Social Change Wheel
Models of Community Involvement

DIRECT SERVICE
Activities which address immediate needs but not always the conditions from which needs emerge
- Serving food at a soup kitchen
- Improving literacy skills for adults and children
- Doing household projects for the elderly

COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Activities that identify human/economic assets of a neighborhood or community
- Completing a neighborhood assets inventory
- Offering leadership classes to local residents
- Working to educate a community about public health issues

DIRECT ACTION STRATEGIES
Activities that use confrontation or public disobedience as a strategy for raising awareness of an issue
- Picketing or holding a candlelight vigil at the capitol
- Participating or organizing rallies and marches

GRASSROOTS POLITICAL ACTIVITY/ PUBLIC POLICY WORK
Activities that identify allies, build common ground, and implement strategies for changing public policy
- Door-to-door campaigning for clean water action
- Lobbying for additional funding for affordable housing
- Organizing a Congressional letter writing campaign

COMMUNITY BUILDING
Activities that build trusting relationships among individuals and groups around issues of common concern
- Participating in March of Dimes
- Community clean-up efforts after a flood, earthquake, tornado or hurricane
- Planting a community garden as part of neighborhood revitalization efforts

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE DAILY BEHAVIOR
Activities that help make the world a little brighter for everyone
- Biking, taking public transportation, or carpooling to work
- Shopping at stores which give back to the communities they are located in directly
- Recycling, composting, etc.

ADVOCACY THROUGH COMMUNITY EDUCATION
Activities which raise awareness and/or change people’s actions or attitudes
- Speaking to community groups about homelessness, crime, or recycling in their local community
- Developing workshops for groups to increase multicultural understanding

VOTING/FORMAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES
Activities that mobilize people to influence public policies through formal political channels
- Organizing voter registration drives
- Working for a political campaign

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