Write Home About It!

OBJECTIVES

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

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.

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 station**s 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.

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.