THE SPECTRUM OF ATTITUDES

It is helpful to look at attitudes underlying youth-adult relationships as falling along a spectrum.

Youth as Objects:
Adults exercise arbitrary and near total control over youth. Programs and activities are TO youth.

Youth as Recipients:
Based on what they think is in the youth’s interest, adults determine needs, prescribe remedies, implement solutions, and evaluate outcomes with little youth input. Program and activities are FOR youth.

Youth as Resources:
Youth help adults in planning, implementing, and evaluating work. Program and activities are FOR and WITH youth.

Youth - Adult Partnerships:
Youth and adults share decision-making power equally. Programs and activities are WITH youth.

(Adapted from Lofquist, The Technology of Prevention Workbook: A Leadership Development Program, 1989.)