

The News-Sentinel

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Web site of the week: Do Something

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(MCT)

When you encounter a troubling issue in your community, you have two choices: You can either sit on the sidelines complaining about it or you can pitch in and work toward change. DoSomething.org (<http://www.dosomething.org>) provides resources, support and motivation for those ready and willing to help out in their neighborhoods.

Visit the projects section of DoSomething.org to see some of the ways site members are affecting their communities. The projects address a wide range of topics including environmentalism, safe driving and music awareness. Each entry includes a project description, goals and number of people impacted. Reading through the profiles gives you an idea of what sort of projects are successful and inspires you to think creatively about how to create change on your home turf.

Do Something does more than just showcase successful youth groups - it puts its money where its mouth is. Working in conjunction with GameStop and Plum TV, the site offers two \$500 grants, awarded weekly. That adds up to \$52,000 a year available for teen-sponsored community action projects across the country!

Do Something is also a sponsor of the BR!CK Awards, a nationally televised awards show that celebrates teens and young adults making a difference in their communities. BR!CK award winners receive \$10,000 prizes.

In addition, the site has paired with Volunteer Match (<http://www.volunteermatch.org>) to offer a searchable database for volunteer opportunities in your area. The site also features information on popular teen causes such as body image and animal welfare including steps you can take right now to affect the issue.

Don't be passive! Use the tools at DoSomething.org to take action in your community.