



## About Middle Earth

Middle Earth is a non-profit, community-based agency that has been providing services to adolescents for almost four decades. Our mission is to provide prevention, intervention and crisis services assisting individuals, primarily youth, to develop into responsible and productive members of the community. Our programs, which are all free to our youth, guide kids in learning respect for themselves and others, serving the community as volunteers and choosing positive alternatives to gangs, drugs and crime.



Somerset County  
United Way  
Affiliated Agency



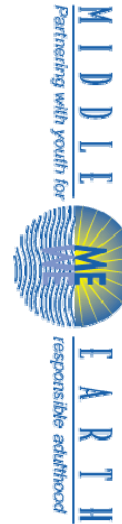
## Program Location & Hours

Somerset County  
Vocational and Technical High School  
14 Vogt Drive, Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
908-526-8900

Linkages offers year-round free services to all Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School (SCVTHS) students (this includes all full-time, shared-time, and Twilight students) who are between 14 and 21 years old. Students under the age of 18 are required to have a signed parental consent form in order to participate in the program. Youth can “walk-in” to the Center at various times during the school day.



P.O. Box 8045  
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807



## Linkages: Recreation Component

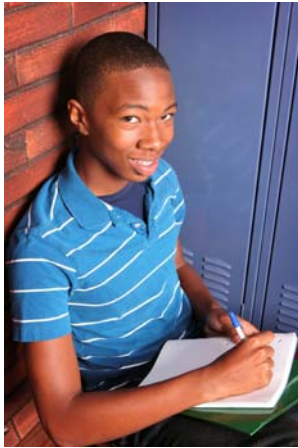
“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.”  
John F. Kennedy

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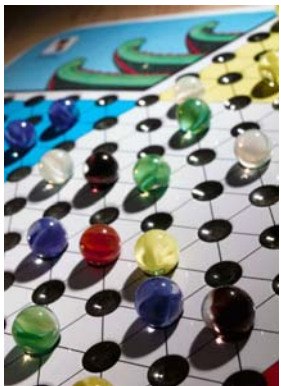
## About the Program

Linkages is a youth services program that offers recreation, counseling, referrals, education, and prevention in the areas of health, mental health and substance abuse. Linkages also offers life skills and job readiness education, job placement assistance,



and community outreach (especially for pregnant and parenting teens). Linkages is a collaborative effort among local agencies. Services are on-site at the high school and free of charge to all students attending the Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School (SCVTHS) school district (including Twilight). The program is designed to enable teens to complete their education and lead emotionally and physically healthy lives.

Middle Earth's role is to provide the recreational component of the Linkages program through the use of a youth center at SCVTHS and offer recreation and outreach services to the students in order to provide safe and positive leisure activities and identify youth in need of services.



Recreational services are offered both

through the Linkages Youth Center as well as through a variety of trips offered to participants throughout the year. The center is located in the cafeteria and provides a chance for students to relax during their lunch period. A pool table, television, and board games are just some of the amenities offered in the center. Recreational trips include trips to the beach and amusement parks. These trips are offered at a greatly reduced cost to students participating in the Linkages program.



## Program Goals

The goals for the recreational component of Linkages include:

- Provide youth with safe, positive and constructive leisure activities, and increased access to healthier options through volunteer opportunities, cultural experiences, fun field trips, and life skills education.



- To provide a safe and supervised place during scheduled times at SCVTHS.



## Services Offered

The services that Middle Earth provides include:

- Recreational activities
- Identification of youth in need of service,
- Information and referral
- Supervised trips



## Program Collaborators

Linkages is funded by the State Department of Children and Families and is comprised of six different Somerset County agencies:

- Alternatives,
- Family and Community Services,
- Middle Earth,
- Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center,
- Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children, and
- Women's Health and Counseling Center.