

Widening the Circle: How to Bring People From Many Cultures To The Table

Key Challenges from a Multicultural Perspective

- Getting people engaged
- Helping people lose fear of the “institution”
- Language barrier
- More fragile needs
- Understanding of cultural norms

Why Separate Language Groups

- Language Barriers
- Needs from the Community are different
- Different comfort level when they are with their “own” group
- Develops a support group feeling within a community

Highlights

Arab –American

Why:

- **Needed to engage this population**
- **One woman who really wanted to bridge the culture gap**
- **Worked closely with her to make it happen**
- **Arab women**
- **Issues bridging the culture gap between them and their children**
- **Highlighting the strengths of the Arab-American community**

Outcomes

- **Arab youth culture group**
- **Continue to meet regularly**

Spanish-American

Why:

- **Large Latino population in Yonkers**
- **Socially segregated**
- **Child care issues**

Outcomes

- **Choking death**
- **Led to discussions about child care in Latino community**
- **Red cross training for baby sitters in Spanish**

English – American

Why:

- **Yonkers is racially segregated**
- **Lake Avenue District / Nodine Hill area – drug use, pollution**

Outcomes

- **Clean up Yonkers campaign**
- **We Care Campaign**
- **Change in street cleaning days**