



Cultivating Creativity Initiative

Program Name – Cultivating Creativity

Description of Program

This program is meant to help local churches pour into the lives of youth in their community by helping them identify and cultivate their natural gifts, talents and creative capacity. It is suggested that a local ministry couples these activity with an incentive, as eating, gaming, or culinary arts. By participating in a meal program, a church can feed neighborhood children any combination of meals and snacks, while nurturing the mind. For example, between breakfast and lunch, the church will provide activities aimed at helping children discover their areas of natural giftedness and to cultivate those God- endowed gifts.

Depending on the church's capacity, it can offer activities in the areas of Art, Crafts, Music (singing, piano lessons, etc), Creative Writing (poetry, drama, etc.), and Dance (Praise Dance, Drill Team, etc), Oration, and Drama. Initially, each different activity should be scheduled so that children have an opportunity to be exposed to each one (held at a different time or on different day). Ministry leaders are encouraged to identify resources in their local congregations, first. Community colleges and local name- specified agencies, can "fit the bill" as appropriate resources.

All activities offered can be supplemented with a vacation-bible-school type class. Local churches may consider using a structured curriculum, e.g., *the VBS-touted curriculum*, or *Answers in Genesis*. This curriculum teaches the biblical foundations of science and addresses the false ideas on evolution being taught in schools. It can be purchased through the Answers in Genesis Website. As well, any applicable teaching modules or series left incomplete during previous ministry sessions may be implemented, as appropriate.

Benefits of program

It is a foundational local ministry obligation and, yet, great privilege to nourish its members, that is, those within the local assembly and those throughout the community at large.

Students may benefit from learning skills that not only increase their competence in areas of importance but also help them foster personal *creativity* - widely acknowledged as vital for social and economic innovation and development as well as for individual well-being. On a personal level, "creativity" is about the desire for self-expression and identity (Nussbaum, 2011) One way that the local ministry, in its compassionate outreach, can nurture children and youth is by building their self-esteem, developing competency, by increasing opportunity for self-expression, and fostering discipline. This is evidenced by the myriad of performance, liturgical, and expressive ministries operating in local ministries today.

Implementation Steps:

1. Assign a Cultivating Creativity Initiative point of contact, a member of your local ministry.
2. Sign up local ministry to be a Summer Feeding Program Site or Provider/Site through your local Department of Agriculture.
3. Contact any one of several food provider programs that operate year round. These may include: *e.g., the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program, local Culinary Arts Ministry, Kid's Café, Backpack, or similar.* Therefore your local ministry is not limited to summer implementation.
4. Recruit Volunteers/Teachers of Creativity (within your congregation if possible/doesn't have to be an adult) who can provide competent mentorship in their respective area/activity.
5. Encourage Volunteers/Teachers to select a curriculum. Enroll educators of local ministry as reviewers of subject-specific curriculum offerings. Consider selections available online (free, if possible) and use that as a guide for their instruction. Consult CUI Education for support.
6. Secure or purchase curriculum. If "Answers in Genesis", visit website; allow time for delivery.
7. Schedule/Calendar the Activities in advance and advertise the program in your community (*Facebook, ministry websites, markets, technical schools, performance academies, salons, local ministries, agencies, or similar*).
8. Schedule an end of program Talent Showcase at your ministry.
9. Market to family members, surrounding neighborhood, and larger community.
10. Couple with a meal or light foods.
11. Prepare to welcome new members!

Please direct your questions to:
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