



## Active Balanced Community Quarterly Report February 2010

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 Community Impact dollars of \$18,000 in 2008 and \$11,000 for the period of December 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010 to sustain the work through five goal areas:

- 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.

### Activities / Accomplishments

- I. **Empowerment:** The Steering Committee provides oversight, meeting quarterly.
- II. **Awareness**

**Website.** Unique visitors in 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 in March 2009 to provide educational materials regarding victims services, drug identification, and misuse of prescription drugs. This is planned again in 2010.

**“I Pledged” 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. The percentage of students who pledged in 2009 was 70.4% -- up from 68% in 2008, 64% in 2007 and 65% and 2006. Plans need to be developed for the 2010 campaign.

- III. **Program Development:**

**Mediation services** continue through Michigan Dispute Resolution Services (MDRS). In 2008, 24 mediations were held. In 2009, 21 mediations were held resulting in seven agreements, four partial agreements, and two reconciliations.

**Substance Abuse Coalition.** 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.

- IV. **Develop Civic Engagement Opportunities.**

**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 December, Author Chip St. Clair visited the Youth Center to discuss his book, “The Butterfly Garden.”

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. In January 2010, the Monroe County Library System was awarded a third Great Stories Club grant. To date, 25 books have been read. (See attached list.) The DVD regarding the Book Club was created in partnership with the Monroe County Library System.

**Gender Specific Programming.** 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. Members from The Soroptimist International Club of Monroe County have conducted Girls Circles at two of the local elementary schools. Two Girls Circles are being held this winter (2010) by Kari Hughes at Cantrick and Raisinville Schools.

On February 24, 2010, a Healthy Relationship workshop was held at Monroe High School through a partnership with Family Counseling and Shelter Services, The Soroptimist Club, and Active Balanced Community.

**Opportunities for Developing Self-Awareness / Life Skills.** Yoga continues to be offered at the Monroe Youth Center each Monday evening. Between 8 and 12 youth regularly attend.

**Soup Bowls for Homeless Awareness Week.** Youth at the Monroe County Youth Center again painted soup bowls on October 12, 2009 that were auctioned during Homeless Awareness Week – generating \$745. 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 held on November 12, 2009 at the Monroe County Community College.

**Jason Bishop Show.** Marge Waltz 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:** This Committee continues to chaired by Laura Schultz-Pipis, Director of the American Red Cross, and collects statistics that measure the identified risk factors. The Data Collection Committee met on February 17, 2010 to begin an analysis of the data and to determine outcomes. Preliminary analysis included:

- The unemployment rates drive much of the data as it relates to homelessness, Free and Reduced lunches, divorce rates, WIC recipients, Food Benefits and FIP recipients, and median income.
- Discussion was held about the fact that many individuals who previously worked at Ford have taken other employment at a lower rate of pay – impacting median income.
- Additional data is needed – currently population / number of families, number of people in poverty, WIC data, number of petitions and authorized charges, updated suspension and truancy data, updated Food Benefit and FIP recipients, and median income.
- An observation was made regarding the MEAP scores. Members questioned whether 76% proficiency in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math is acceptable. State averages will be collected.
- It was noted that the truancy numbers for last school year (2008-2009) seem low. The issue of homeschooling was discussed. Rather than face consequences of being absent, parents oftentimes opt to home school. These numbers will be verified.
- Members noted that data collection should be coordinated with the Children's System of Care so that we don't collect duplicate data.
- A suggestion was made that the Data Collection Committee become an official workgroup of the Human Services Collaborative Network to sustain this work.

**VI. Budget.**

The United Way of Monroe County approved the revised request for Community Impact dollars for December 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

	<u>Revised Request</u>	<u>YTD Expenditures</u>
Personnel	\$ 1,054.97	\$ 452.13
Civic Engagement opportunities / support	769.96	285.00
Quarterly Steering Committee meetings	400.00	152.00
Supplies	400.00	165.98
Contractual – Webmaster	<u>800.00</u>	<u>170.00</u>
Total	\$ 3,424.93	\$ 1,225.11

**Sustainability.** This is the last six months for Community Impact dollars through the United Way of Monroe County. A General Mills grant application was submitted for physical health and nutrition programming. That grant, if funded, is for a specific program. Discussion needs to occur as to whether the Steering Committee continues to meet even if no additional funding is available.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandie Pierce, Coordinator

02/25/10