



## Quarterly Report to United Way of Monroe County and Steering Committee July 2008

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 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
  - Maintain the Steering Committee oversight role
- II. **Awareness:** Enhance the awareness of the restorative practices among service personnel and the general community.
  - Present on BARJ to community groups / produce on-line training on philosophy
  - Present at Making Connections event
  - Maintain the Active Balanced Community website
  - Participate at community events
  - Conduct annual awareness survey
  - Conduct the "I Pledged" campaign among graduating seniors
- 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.
  - Victims services material continues to be distributed through Prosecutor's office.
  - Mediation services continue through Michigan Dispute Resolution Services.
  - Monroe County Mentors continues through Big Brothers Big Sisters
  - Re-Entry (Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee) continues to meet
  - Substance Abuse Coalition continues to meet / provide education programs
- IV. **Civic Engagement:** Enhance the opportunities for youth to be involved in the community.
  - Develop civic engagement opportunities
  - Pursue a grant to fund a coordinator for youth opportunities
  - Continue to conduct Girls Circles'
  - Develop other venues to provide Girls Circles'
  - Provide opportunities through which youth develop self-awareness / life skills
- V. **Data Collection:** Continue the database of available community statistics that measure the identified risk factors

### Progress through July 18, 2008:

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

Meetings of the Steering Committee will be held quarterly, with one held on Thursday, April 24, 2008, and another scheduled for July 24, 2008, at noon. 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 year-to-date number of unique visitors include:

<b>Number of Unique Website Visitors Per Month</b>									
	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>		<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
January	102	77	141	189	July	85	84	96	124
February	91	83	85	181	August	60	89	124	
March	89	103	127	276	September	64	79	215	
April	105	107	126	214	October	74	83	247	
May	95	68	45	162	November	63	114	216	
June	125	61	91	199	December	68	104	142	
YTD Total	607	499	615	1,221	Total	1,021	1,052	1,655	1,345

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

**Newspaper Article.** On Sunday, May 25, 2008, an article entitled “The ABC’s of Juvenile Treatment” was featured in the MONROE EVENING NEWS. An editorial, “Juvenile Justice: ABC is Paying Off” followed on June 2, 2008.

**“I Pledged” Campaign.** Cheryl Beck chaired the planning committee for this campaign. The Monroe County ISD partnered with the 2008 project in sponsoring the identification holders that were given to all who pledged 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 2008 was 68% – up from 64% and 65% from the two previous years. The campaign seems to be well received by the schools and students.

School	Number of Pledges – 2005	Number of Pledges – 2006	Number of Graduates – 2007	Number of Pledges – 2007	Number of Graduates – 2008	Number of Pledges – 2008
Airport	N/A	125 64%	211	137 65%	220	180 81%
Bedford	169	189 46%	433	190 44%	420	179 42%
Dundee	N/A	87 85%	122	87 72%	100	95 95%
Ida	N/A	82 67%	117	112 96%	125	119 95%
Jefferson	112	142 72%	185	155 84%	180	164 91%
Mason	N/A	82 80%	128	124 97%	109	105 96%
Monroe	203	282 66%	421	236 56%	423	216 51%
Orchard	N/A	26 57%	50	24 48%	50	18 36%
SMCC	N/A	85* 85%	109	101 94%	96	96 100%
Summerfield	N/A	49 81%	61	53 87%	69	49 72%
Whiteford	N/A	47 76%	57	N/A	70	53 75%
Totals	484	1,196 65%	1,893	1,219 64%	1,862	1,274 68%

\* SMCC amount of pledges in 2006 is estimated.

**Restorative Justice Training.** April Corie is continuing to oversee the development of the training in partnership with the Mark Hall from the Monroe County Community College and the Center for Community Growth. The curriculum will include the BARJ philosophy, an overview of typical teenage development, and alternative solutions and treatment approaches. The training will be web-based and include both interactive instruction and comprehension testing. The web-based approach will allow employees, professionals, students, and community members to complete the training at times that are convenient to their schedules. The web-based approach is more efficient and affordable than hosting multiple face-to-face trainings.

**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). Through July 30, 15 cases have been scheduled, including guardianships, PPO, local ordinance issues, employment, landlord tenant and school issues.

**Monroe County Mentors** is operating through Big Brothers Big Sisters. Currently, there are three mentors working with three youth referred through the court system. Big Brothers Big Sisters held a Lunch Buddy Program at Lincoln Elementary School during the Spring, which will resume again in the Fall.

**The Juvenile Services Oversight Committee** continues to meet on a regular basis to monitor the implementation of the Juvenile Re-Entry planning, Drug Court, and Diversion. Jeff Dusseau coordinates re-entry for the Monroe County Youth Center.

**Substance Abuse Coalition.** Funding to support the Coalition through 2008 has been 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 Substance Abuse Coalition continues to meet on the first Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. April Corie and Robert Kasprzak serve as the Co-Chairs.

The Parenting Education and Awareness Committee developed the Town Hall meeting that was held in conjunction with the Making Connections in-service on March 6, 2008. \$500 in funding for the Town Hall meeting was received from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration).

Planning is underway for a Town Hall meeting in the Fall regarding Misuse of Prescription and Over the Counter Drugs. Dr. Mark Menestrina will provide an overview of his experience with substance abuse treatment, as well as will provide an overview of the treatment services that are available. Other panel members will include John Basile, Sue Sacks, Renee Shaw, Paula Whitman, Larry Ridner, and an area pharmacist. Country singer Jeff Tuttle has agreed to perform following the meeting.

The Coalition will have materials at the Monroe County Fair during the week of July 27, 2008. Members have volunteered to staff the booth to distribute material and answer questions.

The Coalition is participating in the Back Pack distribution this year and will provide highlighters with the new web site address: [MonroeDrugFree.org](http://MonroeDrugFree.org)

The Federal Drug Free Communities' grant application for \$125,000 was submitted on March 19, 2008. Notice of funding awards is expected in August.

The Coalition supported Catholic Charities of Monroe County in writing a \$150,000 prevention grant for funding being made available through SEMCA.

**IV. Civic Engagement:** Enhance the opportunities for youth to be involved in the community.

**Develop Civic Engagement Opportunities.** Opportunities for involving youth in the community continue to be explored. Donna Cherba is chairing the Civic Engagement workgroup to develop regular opportunities. Follow up is occurring regarding insurance coverage of the youth participating in these projects. Support and referral of youth through the Probation Department is appreciated.

In January, the Community Foundation of Monroe County awarded \$600 to provide a ceramic art project for the youth at the Monroe County Youth Center. On March 20, 2008, Michaleen Karry from Paint Your Masterpiece provided technical assistance as the youth painted 40 coffee mugs, which were given to the residents of Fairview during a visit by eight youth on May 23, 2008. Their creations were amazing, and pictures are posted on the website.

Under the guidance of Marge Waltz, the youth at the Youth Center participated in the 2008 Big Read, and on March 16, 2008, six youth attended the play, *To Kill A Mockingbird*. On April 16, 2008, 12 youth attended the Wayne State University one-act play at the La-Z-Boy Center.

Several youth from the Youth Center participated in Elder Beerman's community days coupon sale and held a Spring Garage Sale to raise activity funds for the youth.

Four youth participated in an outdoor clean-up project on April 18, 2008 at Creekside Village.

Four youth participated in the distribution of water to people walking during the Relay for Life in June at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. Youth will also pass out water during the Fair parade.

A grant for \$625 was awarded from the Community Foundation of Monroe County to provide scholarships to the summer creativity camps at Paint Your Masterpiece. Ten youth who come from families who have low incomes are being provided this opportunity.

The Monroe County Library System received a grant through the American Library Association and Youth Adult Library Services Association for the Great Stories Club (funded by Oprah's Angel Network) in the Spring of 2008 to conduct Book Club at the Monroe County Youth Center. The Committee's choices for the Great Story Club were: Tyrell, by Coe Booth Hole in My Life, by Jack Gantos, and Sold by Patricia McCormick

Sheree Beaudry, Youth Services Technician at Ellis Branch, facilitated the Book Club through Marge Waltz's class. The reception was awesome and the MCYC Book Club was formed – per the request of the youth.

The Monroe County Human Service Collaborative Network granted \$300 to the Monroe County Library System to purchase four books for the Summer. The Rag and Bone Shop by Robert Cormier was read first, and then numerous choices were provided to the youth for their input. The books chosen included: The Rules of Survival by Nancy Werlin, Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson, Looking for Alaska by John Green, and Go Ask Alice by Anonymous. Book Club is being held following yoga on Monday nights at the Youth Center. There are 18 participants who have joined the Club. Several of the youth have commented that these are the first books that they have ever read. Continuation funding is being sought.

**Continue Girls Circles'** Judy Thomas and Cheryl Beck conducted an eight-week session in February and March at the United Way of Monroe County.

**Develop Other Venues to Provide Girls Circles'** The Soroptimist International Club of Monroe County has submitted a grant to purchase materials and sent two of its members to training in April 2008. A staff from Big Brothers Big Sisters also attended the training.

**Opportunities for Developing Self-Awareness / Life Skills.** An eight-week yoga class was conducted by Kimberly and Nick Searl in the Summer of 2007 with youth at the Monroe County Youth Center. Flexibility, conditioning, self-awareness and self-control were important aspects of the program, and each session ended with a share circle during which the youth reviewed a handout on such topics as emotional and social intelligence, choices, and values.

Because of the success of the initial class, a weekly yoga class continues, first on Sunday evenings and now on Monday evenings. Attendance averages between 12 and 15 youth and is based on voluntary attendance. Through these classes, youth are provided an opportunity to exercise, but more importantly to practice self-control and improve their self-awareness.

**V. Data Collection:** Continue the database of available community statistics that measure the identified risk factors

This Committee continues to be chaired by Laura Schultz, Director of the American Red Cross. The Data Collection Committee met on January 16, 2008 and reviewed the current statistics. The Committee will again meet in September, at which time, updated information should be available.

A project with the Center for Community Growth is also being pursued to develop outcome measures for service agencies in the community. Once developed, the system will be web based to allow for tracking of program outcomes and measuring community impact.

**V. Budget**

The 2008 Budget of \$18,000 is funded with Community Impact through the United Way of Monroe County. Expenditures through July 18, 2008 are as follows:

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Personnel	\$ 9,100	\$ 6,028.40	\$ 3,071.60
Office Supplies	1,000	176.08	823.92
I Pledged Campaign	1,500	500.00	1,000.00
Contractual – On-Line Training	4,500	1,500.00	3,000.00
Contractual – Webmaster	1,900	550.00	1,350.00
Total	\$ 18,000	\$ 8,754.48	\$ 9,245.52

Permission has been received from the United Way to submit a one-time revision to the budget, as long as the purpose of the program is maintained and funding is not moved to personnel costs. Thus, the Steering Committee is being requested to approve the following proposed revision to the budget.

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Personnel	\$ 9,100	\$ 9,100	0
Office Supplies	1,000	500	- 500
I Pledged Campaign	1,500	500	-1,000
Contractual – On-Line Training	4,500	4,500	0
Contractual – Webmaster	1,900	1,900	0
MCYC Book Club – Books	0	800	+ 800
Fall Ceramics Project	0	475	+ 475
Snacks for Book Club (15 weeks x \$15)	0	225	+ 225

Respectfully submitted,

*Sandie Pierce*

Sandie Pierce, ABC Coordinator