

**Guide to Starting a Youth Program**

**Creating a Statement**

***How to use this handout:*** *Choose a group of people who will help you draft your mission statement. They might include mentors, potential board members, youth, potential donors and community members. Talk over the definition and samples on this sheet, then use the questions on the next page to brainstorm. Members of the group may want to jot their thoughts down in the spaces provided.*

**Definition of a Mission Statement**

The mission of your organization is a clear and specific statement describing what you do, how and why you do it and who you serve. It informs people of the organization’s purpose and will guide decision making.

**Sample Mission Statements**

*The Foundry Educational Foundation strengthens the metal casting industry by supporting unique partnerships among students, educators and industry, helping today's students become tomorrow's leaders.*

*The Boys and Girls Club is a youth guidance organization dedicated to promoting health, social, educational, vocational, cultural, character and leadership development. It aims to help young people to improve their lives by building self-esteem and developing values and skills during critical periods of growth.*

*We aim to transform society and culture by providing aspiring leaders with opportunities for self-renewal and development of leadership skills, values and behaviors.* –Wisconsin Leadership Institute

**Writing a Mission Statement**

Answer the questions below. Use the answers to draft a one- to two-sentence mission statement. Keep working on it until you are satisfied!

**What do we do? (What is our overarching goal?)**

**For whom?**

**How do we do it? (What’s our strategy for meeting our goal?)**

**Our mission statement:**