East St. Louis

Teen Tech Team started in 2005 as a partnership between local partners and U of I, teaching teens computer skills and entrepreneurial leadership.

YCI led inquiry activities where teens engaged with their community on issues like violence, government effectiveness, and community history.

- Negotiating partnerships
- Local capacity building
- Media creation empowering teens to find their voice
- Teen-driven topics peaking participants' interest & critical thinking
Rantoul is a community that became economically depressed following the closing of the Chanute Air Force Base in the early 1990s. A group of students at Rantoul High School called Youth Democracy are responding to the poverty and hard times that face their community by documenting and researching stories and histories with video.

- Researching issues of social justice in their community
- Challenging silence around difficult issues
- Creating media and sharing what they’ve learned with the community
E2Y is a youth community asset mapping project funded by a Youth Futures grant in Champaign, IL. Five African American youth who were recruited from the Empowering Black Youth Networks are expected to accomplish this project. They interviewed business owners, neighbors, community leaders and others to identify the assets in their own neighborhoods including job opportunities, summer activities, teen-friendly spaces, and informal and formal networks of support for teens. They are sharing their data with other teens and adults through an interactive website.
In the historically Puerto Rican community of Humboldt Park, Chicago, YCI is collaborating with teachers and community leaders. Students have curated an exhibit at the Newberry Library, *500 Years of Puerto Rican History Through the Eyes of Others*, and are currently producing a community asset map investigating gentrification with a group called Paseo Boricua ¡NO SE VENDE! 

- Presenting historical information to a broader community
- Collaborating with multiple institutions
- Researching community assets