



Quarterly Report to United Way of Monroe County and Steering Committee
July 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 year-to-date number of unique visitors 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>	<u>2008</u>
January	102	77	141	189	July	85	84	96	124
February	91	83	85	181	August	60	89	124	
March	89	103	127	276	September	64	79	215	
April	105	107	126	214	October	74	83	247	
May	95	68	45	162	November	63	114	216	
June	125	61	91	199	December	68	104	142	
YTD Total	607	499	615	1,221	Total	1,021	1,052	1,655	1,345

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.

School	Number of Pledges – 2005	Number of Pledges – 2006	Number of Graduates – 2007	Number of Pledges – 2007	Number of Graduates – 2008	Number of Pledges – 2008
Airport	N/A	125 64%	211	137 65%	220	180 81%
Bedford	169	189 46%	433	190 44%	420	179 42%
Dundee	N/A	87 85%	122	87 72%	100	95 95%
Ida	N/A	82 67%	117	112 96%	125	119 95%

Jefferson	112	142	72%	185	155	84%	180	164	91%
Mason	N/A	82	80%	128	124	97%	109	105	96%
Monroe	203	282	66%	421	236	56%	423	216	51%
Orchard	N/A	26	57%	50	24	48%	50	18	36%
SMCC	N/A	85*	85%	109	101	94%	96	96	100%
Summerfield	N/A	49	81%	61	53	87%	69	49	72%
Whiteford	N/A	47	76%	57	N/A		70	53	75%
Totals	484	1,196	65%	1,893	1,219	64%	1,862	1,274	68%

* SMCC amount of pledges in 2006 is estimated.

Restorative Justice Training. April Corie is continuing to oversee the development of the training in partnership with the Mark Hall from the Monroe County Community College and the Center for Community Growth. 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. The web-based approach will allow employees, professionals, students, and community members to complete the training at times that are convenient to their schedules. The web-based approach is 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. Opportunities for involving youth in the community continue to be explored. Donna Cherba is chairing the Civic Engagement workgroup to develop regular opportunities. Follow up is occurring regarding insurance coverage of the youth participating in these projects. Support and referral of youth through the Probation Department is appreciated.

In January, 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 during a visit by eight youth on May 23, 2008. Their creations were amazing, and pictures are 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 and held a Spring Garage Sale to raise activity funds for the youth.

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. Youth will also pass out water during the Fair parade.

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. Ten youth who come from families who have low incomes are being provided this opportunity.

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 four books for the Summer. The Rag and Bone Shop by Robert Cormier was read first, and then numerous choices were provided to the youth for their input. The books chosen included: The Rules of Survival by Nancy Werlin, Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson, Looking for Alaska by John Green, and Go Ask Alice by Anonymous. Book Club is being held following yoga on Monday nights at the Youth Center. There are 18 participants who have joined the Club. Several of the youth have commented that these are the first books that they have ever read. Continuation funding is being sought.

Continue Girls Circles' Judy Thomas and Cheryl Beck conducted an eight-week session in February and March at the United Way of Monroe County.

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

Opportunities for Developing Self-Awareness / Life Skills. An eight-week yoga class was conducted by Kimberly and Nick Searl in the Summer of 2007 with youth at the Monroe County Youth Center. Flexibility, conditioning, self-awareness and self-control were important aspects of the program, and each session ended with a share circle during which the youth reviewed a handout on such topics as emotional and social intelligence, choices, and values.

Because of the success of the initial class, a weekly yoga class continues, first on Sunday evenings and now on Monday evenings. Attendance averages between 12 and 15 youth and is based on voluntary attendance. Through these classes, youth are provided an opportunity to exercise, but more importantly to practice self-control and improve their self-awareness.