



Check out Sojo Speaks Up
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**2015
Youth Leaders Application
SOJO SPEAKS UP Leadership Training**

**A Project of Sojourners Care Network's
Generation Now Program**

***Developing Athens County teens as leaders in ending
youth homelessness by 2020***

Applications are due

October 22, 2015

**Funding for SOJO SPEAKS UP Project provided by
a grant from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation,
a Youth Moves Ohio Grant,
and from Generation Now**



SOJO SPEAKS UP YOUTH LEADERSHIP APPLICATION GUIDANCE

- **Have you always wanted to learn leadership skills above and beyond the skills you already have?**
- **Are you interested in being engaged in the effort to end youth homelessness by 2020?**
- **Do you see yourself as a change agent in your community?**
- **Are you ready to lead your peers into helping solve some tough issues?**

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are in search of high school aged leaders who are enthusiastic about stepping out and speaking up about youth homelessness and the issues that impact youth homelessness including human trafficking, bullying, LGBT discrimination, mental illness, and dating violence. We seek young advocates who are ready to have real conversations about the challenges that youth face and who are ready to make change in their community.

Any student currently enrolled in one of the following area high schools is eligible:

**Federal Hocking
Athens
Trimble
Nelsonville-York
Alexander**

Q: WHY DOES SOJO SPEAKS UP EXIST?

A: TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE IMPORTANT GOAL OF ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.

There is a national mandate to end Youth Homelessness by the year 2020. On one day in January 2013, there were over 200,000 homeless children and youth in the United States and over 32,000 in Ohio.

75% of homeless youth state they use drugs or alcohol and the HIV rates among homeless youth are 2 to 10 times more than other samples of adolescents. Homeless youth leave home predominantly because of physical and sexual abuse and an average 40% of homeless youth identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender.

Homeless youth in Athens County are invisible, often couch hopping from one friend's home to another or placing themselves in dangerous situations just in order to have a roof over their head. These young people need a voice and a safe environment in which to come out from the shadows.

Athens County teens can make a difference. **We believe in involving young people in addressing the issues that impact their community by supporting them in having a strong voice.** SOJO SPEAKS OUT empowers youth to utilize civic engagement to address community issues by enhancing leadership skills and then giving youth the opportunity to use those skills directly to create change.

HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Choose to become a SOJO SPEAKS UP Leader. Complete an application. Add your voice, talents, and passion to this effort. All SOJO SPEAKS UP Leaders applicants must commit to the following:

- Participate in SOJO SPEAKS UP Youth Leadership Training on Friday, November 6th from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Saturday, November 7th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. (Meals provided).
- Attend a few meetings and help in planning at least one community-wide event that addresses the need to end youth homelessness in collaboration with Sojourners Care Network.
- Participate in at least one county-wide event that addresses youth homelessness.
- Encourage other youth to become involved in ending youth homelessness.
- Participate in Child Mental Health Awareness Month events in Athens County.
- Have fun.

****Additional opportunities to participate in a statewide youth leadership conference will be offered.**

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO APPLY?

- Fill out the Leader Application**
- Identify Adult Advisor (or check the box on the application if you need help identifying an Adult Advisor)**
- Complete Commitment Form signed by you and your Adult Advisor**
- Include personal narratives in written form or in short video format with Application and Commitment Form**
- Return by October 22, 2015**
- Call or text Lisa Brooks with any questions at 740-418-7709 or by email at brooks.lisa.jo@gmail.com**

WHERE DO I SEND MY APPLICATION?

All applications should be directed toward Lisa Brooks.

Direct questions to Lisa Brooks by phone or text at 740-418-7709 or brooks.lisa.jo@gmail.com

If mailing application please send them to:

Lisa Brooks, Street Outreach Coordinator
SOJO SPEAKS UP
ATTN: Leadership Application
Sojourners Care Network
P.O. Box 312
McArthur, Ohio 45615

SOJO SPEAKS UP YOUTH LEADERS APPLICATION

Please share with us the following information:

Name _____

School _____

Club (if applicable) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number where you can be reached: _____

Can we text you at this number? YES NO

Are you applying with other teens from your school? YES NO

If so, please list their names here:

Name of Adult Advisor who will be attending with you? _____

Relationship applicant _____

_____ Check here if you need assistance finding an adult to partner with you.

Advisor contact e-mail _____

Adult Advisor Phone number _____



Leader Personal Narrative Guidelines

We want to know about YOU!! Personal narratives should address each of the areas described below. It doesn't have to be long (one to two paragraphs per question), but we want to get an idea of who you are. Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper (typed) or in a short video format if you prefer. Include the following:

- 1. Summary of Self – Tell us who you are and what are your interests?**
- 2. Why are you interested in being a part of the Sojo Speaks Up Leadership Team**
Explain why and how YOU may be valuable in addressing youth homelessness and the issues that impact your community.
- 3. What do you feel is a need in your community and why is addressing that need important to you?**
- 4. What else are you involved with that may help or hinder your participation on this team?**

LEADERS RESPONSIBILITIES COMMITMENT FORM



SOJO SPEAKS UP

Youth Applicant

Adult Advisor

Name of School

Address

Zip Code

By applying for SOJO SPEAKS UP, the above named understands the following commitments and agrees to participate in these activities as outlined below:

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- Have fun.

Signature of Youth Leader Applicant

Date

Printed or Typed Name of Youth Leader Applicant

Signature of Adult Advisor Applicant

Date

Printed or Typed Name of Adult Advisor Applicant