

# Survey asking youth about their needs



This is one of a series of articles about agencies working in partnership with the United Way of Greater Waterbury.

BY LAURESHA XHIANI  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

**WATERBURY** — Earlier this year, about 1,000 Waterbury young people were asked approximately 200 questions to help leaders evaluate their programs come up with ideas that will help leaders do a better job.

At a Youth Summit next week, a group of representatives from youth-service agencies will release the results of the survey.

The survey will not only describe the 50 organizations that make up the Prevention Policy Board and the support it receives from family, friends, schools and their surroundings, but it will also offer ideas about what can be done to provide youths with more of these assets.

Andrew Roberts, YMCA executive director and Prevention Policy Board executive committee member, said the idea is for all agencies to work with together in preventing drug and alcohol abuse, risky sexual behavior and criminal behavior.

The developmental asset survey, Roberts said, will help the Prevention Policy Board determine how many of the assets, city kids have. The more they have, the more likely they are to be-

come successful adults by staying away from risky behavior.

Roberts said the survey will also tell the Prevention Policy Board what new programs can be implemented to keep youth away from risky behavior.

The Prevention Policy Board was formed several years ago with the idea of having local organizations work together to assist young people and their families.

That includes ensuring there are no duplication of services, helping agencies team up in federal and state grant applications to bring more resources to the city,

conducting research to to assess needs, and then develop programs to meet those needs.

United Way of Greater Waterbury was instrumental in the development of the

**"THE GOAL WAS TO DEVELOP A COMMON LANGUAGE AND A COMMON PLAN."**

JOANNE REYNOLDS-BALANDA  
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
FOR THE UNITED WAY OF  
GREAT WATERBURY

board, and along with Connecticut Community Foundation is one of the board's two financial supporters. In the past three years United Way has invested \$75,000 in the board, which is coordinated by the Waterbury Youth Services.

"The goal was to develop a common language and a common plan," said JoAnne Reynolds-Balanda, director of services for United Way.

Members of the board include the mayor's office, Greater Waterbury YMCA, Waterbury schools, Waterbury Police Department, Family Services, Connecticut Junior Republic, and many more.