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Amelior Foundation

NEWARK OFFICE

~~35 James Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102~~

file

Bill Hoogterp

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Susan -

please come
again with
time to really
talk. I would
enjoy it greatly!
Bill

August 19, 1993

Mr. Eli Segal
Director
Office of National Service
White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Eli:

It was good to meet you and to see Susan again. Please come back to Newark anytime, whether you have a minute or a month. You are welcome here.

You asked me to share some brief thoughts on the idea of a different model of a youth corps. I am excited to get your input. I want to know what you and others think before I take it any further.

Given that....

- most K-12 schools (and colleges) are in desperate need of people power to help organize and support quality service and reflection among K-12 kids.
- that K-12 and college kids look up to and relate to young adults.
- that young leaders perform best when they are in the role of mentor and are frustrated when they can't lead someone.

I suggest we develop a new strain of leadership model for a youth corps with the following schedule:

One month of training to start; bonding youth corps members to each other and instruction of techniques working with younger kids, service, reflection, service-learning, education issues, working with faculty, etc.

Then a school year schedule of...

2 days per week doing direct service (i.e. Monday and Wednesday) in the neighborhood near their assigned school.

2 days per week helping organize K-12 (and college) kids to do non-stipended service. (i.e. Tuesday and Thursday)

1 day per week in training and doing group service projects.

Corps members, perhaps in pairs, would each be assigned to a K-12 school (or a college) that wishes to participate and provides office space and other support. The corps members become mini-service coordinators to work with teachers and others to increase the quality and quantity of service in the school. If an average corps member, over the course of a year, can create opportunities for 50 more kids in that school to become involved in service, than a 100 person youth corps would involve 5,000 more youth in the city.

I would be pleased if you could let me know your thoughts. What do you see as viable in this model, if it were done. How could it be improved? What would the problems be? Could it create a new level of cooperation among the streams of youth service in a city and if so, how best to proceed? Are other people thinking along these lines that I could talk to?

Thank you again, for the opportunities you have given us. We hope to make the best of them so that all of your hard work and ours continues to bring us closer to true community empowerment and life.

Sincerely,



Bill Hoogterp

cc: Susan Stroud
Ray Chambers
Catherine Milton
Roger Landrum
Alan and Michael