



The following document was contributed to the Toolkit by ABCD Faculty Member Dan Duncan.

Gift Discovery Activity (Long Version)

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This exercise is a powerful way to start a meeting and demonstrate the power of resources (gifts) in the room that are available to address the issue or issues identified for action.

Materials needed:

- Three different colors of 8.5X11 or 4X6 pieces of paper or cards: Yellow, Blue and White.
- Three walls with space to post the individual pieces of paper or cards
- Tape to post the paper or cards on the wall

Steps:

1. Handout the three colors of paper/cards to each participant in the meeting.
2. Ask everyone on the yellow pieces of paper to list the personal gifts they have that they would be willing to share with others around something they really care about (children, family, social justice, etc.) (One gift per piece of paper/card)
 - The gifts of the hand, their practical skills (painting, carpentry, cooking, cleaning, etc.),
 - The gifts of the head, things they know about and know how to do (run a meeting, child development, fund raising, creating a PowerPoint presentation, etc.)
3. On the blue pieces of paper/cards if you are representing an institution list the actual funded services that your organization provides to clients.
4. If you are representing an institution, on the white piece of paper/card list all of the other resources or assets your agency could offer to a neighborhood and its residents, (meeting rooms, computers and computer expertise, staff volunteering to watch kids during a neighborhood meeting, etc.)
5. If you are a neighborhood resident, on the white piece of paper/card list the other resources your neighborhood could offer to help make a difference.
6. Now have everyone go up to the largest wall and post each of their personal gifts and announce them as they are posting them.

"When people discover what they have, they find power. When people join together in new connections and relationship they build power. When people become more productive together, they exercise their power to address problems and realize dreams..."

--Mike Green

7. Next have everyone go up to the next wall and post each of the other resources their agency or neighborhood could offer to address an issue.
8. Finally have the institutional representatives go up to the third wall and post the actual services their agency offers.

This exercise will quickly demonstrate the resources, beyond funded services that we have available to address an issue or concern.

Alternative Method:

If you have more than one issue or concern that you would like to have addressed an alternative method is to write those issues or concerns on a piece of paper and place the issues on the walls around the room. Then ask participants to vote with their feet and go to the issue they want to work on and place their gifts on the wall by the issue. Once everyone has posted their gifts on the wall, have everyone go stand by the issue they want to work on. Once the groups are all around their issue they can begin a discussion on how to use all of the gifts on the wall to address the issue.