



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

- 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 for the quarter include:

| Number of Unique Website Visitors Per Month | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| | <u>2005</u> | <u>2006</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> | | <u>2005</u> | <u>2006</u> | <u>2007</u> | |
| January | 102 | 77 | 141 | 189 | July | 85 | 84 | 96 | |
| February | 91 | 83 | 85 | 181 | August | 60 | 89 | 124 | |
| March | 89 | 103 | 127 | 276 | September | 64 | 79 | 215 | |
| April | 105 | 107 | 126 | | October | 74 | 83 | 247 | |
| May | 95 | 68 | 45 | | November | 63 | 114 | 216 | |
| June | 125 | 61 | 91 | | December | 68 | 104 | 142 | |
| YTD Total | 607 | 499 | 615 | 646 | Total | 1,021 | 1,052 | 1,655 | |

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

“I Pledged” Campaign. Cheryl Beck is chairing this committee. An initial planning meeting was held on April 4, 2008, for the annual campaign to area seniors regarding responsible driving. The Monroe County ISD is partnering with the 2008 project.

Restorative Justice Training. An initial outline for the training has been developed. April Corie will oversee the development through the community impact award. The project will be a partnership with the Mark Hall from the Monroe County Community College and the Center for Community Growth. 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. It will also be more efficient and affordable than hosting multiple face-to-face trainings.

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

Develop Civic Engagement Opportunities. A grant for \$600 that was written to the Community Foundation of Monroe County was awarded in January 2008. The purpose of the grant was 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 will be given to the residents of

Fairview. Their creations were amazing, were captured on film, and will be 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 to raise activity funds for the youth.

A Civic Engagement workgroup has been formed to develop regular opportunities and to plan the quarterly projects. Donna Cherba, Youth Enrichment Coordinator, through the Court will follow up with approvals and details for the projects. Referrals of youth through the Probation Department will be requested. An initial project was held April 18, 2008 at Creekside Village to help with their outdoor clean-up project. Four youth participated.

A grant was submitted to the Community Foundation of Monroe County for \$625 to provide scholarships to the summer creativity camps at Paint Your Masterpiece. If funded, five to 10 youth who come from families who have low incomes will be provided this opportunity.

Grant to fund a Youth Opportunities Coordinator. A Robert Wood Johnson grant opportunity was reviewed; however, 50% match is required, and their program goals did not appear to match our community's needs. A grant to Hamburger Helper for \$15,000 was submitted to develop youth opportunities.

Continue Girls Circles' Judy Thomas and Cheryl Beck are conducting an eight-week session that began in February. The United Way of Monroe County is providing the facility.

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

Opportunities for Developing Self-Awareness / Life Skills. An initiative that began in June 2007 designed to improve self-awareness within youth was an eight-week yoga class at the Monroe County Youth Center. Since then, Kimberly and Nick Searl have continued to volunteer their time to conduct classes on Sunday evenings. While flexibility and conditioning are important aspects of the program, an emphasis on self-awareness and self-control is included. Each session is ended with a share circle during which the youth review a handout that includes such topics as emotional and social intelligence, choices, and values.

On March 6, 2008, a youth from the Youth Center attended the American Red Cross' Everyday Hero celebration, as a representative of their nominations for the soup bowl project. The youth was provided an opportunity to eat dinner at a community event—a new learning experience for the youth.