**Forms of Civic Engagement**

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| *Direct Service* | Giving personal time and energy to address immediate needs in the community. Examples include tutoring, serving food at a shelter, building or repairing homes, and neighborhood park clean-ups. A special sub-category is *skills-based service*, in which special skills such as knowledge of a language or computer systems are applied to support the organizations that address community needs. |
| *Philanthropic Giving* | Donating funding or needed items, participating in fund-raising events. |
| *Advocacy* | Using various modes of persuasion (petitions, marches, letter-writing) to convince government or corporate decision-makers to make choices that will benefit the community.  |
| *Education and Awareness Raising* | Raising public awareness and understanding of social issues (giving speeches to community groups, distributing written materials to the general public, or providing educational activities in schools). |
| *Political Involvement* | Participating in processes of self-government, such as campaigning and voting. This includes keeping informed about issues in the local, national and global community in order to vote responsibly, and engaging in discourse and debate about current social issues.  |
| *Participation in Associations* | Participating in community organizations that build the social networks that are vital to a strong community. Strong civic associations, sports leagues, church choirs, and school boards provide a foundation for community building efforts and create a space for people to play a role in shaping their community.  |
| *Community Development* | Working with the diverse constituencies of a community to plan improvements that will make it a better place for everyone in it. This includes both solving problems and identifying existing assets in order to maximize them. |
| *Community Research* | Exploring a community to learn about its assets and how it is being affected by current social problems. This form of civic engagement provides the knowledge that other engagement efforts can build upon. |
| *Socially Responsible Personal and Professional Behavior* | Maintaining a sense of responsibility to the welfare of others when making personal or professional decisions. This category describes personal lifestyle choices that reflect commitment to one’s values. For example, riding a bicycle to work to reduce the environmental impact of a commute by car, buying or not buying certain products because of unjust policies by the corporations who sell them, choosing to work for or invest in companies that have socially just priorities. |

Wagner & Owen, 2009

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