

Workshop G - Chapter Start-up/Organization

Students Ashley Noto and Andrea Camilletti shared experiences from starting a *Free the Children* chapter at their high school and explored the general theme of how to start your own organization and insure its effectiveness. The importance of choosing and defining your organizations mandate and goals, establishing organizational structures and taking on manageable activities were discussed. While maintaining an encouraging manner, Ashley and Andrea also provided participants with information concerning the potential pitfalls they may face.

Workshop H - Media Relations and Fundraising

A volunteer from the United Way of Burlington, Hamilton-Wentworth, Lisa Mayeski, introduced participants to important information about fundraising and media relations. The keys to successful fundraising were outlined. Sources for finding money for projects and ideas for how to raise money in the community were discussed. Finally, information on dealing with the media, including how to write a press release and what can be done to help insure your event gets the attention you desire, was shared.

Workshop I - Facilitation/Holding an Effective Meeting

Mary Margaret Kachurowski, a volunteer from the United Way of Burlington, Hamilton-Wentworth, took students through the step by step process of preparing for, hosting and following up after meetings. The roles of the facilitator or chairperson was defined and discussed. Time was also taken to examine the importance of agendas and other structures designed to help you get the most out of meetings.

Workshop J - Public Speaking

Keith Burt, also a local high school student, outlined the importance of public speaking skills and the steps necessary for participants to improve their own ability to speak in public. Defining your topic and insuring that it is an appropriate fit with your purpose and audience is a critical initial step. Tips for gathering information and turning it into a coherent, organized presentation were also discussed. Finally, participants were given a chance to try their hand at speaking in front of the small group.

In the evening students then had the opportunity to come together and drawn on their various learning experiences to develop their own ideas for what can be done. In small groups students were asked to come up with suggestions for (1) what they could do about child exploitation as individuals in their local community and (2) what Canada should do as a nation to combat child exploitation.

Following the small group discussion, students came together to share ideas and develop their suggestions for action. The following suggestions were made:

For what can be done by individuals in the community:

- write letters to politicians and representatives of the business community outlining your concerns and what you feel needs to be done
- work to educate others in the community through organized educational campaigns and by speaking your mind
- get together with other concerned individuals to form groups with the purpose of addressing the problem