



Active Balanced Community Quarterly Report February 2010

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. 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 in March 2009 to provide educational materials regarding victims services, drug identification, and misuse of prescription drugs. This is planned again 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. Plans need to be developed for the 2010 campaign.

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, 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.

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 are being held this winter (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.

Jason Bishop Show. Marge Waltz requested permission for eligible youth to attend the Jason Bishop Show at the River Raisin Centre for the Arts on November 6, 2009.