

## LEARN AND SERVE GRANT APPLICATION NARRATIVE

- A. Like other rural communities, Haralson County suffers from a lack of wholesome activities and communication of existing activity resources for young people to be involved in. The students at the alternative school, in planning for this application, recognized that this lack of activity contributed to their experiencing difficulties “staying out of trouble” and came up with the concept of providing a clearing house service for meeting the communication aspects of this need. Another related need revolves around demonstrating the links between what they are learning and its application in the real world. Their idea has clear links to the English / Language Arts (composition/journalism/communications skills), Computer Skills ( word processing / desktop publishing / graphic arts and design), and Mathematics ( budgeting / cost comparison / dimensions).**
- B. Forty crossroads alternative school students, grades 6-12 will be involved in providing the service.**
- C. The students will provide this service for the agencies and organizations in the community who are involved in addressing this need and especially for their same age peers, countywide. In a very real sense, they will also be providing a valuable service for the community at large and for the parents of their peers and for their own. This service has the potential for having a real impact on the problems associated with having young people largely unsupervised and undirected.**
- D. The students will gather information regarding activities, social events, and other opportunities to be engaged in wholesome happenings from area providers (i.e. churches, youth organizations, parks and recreation, youth service agencies, etc.) and then compose, publish, and disseminate their news letter to area schools to be handed out to their peers and passed along to parents.**
- E. The alternative school director, the learn and serve VISTA, and the director of the Haralson Coalition for Children Youth and Families (HCCYF) will be the primary participating personnel. The VISTA member has participated in the Leadership for the Service Learner conference, the Southeastern Service Learning Conference, and several related staff development activities provided locally. The alternative school director has been provided with several opportunities for orientation to the service learning concept and how the process works in schools. The HCCYF director has been a participant in two workshops and has been exposed to the direct applications in area schools.**
- F. First, the HCCYF will act as a partner and is qualified because its membership is representative of all youth service and activity providers. Both local school systems (Haralson County and Bremen City) will also serve and are qualified by past experience with learn and serve program operations and by the direction they can provide in the area of journalism and other potential curriculum links. Finally the Haralson Chamber of Commerce will act as a partner and is uniquely qualified on two fronts. The chamber membership fills in the gaps in potential agency and organization interaction in this service process, and the Chamber director was a coordinator of service learning activities and partnership development in one of the local school systems for three years prior to assuming her present position.**