



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Mission Statement.....	2
Vision Statement.....	2
A Description of the Coffeehouse.....	2
I. January 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002: The Initiative Begins.....	3
Overview.....	3
Major Accomplishments.....	3
Participation	5
Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) Members:.....	5
Adult Board Members:	5
Financial Summary	5
II. July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003: Location, Location, Location	6
Overview.....	6
Major Accomplishments.....	6
Participation	8
Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) Members:.....	8
Adult Board Members:	8
Financial Summary	8
III. Plans for 2003 – 2004	9
Goals	9
Participation	9
Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) Members:.....	9
Adult Board Members:	9
Financial Summary (July 1, 2003 – August 31, 2003)	10



Mission Statement

Enhance Bloomington community unity by providing a chemical-free, safe, and fun environment where all high school students feel welcome and valued.

Vision Statement

A youth operated coffeehouse, supported by the community, where all Bloomington high school students can safely congregate, socialize and be entertained.

A Description of the Coffeehouse

Central Grounds will be many things. It will be a central location accessible to all Bloomington high school students. It will be open for youth after schools, in the evening and on weekends. It will complement the Galaxy Youth Center, filling the need for a place for kids older than 8th grade. During normal business hours, it will be open to the public. It will provide meeting space for school and community organizations, clubs and activities. It will be tobacco-, alcohol- and drug-free. It will be student operated. It will sell coffee, beverages and light snacks. It will offer opportunities for students to play music or do performing arts.



I. January 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002: The Initiative Begins

Overview

The directors of Bloomington United for Youth (“BUY”) had discussed the concept of a coffeehouse for Bloomington teenagers for several years. Despite being a city of nearly 100,000 people with over 4,000 high school students, Bloomington had no public facilities where kids were encouraged to congregate and engage in safe, creative and fun activities. Statistics showed high rates of alcohol, tobacco and drug use among Bloomington High School students. Also, surveys of high schoolers reflected disenchantment with the lack of community activities, and skepticism about the community’s caring about the problems of youth.

National studies offer persuasive evidence that risky behavior among teenagers decreases markedly when community assets are provided for their use. Many other communities in the region had opened community centers, coffeehouses and other recreational facilities for high school students. At a BUY board meeting in the winter of 2001, the concept of a coffeehouse for Bloomington was again raised. Treb Allen, a BUY board member and a junior at Thomas Jefferson Senior High School agreed to champion the effort.

In March 2001, a meeting of interested students from Jefferson and Kennedy High Schools was held in the fire station at Nicollet and 96th Streets. Approximately 20 were in attendance. Youth leadership was elected and the Bloomington Youth Coffeehouse Initiative was born.

Major Accomplishments

- **Formative organizational tasks were accomplished.** This included incorporation of Bloomington Youth Coffeehouse Initiative, Inc., articles, and bylaws, approval by the IRS of BYCI as a 501 (c) 3 corporation, and establishment of a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) and Board of Directors. Also, a strategic planning retreat was held March 23, 2002 at Creekside Community Center. The session lasted most of a Saturday and resulted in good team building among students and adults, as well as extensive outlines of issues to be addressed.
- **Substantial research was conducted.** Representatives of BYCI conducted substantial research into the effect of community assets on risky behavior amongst youth. In addition, substantial research was conducted on the development of coffeehouses and teen community centers in the Twin Cities region. Site visits were conducted to Hopkin’s “Depot” and Burnsville’s “Garage”; telephone interviews were conducted with a number of other coffeehouses and teen centers. Representatives of BYCI attended a conference hosted by area Parks and Recreation departments on the subject of teen

August 2003 Update and Status Report



centers. The YAC made a substantial effort to describe and estimate the costs associated with establishing a coffeehouse.

- **Naming and Branding was completed.** After extensive discussion, the YAC decided on the name “Central Grounds” as best reflecting the identity as a coffeehouse, a desirable place to go, and as a factor in building Bloomington community unity. The Central Grounds logo was also developed, with professional design services donated by Mr. Bill Winchester.
- **Fund-raising efforts were undertaken.** Stefanie Nyman successfully wrote a grant for a \$2,500 proposal from the Minnesota Toyota Dealers Drive for Education. A “Stomping Grounds” battle of the bands style concert was held in October 2001 at Jefferson High School, resulting in net proceeds of about \$1,000. Students volunteered to collect books for the Book ‘Em drive, which set the stage for a \$5,000 donation (in August 2002) from the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association. Numerous grant proposals were written and submitted. Students also engaged in other fund raising activities on ad hoc basis, for example raising several hundred dollars raking leaves and working at Herbergers.
- **Community support was solicited.** Numerous meetings were held with representatives of the school district and the city. The Bloomington City Council passed a resolution formally supporting the goals of BYCI. The Mayor of Bloomington, Gene Winstad, attended the April 8, 2002 BYCI board meeting. Presentations were made by YAC members to Rotary Clubs, Optimist Clubs, PTSA meetings and various businesses.
- **A location was sought without success.** The primary focus of efforts to identify a location was through the City of Bloomington and Independent School District #271. A formal proposal for joint development of a coffeehouse was created by BYCI and submitted to the city and school district in the spring of 2002. Unfortunately, the response received was that the city and school had no facility or funds available for a teen coffeehouse (although both expressed their desire to support the coffeehouse initiative). Efforts to identify private buildings suitable for the coffeehouse found none that were affordable given BYCI’s limited financial means.

August 2003 Update and Status Report



Participation

Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) Members:

Treb Allen (Co-President)	Sam Ernst
Stefanie Nyman (Co-President)	Evan Cobb
Kirsten Hagfors (Treasurer)	Erin Schmidt
David McCormick	Mike Julius
Kiira Gustafson	Rusty Erickson

Adult Board Members:

David Allen (Chairman)	Nancy Gustafson
Shaun LaDue (Vice Chairman)	Mary Allen
Dennis McCormick (Treasurer)	Suzanne Moriarity
Janel Brakke (Secretary)	Ron Whitehead
Karen Nordstrom	Kevin Gruebner

Financial Summary

Revenues:	
“Stomping Grounds”	\$1,006.76
Jefferson PTSA	500.00
Walser Toyota	750.00
Education Foundation of Bloomington	500.00
Motorwerks BMW	250.00
Olson Middle School PTSA	200.00
Larkin, Hoffman Law Firm	750.00
Other donations, earnings	2,135.46
Interest	2.03
Total Revenues	<u>\$6,094.25</u>
Expenses:	
501 (c) 3 Application Fee	\$500.00
Other expenses	85.68
Total Expenses	<u>\$585.68</u>
Net Income	\$5,508.57
Cash, Beginning of Period	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash, End of Period	<u>\$5,508.57</u>



II. July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003: Location, Location, Location

Overview

The lack of a viable location for a youth coffeehouse became a major stumbling block. It is apparent that neither the city nor the school district has a location suitable for BYCI's purposes. So the 2002-2003 school year was focused on trying to maintain enthusiasm, raising money, and finding a location.

Major Accomplishments

- **A fundraising relationship with CASH.** During the first year of BYCI's existence, countless hours were invested in learning about grant writing and developing a BYCI "common grant" format. Then we had the good fortune to cross paths with Community Action Suburban Hennepin ("CASH"), an organization that committed to assist us with grant writing. Towards this end, BYCI and CASH entered into a contract whereby CASH would submit grants on BYCI's behalf and, in exchange, BYCI would pay to CASH 2% of the proceeds of any grants collected. Since the contract was executed, CASH has successfully obtained a \$1000 grant from the Park Nicollet Foundation and a \$2500 grant from the Archie D. and Bertha H. Walker Foundation. In addition, CASH has submitted grant applications on behalf of BYCI to more than 20 foundations.
- **Other fund-raising activities.** The students on YAC had an active year raising money for BYCI. There were two especially large efforts. YAC sold T-shirts and sweatshirts with the Central Grounds logo, netting approximately \$1,000 in profits. In addition, YAC supported the Book 'Em project for a second year, which resulted in a \$1500 contribution from the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association (in August 2003).
- **Location #1: The search for space to lease.** Extensive efforts were made to locate space for BYCI to lease. A youth coffeehouse would probably require zoning as a restaurant, somewhat limiting the possibilities. Retail spaces that are centrally located tend to be expensive (on the order of \$15 per square foot, meaning \$45,000 per year for a 3,000 square foot coffeehouse) and many retail spaces do not have adequate parking for Central Ground's needs. BYCI had a meeting with management of the Mall of America, but their interest is in a center that has national appeal and is more a spot for entertainment than simply to "hang out". One promising prospect was a second floor, centrally located warehouse space that we could have had for \$1500 per month – unfortunately, despite the assistance of Larry Lee in the city planning department, we could not overcome restrictions imposed by the Americans with Disabilities Act given our limited financial means.

August 2003 Update and Status Report



- **Location #2: The Old Town Hall and other public buildings.** An intriguing possibility is renovating the Old Town Hall and making it a coffeehouse/teen meeting center. In January 2003, we met with a representative of the Bloomington Historical Society and realized that Central Ground's mission is very much in harmony with the original purposes of the Old Town Hall. Plans for renovation of the Old Town Hall have not been finalized and we continue to hope that this will develop as an option. City officials have been very supportive of the BYCI's goals – we are optimistic that eventually resources will be located that will provide space for Central Grounds. In the mean time, the city did generously donate furniture to BYCI from the old City Hall building – this furniture has been placed in storage by the city.
- **Location #3: St. Luke's Lutheran Church.** Another intriguing possibility is leasing space from St. Luke's Lutheran Church. There is a building, currently owned by Lutheran Social Services and operated as a group home, which St. Luke's is considering purchasing. This building is centrally located and has two commercial grade kitchens. We have had several discussions with representatives of the church about including Central Grounds as one of the main occupants of this building.
- **Recruitment issues at Jefferson and Kennedy.** One of our greatest challenges of the year has been maintaining student enthusiasm in the face of uncertainty about a location. This has been particularly problematic at Kennedy High School, where participation this year was sporadic.

August 2003 Update and Status Report



Participation

Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) Members:

Topper Anton (Co-President)	Abby Ulrich
Lily Nierenberg (Co-President)	Michael Haveman
Andrea Ruminsky (Treasurer)	Erin Schmidt
Matt Allen (Secretary)	Farshad Fahimi

Adult Board Members:

David Allen (Chairman)	Scott Palmer
Shaun LaDue (Vice Chairman)	Mary Allen
Dennis McCormick (Treasurer)	Marie Ulrich
Kristen Wetzel	Vicki Hackett
Maureen Bartolotta	

Financial Summary

Revenues:	
Bloomington Crime Prevention Association	\$5,000.00
Jefferson National Honors Society	4,000.00
Toyota Dealers Drive for Education	2,500.00
Park Nicollet Foundation	1,000.00
Other donations, earnings	1,818.00
Interest	24.14
Total Revenues	<u>\$14,342.14</u>
Expenses:	
Edition III T-Shirt Expenses	\$818.00
Other expenses	84.79
Total Expenses	<u>\$902.79</u>
Net Income	\$13,439.35
Cash, Beginning of Period	<u>\$5,508.57</u>
Cash, End of Period	<u>\$18,947.92</u>



III. Plans for 2003 – 2004

Goals

There are three major goals to be accomplished during the current school year:

1. **Recruitment.** We need to assure that next year's student leaders become active this year. We also need to increase participation from Kennedy High School students.
2. **Location.** We need to continue to press forward with finding a location for Central Grounds.
3. **Fund-Raising.** Despite the unfavorable economic conditions, we need to press forward with our efforts to continue building our bank account.

Participation

Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) Members:

Matt Allen (President)	Nissma Eldeeb
Stacy Fuller (Vice President)	Austin Fraver
Nick Peterson (Treasurer)	Lynn Schofield
Ayah Helmy	Sam Finer

Adult Board Members:

David Allen (Chairman)	Mary Allen
Shaun LaDue (Vice Chairman)	David Miller
Dennis McCormick (Treasurer)	Marcy Harris
Kristen Wetzell	Drew Brooks
Maureen Bartolotta	

August 2003 Update and Status Report



Financial Summary (July 1, 2003 – August 31, 2003)

Revenues:	
Bloomington Crime Prevention Association	\$1,500.00
Archie D. and Bertha H. Walker Foundation	2,500.00
Contributions	3.00
Interest	<u>.82</u>
Total Revenues	\$4,003.82
Expenses:	
	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$0.00
Net Income	\$4,003.82
Cash, Beginning of Period	<u>\$18,947.92</u>
Cash, End of Period	<u><u>\$22,951.74</u></u>