Confronting Concerns: June 2, 2007 - Session #3







The final workshop of the Confronting Concerns II series took place on June 2, 2007 at All Saints Church. Erica began the session by giving a short background to the project for the new participants and went over the ground rules in order for us to have a respectful dialogue. We started with simple warm up activities to get everyone more comfortable and get to know each other a bit more.

The first main activity enabled us to examine our own ideas about leadership, and look inward at the kinds of leaders we consider ourselves to be. The activity involved putting several pictures up around the room and having the participants stand next to the picture that best represented their idea of good leadership as well as what kind of leader they considered themselves to be. Some of the pictures were tools such as hammers or wheelbarrows, and participants had to draw connections between the properties of those tools and their own leadership qualities. Many participants felt that they got to know themselves a bit better and think both about their positive qualities and also what they needed to work on.

We were not able to have a full discussion about youth activism as we had planned, because we really wanted to focus on creating blueprint's for community change by looking closely at two issues that affect youth in the community. The two issues chosen were Drugs and Teen Sex. We were able to have open discussions about these two very difficult topics, and engage both adults and youth in thinking about ways these issues could be addressed in the community. Both groups came up with root causes for these issues, as well as ideas for helping to address this issue. Some of the ideas ranged from having more safe spaces and discussion groups for young people, to addressing music and popular culture, which can sometimes influence youths' choices

Overall, the session enabled us to discuss some really difficult issues in a safe space, and begin to discuss ways that we can bring these issues to the larger community. Many participants thought that we should

extend these workshops and work to get other youth from the neighborhood involved because the forum was a helpful one to bring up difficult topics and work them out.