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## PREFACE

### Why Leadership Development

*"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."  
-Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 - 1945)*

Leadership is not a privilege; it is a right. Every man, woman, and child has the right to be taught how to be a leader for himself or herself, and for others.

Unfortunately, our attitudes about leaders and leadership are narrow even though our present world is undergoing an explosion in both scientific and technological advances. In our society, we are not taught that everyone is a potential leader. What qualifies anyone to lead us? What is so special about our pastors, teachers, politicians, and CEOs? We have been made to believe that those who wear the title of "leader" do so because of some superhuman, special ability that is not easily attainable by the masses.

*"What is important is that young people become catalysts in the lives of their peers."*

To secure a better future, there is a need for leadership development for youth and adults alike. It is necessary for young people to have the opportunity for leadership skill development because it improves self-perception and influences young people to be positive examples for their peers. In a society where youth are most influenced by other young people, training youth in leadership empowers them to be a major force in the development of the community. It instills confidence and independence, and uproots the many misconceptions older generations have about their younger counterparts. When young people realize their leadership potential, they will use the power of their creative energy in a positive direction rather than for destruction or waste.

What is important is that young people become catalysts in the lives of their peers. We understand the need for youth to be positive examples for each other in order to change. This change can only be sustained by turning leadership training into a systematic social process. A young person will not learn the potential within himself or herself unless he or she sees potential realized and exemplified by those with whom he or she can relate. This dynamic creates the atmosphere for change that will shape the future of our society.