Hands on Learning Activity: Community Mapping

**Purpose:** To practice identifying community resources and needs.

**Materials:**

- Large sheets of paper or white board
- Markers

**Time to complete:** 15 - 20 minute

**Facilitator Instructions:**

- Have the participants work in groups, divide into groups of 4 or 5.
- Tell them that they are going to create their own special community. They will choose the details of their community:
  - Name of Community
  - Town, City, urban, suburban, rural
  - Mountains, rivers, forests or other geographic details
- Instruct them to draw what their community is made up of... (Give no more instructions than that)
- Before they begin drawing they MUST discuss as a group what their community should look like and get everyone's input (Two minutes for discussion)
- Once everyone in the group agrees, only then may they start drawing – once again, everyone helps with the drawing. (Three minutes for drawing)
- Have each group report out the name of their community and what is in it (one minute each)
- Now have them work in their group to figure out what is missing in their communities.
- Have them WRITE (not draw) in the corner of their map what is missing.
- Each group reports out (one minute)
- Point out things they might have missed. i.e. water treatment or recycling plants, libraries, schools, parks, government, roads,
- Next have them pick one issue or missing element and have them report out how they could take action to change it or make it better! - (group report out - two minutes)

**Conclusion:**

The final objective is for them to learn how to look for the real NEED in their community.

Example: You don’t need a food drive in a community that has a successful, well stocked food pantry. But you might need to find out why people don’t have enough or cannot afford food.