

## **NOW Hear This Networking Phone Call May 25, 2010**

**Those in attendance:** Valerie White (YACC of Iowa), Gayle Black (TRAIL of Alabama), Bill Stockberger (FIST of Indiana), Joseph Pearson (Iowa Council of Foundations), and Suzanne Johnston (ESP).

The topic for the meeting was recruiting and transitioning new Navigators and Guides. To kick-off the conversation we discussed what type of adult is a good fit to work with Pods...those that enjoy working with teens, can balance providing guidance/skill development, and has the ability to support them in owning the group. The ideas generated for “where” to find them included schools (guidance counselors), community foundations, business, parents of Pod members, other youth-serving organizations, and Chamber of Commerce groups. It was suggested that having Navigator/Guide job description and a packet of materials on the youthpods.org website would be helpful in recruiting new adults.

After we talked about recruitment, we discussed ideas that would be helpful in paving the way for a successful transition. The following ideas were shared:

- Keeping a folder/binder of meticulous notes from each meeting that can be passed down to new Navigators.
- Have each new adult attend orientation training conducted by ESP with follow-up training offered 3-6 months later.
- Provide opportunities for new adults to observe other Pods.
- Encourage adults to be part of the group...get to know each member.
- Explain to new adults that it is o.k.; even helpful to ask the members to help them out as they learn the ropes (admitting when you don't know can also be beneficial).
- Encourage new adults to take advantage of networking meetings and Now Hear This calls.
- It is helpful when Pods host a beginning of the year picnic that provides adults an opportunity to get to know students and parents. (FIST and TRAIL both host a beginning of year event that includes parents)
- Encourage new adults to generate a list of questions to ask the group.
- Create a hand-book for Pod members and a separate one for parents that includes meeting dates for the year, Pod goals, and expectations. (TRAIL

Suzanne shared a message from Kim Nieman (former HELP Navigator) recommending the book “Three Cups of Tea” written by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. The book is a testament of the power of relationship building and philanthropy.

The next Now Hear This meeting will be held in late August.

Enjoy the summer!

