

The Institute's Cincinnati Initiative 1999



After racially sparked riots challenged this urban city, the Institute was invited to provide technical assistance and training of innovative solutions to youth and community leaders.

The Institute launched a four-month initiative with a **Leadership Breakfast** for corporate and community leaders at the prestigious **Metropolitan Club**. The Institute custom-designed a **Leadership Institute** for youth and community leaders who had the unique opportunity of working side-by-side these real-life heroes who've overcome similar challenges facing their communities -- from Boston to East St. Louis, Detroit to Oakland.

Teams of youth and community leaders from 25 different organizations were trained to build bridges and increase collaboration among diverse races, political, economic backgrounds. Organizations included **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cincinnati**, **American Red Cross**, **Cincinnati Enquirer**, **Miami University**, **Teen Response**, the **Urban League**, **Xavier High School**, **Ursuline Academy** and other public, private and charter schools. The Institute's faculty included **Will Morales**, founder of **Boston's Youth Police Partnership** and **Hulas King**, **Strategic Partnership Programs**, **EDS Unagraphics Solutions** who serves as a loaned executive with **Focus: HOPE in Detroit**, violence prevention spokesperson and **Oakland Fire Captain Ray Gatchalian** and **Judith Kurland**, architect of **Healthy Boston**, a coalition of 20 neighborhoods who worked together to pool their resources -- until the black infant mortality and teen pregnancy rates went down and immunization rates were the highest in the country. **Randi Vega** and **Elizabeth Knox** served as facilitators.

Marianne Larned and her team from the book, Stone Soup for the World made a powerful and lasting contribution to the Cincinnati community. The stories in Marianne's book represent the very best in the human spirit. Like most of you, I believe passionately in the ability of one person to make a difference. The Stone Soup Leadership Training provides a framework for allowing our community to teach our children this lesson. The approach taken in this training was refreshing and enlightening. I truly believe any organization involved with youth will find its ability to serve children enhanced because of this training.

Michael P. Sweeney, Board President, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Greater Cincinnati

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is very important to me personally, my teachers and school and my city. By working with the Institute I find encouragement from other teens like me who want to make a difference. The Stone Soup movement can help cities a lot, especially Cincinnati. It's a chance to unite people that might not otherwise meet. It's a chance to build bridges between different backgrounds and schools.

Kristin Dickhoner, 17, Cincinnati



The Institute was organized by **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cincinnati** and sponsored by the **Smith Family Foundation** and the **Meier Corporation**.

- Influenced Mayor to revise punitive "3 Strikes" policy by creating youth-police partnerships;
- Engaged State Congresswoman to lobby to reinstate funding for youth apprenticeships.
- Engaged an entrepreneur to become a philanthropist, create a foundation and invest in a community center.

Cincinnati Initiative Participants

I was really impressed by the fine and wonderful speakers who came to feed us and the lessons I learned. It was really a blessing to be there. Everyone was superb. With some help, our community can learn a lot from you. The adults and young people in our community will be able to learn a lot from what we could accomplish when we work together.

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Eritrean Community Association

I attended Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Training with four youth members from Teen Response. My goals prior to attending were to help inspire my kids to want to go out and make a difference. After this weekend, I can proudly say that Stone Soup did just that. My kids are on fire with enthusiasm to go out and change their world. In our hard economic times, many non-profits speak about collaboration yet fight to save their own programs. The Training brought us together to begin the process of working together. As Henry Ford said, "Coming together is the beginning. Staying together is progress. And working together is success!" The Stone Soup Leadership Training laid the foundation that will help us.

John Keuffer III
TEEN RESPONSE, Inc.

The Stone Soup Leadership Training helps thousands of people and make the world a better place. Thank you for this life-changing opportunity.

Nikki Harbour, 16

This training program was filled with so much wisdom, experience, and hope for the future! What I learned this weekend will never be forgotten! Thanks!

Trista Riley, 16

I met so many people and learned so much from going to the leadership training. I want to teach other teenagers to get involved in service activities. It is an honor and I want to get everyone at my school to realize this.

Stephanie Back, 16

This weekend was one of the best most influential weekends of my life. Thank you!

Liz Ernestes, 15



Judith Kurland with State Senator Catherine Barrett

This is about building families, building communities, building economic development.
State Senator Catherine Barrett, Cincinnati, OH

Cincinnati Initiative with Voluntary Resource Center

Cincinnati was one of the 40 communities that participated in the World's Largest Book Signing. The Voluntary Resource Center worked with the Appalachian Urban Council, the local organization featured in the book, *Stone Soup for the World*, to inspire volunteerism. In 1999, Cincinnati hosted the Stone Soup Leadership Institute with 100 teens and community leaders from 20 organizations to develop public-private partnerships to improve issues in their neighborhoods. This Initiative is featured in the *Stone Soup for the World* video with Walter Cronkite.

We were thrilled to collaborate with the Institutes' World's Largest Book Signing and our local Urban Appalachian Council, a United Way agency, to promote volunteerism. The community book reading helped bring to life the exciting stories and contributions of individual volunteers. Hearing these stories inspires others to give their time and efforts to make their community a better place to live.

**Lucy Crane, Manager, United Way Voluntary
Resource Center, Cincinnati, OH**

Stone Soup Leadership Institute

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