YOUTH DEVELOPMENT is a process that prepares a young person to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood and achieve his or her full potential. Youth development is promoted through activities and experiences that help youth develop social, ethical, emotional, physical, and cognitive competencies.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP is part of the youth development process and supports the young person in developing: (a) the ability to analyze his or her own strengths and weaknesses, set personal and vocational goals, and have the self-esteem, confidence, motivation, and abilities to carry them out (including the ability to establish support networks in order to fully participate in community life and effect positive social change); and (b) the ability to guide or direct others on a course of action, influence the opinions and behaviors of others, and serve as a role model (Wehmeyer, Agran, & Hughes, 1998).

Conditions that promote healthy youth development are supported through programs and activities in schools and communities. Youth who are constructively involved in learning and doing and who are connected to positive adults and peers are less likely to engage in risky or self-defeating behaviors.

Source: http://nasetalliance.org/youthdev/index.htm

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA ORGANIZATIONS:

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Champaign County** - [www.bbbscil.org/Champaign-County](http://www.bbbscil.org/Champaign-County)
  Big Brothers Big Sisters strives to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships that change their lives for the better.

- **Champaign County YMCA- Larkin’s Place** - [www.sf-ymca.net/give/volunteer](http://www.sf-ymca.net/give/volunteer)
  The Champaign County YMCA is a leading nonprofit community service organization serving health and fitness facilities, day camps, and numerous child-care locations.

- **Champaign County Young Life** - [www.younglife.org](http://www.younglife.org)
  Young Life is a world class organization for adolescents. Our staff and volunteers enter the world of kids, focusing on what matters to them -- fun, adventure, friendship and a sense of significance.

- **First String, Inc** - [www.facebook.com/First-String-280512745318014](http://www.facebook.com/First-String-280512745318014)
  First String, Inc works with the local youth through sport activities in Champaign-Urbana from the ages of 5-12 in baseball and 5-17 in basketball, supplying the neighborhood youths with organized outlets for their energies.

- **Mahomet Area Youth Club** - [www.mahometyouth.org/volunteer](http://www.mahometyouth.org/volunteer)
  The MAYC is a non-profit after-school and full-day summer program providing daily programming, which teaches and supports young people to develop their full potential to become responsible, respectful, caring and productive citizens.

- **Stratton Elementary School - Summit Afterschool Program** - [www.cuvolunteer.org/organizations/690](http://www.cuvolunteer.org/organizations/690)
  Summit Afterschool Program is a program at Stratton Elementary School that meets after school to enrich students’ understanding of their own cultural identities and the cultural identities of others.
● Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center - www.urbanacommunitycenter.org
The Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center serves 20-30 youth from grades K-12 in the Urbana public school district #116. Tutors assist the youth with their homework, and a comprehensive program is offered to help students work on their curriculum and enhance their computer software skills.

CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES AND REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:

● Big Brothers Big Sisters UIUC - www.facebook.com/BBBS-UIUC-171451112961504
The mission of BBBS at UIUC is to increase the number of student mentors in order to meet the need of the hundreds of local kids that are currently on the waiting list.

● Camp Kesem at University of Illinois - www.campkesem.org/illinois
Camp Kesem is a national wide community, driven by passionate college student leaders, that supports children through and beyond their parent’s cancer.

● Collegiate 4-H - https://illinois.collegiatelink.net/organization/collegiate4h
Collegiate 4-H exists to serve youth, to function as a service-oriented organization, to develop leadership abilities of each member, and to bridge the gap between recent 4-H alumni and extension staff.

● Fitness for the Ages - http://publish.illinois.edu/fitnessfortheages
Our mission is to provide the elderly and youth with physical fitness in order to promote their bone strength, reduce stress and help prevent the onset of disease. We will achieve this through regular sessions of activity because fitness never gets old!

● Illini Mentor Program (IMP) - publish.illinois.edu/illinimentorprogram
The IMP is dedicated to fostering meaningful and consistent mentoring relationships between University students and children in the local community with the goal of supporting learning, growth, skill-building, and interracial and cultural understanding.

● IlliniThon - www.illinithon.org
IlliniThon is an annual event that raises money for the Children’s Miracle Network that directly benefits St. John’s Children’s Hospital in Springfield, IL.

● Novaree - www.facebook.com/Illinois-STEM-Scouts-1404606206452400
Novaree is an organization dedicated to STEM outreach to middle school and high school aged youth. In recent years NOVAREE has partnered with the numerous RSOs on campus to host a STEM based outreach clinic on campus.

● Students and Youth for a New America (SYNA) - https://illinois.collegiatelink.net/organization/synauiu
SYNA is an affiliated student organization dedicated to making meaningful positive connections with the local community, as well as addressing and discussing our nation’s grave economic and social problems.

● Together Achieving Purpose In Leadership Academy Club (TAP IN) - www.tapinacademy.org/volunteer
TAP IN is a local after-school enrichment program whose mission is to educate, equip, and empower youth to enhance educational achievement, leadership development, and cultural awareness.

● UIUC Child Life Association - childlifewish.uiuc.illinois.edu
Child Life Association dedicates time to learn about the profession of Child Life Specialty as well as educate others and volunteer in a local/regional setting at hospitals and within the community.

● Vis-A-Vis at the University of Illinois - visavisuiuc.illinois.edu/volunteers.html
Vis-A-Vis provides an opportunity for students to tutor children one-on-one or serve as a classroom aide in the local Champaign-Urbana elementary, middle, and high schools.