

What is Central Grounds?

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Why is Central Grounds?

Bloomington's Plight

Economically and ethnically diverse with a population of nearly 100,000 people, Bloomington is stricken with a serious substance-abuse problem among its teenagers.

Central Grounds



The

Bloomington

Youth

Coffeehouse

Initiative



Bloomington Youth Coffeehouse Initiative

P.O. Box 385422
Bloomington, MN 55438

A Solution

The Problem

Studies show that healthy behaviors among youth are closely correlated to the availability of 40 developmental assets. These assets, identified and classified by the Search Institute, comprise a wide variety of external and internal assets. To illustrate the danger Bloomington's youth is in, here are how they gauged themselves on four of the assets:

- Only 21% of 6, 8, 10 and 12 graders agreed with the statement " *Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater or other arts.* "
- Only 22% agreed that " *Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.* "
- Only 29% agreed that " *Young people are given useful roles in the community.* "
- Only 52% agreed that " *Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.* "

Central Grounds will provide many opportunities for the youth to increase their exposure to and development of these assets.

External assets, such as showing that the community values youth and the creation of youth programming, will be strengthened simply by the opening of Central Grounds. Additionally, the creation of ongoing relationships with supportive adults will be possible as well as giving youth the opportunity to serve others and their community.

While the fostering of internal assets may be more difficult to measure, Central Grounds is sure to increase the caring and responsibility youth feels towards their community. Furthermore, important resistance skills will be strengthened with the provision of a chemical-free place for youth to congregate and socialize.

How is Central Grounds?

BYCI is officially incorporated as a non-profit corporation in Minnesota and has not-for-profit 501(c)3 status with the IRS. The BYCI Board of Directors meets monthly, and consists of youth from JFK and JHS High Schools as well as adults from a variety of pertinent occupations.

In addition, a Youth Advisory Council (YAC) and various committees meet weekly and are run by youth. The YAC carries out the daily business of the BYCI and brings recommendations to the Board concerning future activities.

Our Successes

The BYCI has worked exuberantly in bringing the vision of Central Grounds closer to reality. The group has been able to:

- Create a governance structure that ensures longevity and success.
- Hold a concert, Stompin Grounds, that raised over \$1000 and brought seven bands from multiple states to Jefferson High School.
- Raise over \$15,000 in grants, personal donations and small fundraisers.
- Present to many local organizations with positive responses from all.

How You Can Help

You can support the BYCI and help make Central Grounds a reality in many ways:

- Offer an official letter of support to our group, effectively affirming your resolve to help the community while applauding our efforts.
- Volunteering on a number levels, anywhere from being a committee advisor, working closely with the YAC, to assisting with one-time or ongoing endeavors as determined by the Board.
- Perhaps most importantly, contribute resources. Monetary and in-kind donations of any sort are very appreciated.