



WORLD INTERDEPENDENCE FUND

THE WORLD INTERDEPENDENCE FUND: Towards an Inclusive Society

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Something is missing in many of today's youth-leadership programs! Organized efforts to build a new generation of caring and committed citizens have almost universally ignored (or avoided) *one critical ingredient*. Adding that ingredient can propel a project to the contemporary frontier of breakthrough programming. Once there, it can help a program find its soul. The missing ingredient is interdependence--full inclusion of youth with significant disabilities.

Inclusion of teens with disabilities in regular youth leadership work is nothing less than atomic! It melts away the need of non-labelled teens to hide "secret" disabilities or to fear the exposure of qualities that may confirm the 'worst' in them and lead to ostracism. Inclusion of teens with disabilities elevates program design and ethical standards. It is the hallmark of genuine personal and civic well being.

The World Interdependence Fund is a non-profit educational foundation. Building upon ten years of experience, WIF has developed a national network of trainers and consultants creating and sustaining *Project Interdependence* a multi-state training and organizing strategy that • forges lasting friendships among youth; • teaches an "aha" awareness, and releases the capacities of youth empowerment, self determination, and leadership in community organization; • develops youth-, family-, professional-, business- and civic- leadership joint ventures.

Project Interdependence builds on fully integrating multicultural teens, with and without disabilities and links those teens with their schools and communities through innovative service learning, career futures exploration, and civic activism. It establishes partnerships with cutting edge corporations, encouraging youth to explore careers in a sustainable future.

Project Interdependence sponsors *Internet*, a national multicultural, cooperative youth leadership network linking the foremost programs and people devoted to valued futures for all youth. **The World Interdependence Fund** provides part-day and multi-day hands-on training as well as offering expertise to programs, trainers, and teens wherever there is an interest in forging inclusion.

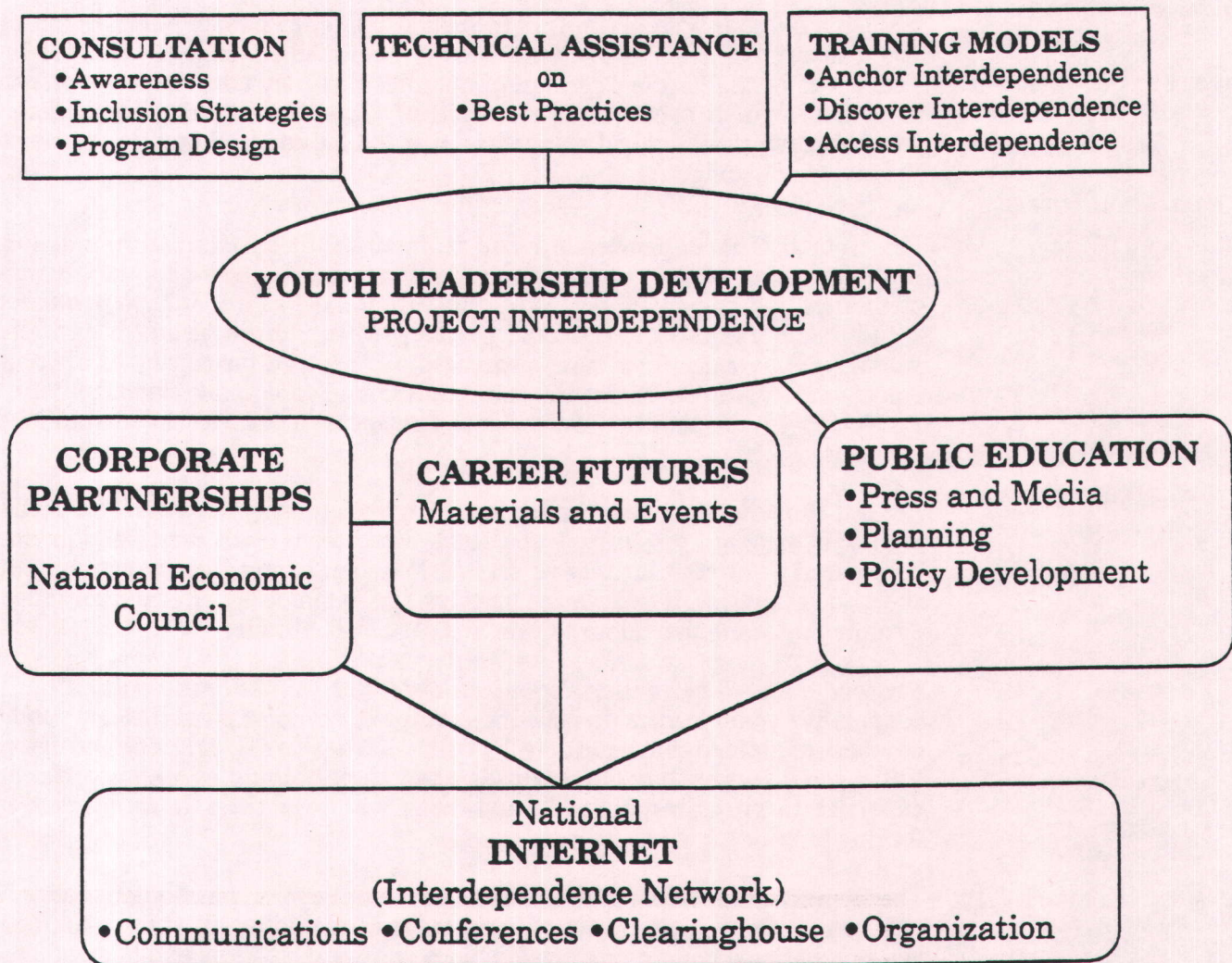
The Americans with Disabilities Act, conveys a passionate national challenge. The time is ripe to try new ways of including all youth. National and international realities are crashing in on business-as-usual and demand new leadership. It is no longer just a "good idea" to seek the unity in our diversity - it is *a critical American agenda*.

For further information contact Billie Shawl, Administrator,
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**The Scope of the
WORLD
INTERDEPENDENCE
FUND**

MISSION STATEMENT

A national leadership development and networking organization to develop a new, sustainable generation of leadership to promote the full inclusion and interdependence of all peoples through participation in the disability rights and other social justice movements.



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