

Editorial

HC-HY mindset grows in Quakertown

Hats off to Quakertown Alive! for including youth in Autumn Alive! festivities.

Until now, the yearly downtown Quakertown event has been family oriented, drawing Mom and Dad and the kids into the business district to shop, take in the entertainment and taste lots of delicious food.

But one segment of the area's population has been lacking at the event — teens.

Rarely have they attended unless they were part of the entertainment.

But this year, in the spirit of the Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth Initiative of the Quakertown area, Quakertown Alive! made the hometown fall festival teen-friendly. The community development organization involved Quakertown High School students in the event's planning process, resulting in the scheduling of three contemporary musical groups, "Place Name Here", "2nd Class Citizen" and "Avoid the Knight", made up of local high school students, in addition to traditional groups like the Quakertown Band.

Involving youth in the planning of the community event, and drawing them to it, provided an opportunity for asset building through family and community bonding, and by developing self esteem. Such asset building must be a community effort, and this is a positive step. Possessing certain internal and external assets helps youth to grow up happy and successful.

As a close-knit, spirited community, we must continue to find ways to positively affect our youth so they will grow into well rounded adults. We have so much to share, and our children need us — some more than others. Hopefully Quakertown Alive! has set an example for other community organizations by increasing youth involvement in Autumn Alive!