



Active Balanced Community Quarterly Report October 2009

- 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.

- 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.