

Unlocking Collaborative Pathways to End Rural Youth Homelessness

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Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet), and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources, but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

Additionally, we would like to acknowledge that within Nova Scotia, people of African ancestry settled and contributed to the building of many formative developments, particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries: This includes the Black Loyalists who fought on the side of Britain during the American War of Independence, The Maroons, who fought and never surrendered to the Spanish and British in Jamaica and Southern American Black Refugees, who fought on the side of the British during the War of 1812



Do you truly believe that your collective actions are the best practices for the best outcomes for youth?

Would they believe the same?



At the end of the day (years later) are they thriving in their community?



This is rural youth homelessness

The 16-year-old fished and snared rabbits to feed his family that was living in a tent.

The 17-year-old is on their fourth couch of a stranger and much less safe than the first couch at a friend's house.

The only addictions day treatment program is 2.5 hours away by bus and they are expected to come every day.

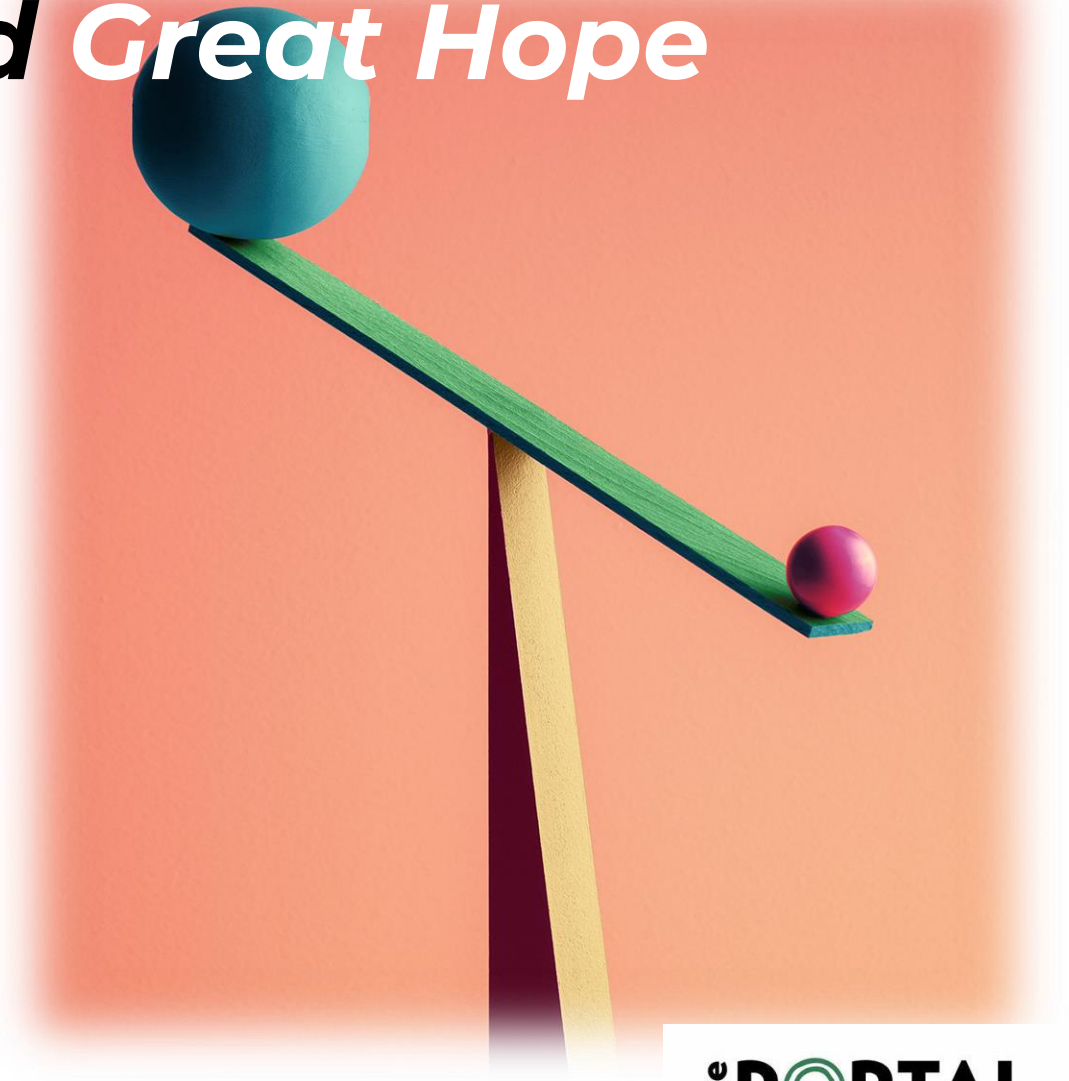
In rural locations, the right questions are:

*What are our community
barriers or obstacles?*

*How will we work together
to lessen the barriers in
our community?*

Great challenges and Great Hope

- Alienated and yet want to be known.
- Excluded but want to be included.
- Outside of community but crying out to experience community.
- Often hurt by the choices of parents but want parental figures around.
- Family conflict but still searching for family.



A few stories

***the intentional and sincere relational bridge
that you need to build in reaching out***



Story 1

Who believes in you?

Who do you trust?



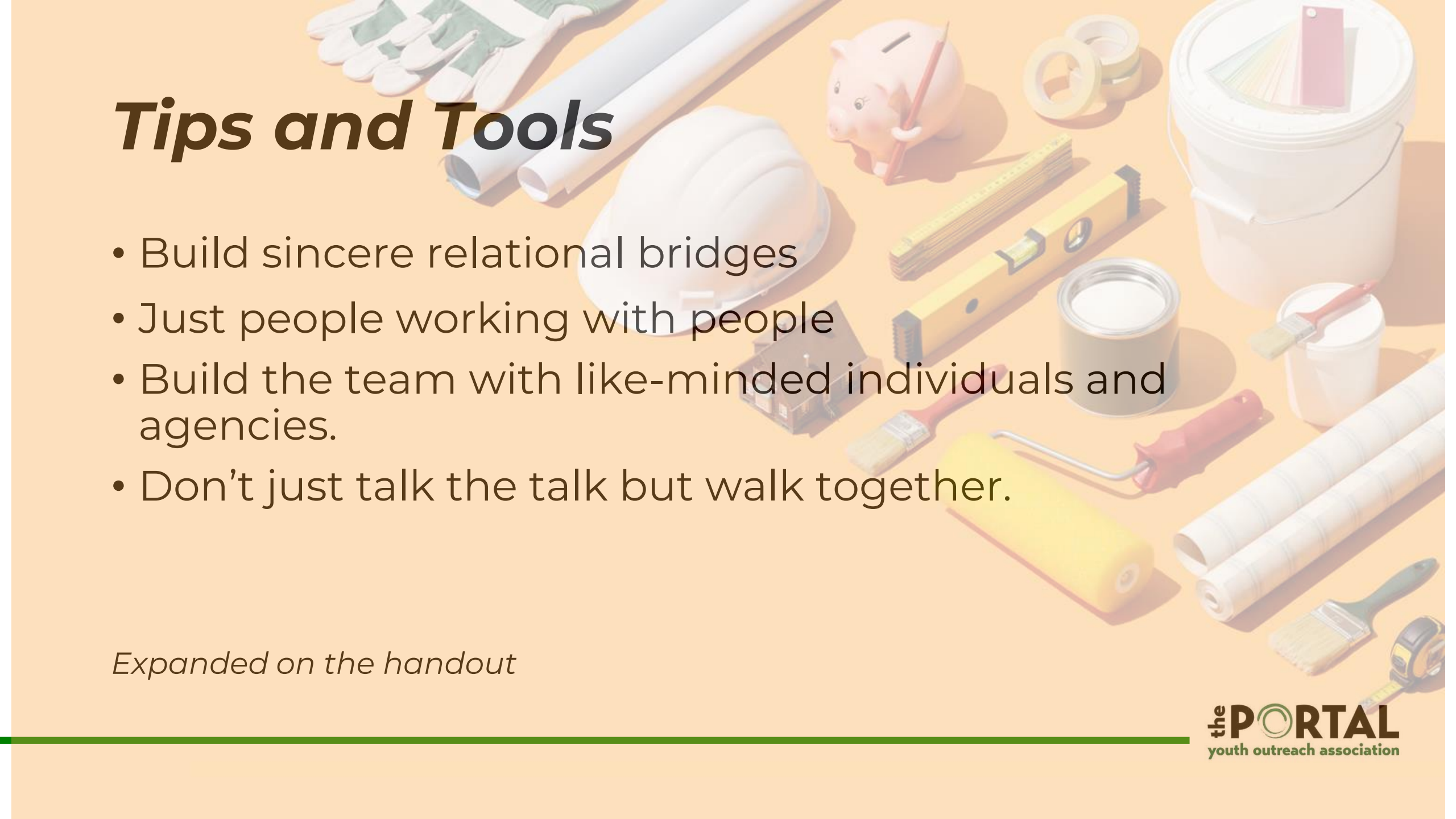
Trust can be borrowed

Story 2

Create community and wrap it around them.



Tips and Tools



- Build sincere relational bridges
- Just people working with people
- Build the team with like-minded individuals and agencies.
- Don't just talk the talk but walk together.

Expanded on the handout

And then we went back to the woods

**Me and my partner, Candy from another agency,
jumped in the car.**

**We drove through the first field, past the second corn
field and up the fire road.**

**Brought all the paper and some groceries
...got it done.**

Learn More

[Portal Youth Association Website](#)

[Portal Youth Association YouTube Documentary](#)

[Homeless No More Website](#)