

Josh's Story



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When Josh entered high school, he was a pretty quiet guy without many friends. Like all freshman, he was in a time of major transition. Which way to go? Who to become? Josh decided to check out a school club he had heard about back in elementary school. Before he knew it he was busy volunteering for many of the club's activities. He was also focused on encouraging his peers to make good choices.

“I've always been concerned about people and the tragic situations I hear about on the news. Drugs and alcohol ruin people's lives and I wanted to help stop it if I could,” recalls Josh. “Throughout middle school my interest in traffic safety and prevention grew. I did a class project on alcohol and drugs which really motivated me.”

Two years have passed since Josh started participating in STOPS (Students Together Offering Peer Support) and he now serves as the club's president. Josh says he is working hard to grow the group's membership and expand their impact on the community. He knows effective leaders need to have a strong voice and be committed.

“Growing up I was extremely quiet and shy,” remembers Josh. “Now I enjoy public speaking and getting people excited!”

“He's always there. You can always depend on Josh,” said Eric Sandberg, Youth Development Coordinator. “Josh is always thinking about what the group should do next.”

Recently Josh became a Police Explorer as he is considering a career in law enforcement. It is clear public safety has become his life's pursuit.

According to Sandberg, “Like Josh, many youth in Faribault are rich with developmental assets already. These kinds of programs and experiences give them the opportunity to build and develop their skills more fully.”

Josh's story is one of empowerment. In Faribault, only 50% of youth report they are regularly serving their community and 69% say they are given useful roles and responsibilities.* Youth programs are empowering. Youth who lead are inspiring. All youth are deserving.

Empowering Faribault's young leaders!



*Data gathered by Faribault area schools and the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition via the 2016 Developmental Asset Profile.