



Active Balanced Community Quarterly Report June 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. The website continues to be updated.

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 was repeated 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. The 2010 “I Pledged” campaign began May 19, 2010 and continues through June 4, 2010.

- 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. Mediations in Monroe County have slowed; however, there were several scheduled during the first half of this year.

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. In June 2010; however, the meeting was moved to June 16, 2010 to coincide with a visit with the DFC Contract Manager, LaVencia Sugars.

- 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 2009, 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.

On March 24, 2010, a presentation was given to Monroe Kiwanis by three youth from the Youth Center. As a result, \$100 was donated. On April 22, 2010, a presentation was given by two youth to the Exchange Club. As a result of that presentation, \$400 was awarded.

Youth from the Monroe County Youth Center attended the groundbreaking ceremony at the Monroe County Library System on May 10, 2010

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 were held in the Winter of 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.

- V. Data Collection:** This Committee continues to be 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. A request was made to the Monroe County Human Services Collaborative Network to approve the Data Committee as an endorsed workgroup of the HSCN. This request was approved at the March 18, 2010 meeting.

VI. Budget.

The United Way of Monroe County approved the revised request for Community Impact dollars for December 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. A copy of the year-to-date budget is attached. All funds are expected to be expended on or before June 30, 2010.

We have not had a response regarding the General Mills grant application that was submitted for physical health and nutrition programming.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandie Pierce, Coordinator

6.02.10