1. Have purpose!
No one wants to go to a meeting just to MEET. What really gets people jazzed up is achieving something - together.

2. Icebreak and teambuild... it's the best way to build trust within your group.
Remember to process through your activities. Ask questions like, 'How'd that make you feel?' 'What did you learn about yourself?' 'What did you learn about someone else?' 'How does this relate to our community?' 'Who was the most involved in the activity? How do you know?'

Put you and your group out there. Visit nonprofit organizations. Get to know them. Ask people what your community needs. Shake hands, ask questions, kiss babies.

Food and toys and food.
Kids (well, people) are going to get distracted AND they get hungry. Have things available WHEN they need it.