KEY is a program that began in 2015 when Kids Oneida was asked to join a learning collaborative through NYU’s McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research. As members of the learning collaborative, KO staff were given the Knowledge Empowers You (KEY) curriculum and asked to run a group teaching young adults transitional life skills. We had no idea how successful the program would be!

Following the end of the learning collaborative, our staff began to brainstorm ways of modifying and enriching the basic curriculum to fit the various needs in our community. We worked until we had developed a comprehensive life skills curriculum that could be molded to any age group or learning level. We have successfully utilized this curriculum throughout the community to fit the needs of local schools and other community organizations, while also continuing to hold semi-annual groups for Kids Oneida clientele.

What participants are saying:

“[Group] has definitely helped me socialize more.”
– G. age 13

“I’ve learned how to open up more and talk about tough stuff during group.”
– T. age 17

“Group has done a lot for me. I socialize more and I advocate for myself.” - E. age 15

Contact Director of Programs and Services Allison Jackson to find out more about how KEY can address important topics your students/teens are facing. ajackson@kidsoneida.org or 315-731-2693
Is there a particular issue your students/teens are facing?
Do you want to provide your teens with valuable information?
Is there not enough time or resources for you to address these needs?
We can help.

KEY is a Powerful, Comprehensive Life Skills Program

KEY (a program of Kids Oneida) provides proven curriculum, energetic and relatable group leaders and hits on the very topics that are most important and relevant to YOUR students or teens. We bring in the topics you need in the environment you prefer:

Traditional groups
Presented in a classroom format in closed groups that usually serve between 10-20 youth for a duration of 7-10 weeks. Each of these groups begin with a check-in to gauge how participants are feeling, before jumping into an interactive lesson on the topic of the day. Journaling and creativity are encouraged as youth begin to learn more about their abilities and inner strength. Speakers and community partners are also brought in to further engage youth in their community.

School and Community-Based Groups
We also offer school and community-based groups, where we partner with local agencies or schools to make a curriculum specifically for a concern they have noticed in their population. The lessons are then presented in weekly classroom groups, or in an assembly format for the entire school.

Why KEY is great for your school/organization:
- Addresses key issues facing your teens/students
- Provides outside expertise and leadership
- Enhances your curriculum with content you don’t have time or resources to provide
- Strengthens your student body/group through informing, opening communication and bonding
- Teaches imperative life skills that prepare young adults for their future

Why students/teens love KEY:
- Creates a comfortable atmosphere to share
- Instructors provide valuable, life enhancing information that allows them to transition to adulthood armed with knowledge
- Students realize they’re not alone
- They get answers to help with their issues and tools to move forward

How to get started:
It is easy to begin the process:
1. Planning Meeting
   - Initially, we will set up a meeting with you and your organization to discuss what your needs look like (length of time, number of group sessions) and what topics you’d like included. At this meeting we will also discuss what you can commit to providing. Please note that we will not be able to assist if your school due to lack of funding.
2. Individualize Curriculum
   - We will then create an individualized curriculum to suit your needs and present it to you for review and approval.
3. We handle it all!
   - On the day of the group, our facilitators bring in all materials for the lesson. We bring in all newsletters for youth to bring home. We continue the learning process by gathering feedback.
4. Gathering Feedback
   - At the end of each group, we send out feedback forms, which we then use to continue the learning process.

Contact Director of Programs and Services:
a.jackson@kidsoneida.com