



Active Balanced Community Quarterly Report July 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 are unique sites and total number of hits.

March 2009: 340 unique sites / 7070 hits
 April 2009: 434 unique sites / 6,822 hits
 May 2009: 402 unique sites / 7,019 hits

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.

“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.

Date	School	Number of Graduates	Number of Pledges *	Percentage Pledged #
5.29.09	Airport	234	195	83.3%
5.29.09	Bedford	440	304	69.1%
5.28.09	Dundee	82	71	93.9%
6.03.09	Ida	130	111	85.4%
5.26.09	Jefferson	180	145	80.6%
5.22.09	Mason	144	122	84.7%
6.05.09	Monroe	423	190	44.9%
6.05.09	Orchard	50	20	40%
N/A	SMCC	96 *	N/A	N/A
5.27.09	Summerfield	65	63	96.9%
5.28.09	Whiteford	60	51	85%

	Totals	1,808	1,272	70.4%
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* A campaign was not conducted at SMCC this year; the 96 graduates are not included in the total

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.

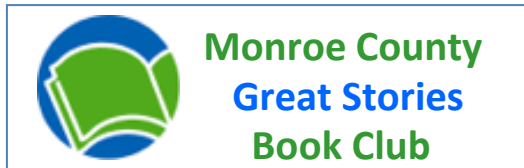
Restorative Justice Training. April Corie is continuing to pursue the development of the training. The curriculum will include the BARJ philosophy, an overview of typical teenage development, and alternative solutions and treatment approaches. The training will be web-based and include both interactive instruction and comprehension testing.

IV. 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 Ms. Steinman (local author) have also participated.

In January 2009, the Monroe County Library System was awarded another Great Stories Club grant. Through this grant, students read Black and White by Paul Volponi, 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. Youth read Tell the World – Teen Poems from Writerscorps. As a result of the youth reading poetry out loud, the idea of capturing the talents on video was born. Paula Loop from the Monroe County Library System has taped the youth and adults involved in the program. Community Impact dollars were used to purchase T-shirts for the youth participating in Book Club. Releases were obtained from the parents of the Youth. The video is expected to be completed this Summer and shown in the Fall. Plans are to forward a copy to Oprah – highlighting the result of the funding provided through Oprah’s Angel Network.



For Summer Book Club, Community Impact purchased a supply of books for the lending library. Titles of the summer collection were provided by Daria Plumb, teacher at the Dundee Alternative Education Program. Youth have been asked to keep track of the number of books (and pages) that they read over the Summer. For July, the book selection is Unwind by Neal Shusterman. Ms. Daria Plumb is the guest facilitator for the discussion. For August, the book selection is Everlost by Neal Shusterman.

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. Another eight week group began on July 15, 2009.

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 have attended.