



The Critical Years: 10-15

Our Community. Our Children. Our Commitment.

I PLEDGE from this day onward to do my best to make a positive difference in the lives of 10 to 15 year olds in my community. I understand that the well-being of this next generation of Genesee County citizens is MY business and MY responsibility, and that it will directly impact the future of MY entire community.

- I will model the behaviors that I'd like young people to imitate and will set a good example by treating all people, including youth ages 10 to 15, with dignity, respect, kindness, compassion and understanding.
- I will make all contact that I have with 10 to 15 year olds positive, caring and meaningful because I believe that just one person has the power to make a significant difference in a young person's life.
- I will remember the 5 C's of positive youth development: **C**haracter, **C**aring, **C**onfidence, **C**ompetence and **C**onnection, and will find ways to encourage and incorporate them in my everyday interactions and relationships with young people.
- I will compliment young people when I see them engaged in positive actions like holding a door open for an elderly person or picking up trash on the street.
- I will improve environments in my community and in my neighborhood where young people can feel safe.
- I will work to promote a strong sense of community where young people are included and listened to and families are supported to be their best.
- I will support and strengthen youth development and after-school programs in my community that feature fun, safe and consistent daily activities; access to reliable and safe transportation; highly skilled program staff; and an inclusive, family-friendly environment.
- I will support and encourage positive youth experiences in my community's K-12 educational system, particularly those that
 - develop positive peer relationships.
 - promote teamwork, trust-building and leadership skills.
 - broaden horizons and increase understanding of the world around us.
 - connect young people, their families and local service agencies with members of the educational community.
- I will look for ways to increase collaboration and coordination between existing programs and resources for young people age 10 to 15 because I understand the importance of creating synergy and connection, rather than duplication.
- I will act as a catalyst to bring key people and resources together because I realize that stable and secure sources of funding and administration are vital to sustain positive and successful youth development programs and services.

By taking this pledge, I recognize that supporting the next generation of Genesee County citizens – those young people between ages 10 and 15 – is vital to the future growth and success of my entire community.

Name:

City:



806 Tuuri Place • Flint, MI • 48503 • Phone: 810-234-5007 • Fax: 810-234-5017
E-mail: kids@prioritychildren.org • Website: www.prioritychildren.org