

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

January 2008

Site of the Month

100 Best Communities for Young People

The winners of the 2008 100 Best Communities for Young People, a competition sponsored by America's Promise Alliance (Alliance) and Capital One, were released on January 24, 2008. Forty-four communities have the distinction of making the list three years in a row. Unfortunately, not one of Nevada communities was on the list; either they did not submit an application or they were not chosen.

Communities must apply for this recognition by responding to how they provide community support of children and youth. In addition, they must identify: (1) resources children and youth receive; (2) children and youth outcomes; (3) community innovations in the areas of policy, practice, and resources; (4) progress to date; and (5) plans for the coming year. A panel of civic, business, and nonprofit leaders selects the winners.

Winners not only receive recognition as wonderful places for children to live, but also a chance to win a playground valued at \$70,000 from KABOOM, a national nonprofit organization "that envisions a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America."

I chose Grand Forks' summary of its community efforts to share with you because I lived there while I attended the University of North Dakota. It was a wonderful place to live and, in my opinion, deserves its three-time winner status.

"Grand Forks is receiving the 100 Best honor, in part, because of its work to keep its youth off of drugs through The ANSWER program. Through The ANSWER, over 5,000 free drug test kits have been given out to area parents, in conjunction with training sessions on how to use them. This effort has raised awareness that the problem of teen drug use is something that every Grand Forks family must be prepared to face, as well as increased parental involvement throughout the community. Public and private sector policy support of youth health has also been consistently provided to address both ongoing and emerging issues. The 5+5 nutrition and Healthy Families programs, and the Tobacco-Free Coalition, are but a few examples of the support being given to youth."

Information on each of the winning communities is available on the Alliance Web site: <http://www.americaspromise.org/APAPage.aspx?id=5922>.

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