



## Building Healthy Communities for Positive Youth Development

The Search Institute Series on Developmentally Attentive Community and Society

**Authors: Nakkula, M.J., Foster, K.C., Mannes, M., Bolstrom, S.**

1st Edition., 2010, 240 pages., Hardcover \$129; Electronic copies \$25 - both available at [www.springer.com](http://www.springer.com)

**Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and Storey (HCC) is featured in a new book** that focuses on 8 communities throughout the U.S. which have been especially creative in supporting the unique strengths and needs of each community's youth.

Christy McGill, director of Healthy Communities Coalition, stressed that “Coalitions are only as strong as the partners willing to collaborate and we are blessed with an active membership of community volunteers and diverse groups that meet monthly to discuss and plan how best to support the health and well being of our communities.”

The book, *Building Healthy Communities for Positive Youth Development* by Michael J. Nakkula, Karen C. Foster, Marc Mannes and Shenita Bolstrom, devotes a chapter called “The Next New Frontier” on the work of Healthy Communities Coalition, praising the coalition’s “adroit leadership” and noting that the “complexity of this coalition is a testament to the leaders’ fierce respect for the identities forged by each of” the unique towns in Lyon and Storey counties.

The authors go on to explain, “Northern Nevada’s Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and Storey (HCC) provides a compelling example of integrating asset building with prevention approaches through a complex partnership among six very different rural “frontier towns,” as they are referred to by the people in the area. . . . Each of the six towns has survived challenges associated with isolation and small populations, such as limited resources for its youth, particularly when compared to more urban areas of Nevada, such as Las Vegas. The coalition honors the unique histories of these towns, emphasizing how each of them uniquely enriches the coalition’s work.”

The authors, who conducted extensive on-site interviews and research in Lyon and Storey, write that, “ In many respects, Healthy Communities Coalition (HCC) is a stunning illustration of the collaborative ethos and grassroots organization characteristic of the rural initiatives in the communities we studied. For sparsely populated communities,

separated by vast distances, collaboration is a necessity for accessing a range of services and youth development opportunities....The leadership of HCC has engaged the 6 different towns and their surrounding communities across northern Nevada into a partnership of some 250 members actively mobilized on behalf of strength-based work supporting youth and the health of the community more generally... HCC operates through an infrastructure of community task forces, each of which proposes asset-building activities to the coalition's larger governing body, which grants funding and shares information across the network...HCC...is unique in our study of Developmental Assets work for its focus on support and preservation of the natural environment....”

### **Scholars Highlight New Book Featuring Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and Storey Counties at National Conference**

The BigTent Conference is the world's leading conference for people who care about schools, youth, families, and communities ([www.bigtentconference.com](http://www.bigtentconference.com)) It takes place this year in Houston on Nov. 18-20.

The BigTent Conference brings thousands of youth-serving professionals, volunteers, and young people together under one “big tent” to focus on positive youth development. The purpose is to inspire and train individuals, groups, and communities to do their part to ensure that youths are equipped and ready for life’s challenges and opportunities by age 21. Three full days of workshops by nationally known scholars and speakers will focus on the concept that youths can be catalysts for positive change.

One of the workshops will be taught by authors Karen Foster and Michael Nakkula, who will discuss the findings from *Building Healthy Communities for Positive Youth Development*, their book which includes a chapter on Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and Storey Counties.

#### **The authors of the book include:**

**Michael J. Nakkula**, Ed.D., a professor of education at the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate School of Education, teaches courses on adolescent development and the intersection of counseling, mentoring, and education within public schools. Previously, he was the longtime co-director of Harvard’s Risk and Prevention master’s program where he designed and studied a number of initiatives that support the developmental opportunities for low-income youth.

**Karen C. Foster**, Ed.D., a former research associate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, has spent the past four years as an external evaluator and consultant to the Ohio Board of Regents studying the impact of a state wide initiative to improve the quality of science and mathematics teacher education in the public schools.

**Marc Mannes**, Ph.D., who currently leads the Chicago office of Booz Allen Hamilton. Mannes spent a decade as director of applied research at Search Institute, where he oversaw the organization’s community research agenda and the extension of the Developmental Assets Frameworks to children.

**Shenita Bolstrom, MS**, a clinical research associate in the Neuromodulation business at Medtronic, Inc. Prior to joining Medtronic, Inc., she was field research coordinator at Search Institute, where she worked on research projects in the areas of community and social change, families and parenting, and youth development programs and practices.

Their book, *Building Healthy Communities for Positive Youth Development*, is available at most book sellers, including Amazon and Borders.