

## **Belknap County Gap Session October 29, 2003**

### **What are the needs of NH residents, businesses and organizations and how important are they?**

- Need activities for young people to keep them away from drugs and alcohol. [13 votes.]
- Economy: secure jobs; entry level with future benefits – (living wage, benefits jobs, jobs with a future, loss of manufacturing.) [10 votes]
- Building community connections. [7 votes]
- Communication: aware of what's available; interpersonal communication. [6 votes]
- Need for growth and retain natural character – responsible growth. (Allow for growth but keep communities and open spaces; keep NH rural but have the services we want.) [5 votes]
- People to live within their means. (Credit cards - live within your means.) [4 votes]
- Need for good child care. [3 votes]
- Need for businesses and schools to come together for education. Need to advertise existing programs. (Business and schools get together to teach kids about more professions.) [2 votes]
- Financial management for all, especially seniors. [2 votes]
- Trained, reliable workforce. [2 votes]
- Respect for environment, neighbors, youth, businesses. [2 votes]
- Personal responsibility. [2 votes]
- Need for community centers. (Place for young people to gather and have experiences and activities.) [1 vote]
- People to come together and find balance, need for more volunteers. (Balance between business needs/conservation. Be conscious of everyone else and their needs - work together and take care of each other's needs.) [1 vote]
- Parents need to spend more time with children. [1 vote]
- Need to promote educational resources (and where to get them.) [1 vote]
- Educational opportunities for ages 15-18, but not Alternative Education. (Educational opportunities for those who fall between the communities.) [1 vote]
- Abuse treatment programs.
- Tighter control of substance abuse.
- Financing social services (education) in a fair way.
- Equal opportunities for everyone.
- Enhance our sharing of resources.
- Affordable housing.
- Transportation.
- Need to figure out how to involve our youth. (Let folks know about the opportunities, meaningful things for kids to do.)
- Cultivate a positive attitude

- Families are important and hard with two people working (one parent needs to be around kids.)
- Teaching kids to have more respect of others.
- Single parents need more support from the community.
- No free ride, but give credit to those who are working and trying.

**What should Extension do over the next two years and beyond about these issues?**

***Economy - secure jobs, entry level jobs with a future, benefits***

- Get more involved with wildlife management programs to see careers in that area. [5 votes]
- Working with young people in job-keeping skills. [3 votes]
- Connect with UNH students in areas that touch Extension for career development (in NH - help keep kids in the state). [1 vote]
- Master Gardeners offer services and be a resource to small ag business.
- Giving skills to manage their lives.
- Make connection to Micro Credit etc. to learn skills.
- Extension promote programs going on campus.
- Work with larger business/ manufacturing.
- Work with community colleges.
- Towns share with schools the businesses they desire to locate in their town.
- Town planning - share their vision with kids in schools to try and encourage the kids to get skills for the jobs of the future.
- Help make aware of small industries, landscape around new housing.
- Support small farms.
- Giving skills-job preparation skills.
- Networking linkage those who want to start small business connect with those who have skills.
- What connection with business and industry - our connection is through content.
- Connect with the tech college and help receive college credit.

***Keeping young people active - Need activities for young people to keep away from drugs and alcohol***

- Recognize kids who are doing good things. Make them role models and get them involved. [14 votes]
- Have a forum with youth around youth issues. (We need to hear from kids- a youth voice.) [6 votes]
- More hands on learning activities. (Help in community.) [6 votes]
- Support development of community centers or community centering to give variety of experiences. [5 votes]
- Have agencies come together and discuss. (Partner with other organizations to address issue-break down bureaucracy.) [4 votes]

- Pair elderly with youth – intergenerational approach. (Partnership with elderly to do intergenerational programs, and support of young people.) [3 votes]
- Educators let others know what is going on, make connections and share their knowledge of other programs available (bees pollinating flowers.) [2 votes]
- Educate parents about the problems – what to look for in drugs of choice of today. [1 vote]
- Parents sign contract that substances not be served to those under 18. (Drug and alcohol safe homes.) Extension promote parents to be proactive (help parents support each other.) [1 vote]
- Beautification projects in each community. (Connect with schools.) [1 vote]
- Develop a job shadowing program. Let others know about existing programs. [1 vote]
- Extension continue to do work in mentoring and parent responsibility.
- Peer support programs – children help one another.
- Teens should respect themselves and others. Extension to infuse into programming youth don't feel respected – involve youth in planning.
- Involvement in Main Street programs. (Communities- connect Extension, youth and community so they know it is their communities.)
- Coordinate/organize activities - clearinghouse function.
- Extension educators are role models with youth – show education is relevant.
- Develop youth leadership - get kids involved.
- Caring adult who is not the parent.

**What are the best ways for Extension to deliver education programs and information?**

- Continue partnership programs (with community agencies.)
- One-time seminars, public speaking events.
- Working in the schools more – going in the classes.
- Youth cooking classes tied with nutrition. (Kids don't know how to cook - address youth obesity.)
- Hands on learning.
- Workshops – get a feel of the skill.
- Phone consultation.
- Internet classes –scheduled night, early morning use.
- Promote Pic-tel interactions.
- Personal contact/visits.
- E-mail with individual questions.
- Educational programs to update content, legislation, etc.
- Specific mailings topic-related for target audiences.
- Access to research.
- Internet - perhaps on line classes.
- Site visits.
- Teach the basics.