

Money Smart Teen Essay

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If an investor gave me \$25,000 to solve an economic issue in my community I would create a better support system for kids and teens. Our community has been through alot and I would use this money as an opportunity to help be the support for kids and teens that struggle with everyday problems and even severe ones as well in this community. Yes I understand we have The Vault as a hang out and safe place for kids to go, but not every age is allowed into The Vault and it is not open every day. Don't get me wrong, I think The Vault is an amazing place and has brought so many young kids together. But what can be the next big step for this community?

I think the next big step is making a better support system for kids and teens. Our Clinton family has been through enough young deaths. I want to stop more from happening because it is a real problem in our community. When I say "support system," I mean a speaker that would come in monthly - either a speaker that is in the field of helping teens/kids or someone telling their own story. The next thing I think would help is bringing families together to just eat dinner and play games and have a pizza night at Monicals. I would also want all teachers, not just high school teachers, going through Teen Mental Health training so they can recognize the changes in their students and any signs of danger. So many people think only teens go through alot, which is not the case any more. Now young kids go through everyday problems as well, even if they may not be as severe as teens. So I do think it's important for all teachers to learn about seeing warning signs in younger kids and helping them when needed. I understand it's

a law for the Teen Mental Health program that you have to be 15 to learn about it as a student and that's why only grades 10, 11, and 12 can learn about the program. But still, we can start sharing the signs to look for if a student or friend needs help getting through a rough day or even a serious problem like depression, anxiety, or thoughts of suicide for our younger students. Even though the training wouldn't be like the level us teens learn about, I think it's still important for young kids to learn about how they can look out for their friends and classmates. Our community needs to come together and show these young kids and teens that life is worth living for and there's a purpose for everyone on this planet and that it's ok to not be ok and to cry, but there's a time for healing and getting through things as well. Things our high school could do are have morning breakfast hang outs in a classroom where kids can feel free to talk about any life struggles they are having. Another thing they could do is have our counselors have meetings with us more frequently to check up on us.

The reason I want to do the things is because I want to be the reason kids and teens have a better support system in our community and so that they know they have people that care and that there is a way out of all the pain and suffering. I personally think all these things would help a lot. Being a kid or a teen is not easy.