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From the President



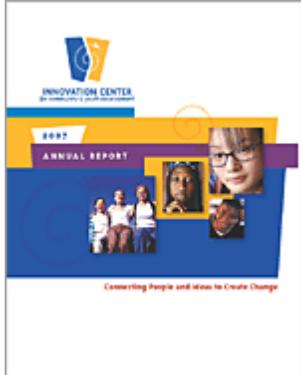
WENDY WHEELER, President,
Innovation Center for Community
and Youth Development

The Innovation Center is proud to share our 2007 annual report. Read the letter from the President Wendy Wheeler below and click on the link at the end to see the full report.

Message from the Innovation Center President

In 2007 we focused on the core elements of our mission: sharing innovative resources and sparking innovation in community and youth development. The year brought significant accomplishments and with them, opportunities to plant new seeds for the future.

Our work with the [Kellogg Leadership for Community Change project](#) epitomized the Innovation Center mission. For the past three years we've worked intensively with five community organizations that have dreams of improving their neighborhoods. We guided the sites as they built youth-adult leadership teams to work toward their goals. On the Lummi Nation in Washington the team brought young people to tribal council meetings for the first time. In Appalachia they worked together to find innovative ways to strengthen local schools. The Innovation Center helped these groups foster new relationships, develop plans and monitor their progress. We also documented the experience and are creating new toolkits and training programs based on them. To learn more, visit our website to watch [Come Out Shining](#), a video that tells the story of KLCC in Benton Harbor, MI. Check our website in the fall to download the KLCC toolkit.



We expanded our organizational reach in 2007 to better include youth workers, researchers and funders. Innovation Center youth board member Carolyn Edelbeck and I modeled youth-adult partnership when we keynoted four [White House-sponsored conferences](#) in Nashville, TN, Saint Paul, MN, Dallas, TX and Portland, OR.

Traffic to our website continued to grow in 2007, with over 333,000 visitors to our sites. In 2008 we will build on the success of these sites when we launch a new and updated version of our Innovation Center site. Along with all of the Innovation Center resources, the site will feature the Kellogg Knowledge Well, a source for tools, online communities, videos and photos to help practitioners work effectively with young people. Visit www.theinnovationcenter.org in August 2008 to check it out.

In fall 2007, we prepared for 2008 with a new three-year strategic plan. The planning process sharpened our focus, clarified our goals and intensified our resolve. We will provide the best possible support for young people and communities, use the lessons learned through those experiences to inform the field, and spark new innovation in community and youth development.

Writing this letter gives me an opportunity to thank the many people who have partnered with the Innovation Center over the year. Our staunch board of directors has offered advice, guidance and support. Our exceptional staff members have worked to achieve our mission every day. Our funders' investments have made all of our work possible. Last, I want to acknowledge the young people and adults around the country whose vision, energy and commitment inspire us every day.

Join us!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wendy Wheeler".

Wendy Wheeler
President and CEO

[Click here for the full report including financial statements and our list of contributors.](#)