

How did the Active Balanced Community initiative begin?

The Active Balanced Community initiative developed from local Building Restorative Communities (BRC) efforts. BRC is a unique countywide strategic planning project designed to build awareness and support for the philosophy of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ). BARJ is an approach that seeks to repair harm done to victims and communities while reconnecting youth and families to their respective responsibilities . . . to their fellow citizens, to each other, and to themselves.

The first steps in this direction were taken in 2001 when a diverse group of community representatives met as the Juvenile Justice Planning forum to work on understanding and implementing BARJ in the Juvenile Courts. This led in 2003 to the Building Restorative Communities planning strategy with input from all facets of the community – all ages, abilities, positions, professions. Targeted workgroups formed and met regularly to build the foundation for the Active Balanced Community structure. Strategies were mapped out and specific groups have begun gathering the tools needed to bring this broad vision into sharp focus.

Community Partners

- AFLCIO Central Labor Council - Monroe
 - Airport Community Schools
- American Red Cross, Monroe County Chapter & ROCK Youth Group
- American Speedy Printing Center, Monroe
 - Aquila Incorporated
 - ARC - Monroe
 - Area Agency on Aging 1-B
- Arthur Lesow Community Center
- "Be Their Hero from Age Zero"
 - Bedford Township
- Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Monroe
- Camp Fire USA, Wathana Council
 - Caring Alternatives
 - CASA
- Catholic Social Services of Monroe County
 - Center for Life Enhancement
 - Child Care Network
 - City of Monroe
- Community Foundation of Monroe County & CFMC Youth Advisory Group
 - Community Theatre, Monroe
 - DTE Energy
 - Fairview Home
- Family Counseling & Shelter Services
- Family Independence Agency of Monroe County
- First Call for Help - United Way of Monroe County
 - Gabby's Ladder
- Give a Hand - Take A Hand Mentoring Project
 - Great Sauk Trail Boy Scouts
- Head Start - Catholic Social Services
 - Holcim, Inc.
 - Holy Cross - Moreau Center
 - Human Potential Center
- Humane Society of Monroe County
 - Huron Valley Girl Scouts
- Kids R Special Children's Center
- La-Z-Boy Incorporated
- M.P.A.C.T. - "It's The Law"
- Mason Consolidated Schools
- Mercy Memorial Hospital
- Michigan State Police
- *Michigan Works!* Monroe County Employment & Training
 - Monroe Bank & Trust
 - Monroe Cancer Connection
 - Monroe City Council
 - Monroe County 4-H
- Monroe County Board of Commissioners
- Monroe County Chamber of Commerce & Youth Leadership Monroe
- Monroe County Citizen Volunteers
- Monroe County Community College
- Monroe County Community Mental Health Authority
 - Monroe County Courts
 - Monroe County Family Y.M.C.A.
 - Monroe County Health Department
- Monroe County Human Services Collaborative Network
 - Monroe County Intermediate School District - Early On Programs, Youth Leadership 2003 and Youth Opportunity Programs
 - Monroe County Planning Department
 - Monroe County Prosecutor's Office
 - Monroe County Sheriff's Department
 - Monroe County Youth Center
 - Monroe Police Department
 - Monroe Public Schools
 - Monroe Wraparound
 - New Beginnings Mercy House
 - Orchard Center High School
- The Salvation Army- Harbor Light - The Family Center
 - SEMCA *Michigan Works!*
- Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
 - South Rockwood Police
- St. Joseph's Cemetery/DEER Group
- St. Mary's Grade School
- Stewart Road Church of God
 - Tiffany's Pizza
 - UAW - Visteon
- United Way of Monroe County, Inc.



Monroe County
MICHIGAN



OUR MISSION

To engage our community and its resources in the ongoing effort to create a healthy and protective environment in Monroe County that encourages responsible families and positive behaviors in youth.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO JOIN OUR EFFORT,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE @**

www.activebalancedcommunity.org

What does it mean to live in an Active Balanced Community?



Life in our Active Balanced Community is based on several distinct principles along with a vital philosophy embraced by the whole community . . . our aim is to make a positive difference in the lives of youth and families in Monroe County.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Strengthen the family
- Support core social institutions
- Balance prevention and intervention
- Intervene with graduated sanctions
- Repair harm to victims and communities
- Engage the community
- Foster responsibility

In our community's efforts to realize these goals, many local agencies and organizations have come together, bringing a wealth of services and resources to bear on the complexities that face all citizens in our modern world. It is our mission to engage our community and its resources in the ongoing effort to create a healthy and protective environment in Monroe County that encourages responsible families and positive behaviors in youth.

OUR CHALLENGES

In planning for the future of our citizens and our community, many aspects of life in Monroe County were considered and much data was gathered and analyzed. From this data, the Community Planning Team determined these priority risk factors for our youth and families:

- Economic deprivation
- Family conflict
- Academic failure beginning in the late elementary grades
- Early onset of alcohol or drug abuse

Moving forward together, we know that these challenges – and how we address them – will shape the strategies developed. The overall goal areas for the Active Balanced Community Initiative as it strives to support, uplift and honor our youth and families are:

1. Build and enhance collaborative systems and approaches to programs and services that strengthen youth and families
2. Empower organizations/systems to support the development of an Active Balanced Community
3. Build and maintain community awareness and involvement to make a positive difference in the lives of youth and family.

