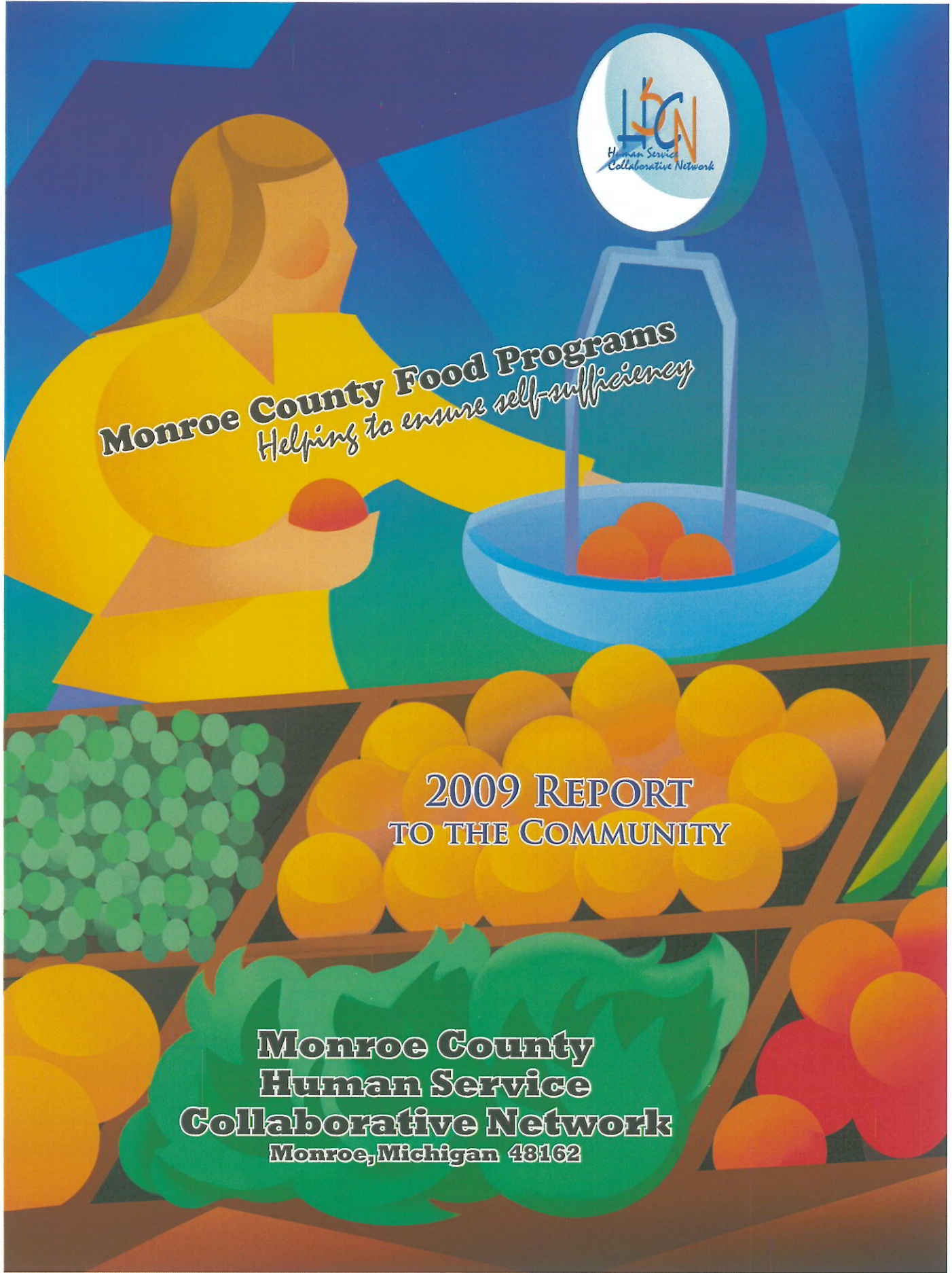




Monroe County Food Programs
Helping to ensure self-sufficiency

**2009 REPORT
TO THE COMMUNITY**

**Monroe County
Human Service
Collaborative Network**
Monroe, Michigan 48162



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FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010

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A Message from the Chairperson

"GIVE A MAN A FISH AND YOU FEED HIM TODAY.
TEACH HIM TO FISH, AND YOU FEED HIM FOR A LIFETIME."

- AUTHOR UNKNOWN

This old Chinese proverb is as applicable today as it was in the 5th century B.C., and -- in Monroe County -- we live by these words. Yes, you will find in this report all the supportive ways we have assisted our families by sponsoring nutritional meals and food allowances, but our human services network understands the value of "teaching a man to fish."

Monroe County's system not only steps up when our families need supports to get them through the day, but they join forces to plan and provide appropriate services that will lead them down the path of self-sufficiency. This is instrumental to their growth! When we teach families new skills, we validate them for who they are and the contribution they are able to make. When they become confident in their potential and their abilities, they do more . . . they learn to stretch and, hence, become more capable.

A gathering of Monroe's finest have recently come together to organize a system of care for high risk children and youth that not only "feeds" our families, but it also "teaches" our families. This HSCN initiative provides a comprehensive view of community-based service resources, which is outlined on their website: www.monroechildrencyssystemofcare.org. Two of their ten values include, "*Empowerment that leads to sustainable change* and increased independence of children and families served" and "*Outcome-based planning and interventions* that are concrete and measurable for families served."

Never underestimate this community's commitment and passion to improve the quality of life for our families. We must continue our quest to **keep our families strong and keep our families safe.**

Respectfully,



Barbara Verran, Chairperson

Our Vision ▶

To assure that all children and families have access to a continuum of integrated, culturally relevant, and family-focused services that meet their individual need.

Our Mission ▶

To foster inter-agency collaboration for the development and implementation of family support and preservation services through a true partnership with all stakeholders.

▶ **THANKS TO Joe Grifka** FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE COUNCIL AS PAST CHAIR AND AS THE GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE.

Initiatives and Workgroups

OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE NETWORK

Monroe County Intermediate School District

- Early Childhood Services
- Kinship Care
- Great Expectations Teen Parenting Program
- Early On
- Playgroups and Readiness Groups
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effects
- BabyNet
- Great Start Collaborative

El Shaddai Counseling

- Child Protection Community Partners (CPCP)

Center for Community Growth

- Monroe Wraparound Initiative

Active Balanced Community

- Monroe County Substance Abuse Coalition

Monroe Community Mental Health Authority

- Child Care Expulsion Prevention -- Caring Counts with Kids

Endorsed Workgroups

- Monroe County Network on Homelessness
- Child Death Review Team
- Suicide Prevention Committee
- Monroe County Blueprint on Aging
- Children's Advocacy Center of Monroe County
- Be Their Hero from Age Zero
- Transition Council
- Children's System of Care

Guiding Principles of the HSCN

- SERVICES SHALL BE FLEXIBLE.
- SERVICES SHALL BE FAMILY-FOCUSED, PREVENTATIVE, AND CONSUMER-DRIVEN.
- SERVICES SHALL BE BUILT UPON FAMILY STRENGTHS.
- SERVICES ARE DEVELOPED IN EQUAL PARTNERSHIP WITH CONSUMERS.
- SERVICES SHALL BE CULTURALLY SENSITIVE.
- SERVICES SHALL PROTECT THE CHILD AND STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY.
- SERVICES ARE DEVELOPED COLLABORATIVELY WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS.
- SERVICES WILL BE BASED ON DOCUMENTED NEEDS.
- SERVICES WILL BE EFFICIENT AND COST EFFECTIVE.

The HSCN meets monthly. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact Barbara Verran, Chairperson, at **734.240.7969**.

The Monroe County Human Services Collaborative Network

The HSCN was created in November 1995 as the multi-purpose collaborative body (now Community Collaborative) for the County. Member agencies are committed to the development of a collaborative support system to meet the needs in Monroe County.

The Collaborative provides oversight of the Initiatives funded through **Strong Families/Safe Children**. Original goals of SF/SC funding also included: 1) Develop strong families and safe children, 2) Improve distressed neighborhoods, and 3) sustain the Interagency Collaborative Network. The original objectives included reduce out-of-home placements, reunify families, provide support to adoptive families, provide services to seniors raising grandchildren, enhance services to distressed neighborhoods, enhance school success, and provide supports to at-risk families.

In the past few years, the objectives for SF/SC funding have changed to include: family preservation and placement-prevention services, family support services, family preservation and reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services. Additionally, eligibility for the services were changed to include:

- 1) Families who have an open DHS Children's Protective Service, Foster Care, prevention, or delinquency case or who had an open case or investigation within the past 18 months,
- 2) Adoptive families,
- 3) Non-relative caregivers who need support to prevent foster care placement, and
- 4) Pregnant or parenting youth who are eligible for the TANF program.

As a result, some of the earlier SF/SC initiatives have been discontinued; however, the Monroe County HSCN remains committed to developing local solutions to local needs – empowering and strengthening families – and improving our whole community.



Meeting Basic Needs . . .

Over the past year, the local economy has left many Monroe County residents struggling to meet their most basic needs of food and shelter. As a result, stark increases have been reported among providers of emergency food in our community. For example, the **Monroe County Food Bank** (operated by MCOP) showed a 50% increase from 2008 in distribution of emergency food boxes. The following statistics offer a snapshot of the current situation and what positive movement has evolved to assure that no one in Monroe County goes hungry.

In 2008:

- **Monroe County Opportunity Program (MCOP)** served 600 people each month during its USDA commodity food distribution;
- **God Works!** provided hot meals to 4,000 people each month at 11 locations throughout Monroe County;
- The **Monroe County Food Bank** (through MCOP) increased distribution by 33% to its 15 pantries located throughout the community;
- The food pantry operated by **Salvation Army** distributed emergency food to 375 people each month.

In realizing the increased need, a **Food Council** came together in February 2009 to discuss gap areas and how we might work together to meet higher demands. This Council identified four primary goals:

(1) To open new food pantries in the Ida, Petersburg, and Newport areas where no distribution currently exists. **As of September 2009, all three of these areas have opened and operate pantries through MCOP and the Monroe County Food Bank.**

(2) Through a partnership between MCOP and Gleaners Community Food Bank, the Mobile Food Pantry was brought to Monroe at least one time per month starting in April 2009. **As of September 2009, seven mobile sites have distributed food to over 2,500 Monroe County residents.**

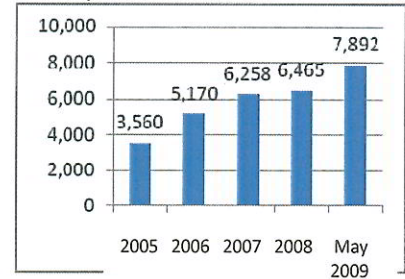
(3) The group explored expansion of the school-based **Backpack Program** that offers nutritional supplements over the weekend for children in need. **The Monroe County ISD has identified potential expansion areas and is working with Gleaners to secure funding.**

(4) A client choice pantry project was explored and implemented. **An advisory council is working to open the Lord's Harvest Client Choice Pantry on July 1, 2010 with a mission to "feed Monroe County with dignity."**

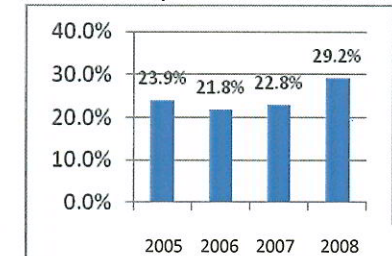
Meeting basic needs requires a collaborative approach to serving people who are in need. Monroe County is fortunate to have an array of service providers working together to provide services in a dignified and helpful way, ensuring that self-sufficiency is the goal for all individuals and families.

Other Statistics

Food Benefit Recipients through the Department of Human Services



Percent of Students Receiving Monroe County Free and Reduce Lunch



For details about the programs:

**EARLY CHILDHOOD
KINSHIP CARE**

**GREAT EXPECTATIONS
EARLY ON/PLAYGROUPS
242.5799, ext. 1912**

**GREAT START
FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME
242.5799, ext. 1616**

**ADOPTION SUPPORT
COMMUNITY PARTNERS
242.3800**

**NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS
241.2775, ext. 206**

**ACTIVE BALANCED COMMUNITY
CHILD DEATH REVIEW TEAM
MICHIGAN PRISONER RE-ENTRY
242.1331, ext. 13**

**SUICIDE PREVENTION
242.8773**

**BLUEPRINT ON AGING
243.7363**

**WRAPAROUND INITIATIVE
734.770.0046**

**EXPULSION PREVENTION
CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE
243.7340**