Write Home About It!

OBJECTIVES
To send good news about participants home to families and care-givers

INSTRUCTIONS
1. Explain to youth that they will be creating postcards that will be mailed to their homes a few times per year, to share good news about them with their families and caregivers.

2. Ask participants: What do you think your families and caregivers would like to hear about you?

3. Distribute five jumbo index cards to each participant.

4. Explain that they will create a unique piece of art on one side of each index card, and leave room on the backside for you to write your notes about them.

5. Create three stations around the room for participants to create a different piece of art for each of their cards:
   • STATION 1: Collage materials with the prompt: What are your goals for this year?
   • STATION 2: Watercolors with the prompt: What makes you happiest?
   • STATION 3: Construction paper and glue sticks for ripped paper mosaics, with the prompt: What do you see when you dream your biggest dreams?

6. Divide youth into three groups and have them rotate to each of the stations, decorating one card at each one.

7. Demonstrate to participants how to properly address a letter.

8. Give each participant scrap paper and five labels.

9. Have each participant practice writing the name and address of their postcard recipients on their scrap paper, then copy the information five times on the labels.

10. Have participants place one label in the middle of the artwork on each postcard with the recipient address.

11. Have participants place your return address and a stamp on the artwork side of each of their post cards.

12. Have each participant place their postcards in an envelope with their name on it, so you know which card belongs to each participant.

13. Periodically over the course of the year, fill out your participants’ postcards and send them home.

MATERIALS:
- Jumbo index cards
- Five stamps per participant
- Five pre-printed labels per participant with your return address and phone number
- Collage materials
- Markers
- Paint
- Newspapers
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Stamps and stickers
- Any other fun art supplies

SETUP
Ask each participant to bring in the name and address of one person they would like to send good gossip letters to: could be a parent, uncle, aunt, sibling, etc.
Write Home About It! continued

**DEBRIEF**
- What is most exciting about getting “good gossip” about you in the mail?
- What will you do each day to ensure there are lots of good things to write home about?
- If you were writing a letter to your parent/caregiver about something great about yourself, what would it say?

**DIAL IT DOWN**
- Limit the art stations to materials that are easiest for your participants to work with.
- Provide stencils and stickers to ensure their artwork is clean and appealing.
- Help participants stick the labels and stamps on their envelopes.
- Create a worksheet for participants to have someone at home write out the correct name and address of the recipient.