



Active Balanced Community Quarterly Report July 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, and February 12, 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 are unique sites and total number of hits.

March 2009:	340 unique sites / 7070 hits
April 2009:	434 unique sites / 6,822 hits
May 2009:	402 unique sites / 7,019 hits

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.

“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.

Date	School	Number of Graduates	Number of Pledges *	Percentage Pledged #
5.29.09	Airport	234	195	83.3%
5.29.09	Bedford	440	304	69.1%
5.28.09	Dundee	82	71	93.9%
6.03.09	Ida	130	111	85.4%
5.26.09	Jefferson	180	145	80.6%
5.22.09	Mason	144	122	84.7%
6.05.09	Monroe	423	190	44.9%
6.05.09	Orchard	50	20	40%
N/A	SMCC	96 *	N/A	N/A
5.27.09	Summerfield	65	63	96.9%
5.28.09	Whiteford	60	51	85%
	Totals	1,808	1,272	70.4%

* A campaign was not conducted at SMCC this year; the 96 graduates are not included in the total

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.

Restorative Justice Training. April Corie is continuing to pursue the development of the training. 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.

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 June 2009, 14 mediations have been held involving 67 individuals. Five agreements and 2 partial agreements resulted.

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, ultimately supporting them with successful community reintegration, to be evidenced by the following outcomes:

- Reduction in Recidivism (from baseline of 72% return rate)
- Improved Academic Performance

- Reduced Substance Abuse
- Reduced Law Enforcement Contacts
- Improved Family Re-integration

Program Objectives include:

- Develop and implement a thorough volunteer recruitment and screening process.
- Provide comprehensive mentor training and ongoing supervision and support.
- Establish match procedures that are based upon the needs and interests of the youth, not on the adult mentor volunteers.
- Mentors will engage in youth and family re-entry planning.
- Youth will be trained in the philosophy of Balanced and Restorative Justice BARJ.

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. April Corie and Robert Kasprzak serve as the Co-Chairs. 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.
- 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. The next Drop Off Day is planned for October 10, 2009 at the Women's Health Fair at Mt. Carmel Church in Temperance.
- 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.
- A Medical Sub-Committee was created to open lines of communication with the medical community regarding prescription drugs.

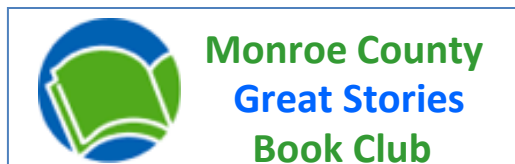
On August 21, 2009, the Coalition is sponsoring a training with Annesha Freeman, Program Director of The Lies That Bind. The topic will be "What's Really Going on?" and will cover an overview of how the unconscious self-concept is formed, how to identify how the decision-making process of a person with a negative self-concept operates, and how to identify strategies for assisting individuals in changing negative thought patterns.

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 Ms. Steinman (local author) have also participated.

In January 2009, the Monroe County Library System was awarded another Great Stories Club grant. Through this grant, students read Black and White by Paul Volponi, The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie, and Luna by Julie Anne Peters.

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. Youth read Tell the World – Teen Poems from Writerscorps. As a result of the youth reading poetry out loud, the idea of capturing the talents on video was born. Paula Loop from the Monroe County Library System has taped the youth and adults involved in the program. Community Impact dollars were used to purchase T-shirts for the youth participating in Book Club. Releases were obtained from the parents of the Youth. The video is expected to be completed this Summer and shown in the Fall. Plans are to forward a copy to Oprah – highlighting the result of the funding provided through Oprah’s Angel Network.



For Summer Book Club, Community Impact purchased a supply of books for the lending library. Titles of the summer collection were provided by Daria Plumb, teacher at the Dundee Alternative Education Program. Youth have been asked to keep track of the number of books (and pages) that they read over the Summer. For July, the book selection is Unwind by Neal Shusterman. Ms. Daria Plumb is the guest facilitator for the discussion. For August, the book selection is Everlost by Neal Shusterman.

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. Another eight week group began on July 15, 2009.

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 have attended.

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, 2009 and is in the process of collecting updated information for 2008 (MEAP, divorces, marriages, Student Assistance Program, suspensions, expulsions, hospital data, and domestic violence service numbers).

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	\$ 2,411.36	\$ 1,208.64
Civic Engagement opportunities / support	2,500	1,999.51	500.49
Quarterly Steering Committee meetings (lunch)	700	277.75	422.25
Supplies	180	74.25	105.75
Contractual – On-Line Training	3,000	0	3,000.00
Contractual – Webmaster	<u>1,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	\$11,000	\$ 4,762.87	\$ 6,237.13

Sustainability. This is the last year for Community Impact dollars through the United Way of Monroe County. Foundations are being researched for available support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandie Pierce, Coordinator

7/14/09