

September 2026



From Challenge to Opportunity:

How “PlanBeTeen” Used Innovation, Youth Engagement, and Community Partnerships to Adapt and Thrive

Presenters:

Karen Johnson and Christian Williams

PlanBeTeen

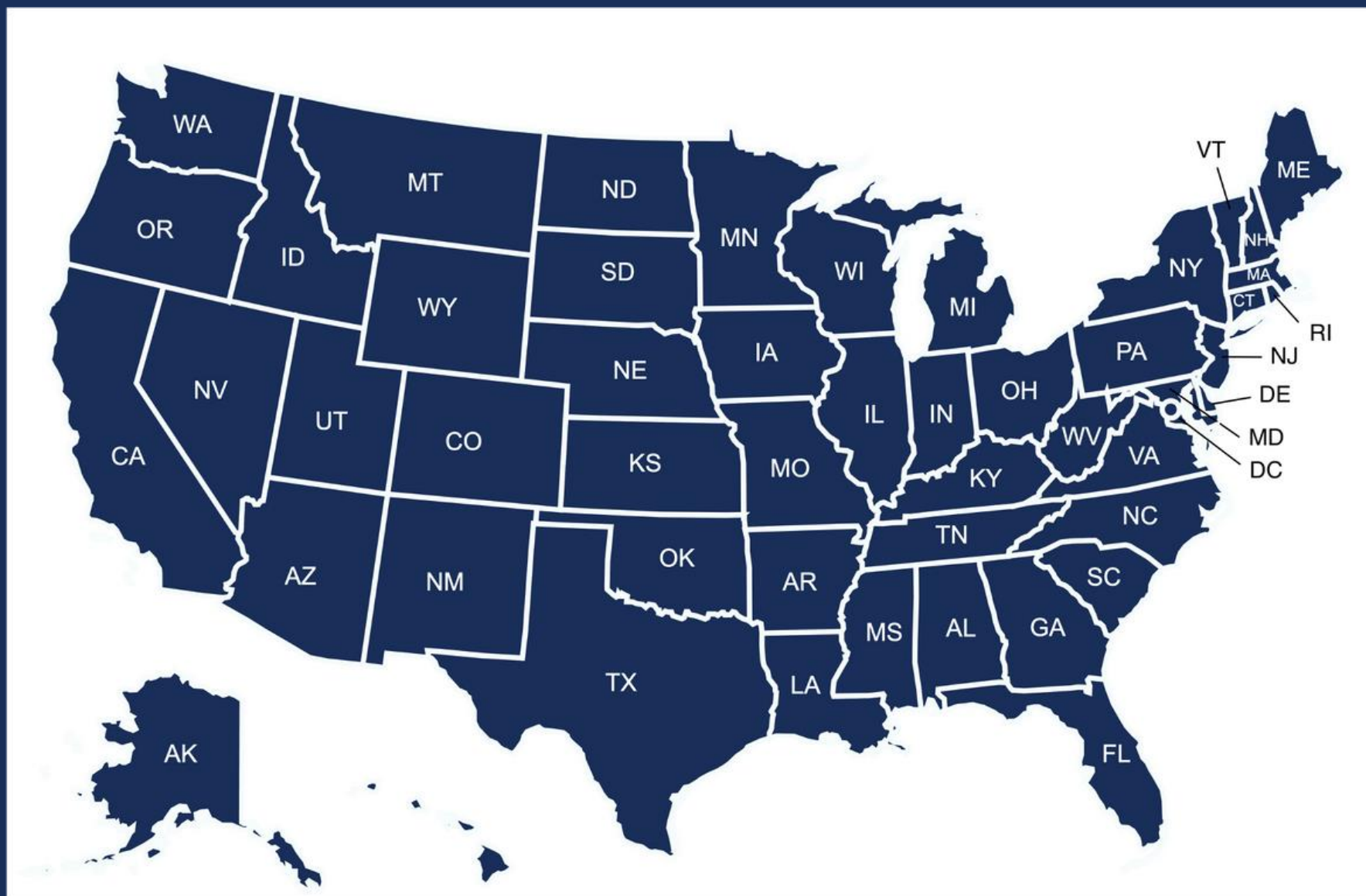
Webinar Resources

1. If you cannot hear this presentation, **check your audio settings located in the control panel**. If that does not work, please dial in using the number found in your invite.
2. We will be putting “**handouts**” in the chat located in the control panel.
3. Please **tell us who you are and where you are from** in the chat.
4. Questions? The **Q&A box** is located in your control panel.
5. **Closed Captioning** is available in your control panel.

Charlie and Helen Dibble



2024-2025 Clients
served approximately 117,000 youth



The Dibble Institute is
a national,
independent non-
profit organization.

Our Mission

Empowering youth and young adults with skills to build and sustain healthy interpersonal and romantic relationships.



We believe in **research**.



We believe in **stable, safe, and nurturing** families.



We believe that relationship education is for everyone.





FROM CHALLENGE TO OPPORTUNITY:

PIVOTING A PREIS PROGRAM TO COMMUNITY-BASED IMPLEMENTATION

*How PlanBeTeen Used Innovation, Youth Engagement,
and Community Partnerships to Adapt and Thrive*





PRESENTED BY:

PlanBeTeen & Peacemakers

Karen Johnson

Director of Mental Health Services

Christian Williams

*Youth Development & Program Management
Professional*





WHO DO YOU PLAN TO BE?

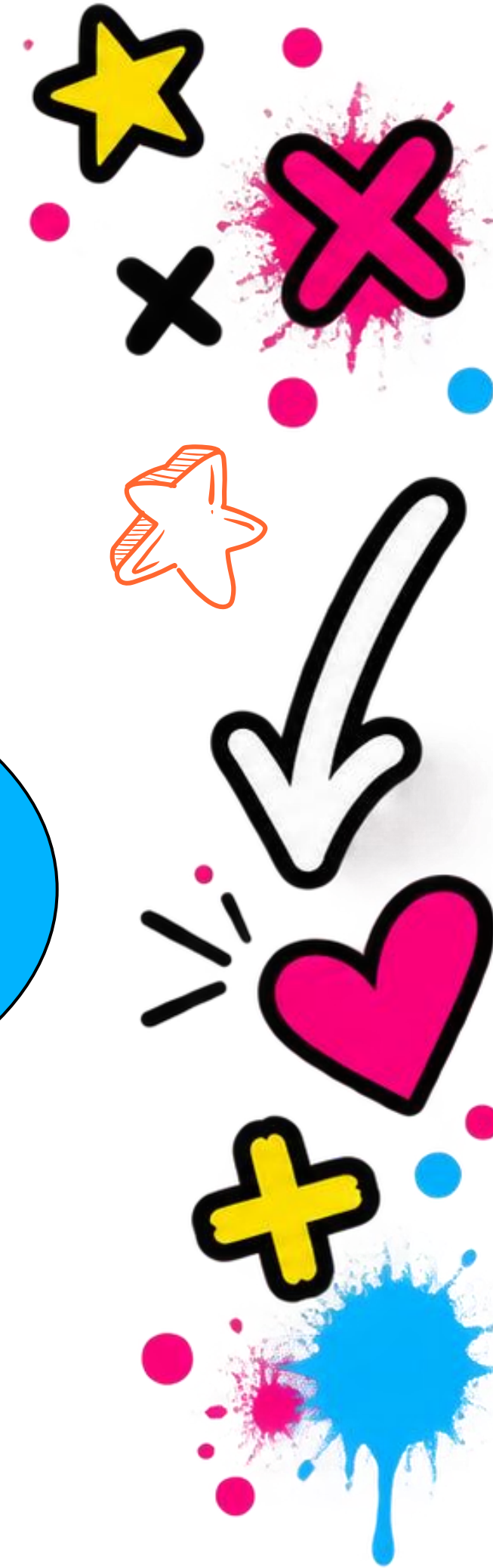
20+
years of youth
programming in
Miami-Dad County

PREIS

PERSONAL
RESPONSIBILITY
EDUCATION
INNOVATION
STRATEGIES

75,000+
youth reached

Our story isn't simply about implementing a program.
It's about what happens when the environment
changes,



OUR POPULATION & ORIGINAL STUDY DESIGN

WHO WE SERVE

- HIGH SCHOOL AGE YOUTH
- SCHOOL BASED SETTINGS
- COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

ORIGINAL STUDY DESIGN

THREE-ARM
RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED
TRIAL



WHEN THE PLAN CHANGED

NEW FLORIDA LAWS LIMITED OUR ABILITY TO SERVE YOUTH IN SCHOOL SETTINGS

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS – Navigating schools, districts, and delivery changes

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION – Finding eligible youth and keeping them engaged

CREDIBILITY & COMMUNICATION – Making text-based information feel credible and relevant.

QUESTION: What do you do when the original implementation strategy is no longer realistic?



TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITY

WE PIVOTED

*We didn't abandon our goals.
We changed the pathway to reach them.*

SCHOOL-BASED



COMMUNITY-BASED

**SOME OF THE BIGGEST
INNOVATION COMES FROM BEING
WILLING TO CHANGE THE PLAN.**

THE BREAKFAST CLUB

ENGAGEMENT

RELATIONSHIPS

PRESENCE

FLEXIBILITY

ACCESSIBILITY

YOUNG PEOPLE KNOW WHEN YOU'RE EXCITED ABOUT THE WORK

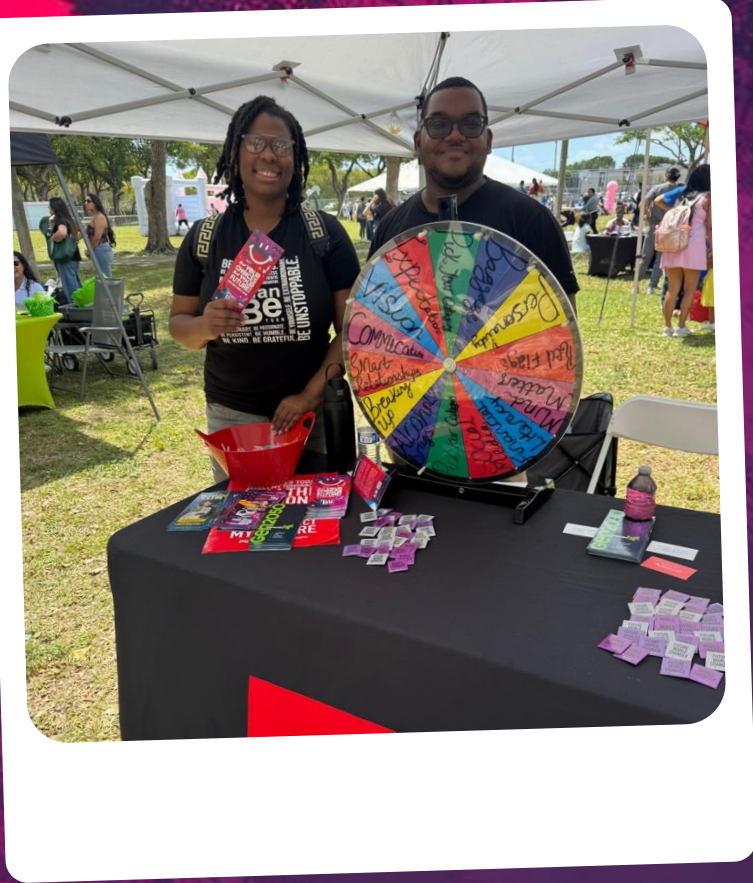
ASK:
Why would a young person WANT to come back?

THAT SHIFT CHANGES EVERYTHING.

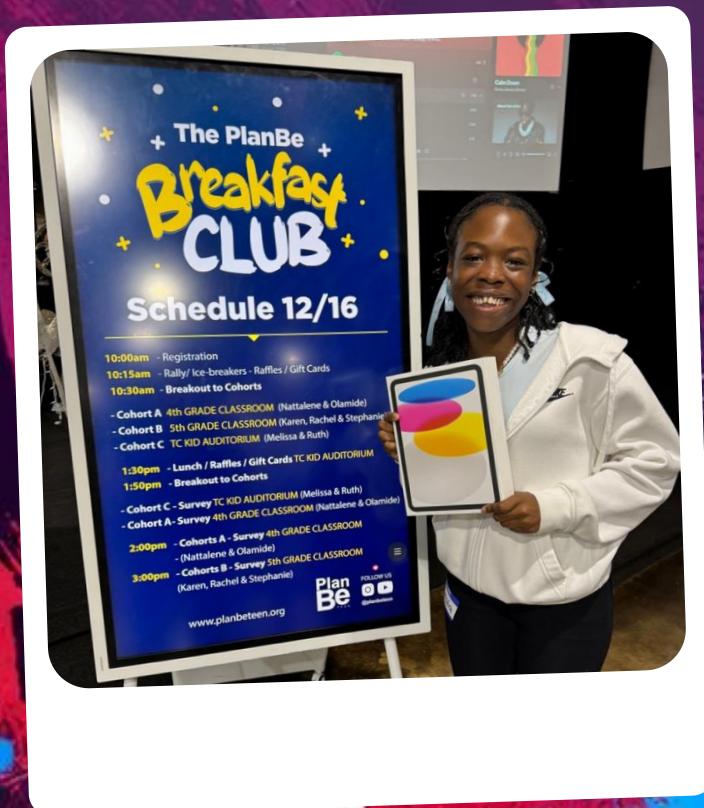
x✓YOUR
CHOICES
x✓YOUR
FUTURE!

MAKE GOOD CHOICES TODAY.





x✓YOUR
CHOICES
x✓YOUR
FUTURE!
MAKE GOOD CHOICES TODAY.



NO ONE SIZE FITS ALL STRATEGY

Recruitment has to reflect the community

COMMUNITY

YOUTH INTERESTS

TRUSTED MESSENGERS

CULTURE

EXISTING
RELATIONSHIPS

LOCATION

REBRANDING MATTERS

THE BREAKFAST CLUB

A youth-friendly identity
made the program feel:

MORE APPROACHABLE

COMMUNITY CENTERED

RELEVANT

*INNOVATION CAN BE
CHANGING HOW YOU
INVITE PEOPLE INTO IT*

MORE THAN ONE FUNDING STEAM

SUSTAINABILITY = DIVERSIFICATION

FUNDING:

LOCAL

STATE

FEDERAL

SUSTAINABILITY
REQUIRES
ORGANIZATIONS TO
THINK BEYOND A
SINGLE GRANT CYCLE

COMMUNITY
ACUMEN:

RELATIONSHIPS

+

TRUST

+

PARTNERSHIPS

+

FUNDING

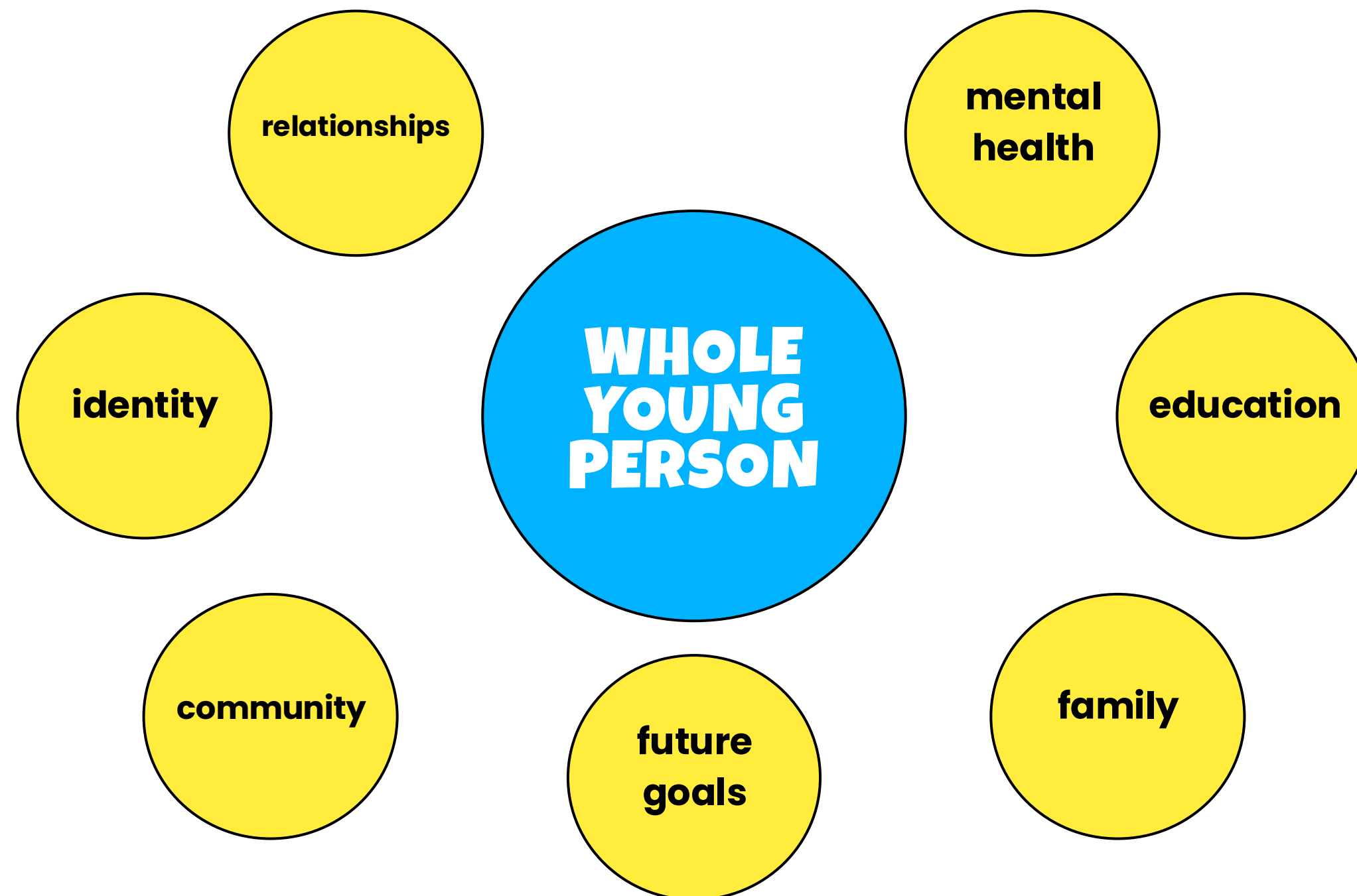
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ADAPTABILITY

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: NO SILOS

THINK ABOUT THE WHOLE YOUNG PERSON

Youth don't experience life in separate grant categories



PIVOT PRINCIPLES

be open – feedback matters

**be flexible – the original plan may
not be the best plan**

**be consistent – trust is built
through consistency**

**be appealing – make
participation meaningful**

**pivot – don't be afraid to
change course**

**innovate – try the thing you've
never done.**

**be relevant – stay current with
youth culture and needs.**

**engage youth voices – design
with young people**

FROM “WE CAN’T” TO “WHAT IF”

Implementation challenges don’t have to define the outcome

PIVOT

COLLABORATE

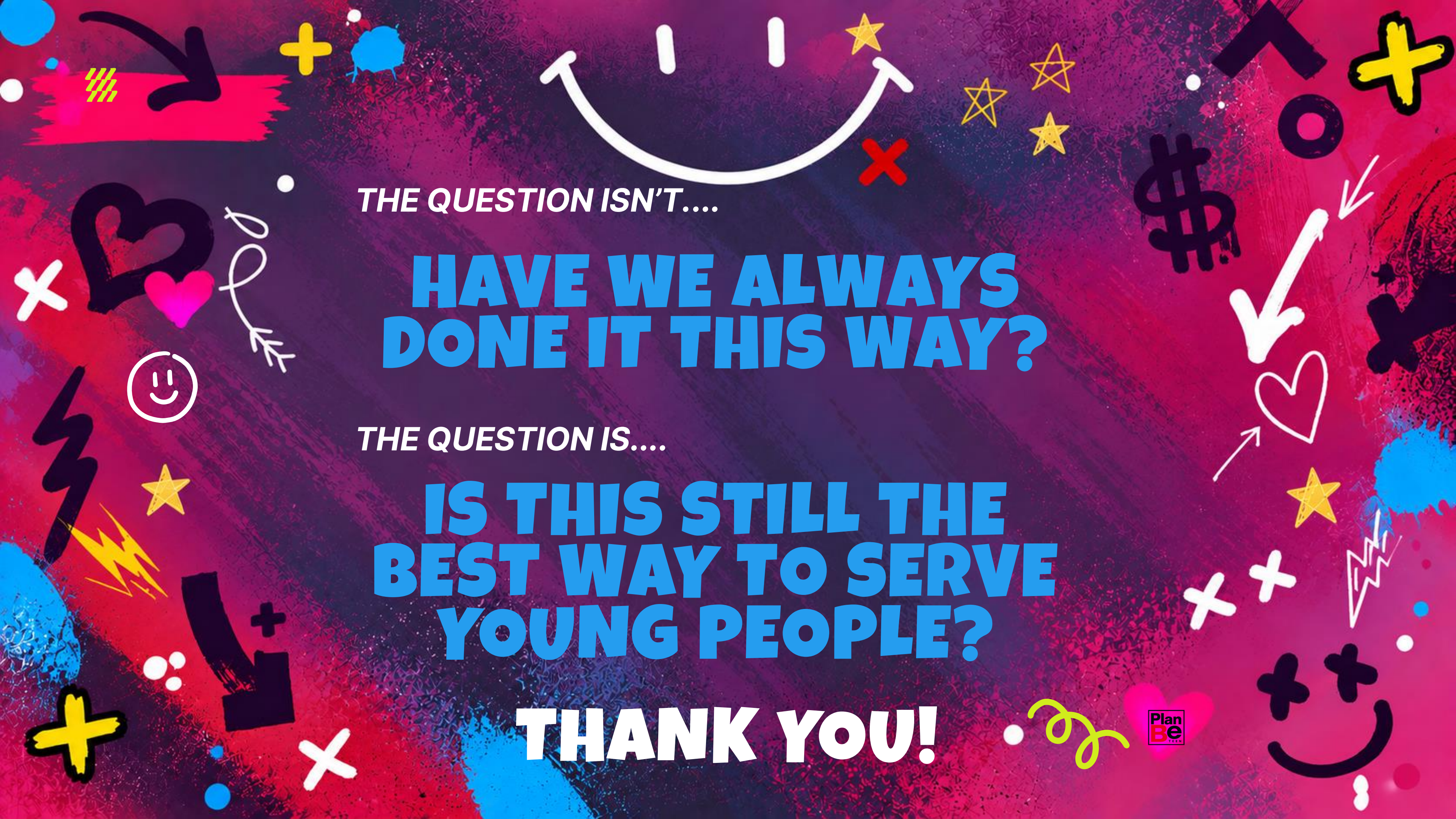
INNOVATE

ENGAGE

LISTEN

GROW

*THE BIGGEST OPPORTUNITY CAN COME FROM THE THING
THAT INITIALLY LOOKED LIKE THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE.*



THE QUESTION ISN'T....

**HAVE WE ALWAYS
DONE IT THIS WAY?**

THE QUESTION IS....

**IS THIS STILL THE
BEST WAY TO SERVE
YOUNG PEOPLE?**

THANK YOU!



Thank you for joining us today!

Please **keep your browser open** after we end.
A **brief survey** that will pop up automatically.
Thank you for providing us feedback!

Webinar will be available in 3 days:
<http://www.dibbleinstitute.org/webinar-archives/>

Need a certificate? Kim@Dibbleinstitute.org

Second Wednesday Webinar



October 14, 2026

**You Can't Teach a Flooded Brain:
The Neuroscience of Why Mind Matters Comes First**

Aaron Larson

The Dibble Institute