experiences of support and encouragement. These experiences can include offering youth opportunities to work, belong, play, learn, and contribute.

Denise Reese, one of the project coordinators, said, “This project was conducted in a neighboring community and made a very positive impact. We are excited to see what happens in Bloomington.”

In addition to a spot on their map, the Bloomington Youth Action Crew will give recognition to the selected youth-friendly places with a sign for display.

This is the first phase of a four-phase project that is being sponsored by the City of Bloomington Public Health Division. It is supported by funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAHMSA), McKnight Foundation, Park Nicollet Foundation, and the Bloomington Education Foundation.

If you offer youth-friendly opportunities and want to be surveyed, please call Bloomington Public Health at 952-563-8984 or take the online survey at [www.tricitypartners.org](http://www.tricitypartners.org).

###