



**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.

**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.

**Safety Award.** The Active Balanced Community Initiative was awarded a Youth Safety Award of \$1,000 by the Allstate Foundation and National Organizations for Youth Safety for conducting an “innovative campaign promoting safe teen driving – the I Pledged Campaign.” ABC was one of 50 projects nationwide to share in the \$50,000 in awards.

**ABC / BARJ Presentations.** 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.

**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. Support and referral of youth through the Probation Department is appreciated.

In January 2008, 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.

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.

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. Six youth from the Youth Enrichment Program and Probation Department marched in the **Fair Parade with the War** of 1812 group.

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.

In the December, six youth attended the Christmas Chorale at the La-Z-Boy Center.

Five youth from the Monroe County Youth Center attended the **Blues Concert** at the La-Z-Boy Center on Thursday, February 5, 2009.

**Book Club.** 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 five books for the Summer: The Rag and Bone Shop by Robert Cormier, The Rules of Survival by Nancy Werlin, Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson, Looking for Alaska by John Green, and Go Ask Alice by Anonymous. There were 18 participants, and several of the youth commented that these are the first books that they have ever read. Book Club was featured in an article, "Teens Turn the Page" in the MONROE EVENING NEWS on August 29, 2008. Donations from the community were requested through the article. The Monroe Rotary provided a donation; a presentation is being made to the Dundee Rotary.

Community Impact dollars (\$800) were provided from 2008 dollars to continue Book Club at both the Youth Enrichment Program (YEP) and Youth Center. In October 2008, the YEP read the book, Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson, in which the author paints a vivid picture of a juvenile offender, examining the roots of his anger without absolving him of responsibility for his actions, and questioning a society in which angry people make victims of their peers and communities. Touching Spirit Bear is a poignant testimonial to the power of a pain that can destroy or lead to healing.

Beginning in November 2008, Book Club resumed at the Monroe County Youth Center. The youth have read the Freedom Writers Diary and The First Part Last By Angela Johnson, and are currently reading Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer. In January 2009, the Monroe County Library System was awarded another Great Stories Club grant. Through this grant, students have read Black and White by Paul Volponi, and will be reading 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.

A **ceramic soup bowl project** was again conducted in October 2008 at both the Youth Center and Youth Enrichment Program in support of Homeless Awareness Week. Youth created their own bowl and then wrote about their experience, noting their appreciation for the opportunity

to express themselves and to help out those less fortunate. The bowls were auctioned at the Homeless Awareness Week opening ceremony on November 9, 2008 at Café Classics and raised nearly \$1,000.

**Continue Girls' Circles.** Judy Thomas and Cheryl Beck conducted an eight-week session in February and March at the United Way of Monroe County. A ten-week session was held this Fall, The Soroptimist International Club of Monroe County sent two of its members to training in April 2008. A staff from Big Brothers Big Sisters also attended the training. As a result, a Girls' Circle began at Manor Elementary on October 16, 2008. The session topic is "friendship" and runs for eight weeks. Sixteen girls from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades participated.

**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 9 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.

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