

Part 1: Sharing Stories and Introducing Your Community to Others

All of the KLCC II sites learned the importance of introducing their communities to others. Spreading the word about their communities and their projects gave group members from KLCC II pride in their communities and the work they were doing and helped clarify their messages and goals. Here are some tips to guide you and your group in thinking about what stories you have to share and how to share them.

- Think about what makes your community unique. How do you celebrate? What kind of food brings you together? What places bring you together or give your community identity?
- What is the history of your community that has motivated social change? (Consider sharing your history wall or some of the powerful stories or lessons that surfaced during this activity.)
- Where in the community do you witness community action?
- How are young people being involved in community action?
- What drives social movements for your community?
- What are you passionate about – as a group and as individuals?
- Describe victories, both large and small, and how you got there.
- Describe challenges and what you learned from them.
- Share handouts of any materials that describe your group or work that helps tell the group's story. People love to walk away with something concrete in their hands.

Sharing these and other aspects of your community and personal lives will give other communities a deep sense of who you are as individuals and as a group and what you are about. Many groups from the KLCC II communities found that sharing helped remind them about what their communities were about or what bound their group together.

Here are some tips on reaching out to other communities:

- Create opportunities to form coalitions by sending group members to other organizations' meetings.
- Create coalitions by hosting a networking event at your site. Invite all the community-based organizations in your community. Encourage people from each group to introduce themselves and network to create stronger bonds.
- Investigate outreach opportunities for your group. These opportunities can be on a local, national, or even international level. These websites are a good place to start:

www.learnandserve.org

www.nationalservicesources.org/calendar/index.php

www.changemakers.net

www.seedsofpeace.org/site/PageServer?pagename=beyondborder