

# **APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY INTERVIEW GUIDE\***

## **Halton Youth Initiative**

*\*Adapted from Kate Harkin, Case Western Reserve University, Department of Organizational Behavior and Analysis*

- Start timer on phone
  - Welcome the participant to the call
  - Ask if they have any questions about the process
  - Share that I am recording for research purposes only
  - Share that I am using 2 screens – one with the camera and one with the questions
  - If we experience challenges with the connection stay on the call or reconnect
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- Ask the participant to say their name and the groups within the Halton Youth Initiative that they have taken part in
1. I would like to learn more about you and your work in your with Halton Youth Initiative.
    - a. What first attracted you to “getting involved?”
    - b. What do you find most interesting or exciting about acting as a positive force in your community?
  2. Take a moment to think about the experiences you have had in contributing to the Halton Youth Initiative. Think of a high point or “peak experience” in which you felt most alive, energized, and excited to be involved in making a positive difference.
    - a. Please tell me your story.
    - b. Who was involved?
    - c. What made the experience especially memorable to you?
    - d. What strengths or talents did you share or develop?

### **Youth as Resources and Valued Contributors**

3. Please describe a time when you were asked to contribute your talents to a project that was important to you.
  - a. What did you do?
  - b. How did it benefit or enhance the project?
4. In your experience, what helps to make a young person feel they are an appreciated partner/contributor in “getting the job done?”

### **Youth Empowerment**

5. Tell me of a time when you were in a partnership with adults and you took on a leadership role that allowed you to see the impact of your work?

- a. What was it about the situation that made it possible for a young person to act as a leader while working with adults?

## **Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship**

\*check to make sure the participant understands the terms “youth voice” and “think outside the box”

6. Think of a time when the “youth voice” inspired others to “think outside the box,” and to change their plan.
  - a. Where did it lead?
  - b. What became more possible as a result?

## **Vision of the Future**

7. Considering everything we have talked about, what core factors do you think give life and vitality to healthy communities for youth?
8. The year is 2030. Communities are thriving centers of activity where young people are valued for their unique contributions to their families, neighborhoods, schools, work places and country. Positive youth development is the dominant mindset. You are amazed and grateful that such a change has been possible.
  - a. Imagine three things that must have happened that made this new situation for young people possible
9. What will you contribute to sustain this preferred future?

Ask the participant if they have any other thoughts about the Halton Youth Initiative that they would like to share.

We will have 12 people doing the interviews so we ask participants not to share the questions with their other friends.