

Timebanking Youth Examples

Timebanking and Wraparound

Location: U.S. and England

Environment: Community

Source: TB & Wraparound Webinar: <http://www.nwi.pdx.edu/webinars/Webinar13.pdf>

Description: Timebanking helps Care Managers do what they're already doing. It provides incentives for youth and their families to enthusiastically participate in their own services and in the health of their neighborhood. Timebanking offers great supports for families: for example, "parent aides" that can provide parenting education, organize the house, or offer transportation or babysitting services. Members of Child and Family Support Teams can earn Time Dollars from their work with families. Youth can also "cash" in hours to participate in trips, special events, or for special privileges such as access to computer labs.

Collateral Benefit: The New Economics Foundation found that Timebanking increases the mental wellbeing of participants by giving them a sense of control in their lives, reducing anxiety, and providing a sense of participation and inclusion. All things we aim for in Wraparound.

Transitional Youth Services:

Location: Portland, ME

Environment: Community

Source: <http://www.mitimebanks.org/>

Description: The Maine Youth Opportunities Initiative partnered with the Portland Time Bank to help youth who were recently discharged from foster care to find financial, social and vocational support. An Americorps volunteer was hired to serve as a liaison between youth and time bank members.

Cross-Age Tutoring

Location: Englewood, Chicago

Environment: Schools

Source: *No More Throw-Away People* by Edgar Cahn, p. 101-105

Description: Edgar Cahn set up a cross-age tutoring program, where older kids provided homework help to first and second graders. Each student who earned 100 Time Dollars through tutoring won a recycled computer, and so they ended up attracting "problem" kids as well as the "smart" and "normal" ones. Inviting the struggling students to join the program was ultimately to their benefit. "When these kids, whose self-esteem was at rock bottom, looked at the homework assignment for a first or second grader, it looked easy to them. And so they figured that if they could do it, anyone could do it." The result: they imposed high expectations on the first and second graders and succeed in motivating them through praise.

Collateral Benefit: The younger kids won themselves a protector on the playground and in the neighborhood. Attendance went up on days when after-school tutoring took place, because kids came to school in order to tutor or be tutored. Grades improved for both groups.

Juvenile Justice

Location: Washington DC

Environment: Juvenile Court

Source: No More Throw-Away People by Edgar Cahn, p. 105-109; <http://www.mitimebanks.org/>

Description: Cahn set up a Time Dollar Youth Court for non-violent first offenders in DC as a "way to divert them from juvenile justice system." The Youth Court represented an alternative to dismissing first time juvenile offenders and sending the message that their crimes won't be taken seriously. Under the mainstream system, "by the third arrest, a formal juvenile proceeding functions more as a rite of manhood." In the Youth Court, a jury of peers has the power to sentence first offenders to community service, restitution, counseling, an apology, and jury duty. Jurors earn Time Dollars for jury duty, mentoring, and training, and can redeem them for a recycled computer. "Creating a Youth Court means creating a world where young people are supported and affirmed for saying what they know: 'Don't hurt someone. Don't take something that isn't yours. Don't take that kind of risk'" Result: Data from police arrests between January 1 2003 and September 30 2003 showed that one year recidivism rates were 18% for youth participating in Youth Courts, as opposed to recidivism rates in the 30% range for youth in mainstream juvenile justice system.

Collateral Benefit(s): A 2010 evaluation report of youth courts found strong associations between participation and gains in life skills such as goal setting and achievement, problem solving, decision-making and academics.

Youth Courts also provide kids with a way to reach out to one another. Example: a teenage, single mom and foreperson of a youth jury connected with a boy on trial, who had witnessed the murder of his brother. She too had seen her mother die. She made a personal appeal during the proceedings and extended an invitation to a special program that had helped her get through her trauma. "These kids care for each other, even when they are strangers"—Cahn.

Youth Mandated Community Service:

Location: U.S.

Environment: Community

Source: TB & Wraparound webinar. <http://www.nwi.pdx.edu/webinars/Webinar13.pdf>;
<http://www.mitimebanks.org/>

Description: Youth who are mandated to do community service can receive time dollars for their participation. This rewards them for using their skills and expertise to improve the community. They are also more likely to be viewed as contributors, improving their self and public image. They earn back public trust and meet new positive adult and peer role models while building skills in the process. Finally, time bank membership provides an incentive for youth to remain involved in their communities after their service mandates end.

Apprenticeships and Training

Location: Gloucester, England; Rhode Island

Environment: Community

Source: <http://fairshares.org.uk/index.php/projects/pcc>; <http://www.nwi.pdx.edu/webinars/Webinar13.pdf>

Description: In Gloucester, youth work under the supervision of skilled tutors in areas like gardening and decorating. They gain experience and confidence. Similar work goes on in Rhode Island, where youth are able to cash in Time Dollars at the Rhode Island Training School even if they've been incarcerated. They gain the skills necessary to enter the paid workforce.

Collateral Benefit: "Training" in Gloucester takes place in the form of volunteer work for people who need extra help. Youth can transform a senior citizen's garden under this program. Volunteer work can also benefit other kids through projects like renovating a youth club.