

Creative and easy-to-implement ideas suggested by youth, for youth to work in tandem with their communities towards better engagement and understanding:

THE BELLEVILLE TOP SIX:

- 1. COMMANDEER** the front page of your local newspaper once a month to feature photos and stories about the GOOD THINGS youth are doing in your community.
- 2. COLLABORATE** with drivers who transport seniors and the disabled in your community to extend the service to include transporting youth to extracurricular and volunteer activities.
- 3. INVITE** teenage Moms to come and dialogue with youth in health class or at drop-in centres (ensure there is babysitting available).
- 4. EDUCATE** funders to better understand that it takes longer than 6 months for an intern to get the capacity/experience he or she needs to apply for a job that always seems to ask for 5 years' experience. Also consider including \$\$\$ to cover benefits, such as full or partial coverage of eyewear.
- 5. MOBILIZE** your municipal council. Youth can ask for meetings with Mayor/Reeve/Councillors to help educate them about youth-identified issues AND possible solutions.
- 6. HELP** others to actually SEE homelessness in rural areas. Engage through candid discussion and key identifiers, i.e. although the homeless are not sleeping on heating grates, they may be sleeping in their cars or couch-surfing or finding their way into abandoned buildings. These actions may provide the necessary ammunition for beds in churches or the creation of a shelter.