

accept
challenge
empower
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teach
safe
families
healthy
youth
mentor
protect
trust
strengthen

Together
We Can...

accept
safe
trust
succeed
challenge
empower
engage
youth
families
prevent
teach

St. Joseph Youth Alliance
Progress Report
2005-2006

inspire
strengthen
mentor

Our Values:

Fiscal responsibility

Collaboration

Quality outcomes

Advocacy

Commitment to making a difference

Resource identification and development

Identifying community needs

St. Joseph Youth Alliance

625 Francis

St. Joseph, MO 64501

Phone: 816 232-0050

www.youth-alliance.org



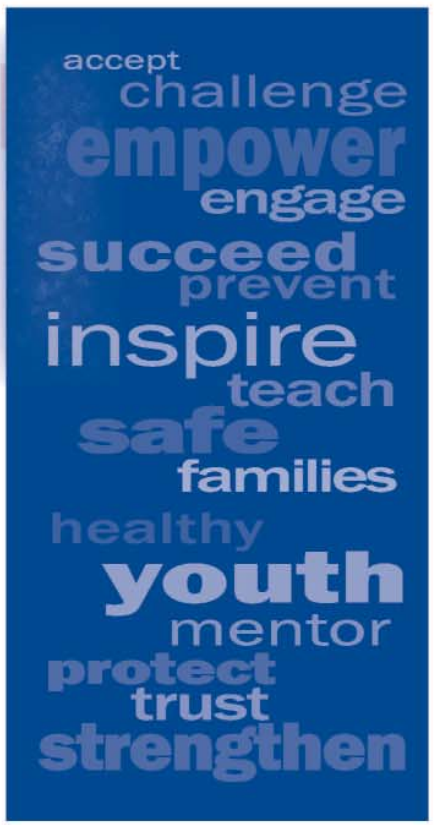
Mission:

Engaging community partners to improve the lives of children and families.

St. Joseph Youth Alliance Board

- Gary Hillebrand, President Preferred Family Health Care
- Colin Cline, Vice President Grandparent
- Dan Brachman, Treasurer Individual
- Ray Carson, Secretary Noyes Home

- Andrea Aderton..... Family Guidance Center
- Linda BoringMissouri Department of Social Services
- Jason Callaway..... Individual
- Danielle CampbellCommunity Early Care & Education Resource Center
- Kay Denver.....St. Joseph School District
- Jerry Lau..... M & I Investments
- Rev. Roger Lenander..... First Lutheran Church
- Barbara Martin.....St. Joseph School District
- Sharon Ritchey..... City of St. Joseph
- Nicholas Sacarro.....America's Second Harvest Food Bank
- Jack Teegarden..... Individual



Executive Director

From the Executive Director Robin Hammond

October 2006

This past year has been a whirlwind of activity for the St. Joseph Youth Alliance. On behalf of the staff and board, I would like to thank all of our community and business partners for their support, contributions and ongoing partnership as we strive to improve the lives of families in the greater St. Joseph area.

Together, we have been able to conduct quality training and education programs for providers and service organizations, bring new programs to the community, conduct fundraisers that generate funding for youth programs, and, most importantly, recruit many adult and youth volunteers.

Without our partners, the Children's Fair would not be the phenomenal success that it has grown to be. Our efforts to create community awareness about prevention of youth substance abuse would not be nearly as effective as it has been, nor would we be able to so successfully mentor the youth of our community.

Some of the greatest successes experienced by the Youth Alliance this year are a result of the contributions of our community partners, including the teach-ins, particularly the event involving the Blacksnakes minor league baseball team; the billboard and marquee substance abuse prevention awareness campaign during prom week; and the generous contribution of in-kind and monetary donations and volunteer hours valued at nearly \$124,000.

The results reflected in this report indicate that, indeed, together we can make a difference!



Robin Hammond

- Robin Hammond



Introduction

Since 1994, the St. Joseph Youth Alliance has been striving to positively impact issues relating to children and youth. Over the years, each of the programs and services have systematically fallen into five emphasis areas, which now serve as the drivers for the organization's decision-making. The areas are: Community Awareness and Education, Crisis Intervention, Early Childhood, Youth Mentoring, and Youth Asset Development.

Community Awareness and Education

It is important for any organization to invest in community awareness and education, but more so for the Alliance in our efforts to address complex social, behavioral and environmental change for families, children and youth. Efforts in this area vary over time, depending on community priorities and availability of resources. Community awareness efforts include media campaigns, such as the Look Again campaign that takes a comprehensive media approach to create awareness around youth asset development. Community awareness is also created through billboards, involvement in locally sponsored events, and in promotion of the many programs and services addressing critical issues for families, such as substance abuse, child abuse and neglect, youth employment, kindergarten readiness and so much more. Education is provided in many forms – from community and town forums, youth summits and provider training, to web-site postings on Teen-Talk, a local resource for adolescents.

Crisis Intervention

Crisis intervention services provided by the St. Joseph Youth Alliance are some of the most critical services provided by the organization. The Alliance provides families and youth with support, resources, and hope for a better future through many avenues, but primarily through the Family Resource Advisory Council and Provider Network, mentoring programs, and home visits provided through the Family Connections Program. Often early intervention results in a better outcome. Therefore, the St. Joseph Youth Alliance serves as a resource to link families to appropriate and timely services and resources to help families avoid major crises.

Early Childhood

Early childhood development has been a core element of the St. Joseph Youth Alliance from the beginning, with a focus on improving the education and general life experiences of young children. The St. Joseph Youth Alliance has two priorities in this area – professional development of child care providers and school readiness. To ensure that these issues are addressed, the Alliance organizes and/or sponsors child care provider training, provides scholarships to individuals pursuing early childhood care career paths and aids child care facilities in meeting early accreditation requirements. The Alliance also supports efforts to identify ways to assess school readiness and to create awareness in the community about the roles that child care providers can play in preventing child abuse and neglect.

Youth Mentoring

Youth mentoring is about providing young people with positive adult role models in the community and in the workplace. The St. Joseph Youth Alliance has two programs that have a youth mentoring focus – Journey to Unite Mentors and Parents (JUMP) and Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership (MMP). Both programs have core elements that: provide young people with a sense of belonging; give them a sense that the community cares about them; and supports them in identifying and capitalizing on their potential. Key objectives of the programs are for youth to achieve academic success and have positive, long-term employment experiences. It is believed that by achieving these objectives, youth will have a strong foundation for future social success and will contribute back to society and the community.

Youth Asset Development

Youth asset development requires a long-term investment in youth. It begins at birth and continues on into adulthood. The St. Joseph Youth Alliance is committed to supporting programs and services that empower youth, while at the same time setting boundaries and expectations. Core elements of the programs and services in this emphasis area are designed to instill positive values and commitment to learning, as well as assist youth in using their time constructively to build social competencies and a positive self identify. The St. Joseph Youth Alliance has been instrumental in orchestrating the St. Joseph Drug Free Communities Coalition, which focuses heavily on changing social norms around substance abuse by youth. The Alliance is also actively engaging youth in service learning opportunities through Youth Empowerment through Service and the Youth Action Coalition.

Highlights of the events, activities and programs for 2006 are shared in this report, along with data demonstrating progress toward identified results and benchmarks.



Community Awareness & Education

Training and Education

Training is a large component of community awareness and education. As such, the St. Joseph Youth Alliance has hosted several community education training sessions, particularly related to child abuse and neglect prevention efforts.

One highlight for St. Joseph was the training conducted on Dr. Ruby Payne's book, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*. Since 1972, Dr. Ruby Payne has been involved with education as a teacher, principal, consultant, and administrator. In her book, Ruby discusses the hidden rules that govern how each of us behaves in our social class. Those rules, because they are hidden and only known to those within the group, prove to be a major stumbling block for individuals trying to move to a new social class. Students from poverty often languish in classrooms run by members of middle class because those are the rules that govern.

(Source: <http://www.lecturemanagement.com/speakers/ruby-payne.htm>)

The topics covered in the training included how economic class affects behaviors and mind sets, why students from generational poverty often fear being educated, the "hidden rules" within economic classes, discipline interventions that improve behavior, and the eight resources that make a difference in success.

Two other education sessions of significance were provided for the community in the area of early childhood development. The first was the Creative Curriculum® training provided by a certified trainer from Washington D.C. The second was the Conscious Discipline® training, attended by 86 individuals.

Creative Curriculum®

Creative Curriculum® is a program of Teaching Strategies, and is a nationally accredited program. Thirty-two child care providers received 14 hours of training and received the Creative Curriculum® for Infants and Toddlers book. Participants attending leave the training:

- Understanding the impact of quality care on development
- Defining curriculum for infants and toddlers
- Defining the role of the early childhood professional
- Knowing infants and toddlers
- Building relationships with children
- Building partnerships with families
- Observing: Looking through children's eyes
- Planning and individualizing
- Creating a welcoming environment
- Keeping infants safe and healthy
- Promoting learning through routines
- Promoting learning through activities
- Planning and evaluating the curriculum: Meeting individual and program needs.



Conscious Discipline®

The Conscious Discipline® training, a full-day session was conducted by a certified trainer from Columbia, providing participants with 6 training hours. Conscious Discipline® is evidence-based, and was named a national model for character education by the Character Education Partnership in 2005. Becky A. Bailey, Ph.D., award-winning author, renowned teacher and internationally recognized expert in childhood

About Creative Curriculum® . . .

Creative Curriculum® is based on the latest research on how children learn best and has been shown through experimental and quasi-experimental studies to improve classroom quality and promote the school readiness of preschool children. The Creative Curriculum® meets all of the standards put forth for effective early childhood curricula by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education (NAECS/SDE). (Source: www.teachingstrategies.com)

education and developmental psychology developed the Conscious Discipline®. It is a social-emotional program that facilitates early childhood and elementary teachers in creating “school families” where children and teachers can reclaim joy, helpfulness and caring as a foundation for the educational process. Research conducted in schools and centers using Conscious Discipline® shows that it decreases aggression, increases academic scores on state tests, decreases impulsivity/hyperactivity in “difficult” children, increases collegiality of staff, and creates a positive school climate. (Source: www.beckybailey.com)

America’s Promise – Top 100 City for Youth

In the fall of 2005, the City of St. Joseph was named one of the “100 Best Communities for Young People” by America’s Promise. Nearly 1,200 communities registered to take part in the competition. Research shows — and experience proves — that children need five fundamental resources in order to thrive, also known as the Five Promises: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, effective education and opportunities to help others.

St. Joseph was selected for its collaborative approach to addressing the needs and concerns of young people, and for providing youths with innovative and empowering opportunities for growth and achievement. The St. Joseph Youth Alliance continues to work with community partners and key leadership to provide every child an opportunity to receive every promise.

A Decade of Difference

Community Partnerships celebrated a Decade of Difference in 2005. Their mission was and continues to be for children to have strong families, communities where parents are working, children are succeeding in school, growing up healthy, safe, and prepared to enter productive adulthood. Phyllis Brunson, Senior Associate, Center for the Study of Social Policy, spoke at the event. The community partners each set up displays that highlighted the impact of their partnerships over the past ten years and an evening banquet was held where each partnership was recognized for their service.



Ongoing community education and awareness efforts are promoted through:

Volunteer St. Joseph, a web-based volunteer information system designed to improve access and delivery of volunteer service opportunities, particularly for youth, in the St. Joseph community.

St. Joseph Drug Free Community Coalition, which works to positively change community attitudes and behaviors surrounding drugs, alcohol and tobacco, ultimately encouraging youth to choose substance free lives.

Teen-Talk, an interactive site for youth that provides information about issues concerning youth, a calendar of events, current news and links to other youth-friendly sites.

Best at Birth, which is a long-standing collaborative focused on reducing teen pregnancy and supporting students who experience a pregnancy during the school year.

Teen-Talk: www.teen-talk.org

Highlight

In 2006, the St. Joseph Youth Alliance partnered with the new minor league baseball team, the Blacksnakes, to have an alcohol free game at which 2,000 youth were in attendance. Ball players provided training in conjunction with the game. This project was a great success and will be repeated in future years to create awareness about prevention of youth substance abuse.

Volunteer St. Joseph: www.volunteerstjoseph.org

Crisis Intervention



Family Connections

One of the most crucial components of crisis intervention services is Family Connections, a community-based family resource initiative funded through a Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant to the St. Joseph Youth Alliance from the Missouri Children's Trust Fund. To date, a total of \$359,579 has been awarded to St. Joseph to reduce risks of child abuse and neglect in the greater St. Joseph area. Family Connections provides families and agencies with coordinated, non-duplicative services; improved interagency communication; and improved family/agency communication/rapport. Family Connections has experienced decreased hotlines among program participants.

Through the Family Connections program, 40 families received services that included initial assessments and reassessments, development of family care plans, 580 home visits, provision of 15 cribs, and flex pool fund distribution in the amount of \$10,980. The crisis intervention services most frequently sought from the Family Connections Provider Network were housing and counseling. Other services included life skills development, parenting education, health and nutrition education, prenatal and well child care, and a multitude of other support services.

Family Connections Highlights

- The transformation of the Family Resource Advisory Council from strictly a policy making body to a community-wide, comprehensive committee, dedicated to the reduction of all types of child abuse. The Council is now responsible for the development, implementation, and promotion of child abuse and neglect prevention strategies within the greater St. Joseph community. St. Joseph Youth Alliance is also a community council of Prevent Child Abuse Missouri's network of community councils. As a local community council, the Youth Alliance promotes public awareness, advocates for programs that prevent child abuse and neglect, works with volunteers, assesses community resources and provides information and referrals.
- Growth and development of the Parents Supporting Parents support group to include over 50 individuals consistently attending, representing approximately 15 families, and parents assuming leadership of the support group.
- "Take a Stand" fundraiser for child abuse prevention. The rights to this program were purchased from Phelps County Bank for the purpose of sustaining flexible funds for the Family Connections program. The St. Joseph Youth Alliance partnered with local businesses, nonprofits, and individuals to make this event a success. Bottled lemonade and water were sold from five stands throughout the greater St. Joseph community, generating a total of \$2,806.

Enough Abuse

Enough Abuse Missouri is a statewide effort of Prevent Child Abuse Missouri to eliminate child sexual abuse in Missouri, and is dedicated to obtaining and sharing the knowledge and skills necessary for prevention. The Enough Abuse Campaign is operating in the Missouri communities of Phelps County, St. Joseph, Doniphan, Independence, and Barceda Families. Enough Abuse St. Joseph has already begun the process of implementation locally.

- The committee has been meeting regularly for the past year.
- A press release was held at the Buchanan County Courthouse in August 2005 to announce the official launching of the campaign. This resulted in an article in the local newspaper, a radio interview, and a brief mention on the local television news.
- The Buchanan County Prosecuting Attorney, Senator Charlie Shields, Representative Rob Schaaf, Representative Ed Wildberger, the Superintendent of St. Joseph Public Schools, the Mayor of St. Joseph, the Buchanan County Commission, and other distinguished officials have publicly supported the Enough Abuse Campaign.
- Enough Abuse posters are on display in local schools and organizations.
- Enough Abuse committee members presented to approximately 65 individuals at the YWCA's "Take Back the Night" ceremony in October 2005.
- Work has begun on a fundraiser that will help in the development and implementation of prevention activities.
- St. Joseph Youth Alliance also participated in the Biker Rally held in conjunction with Child Abuse Prevention month in efforts to raise awareness.



CORE RESULT:

Children and Families Safe and Healthy

- Benchmarks:** To reduce the percent of juveniles referred to the juvenile system.
To reduce the child abuse and neglect probable cause rate.
To reduce out-of-home placements.
To increase the percent of children receiving appropriate immunizations.
To reduce the percent of hospital admissions due to mental health disorders.

Child Abuse and Neglect Probable Cause Rate (per 1,000)

Community	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Buchanan	8.17	7.59	8.41	10.27	7.21
Missouri	7.93	6.87	6.80	6.49	5.71

caring



Missouri Re-entry Program

In fiscal year 2006, the St. Joseph Youth Alliance became involved in an AmeriCorps Vista project in partnership with other Community Partnerships to focus on re-entry of ex-offenders into the community. The Pettis County Community Partnership took the lead in drafting a grant proposal that was submitted to and funded by AmeriCorps to create a local framework for working with ex-offenders as they attempt to productively return to community life. As a result of the grant, the Youth Alliance will receive a VISTA member who will work to link the Youth Alliance with existing local efforts, such as the Fatherhood Initiative of the Head Start Community Action Partnership. As a partner in the project, the Department of Corrections is taking a holistic approach to addressing the needs of ex-offenders. This approach links hand-in-hand with the mission of Community Partnerships.

VISTA members help keep pertinent local resources listed in Community Connection (Missouri's statewide online database for community resources); ensure that the listings are current; promote awareness and, ultimately, utilize Community Connection. The current emphasis is on developing a solid volunteer base to provide mentoring and also to oversee the program once the VISTA members are no longer in place. VISTA members also work to educate employers and the general public, about how hiring ex-offenders can increase public safety, strengthen families and communities, and even reduce recidivism. They help identify and promote employment opportunities for ex-offenders and work to reduce employment, mental health, substance abuse and educational barriers that confront ex-offenders. When the project ends, St. Joseph, among other communities across the state, will have a strong and replicable framework for helping ex-offenders successfully re-enter the community.

According to the Missouri Department of Corrections, offender population growth is one of the biggest issues facing our state government. Some of their interesting facts are:

Prison Data

- Missouri's prison population continues to grow. At the current rate we need one new 1500+ bed facility each year.
- Last year Missouri sent 18,000 people to prison.
- Last year Missouri released 17,545 people from prison.
- Over 97% of the 30,000+ offenders in prison today will be released. The vast majority will return to the counties where they lived prior to incarceration.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Data

- Over half of Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse treatment admissions are criminal justice referrals.
- In one year 40.2% of Missouri prison admissions were due to alcohol (8.8%) and drug offenses (31.4%).
- During a five-month period, over 50% of offenders admitted to prison required substance abuse treatment unavailable in prison.
- Drug and alcohol use has increased while treatment resources have decreased.

Importance of Employment and Education

- About 54% of offenders returned to prison within one year of release did not have full-time employment.
- Offenders who increase their vocational skills while incarcerated return to prison within five years at a rate less than half of those who do not – 25% to 58%.
- Few have employment skills or sufficient literacy to become gainfully employed.

Role of the Family

- Last year 51% of male offenders and 80% of female offenders reported they had dependent children in the community. This statistic translates to 35,468 dependent children with a parent in prison.
- Ten percent of all children participating in Head Start programs have a parent in prison.
- Children with incarcerated parents are six times more likely to become incarcerated themselves.

“We have an incredible opportunity to reshape the way in which our nation fights poverty, and one of the most critical elements is to significantly and substantively reform our prison system to break the cycle of recidivism.”

—U. S. Sen. Sam Brownback

teach





early childhood

Educare

Educare works with child care providers to promote the growth and quality of early childhood care and school readiness for children. For fiscal year ending June 2006, Educare impacted approximately 1,272 children, with a minimum average of 1,000 children served on a monthly basis. This is a 22.3 percent increase from last year in number of children served.

Educare provides monthly on-site, technical assistance visits to child care facilities in 11 counties in Northwest Missouri. Educare made 591 on-site visits, serving 77 providers in the 11-county area, and nearly doubled the number of new providers acquired, from 11 in fiscal year 2005 to 21 in fiscal year 2006 (90.9 percent increase).

As a result of the Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) grant, received by Success By Six®, the school entry inventory data collection process has been redesigned. St. Joseph Youth Alliance played a critical role, however, in the data collection efforts, by gathering information from the school teachers throughout the St. Joseph School District. The Alliance also conducted an inventory of the data collected during the Kindergarten Round-up and identified gaps in the information so that additional data could be collected. The Alliance worked extensively with the St. Joseph School District to collect the most complete set of data for each student.

Due to the data collection and reporting changes resulting from ELOA, the school entry inventory results are presented in a new format, using the DIAL 3 survey results, analyzed by Missouri Western State University.

As indicated earlier in the report, community education and training play a large role in the work of the St. Joseph Youth Alliance. Educare conducted 12 child care provider trainings in fiscal year 2006, with a total of 695 participants in attendance. This training was in addition to the two training sessions on Conscious Discipline® and Creative Curriculum®. Educare also continues to collaborate with Child Care Resource and Referral to distribute The Early Care Connection newsletter, which is distributed monthly to 600 child care providers, community and state partners.

Educare Highlights

- **Child Care Support Group** – As a funding requirement, Educare offers a support group for registered providers – those who are not licensed and care for four or less children – that service low income families who receive a Department of Social Services subsidy. This requirement continues to be a challenge, however, Educare is making progress in increasing the number of registered providers who will allow on-site assistance.
- **Monthly Story Hour** – The number of registered providers who bring children in their care to a monthly story hour conducted in collaboration with the St. Joseph Public Library has also increased. Will Stuck, a children’s librarian, reads books to the children, and is followed by children’s activities conducted by Educare staff. The purpose of the activities is to model ideas to the adults providing care. Each child is also given their own book and the provider receives a gift that will help them in the child care environment (outlet covers, safety latches, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, developmentally appropriate toys, books, etc).



Children’s Fair

The annual children’s fair is always a highlight of the early childhood efforts in St. Joseph. In 2006, there were 2,312 individuals who participated – 996 were adults who brought children. The fair generates a significant amount of volunteer support from the community, with 106 agency volunteers and another 59 outside volunteers helping throughout the event. As part of the activities, the Lion’s Club completed 93 free eye exams. Parents as Teachers had over 200 of their current parents attend and was able to make



empower

another 114 new contacts. The success of this event can be measured by the more than \$30,000 in monetary and in-kind donations, including significant volunteer hours.

Child Care Start-up and Expansion

Child care start-up and expansion provides financial assistance to increase the capacity of quality child care programs that provide care for infants and toddlers of low-income working families.

A total of \$62,668 was awarded in 2005-06 from the Early Childhood Development Education and Care Fund to promote quality of early childhood care and school readiness in children. Start-up and expansion grants were awarded to eligible child care facilities. Child care facilities that receive these funds make a commitment to begin the child care accreditation process within three years and use the funds to increase capacity for providing care for infants and toddlers of low-income working families.

In the fiscal year ending June 2006, the St Joseph Youth Alliance provided start-up funds to seven facilities – four in St. Joseph (Buchanan County), one in Pattonsburg (Daviess County), one in Savannah (Andrew County), and another in Lathrop (Clinton County). In addition, funds were provided for expansion to two facilities in St. Joseph. The start-up efforts resulted in 91 new child care slots, while the expansion efforts provided an additional 23 child care slots. The services received by facilities that are granted start-up and expansion funds include training, technical assistance, and linkage to other available resources.

Child Care Early Accreditation

The Child Care Early Accreditation program provides funding to child care facilities that are committed to reaching beyond the minimum requirements defined by licensing, to achieve recognized standards of excellence. The St. Joseph Youth Alliance worked with 16 providers on early accreditation. HB1519 Accreditation Facilitation grant funds were used to offer peer modeling opportunities. By partnering with an accredited home provider and center director, participants in the early accreditation program were allowed to tour an accredited facility and ask questions about accreditation. As partners, they also helped facilitate a monthly support group for these early accreditation facilities, providing an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns about accreditation.

The total funds received for child care early accreditation in fiscal year 2006 was \$80,128, of which \$30,045 was awarded directly for scholarships. The remainder of the funds were used for a variety of supports, including accreditation equipment and supplies, assessments and curriculum.

Scholarships

The Alliance supported 11 individuals in attaining their Child Development Associate (CDA) degree (five of these individuals continued to work towards their AA in early childhood). In addition, one individual received a scholarship for two specific classes needed to meet licensing requirements.

Community Collaboration

Many community organizations partner with the St. Joseph Youth Alliance in collaborative efforts that address early childhood. Some of these efforts are highlighted below.

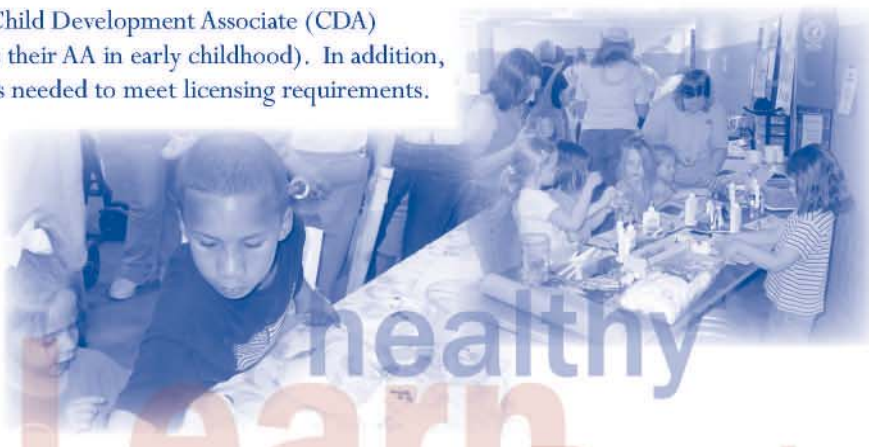
Child Care Resource and Referral –

Educare and Child Care Resource and Referral partner to distribute a monthly newsletter and support the Early Care and Education Resource Center.

Head Start – Educare has a representative that serves on the Head Start advisory council that advises the community on issues impacting early childhood. Head Start also convenes an early childhood governance group.

Success By Six® – Partners meet quarterly to discuss issues surrounding early childhood. Success By Six® also administers the Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) grant, which includes technical assistance with the Quality Rating System (QRS), convening the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Therapeutic Lending Library committee and the Literacy Training committee. Partners also participate on kindergarten readiness and quality and accreditation committees.

In addition to these collaborative relationships, St. Joseph Youth Alliance serves on the First Steps Local Interagency Coordinating Council that meets regularly, and coordinates the annual greater St. Joseph Community Children's Fair.



CORE RESULT:

Children Ready to Learn and Succeeding in School

Benchmarks: To increase the percent of children entering kindergarten ready to learn.

To increase the percent of students performing at the advanced or proficient level on the mathematics and communication arts sections of the Missouri Standardized Assessment Test (MAP).

"I wanted to give positive insight to a younger generation."

Carla- Mentor

Midwest Photography



youth MENTORING

Journey to Unite Mentors and Parents (JUMP)

JUMP provides mentored support and encouragement to pregnant and parenting teens. Young parents must be 21 years-of-age or younger, and either expecting a baby or already parenting a child under age three. The young parents are matched with a trained, volunteer community mentor. Through the support of the program and the mentor, teens are encouraged to achieve educational and career goals as well as to raise a healthy family.

Components of the program include:

- Parenting and life skills training
- Monthly support group meetings
- Monthly home visits
- Infant massage training
- Monthly playgroups
- High school completion or GED
- Goal setting and life planning

Births to Teens
(ages 10-17)

Community	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Buchanan	50	58	57	38	58	43
Jasper	92	76	72	52	123	167
Missouri	3,333	2,938	2,785	2,691	2,767	2,660

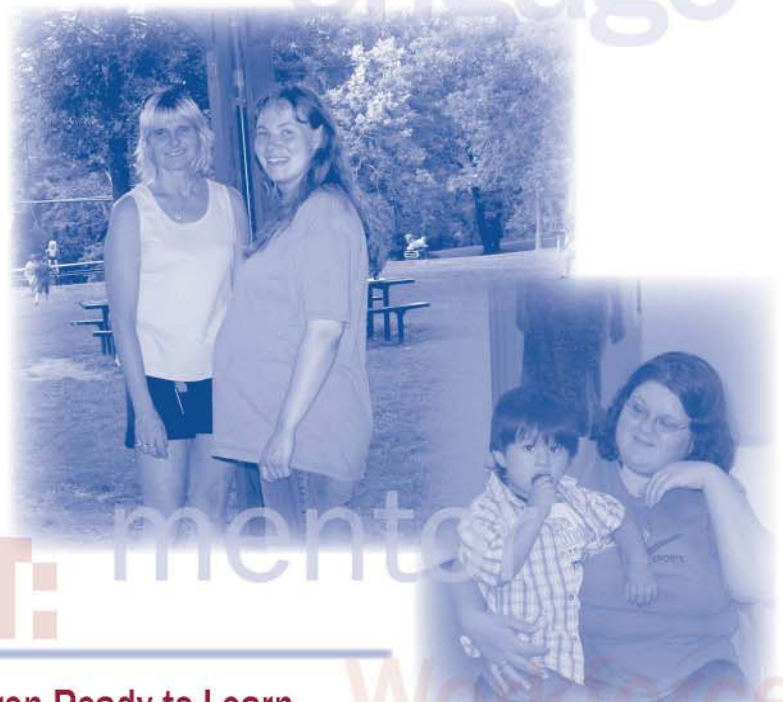
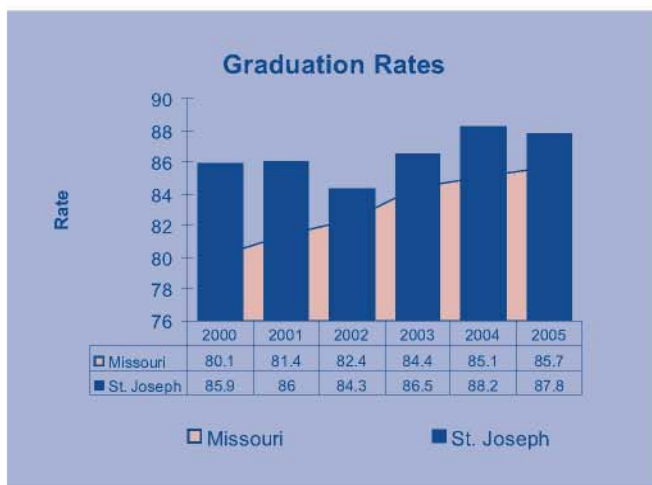
JUMP is offered in partnership between the St. Joseph Youth Alliance, the YWCA of St. Joseph, and Hearland Health.

In fiscal year 2006, there were 91 teens served through JUMP. Of these individuals, 30 percent were paired with a mentor and 67 individuals received home visits. As with all youth mentoring programs, JUMP has an emphasis on completion of high school or its equivalent. As a result, 35 JUMP participants attained their high school diploma or equivalent this year.

JUMP has also been effective in reducing repeat teen pregnancies. In fiscal year 2006, only six percent of the teens in the program experienced a repeat pregnancy.

Teens also participate in JUMP sponsored training and organized play groups. Nineteen girls took advantage of the play groups, attending a total of 12 play group sessions. A total of 52 teens participated in the training sessions, attending 21 meetings altogether.

JUMP has also been effective in finding a medical home for the children of teen parents. Of the 91 participants in the JUMP program, 90 percent have identified a medical home for their child(ren).



CORE RESULT:

Youth Ready to Enter the Workforce and Children Ready to Learn

Benchmark: To increase the percent of students graduating from high school by age 18.
To reduce the percent of births to teens.

*"I finally got a job!!! I would encourage anyone to come and join the program."
Rodney- Former Mentored Youth*



Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership (MMP)

The mentoring programs have been going strong at the St. Joseph Youth Alliance for the past several years. MMP is a state initiative with funding from the Department of Social Services. This past year, the state began a partnership with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri.

With this partnership, the State of Missouri and the worksite mentoring programs throughout the state can streamline their programs and put forth a set of, "Required Policies and Minimum Standards." Through the strong mentoring model of Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the state is hoping to strengthen the Missouri Mentoring Partnership (MMP) program's policies and procedures.

The premise of worksite mentoring is to prepare young people to enter the workforce. MMP is a volunteer program. Youth are identified to participate in the program from several referring partners, including school social workers, counselors, career counselors, instructors, educators, adult literacy instructors, and activity coordinators at youth group homes, among many others.

Once youth are identified, they spend time learning the fine art of the job search. The skills that are covered are skills that the youth will continue to hone and build throughout their adult lives.

Components addressed include:

- Job search
- Applications
- Resumes and cover letters
- Interview preparation
- Problem solving



The ultimate goal is not only to prepare youth for work readiness, but to also match them with an on-the-job mentor. The trained mentors are employees of local MMP business partners.

The following table reflects the success of the Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership. Of significant note is the percentage of placements that have maintained 90 to more than 180 days of employment. Additionally, a greater number of participants are continuing their education.

Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership Fiscal Year 2006

Indicator	2005	2006
Number of Participating Employers	41	44
Number of Referrals	63	78
Number of Participants	56	54
Number in Mentored Employment	20	14
Number Completing Job Readiness Training	33	34
Continuing Education	43	76
Employment Success		
30 days employment	33%	92%
90 days employment	71%	100%
180 days employment	66%	100%

Mentoring Partnership Business Partners:

- Applebee's
- Big Lots
- Bode Ice Arena
- Buchanan County Circuit Court
- Car City Chrysler
- The Dillon Company
- Eagle Radio
- 1st Street Graphics
- Fazoli's
- Fern Thatcher Company
- Food-4-Less
- Goodwill Industries
- Helen Davis State School
- Hobby Lobby
- Houlihan's / Holiday Inn
- Hy-Vee
- J.C. Penny's Portrait Studio
- Ken Smith Auto Body
- Kovac's Grocery Store
- Midwest Photography
- National Military Heritage Museum
- Hollywood 10
- Pizza Hut
- Roger's Green Hills
- Rolling Hills Consolidated Library
- Sack-N-Save Grocery Store
- Saint Joseph Animal Control
- Saint Joseph Parks, Recreation, and Civic Facilities
- St. Joseph Public Libraries
- Saint Paul Lutheran Childcare
- Sear's Portrait Studio
- Shoe Carnival
- Social Welfare Board
- Sonic Drive-In
- Spanky and Buckwheat's
- Stoney Creek Inn
- Taco Bell
- Taco John's
- Ultimate Look Salon and Spa
- Wendy's

Mentoring Partnership



succeed

youth Asset Development

Prevention Assistance

Youth Volunteer Corps of Amercia

The St. Joseph Youth Alliance partnered with Youth Volunteer Corps to receive a full-time youth volunteer member who provides assistance in coordinating youth asset development efforts of the Youth Alliance. Examples of youth volunteer opportunities include the Youth Action Coalition and Youth Empowerment through Service.



Youth Action Coalition

As part of its prevention assistance efforts, the St. Joseph Youth Alliance supports the Youth Action Coalition (YAC), which strives to foster and support youth with the desire to benefit St. Joseph through service learning opportunities. YAC is the driving force behind youth-centered volunteerism for the Youth Alliance. Each year, youth pick, plan and implement volunteer service projects that impact important issues and make their community a better place to live. YAC members meet twice monthly on Saturday mornings.

This year, youth were provided the opportunity to participate in service learning opportunities each month. Projects are available for youth ages 11-18. Youth earn up to 20 hours per week volunteering at sites around the St. Joseph community and may attend enrichment and leadership activities provided by Youth Alliance staff. Projects have included serving meals at the food kitchen, making blankets for kids in the YWCA shelter and hospice patients, coordinating park clean-ups, carving pumpkins for Pumpkin Mountain and cleaning and organizing for the AFL-CIO clothes closet. All projects are planned by YAC members and are led by a trained Youth Volunteer Coordinator.

Youth Empowerment through Service

Youth Empowerment through Service (YES) Chapters are autonomous units that perform community service in partnership with the St. Joseph Youth Alliance. YES Chapters can be any group of youth that performs community service as part of the group's normal routine. YES Chapters also develop, plan and implement projects based on community needs that the Chapter has identified. YES Chapters also identify, develop, plan and implement projects based on community needs.



Volunteer St. Joseph

The youth volunteer coordinator also maintains www.volunteerstjoseph.org, the community website for posting and registering for volunteer opportunities. Volunteerstjoseph.org reported 283 visits from June-September 2006, with 103 events registered since August 1, 2005 and 52 registered users. A recurring event feature has also been added, enabling on-going projects to be listed. Presently, there are 22 organizations registered.

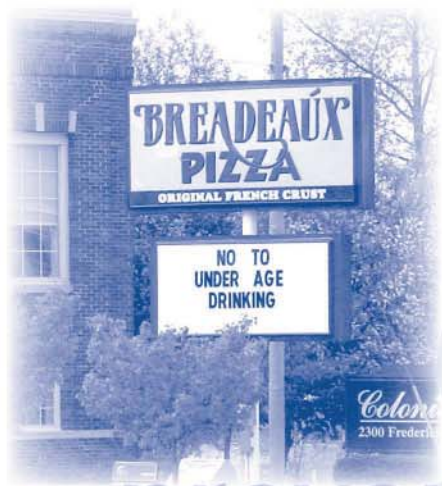


Youth Volunteer Corps of America Highlights

- Three youth attended the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Leadership conference in St. Louis where they learned drug, alcohol and tobacco resistance skills in addition to healthy socialization skills.
- There are now five active YES chapters.
- More than 300 Youth participated in community service projects, completing 25 projects and volunteering 1,420 hours.
- 24 youth completed 720 volunteer hours at five project sites, including the YWCA Women's Shelter, Allbrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, InterServ, National Military Heritage Museum, and the Salvation Army. These projects were part of the YAC Attack summer program that occurred over a four-week period in July 2006.
- Students in the St. Joseph School District participated in "Win, Choose and Draw," a program that asks kids to create art about what they would rather be doing than drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Over 150 students from five different schools participated. Winners were awarded cash prizes of \$100, \$75, & \$50. The funding for these prizes was donated by Heartland Health.
- St. Joseph Youth Alliance also received a Prevention Assistance grant in the amount of \$10,000 for fiscal year 2005-06.



- Benchmarks:** To reduce the percent of juveniles referred to the juvenile system.
 To reduce the child abuse and neglect probable cause rate.
 To reduce out-of-home placements.
 To reduce the percent of low birth weight babies.
 To increase the percent of children receiving appropriate immunizations.
 To reduce the percent of hospital admissions due to mental health disorders.



prevent

American Media Award

The St. Joseph Youth Alliance nominated Jim Conlon, from KQ2 TV for the American Media Award. Jim and KQ2 received the award for their contributions to the 2005 Character Rocks Youth Summit. KQ2 provided over \$1,000 in media coverage and production services for the summit to help create community awareness of underage drinking and substance use.

St. Joseph Drug Free Community Coalition

The St. Joseph Drug Free Community Coalition works to positively change community attitudes and behaviors surrounding drugs, alcohol and tobacco, ultimately encouraging youth to choose substance free lives.

Together, the coalition works to:

- Establish and strengthen collaboration throughout the greater St. Joseph community to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth;
- Increase citizen participation and greater collaboration among all sectors of the community;
- Enhance community efforts to promote and deliver effective substance abuse prevention strategies; and
- Assess the effectiveness of our substance abuse prevention initiatives.



Coalition efforts primarily revolve around community organizing. As a result, St. Joseph Youth Alliance helped to plan, organize, and implement a town hall meeting in March 2006. Over 100 community members attended the meeting to discuss the issues of underage drinking. St. Joseph Youth Alliance received a \$1,000 stipend from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support the town hall meeting and several teach-ins. The "This Place" video was used to spark good dialogue, while the meeting created a new awareness of the issues. Five teach-ins were conducted in 5th and 6th grade classrooms by prominent community leaders using a formalized curriculum on underage drinking provided by the SAMHSA.

New participation in the Drug Free Community Coalition was generated as a result of the town hall meeting and ongoing planning continues to increase awareness, encourage more partnerships, and ultimately reach more young people. From the town hall meeting, a commitment was made to continue creating awareness of underage drinking.

Drug Free Community Coalition Highlights

- Drug Free Community Coalition members created an informational card that included hosting laws, youth trends, and places to get help to keep kids drug free. The cards were distributed via local banks during one week in April 2006. Over 10,000 cards were delivered to community members. Door Mail, a local informational provider, also distributed the cards to 1,500 homes during that week.
- McDonald's Restaurant partnered to develop a tray liner created from information in the teach-in packet. McDonald's used the tray liners for 5,000 food orders.
- Local businesses along the Belt Highway and Frederick put up the "Stop Underage Drinking" message on all their outside signs during the weekend before prom.
- Contributions of \$1,500 from local businesses such as Commerce Bank were secured to fund Drug Free Community projects.
- HyVee grocery store used the prevention message on their grocery bags, with 100% of the cost covered by HyVee.
- Lamar Advertising donated 10 billboards where the messages of "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" and "Start Talking Before They Start Drinking" were displayed during the month of April 2006. This was an in-kind donation just under \$5,000.

awareness

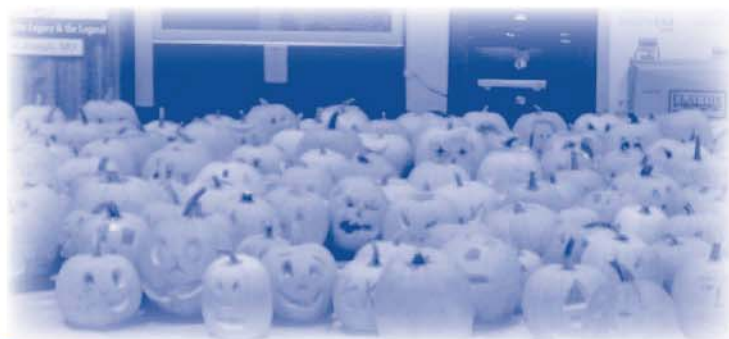
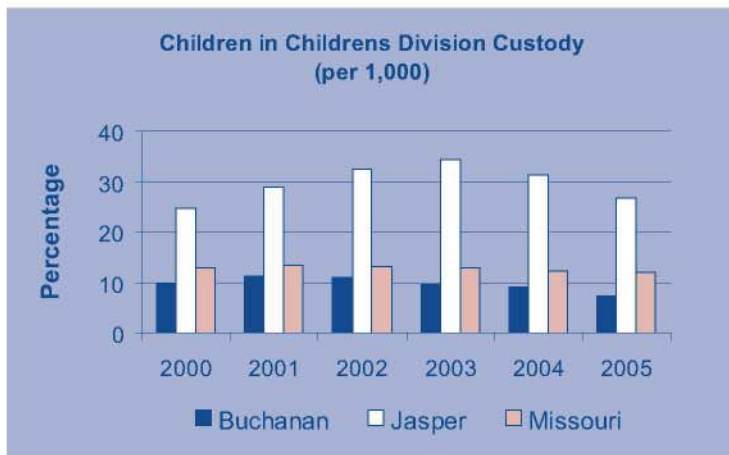
Other Benchmarks & Indicators

Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)

An overall analysis of the CAPI data revealed a mean initial abuse score was 208.11, while the mean 6 month abuse score was 247.91. Further analysis of the CAPI data revealed that 25 participants had at least one assessment in FY 2006 – an initial assessment, 6 month assessment, 12 month assessment, or 18 month assessment. Of those 25 participants, 15 individuals had more than one assessment, allowing for individual comparison data. Twelve of the 15 individuals demonstrated a decrease in their CAPI abuse scores. The remaining three individuals' CAPI abuse scores increased. In at least two of the three cases, the increases may have been caused by stressful events in their lives, such as, the birth of another child, or the stress of dealing with a personal mental health diagnosis/medication.

Children in Children's Division Custody

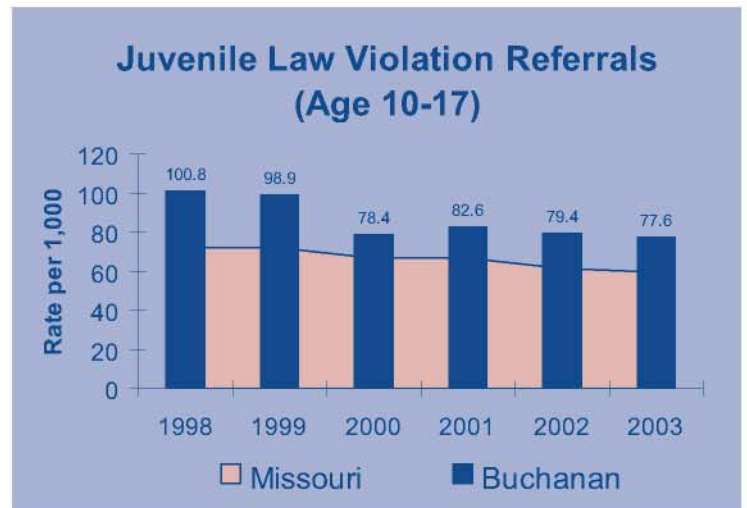
Buchanan County continues to have a lower rate of children in the custody of the Children's Division in comparison to Missouri and Jasper County, a like size county. The rate is the lowest it has been since 2000, with a 20.3 percent decrease from 2004 to 2005, and a 25.6 percent decrease since 2000.



engage

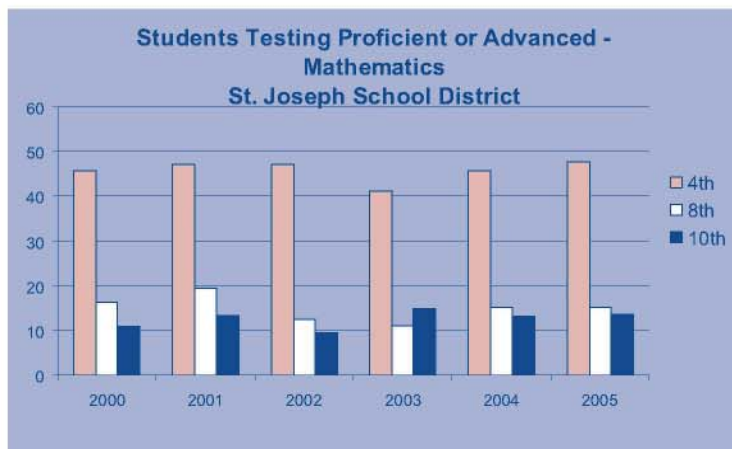
Juvenile Law Violation Referrals

Although juvenile law violation referrals are nearly 18 percent higher for Buchanan County than for Missouri, the Buchanan County rates have been steadily declining since 1998, experiencing a 23 percent decrease since 1998.



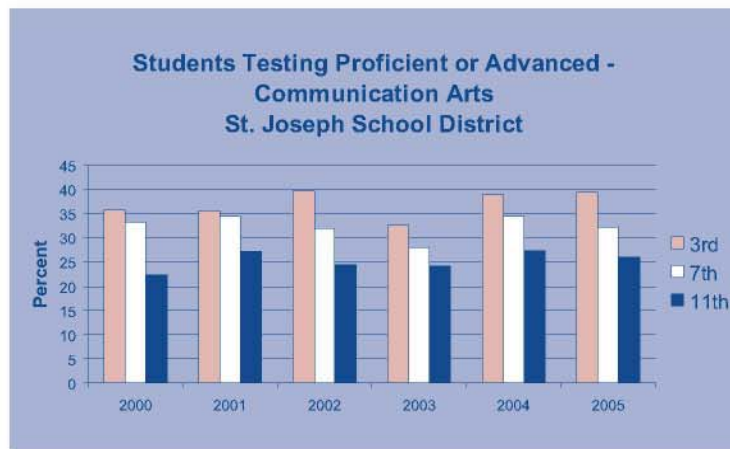
Mathematics MAP Scores

The following graph reflects the percentage of students testing “Proficient or Advanced” using the standard MAP test (conducted in 4th, 8th and 10th grades). As depicted in the graph, scores drop significantly in middle and high school from 4th grade.



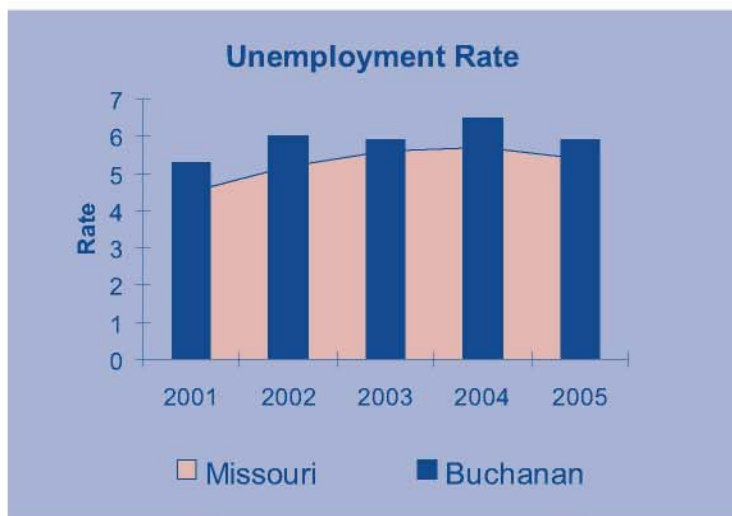
Communication Arts MAP Scores

The following graph reflects the percentage of students testing “Proficient or Advanced” using the standard MAP test (conducted in 3rd, 7th and 11th grades). As with the Math scores, Communication MAP scores drop in middle and high school. Scores for those testing in the 11th grade decreased slightly in 2005.

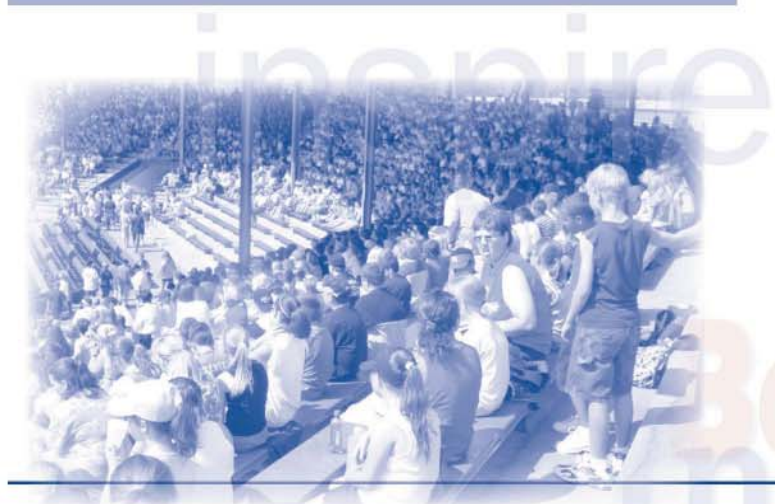


Unemployment Rate

Unemployment rates for Buchanan County continue to be higher than for the State of Missouri overall. From 2004 to 2005, there was a 9 percent decrease.



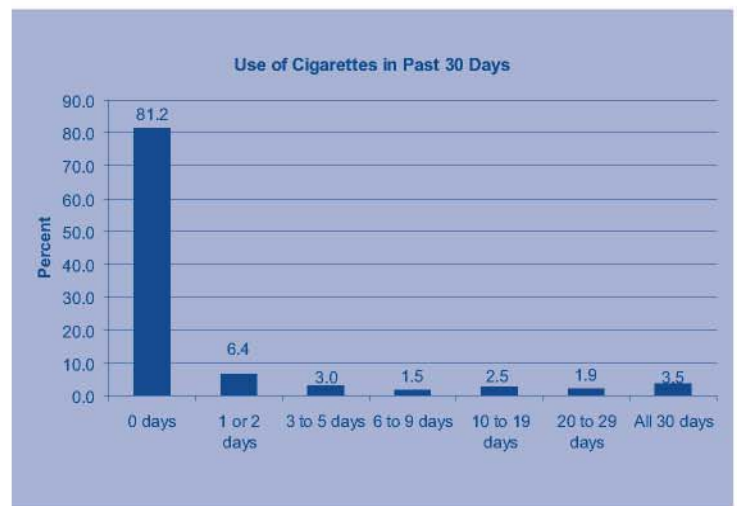
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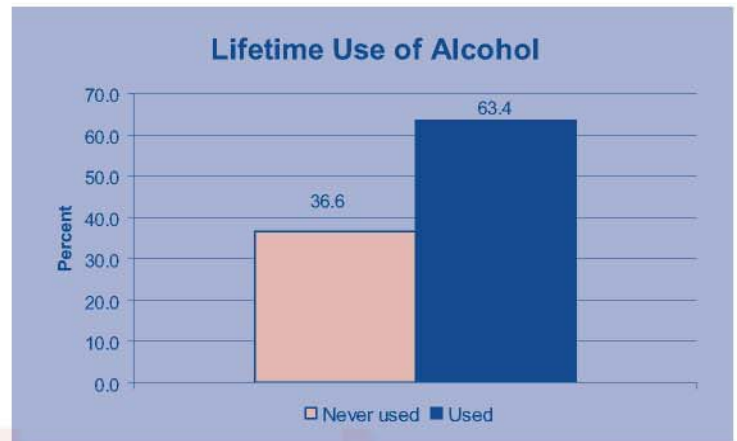
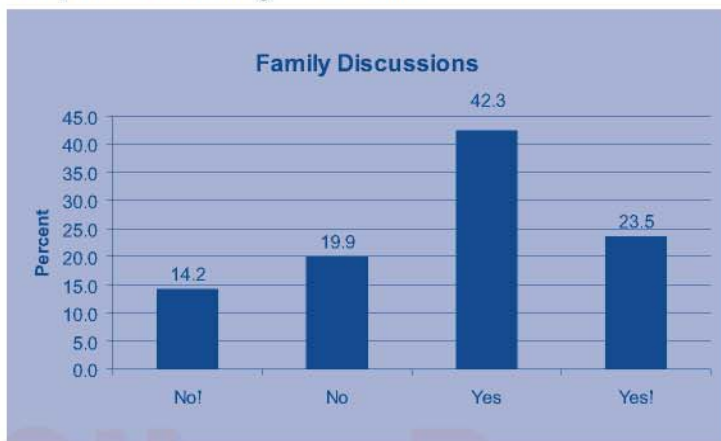


Substance Abuse Prevention

The following primary data was collected from the St. Joseph School District and published in the Buchanan County Student Survey 2004 report.



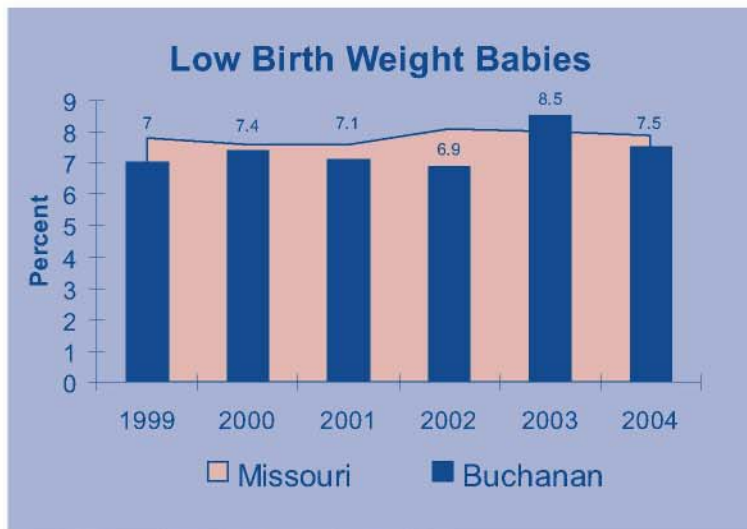
The data below is the percentage of respondents responding to the following question: My parents ask me what I think before most family decisions affecting me are made.



Other Benchmarks & Indicators

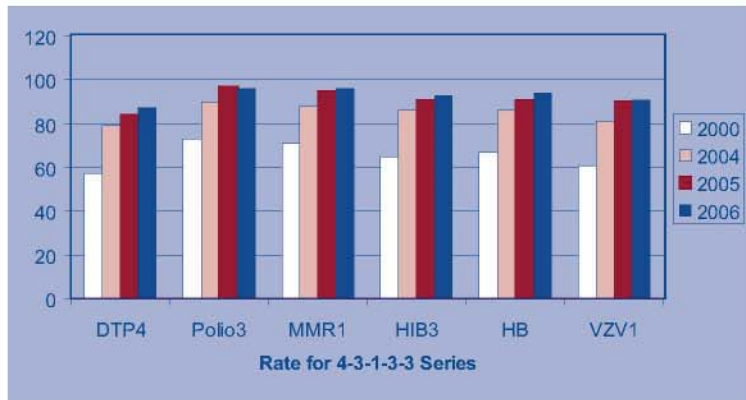
Low Birth Weight Babies

Although still higher than it has been historically, the percentage of low birth weight babies in Buchanan County decreased by 11.8 percent from 2003 to 2004.



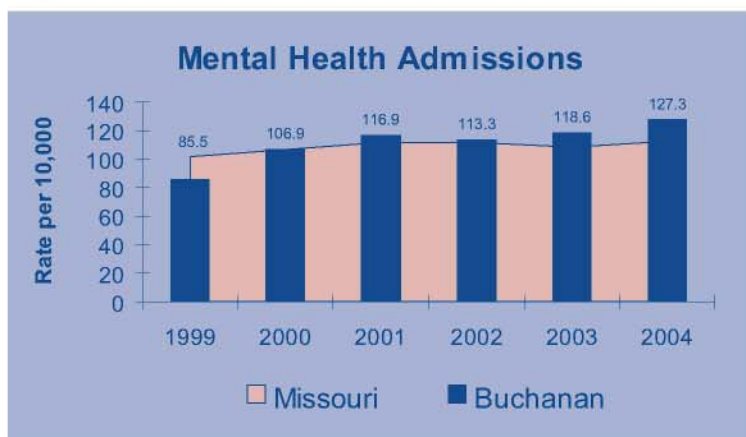
Immunization Rate

The immunization rate for children receiving the 4-3-1-3-3 series at Lakeside Pediatrics continues to steadily increase.



Mental Health Admissions

Mental health inpatient hospitalizations increased by 7.3 percent from 2003 to 2004 for Buchanan County and is fairly consistent with admissions for Missouri as a whole. Since 1999, Buchanan County has experienced a 48.9 percent increase in mental health related inpatient hospitalizations.



safe

trust



strengthen

Together We Can...

... accomplish so much more than we can individually.

As the St. Joseph Youth Alliance looks toward the future, continued support of programs and services aimed at improving the quality of life for children and families is paramount.

As such, the Alliance will be an active community partner in the System of Care initiative for seriously and emotionally disturbed children, funded by SAMHSA. The Alliance will also continue to seek external resources to support the Drug Free Community Coalition as well as draw upon local resources through the successful "Take a Stand" campaign to sustain child abuse prevention programs.

Ongoing efforts to increase community awareness and promotion of prevention messages will continue through the Look Again videos, Joseph Family greeting cards, and partnerships with local businesses.

The St. Joseph Youth Alliance is also a strong advocate for ongoing community assessment and data collection and will continue working with local partners to develop a comprehensive community assessment for the greater St. Joseph area.

Together we can strengthen and sustain the capacity of the St. Joseph community to move toward a shared vision of healthy and productive children.

together



protect

St. Joseph Youth Alliance

MEMBERSHIP



Individual Membership

Dan Brachman
Jason Callaway
Danielle Campbell
Colin Cline
Judith Hausman
Barbara Martin
Carol Robb
Jack Teegarden



St. Joseph Youth Alliance Staff

*Top: LaLanea Ramsey, Fran Brothers, Mayme Abbott, Anita Jolly
Middle: Neva Carrel, Kelly Tudor, Julie Wiedmer, Angie Reynolds, Susie Cook, Linda Midyett, Irene Walker,
Bottom: David Rich, Robin Hammond, Ashley Cunningham, Gayle Babcock, Mary Helen Vanderpool*

Agency Membership

American Red Cross
America's Second Harvest Food Bank
Buchanan County Academy
Buchanan County Prosecuting Attorney
Buchanan County Sheriff's Department
Catholic Charities
Community Action Partnership
Community Housing Ministries
Department of Parks & Recreation
Department of Social Services
Faith in Action
Family Guidance Center
First Lutheran Church
M & I Investments
Heartland Foundation
Heartland Health System
Inter/Serv
Mid City Excellence
Mission St. Joseph
Missouri Career Center
Northwest Health Services
Northwest Missouri Advocacy Center
Noyes Home for Children
Parents as Teachers
Peace Unlimited Inc
Pony Express Boy Scout Council

Preferred Family Healthcare
River Bluffs Regional Library
Saint Joseph Public Library
Social Welfare Board
St. Joseph Safety Council
St. Joseph School District
St. Joseph-Buchanan County Health Dept.
United Cerebral Palsy
United Way of Greater St. Joseph
University of Missouri Extension
University of Mo. Columbia NW MSW Prg.
Workforce Investment Board
YWCA

Leadership Team



Left to right: Susie Cook, Anita Jolly, Linda Midyett and Robin Hammond

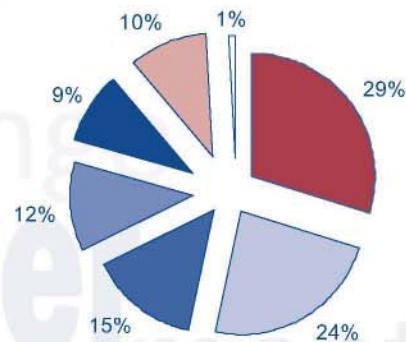
RESOURCES

St. Joseph Youth Alliance has managed or administered 27 programs in excess of \$15 million in funds since 1995, with more than a dozen of significant magnitude in the past 7 seven years. St. Joseph Youth Alliance holds responsibility for maximizing the community's collaborative efforts toward the health and well being of its young people and has been able to leverage local and state funds to successfully administer, manage, facilitate and expand community programs and services. Within the last three years alone, St. Joseph Youth Alliance has played a role in obtaining more than three million dollars to address critical children's issues in the community.

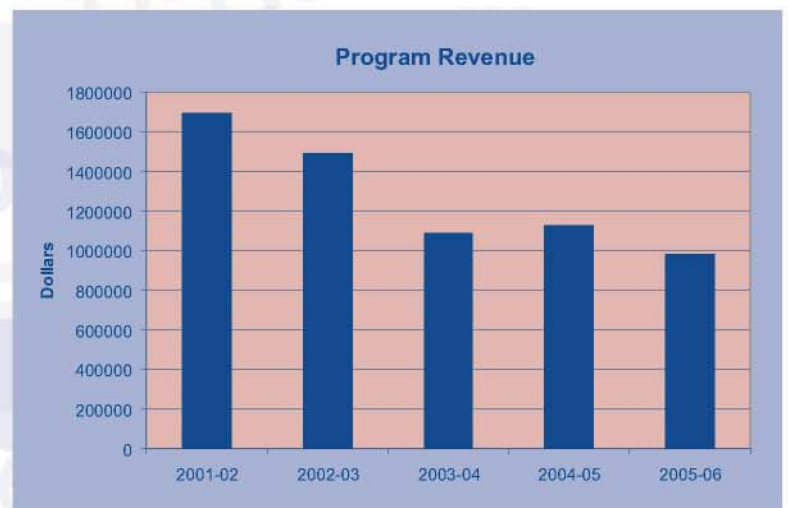
Examples of successful collaboration demonstrating trust and team work among community partners was the acceptance of the greater St. Joseph community as a site for implementation of the Missouri Children's Trust Fund's Community-based Child Abuse Prevention model to address child abuse and neglect – this collaboration resulted in a grant of over one quarter million dollars over a 5-year period; the successful early collaboration and development work on the Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) grant that resulted in an award to the Success by Six® partnership in the amount of \$594,357 and ongoing local match of approximately 20 percent; and, most recently, a State Incentive Grant of \$25,000 to continue the substance abuse prevention work described throughout this report.

As illustrated in the charts below, resources are holding steady, but have declined by nearly half from 2001. The St. Joseph Youth Alliance is continuing to pursue local funding, grant funding and other alternatives for generating revenue to sustain existing programs and to provide new services. Volunteer contributions are a significant source of support for the St. Joseph Youth Alliance at a value of \$63,800. In addition, cash donations of \$5,713 and in-kind donations of \$54,478 bring the total local contribution to \$123,991. This equates to 11.2 percent of total program revenue.

St. Joseph Youth Alliance Investment Breakdown



- Caring Communities
- HB 1519
- JUMP
- Prevention Assistance
- Educare
- Northwest Missouri Mentoring
- CBCAP

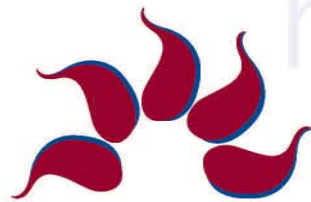




Data Sources

- p. 7 - Child Abuse and Neglect Probable Cause Rate; Department of Social Services, Children's Division.
- p. 8 - Births to Teens; Department of Health and Senior Services.
- p. 9 - School Entry Inventory Results, DIAL 3, School Entry Inventory of Kindergartners; St. Joseph School District data.
- p. 11 - Northwest Missouri Mentoring FY 2005, MMP program data; St. Joseph Youth Alliance.
- p. 11 - Graduation Rates (Graduates / (9-12 Cohort Dropouts + Graduates))x100; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education;
- p. 15 - CAPI Scores; Child Abuse Potential Inventory conducted with JUMP participants; St. Joseph Youth Alliance.
- p. 15 - Children in Children's Division Custody; Department of Social Services, Children's Division.
- p. 15 - Juvenile Law Referrals; Missouri Kids Count 2005.
- p. 16 - Unemployment Rate; Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- p. 16 - Math MAP Scores; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- p. 16 - Communication Arts MAP Scores; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- p. 17 - Use of Cigarettes in Past 30 Days; Use of Alcohol in Past 30 Days; Family Discussions; Lifetime Use of Alcohol; Buchanan County Student Survey 2004.
- p. 18 - Low Birth Weight Babies; Missouri Kids Count 2005.
- p. 18 - Immunization Comparison; Department of Health and Senior Services.
- p. 18 - Mental Health Admissions; Department of Health and Senior Services, Inpatient Hospitalizations.
- p. 21 - Revenue Generated; St. Joseph Youth Alliance Revenue Matrix.

accept
safe
trust
healthy
succeed
youth
challenge
engage
empower
families
prevent
teach
inspire
strengthen
protect
mentor



Report Designed and Prepared by:

COMMUNITY ASSET BUILDERS, LLC

606 Dix Road

Jefferson City, MO 65109

CABLLC@earthlink.net

(573) 632-2700