



## Active Balanced Community Quarterly Report October 2009

Upon completion of the three-year Active Balanced Community grant approval from the State Bureau of Juvenile Justice, the United Way of Monroe County provided \$18,000 in 2008 and \$11,000 in 2009 of community impact dollars to sustain the work through five goal areas in the approved work plan:

- I. **Empowerment:** Continue to develop and empower organizations in creating and implementing a restorative community
- II. **Awareness:** Enhance the awareness of the restorative practices among service personnel and the general community.
- III. **Program Development:** Enhance the services available to youth involved in the juvenile justice system, victims, those with substance abuse issues, and the general community.
- IV. **Civic Engagement:** Enhance the opportunities for youth to be involved in the community.
- V. **Data Collection:** Continue the database of available community statistics.

- I. **Empowerment:** Continue to develop and empower organizations in creating and implementing a restorative community

Meetings of the Steering Committee are held quarterly. Meetings have been held on Thursday, April 24, 2008 and July 24, 2008, October 30, 2008, February 12, 2009, and July 16, 2009. Pam Moskwa and Connie Carroll serve as Co-Chairs.

- II. **Awareness:** Enhance the awareness of the restorative practices among service personnel and the general community.

**The Active Balanced Community Website** continues to be maintained and updated by Wendy Harless, through a sub-contract under the community impact funding. The number of unique visitors through October 2008 totaled 1,802, up from 1,655 for all of 2007. SEMCA changed servers in February 2009. As a result, the number of unique visitors is no longer available. Statistics now available reflect the total number of hits. From November 2008 through October 15, 2009, there were 378 hits to the website.

**Community Events.** The Monroe County Prosecutor coordinated with Law Enforcement at the Bedford Trade Fair on March 6 and 7, 2009 to provide educational materials regarding victims services, drug identification, and misuse of prescription drugs.

**“I Pledged” Campaign.** Cheryl Beck chaired the planning committee for this campaign. The Monroe County ISD partnered with the 2008 and 2009 projects and the Monroe County Substance Abuse Coalition participated in 2009. Graduating seniors were asked to pledge to drive responsibly – obeying the speed limit, avoiding distractions, wearing their seat belts, and not riding with anyone who has been drinking. Drawings for \$20 gas cards were held at each event. The percentage of students who pledged in 2009 70.4% -- up from 68% in 2008, 64% in 2007 and 65% and 2006. The campaign seems to be well received by the schools and students.

**ABC / BARJ Presentations.** No presentations regarding BARJ were made during this reporting period. On July 30, 2008, a presentation was made to the Monroe Kiwanis Club. On August 26, 2008, a presentation was made to the North Kiwanis Club, and on September 25, 2008, a presentation was made to the Exchange Club.

**III. Program Development:** Enhance the services available to youth involved in the juvenile justice system, victims, those with substance abuse issues, and the general community.

**Mediation services** continue through Michigan Dispute Resolution Services (MDRS). In 2008, 24 mediations were held, including guardianships, PPO, local ordinance issues, employment, landlord tenant and school issues. Through September 2009, 16 mediations have been held involving 79 individuals, involving 38 hours of mediation service.

**Monroe County Mentors** is operating through Big Brothers Big Sisters. In June 2009, a grant was submitted to OJJDP for a mentoring grant. The proposal was designed to develop capacity and to implement a mentoring program in Monroe County that serves every youth who enters the Monroe County Youth Center. The Active Balanced Community Steering Committee will serve as the oversight body. This specialized mentoring program, **Supporting Youth in Navigating Challenges** (SYNC), will provide a variety of mentoring strategies to ensure that every youth has the opportunity to establish a structured and trusting relationship with a caring adult. As of October 15, 2009, no word has been received on the grant award.

**Substance Abuse Coalition.** Funding to support the Coalition through 2008 was received through the Prosecutor's Office from the Drug Forfeiture Funds (\$10,000) and from OMNI (\$12,000). The work plan is monitored by the Coalition, and the United Way of Monroe County serves as the fiduciary agency. The Federal Drug Free Communities' grant application for \$125,000 was awarded, which began October 1, 2008. The grant is for five years – \$625,000. The Substance Abuse Coalition continues to meet on the first Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Some of the accomplishments include:

- The Dundee Youth Service Organization was formed in December 2008 that will serve as a model for other communities in Monroe County to create both an avenue for input and programs that enhance the protective factors. The Center is expected to open on 12/01/09.
- On October 7, 2008, a Town Hall meeting was held at the River Raisin Centre for the Arts. The topic was Prescription Drug and Over the Counter Drug Abuse. The meeting was combined with a concert by country singer Jeff Tuttle. Sponsorships were obtained by Reckitt Benckiser for the food and payment of the speaker and Mr. Tuttle's travel cost. Mr. Tuttle provided his time / band through an in-kind donation.
- In October 2008, the MONROE EVENING NEWS published a Guest Editorial by April Corie regarding the consequences of legalization of medical marijuana. Following the passage of the proposal, training was provided to the Coalition and Law Enforcement by Ken Stecker.
- On March 5, 2009, the Coalition will sponsor the annual county-wide in-service for human service professionals. The topic of the presentation is underage drinking, including the consequences of providing alcohol to minors.
- In the Spring 2009, all area high schools participated in sending a letter to the parents of all graduating seniors encouraging them to host alcohol-free graduation parties.
- On May 30, 2009, a Medication Drop Off was held at the Monroe County Health Department. 2,874 controlled pills and over 66,000 of non-controlled and other the counter medications. A second Drop Off Day was held on October 10, 2009 at the Women's Health Fair at Mt. Carmel Church in Temperance. Over 7,000 controlled substances were collected.

- A Law Enforcement Sub-Committee was created to ensure that efforts are linked between the Coalition and Law Enforcement. Trooper Bret Smith Chairs the Sub-Committee. The Coalition partnered with Law Enforcement to provide material on substance abuse during the Monroe County Fair.
- A Medical Sub-Committee was created to open lines of communication with the medical community regarding prescription drugs.
- On August 21, 2009, the Coalition sponsored a training with Annesha Freeman, Program Director of The Lies That Bind. The program was entitled “What’s Really Going on?” and covered an overview of how the unconscious self-concept is formed, how to identify how the decision-making process of a person with a negative self-concept operates, and how to identify strategies for assisting individuals in changing negative thought patterns. The program was attended by 48 individuals and was well received.
- In September, a grant was submitted to SEMCA in partnership with El Shaddai Counseling to create a Youth Coalition. Funding of \$20,000 was awarded for the first year for strategic planning. Funds are also available for two additional years.

**IV. Develop Civic Engagement Opportunities.** Cheryl Beck served as the Chair of the Committee. Ms. Beck has retired from the County and has moved to Minneapolis. A replacement is needed. Opportunities for involving youth in the community continue to be explored. The grant submitted to the Child Advocacy Network for formal dinners for youth on probation was not awarded.

**Book Club.** Book Club is continuing in partnership with the Monroe County Library System and Monroe ISD Educational Program at the Monroe County Youth Center. Books Clubs are held at the Youth Center, as well as at Monroe High School, Monroe Middle School, Navarre Branch Library, Orchard Alternative Education, and St. Mary Catholic Central. Two mentors have been recruited to serve as reading buddies – Denise Gray and Barb Dulany. Judge Joe Costello and Shirley Steinman (local author) have also participated.

In January 2009, the Monroe County Library System was awarded a second Great Stories Club grant. On February 14, 2009, a presentation on the Book Club was given to the Monroe Kiwanis, with one student providing his experience. As a result, the Monroe Kiwanis Club made a donation. Additional funding has been received through a grant by the Monroe County ISD. To date, 23 books have been read. (See attached list.) The DVD regarding the Book Club that was created in partnership with the Monroe County Library System was shown to parents and youth during the open house on October 7, 2009.

**Continue Girls’ Circles.** Members from The Soroptimist International Club of Monroe County have conducted Girls Circles at two of the local elementary schools. Judy Thomas and Sandie Pierce conducted a seven week Girls Circle in the Spring of 2009 with five girls and an eight week group was held in the Summer of 2009 with five girls.

**Opportunities for Developing Self-Awareness / Life Skills.** Because of the success of the initial class conducted by Kimberly and Nick Searl in the Summer of 2007, a weekly yoga class continues on Monday evenings. Attendance varies between 8 and 14 youth and is based on voluntary attendance. Through these classes, youth are provided an opportunity to exercise and to practice self-control and self-awareness.

Yoga was planned this Summer (2009) for youth who are currently on probation – weekly at the United Way offices. Kim Searl had agreed to conduct the seven week program. This program offering was the result of numerous youth asking for yoga once they leave the Youth Center. Unfortunately, no youth attended.

**Soup Bowls for Homeless Awareness Week.** Youth at the Monroe County Youth Center again painted soup bowls on October 12, 2009 to be auctioned during Homeless Awareness Week. Michaleen Karay from Paint Your Masterpiece provided guidance, along with Donna Cherba, Rusty Davis, and Sandie Pierce.

**Three Men and a Tenor Bullying Program.** Active Balanced Community sponsored the bullying prevention program scheduled for November 12, 2009 at the Monroe County Community College. Two shows: 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. \$4 admission. Appropriate for grades K – 6.

**Jason Bishop Show.** Marge Waltz has requested permission for eligible youth to attend the Jason Bishop Show at the River Raisin Centre for the Arts on November 6, 2009.

**V. Data Collection:** Continue the collection of statistics that measure the identified risk factors. This Committee continues to be chaired by Laura Schultz-Pipis, Director of the American Red Cross. The Data Committee met on July 9 and October 15, 2009 to review the data and to begin to determine trends. (See attached report). The Committee will meet annually – October 21, 2020.

**VI. Budget.**

The United Way of Monroe County approved our request of \$11,000 for December 1, 2008 through November 30, 2009. Expenditures to date are as follows:

	<u>Total Request</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Personnel (8 hours per month x 12 months)	\$ 3,620	\$ 3,315.62	\$ 304.38
Civic Engagement opportunities / support	3,000	3,031.89	- 31.89
Quarterly Steering Committee meetings (lunch)	700	277.75	422.25
Supplies	180	116.21	63.79
Contractual – On-Line Training	3,000	0	3,000.00
Contractual – Webmaster	<u>500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	\$11,000	\$ 6,741.47	\$ 4,258.53

**Sustainability.** This is the last year for Community Impact dollars through the United Way of Monroe County. Alternative funding is being researched. A General Mills grant application will be submitted for health and nutrition programming.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandie Pierce, Coordinator