
**Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
National Youth Leadership Initiative
State of West Virginia 2010-2011**

Greetings Parent/Guardian!

First, we want to thank you for allowing your child to participate in the National Youth Leadership Initiative (NYLI). We are so excited to have your child involved, and we look forward to getting to know them better. As part of NYLI, our team members from Michigan State University will be working with participating youth to track the impact of the leadership training on participants and their community. We are contacting you to seeking your permission to include your child in this evaluation, which will include a **PhotoVoice project**, an **anonymous survey**, and **focus groups**.

For the **PhotoVoice** project, each youth will be given a digital camera to take photographs in their community. Youth will be provided with a few framing questions to guide this process such as "Why do you want to become a leader in your community" and "What are some problems in your community?" We will then have youth share and discuss the stories behind the photos with other participants. An anonymous **survey** will be given multiple times in order for us to see how participants' skills, activities, and opinions change after their NYLI experience. Finally, **focus groups** will involve youth talking in small groups about their NYLI experience. The goal of these conversations is to understand what it was like to take part in NYLI and learn how we can make it better.

We have enclosed a consent form. In this form we describe each of these activities in detail. We also talk about any risks and benefits, as well as the steps we will take to protect you and your child's privacy.

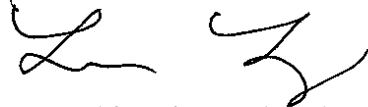
Participation in the NYLI evaluation is **completely voluntary**. If you agree to allow your child to participate, then your child will be invited to take part in the evaluation when we are together in November. At that time, they will decide whether they want to participate. Even if you decide you do not want your child to take part in the evaluation, your child will still be able participate in the NYLI leadership training.

Please read and sign the attached NYLI Evaluation Parental Consent Form. Be sure to check the boxes at the end of the form to indicate whether you consent to allow your child to participate in EACH component of the evaluation (Photovoice, the survey, and the focus groups). We have included an extra copy of the consent form for your records. We also have enclosed a **Photo Release Form**. This form gives us permission to include pictures of your child in the project.

**Please return the consent forms to your coalition or mail it in the envelope
provided NO LATER THAN October 27, 2010.**

If you have **any** questions about the evaluation, please do not hesitate to contact me or the principal investigator, Pennie Foster-Fishman. We can be reached, toll-free, at 1-866-343-5279, or by e-mail: WestVA.NYLI@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



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