

# Empowered Citizenship through Civic Engagement



“Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens  
can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that  
ever has.”

Margaret Mead

# What is Civic Engagement?

Working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values & motivation to make that difference



# Why Focus on Civic Engagement?

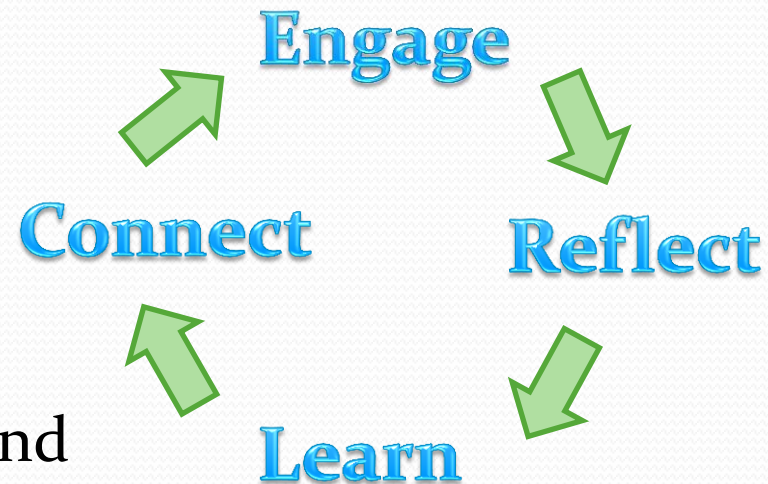
- Increase awareness of need on local, national and global issues
- Promote a sense of community
- Recognize we can all contribute towards a better community, country and world
- Service learning
- Empowerment of individuals
- Building of individual and group self-esteem

## Wheel of Civic Engagement



# In the Beginning...

- The first meetings and understanding the concept
- Opening the world
- Current economic times
- The shared vision of this group
- The Facilitator role
  - When to teach, when to listen, and when to give guidance
- Development of the mission statement or creed



# The Creed

We, the Civic Action Alliance of **ALTEC**, will make every effort to engage our time in community and civic opportunities. This responsibility enables us to serve our communities, and give back as responsible citizens. We recognize that we are entitled to the same rights as all people, and to be respected as human beings and contributing members of society. We will serve in all capacities where we are able to with the “SPIRIT OF ALLIANCE”. In doing so, both with our local communities; and on a “broader-global” sense of duty as well, **WE WILL BE HONORED TO SERVE.**

# Community Engagement & Volunteerism

- How projects are identified, planned, scheduled and organized
- Putting words into action
- Consumer engagement is more than a passion. Consumer engagement is when the mission turns into a passion.



Consultations  
Conversations  
Committees  
Get Involved  
Public Meetings  
Community Development  
Sharing Ideas  
Toronto Civics 101  
Visioning  
Charette  
Civic Literacy  
learning  
Get Informed  
Environmental Assessments  
Elections  
Public Appointments  
Participation  
Task-Forces  
Deputation  
Public Notices  
Open Houses  
Decision Making



# Manna on Main



*Manna on Main* Street is a soup kitchen and food cupboard that serves people in need living in the North Penn Area.

# Manna on Main Street



“Caring neighbors like you positively impact the lives of the elderly, the working poor and the homeless among us.”

Tom Allebach



# Pencil Drive for Kenya





# KENYA PENCIL DRIVE

**“It will warm your hearts to know that for a Kenyan child, the impact of receiving something as basic as a pencil has a profound impact on their lives, and their schoolwork.**

**During our first Work & Witness trip to the Primary School at Evelyn in 1999 we distributed one pencil to each child in the classrooms... The response was overwhelming, they clapped and cheered at receiving just one new pencil!”**

**Bill Gaillard, For the Board KENYA’S KIDS**



# SPCA



# SPCA



“We thank you for the amount of time and work that you put into this **Blanket Drive** and we also appreciate your choosing our Society to receive the blankets, which we will use in our clinic to keep the animals warm and comfortable.”

Carmen Ronio, Executive Director



# Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots collects and distributes new toys at Christmas to children in need.





The Civic Action Alliance  
Christmas Drive



# Toys for Tots



November 18<sup>th</sup> thru December 9<sup>th</sup>

Sponsored by the United States Marine Corps

The primary goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens.

# PHILADELPHIA TOYS FOR TOTS



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Christmas

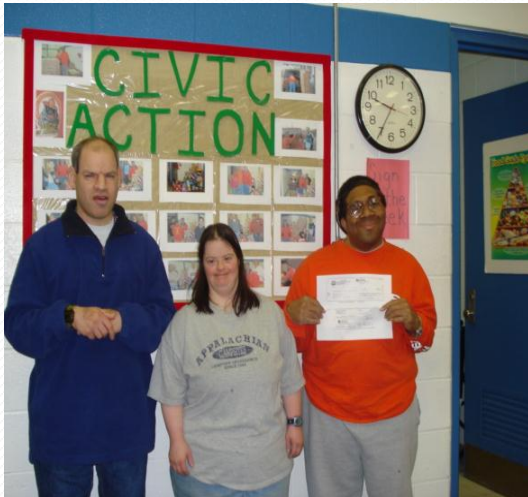
TOTS

TOTS

AS DRIVE



# Haiti Earthquake Relief



80% of the population in Haiti is living under the poverty line.



American Red Cross is still at work in Haiti, rebuilding what the earthquake destroyed and working with local communities to make them safer and healthier.



**“With your timely contribution, we are helping to provide critical assistance to thousands of survivors in Haiti. For victims of this devastating disaster, our work is the hope for tomorrow. This is a result of generous gifts from donors like you.”**

**Laurie Rhinehart, V.P. of Development Operations**



# Book drive



# Book drive



# Active Citizenship

- Recognition from selected organizations
- Networks are forming
- The group is evolving with a Sense of Belonging
- Next step towards active citizenship
- Learning about the role of elected officials



# Preparing for the visit with State Representative



- Group lesson focus
- The power of voice
- Identifying the important issues that impact our lives and preparing the questions
- The role of elected officials in our lives
- Feedback from elected officials



## Todd Stephen's Visit



# Where do we go next

- Sustain our focus and level of activities
- Police, firefighters, and civic groups
- Work with Volunteers of America
- How do we put into practice what we learned about active citizenship
- The power of the vote, human rights education, etc.
- Networking with others





“Your love for others, true concern for the world and humble service inspires me deeply. The world has much to learn from you.”

Kate Cruz





“We would like to thank you for your generous donation towards the **Walk for the Wounded** organized by Operation First Response. Donations such as these make it possible for the American Legion to continue to support our veterans that have served their country proudly.”

Keith Varcoe, Commander of Post 933

# A Special Thank You To:

**Presenter:** Karen Hollenshead

**Guest Speakers:** Darren Duckett, Kay Moyer &  
Collette Nasielski





# Questions & Answers

Please share your stories!