



*Gathering the
Stars*

St. Joseph Youth Alliance
2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Mission:

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

Our Values:

Advocacy
Collaboration
Commitment to Making a Difference
Fiscal Responsibility
Identifying Community Needs
Quality Outcomes
Resource Identification and Development

St. Joseph Youth Alliance

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From the Executive Director Robin Hammond

OCTOBER 2008



If you are a motion picture fan or a fan of the television arts, you undoubtedly anxiously await the annual Oscar and Emmy Awards. If you are a music fan, you will be more interested in the Grammy, CMA, AMA or MTV awards. If you are interested in journalism or the sciences, you have an avid interest in the Pulitzer or Nobel prizes. The St. Joseph Youth Alliance's equivalent to the stars who receive these awards are the local heroes in our own community. This year's report is dedicated to those heroes – parents, providers, employers, employees, teachers, students, mentors, mentees and volunteers! Although we recognize and appreciate everyone who contributes time and energy to improving lives of children and families, we can only recognize a few in our report.

These individuals are true heroes, because the programs and services offered through the St. Joseph Youth Alliance could not be successful without their commitment and dedication. This report provides a brief synopsis of each of our programs and their impact on our community.

Robin Hammond

Introduction



Since 1991, 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: Crisis Prevention, Early Childhood, Substance Abuse Prevention, Youth Mentoring, and Youth Asset Development.

For each of the emphasis areas, marketing and publicity are crucial for addressing complex social, behavioral and environmental change for families, children and youth. Therefore, a segment under each emphasis area is devoted to community awareness efforts. These efforts include media campaigns, television and/or radio advertisements, 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.

Crisis Prevention

Crisis prevention services provided by the St. Joseph Youth Alliance are some of the most critical services provided by the organization. The Youth 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.

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 – quality child care and school readiness. To ensure that these issues are addressed, the Youth Alliance organizes and/or sponsors child care provider trainings, provides technical assistance and scholarships to individuals pursuing early childhood care career paths and aids child care facilities in meeting early accreditation requirements. The Youth Alliance also partners to support efforts that 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.



Substance Abuse Prevention

The use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs is one of the biggest problems facing young people in our community. A huge component of substance abuse prevention focuses on education and awareness, which is addressed by the Youth Alliance through local media campaigns. The St. Joseph Youth Alliance also partners with many agencies and organizations in the surrounding area to teach adults how to model prevention. The Youth Alliance educates youth and adults on the harms of substance abuse, particularly related to the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The role of the St. Joseph Youth Alliance in support of the St. Joseph Drug Free Community Coalition is to help youth in the community understand the dangers of using, and to reduce the use, of alcohol and tobacco products and other drugs.



MMP Business Partners

BODE ICE ARENA
BUCHANAN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
CAR CITY CHRYSLER
COUNTRYSIDE VETERINARY CLINIC
THE DILLON COMPANY
EAGLE RADIO
1ST STREET GRAPHICS
FAZOLI'S
HOBBY LOBBY
HOULIHAN'S / HOLIDAY INN

HYVEE
J. C. PENNY'S PORTRAIT STUDIO
KOVAC'S GROCERY STORE
MEADOWVIEW RESIDENTIAL CARE
HOLLYWOOD 10
PAPA MURPHY'S PIZZA
PIZZA HUT
ROGER'S GREEN HILLS
ROLLING HILLS CONSOLIDATED LIBRARY

SACK-N-SAVE GROCERY STORE
SAINT JOSEPH PARKS, RECREATION, AND CIVIC FACILITIES
ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC LIBRARIES
SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHILDCARE
SEAR'S PORTRAIT STUDIO
SHOE CARNIVAL
SPANKY AND BUCKWHEAT'S
STONE CREEK INN
WENDY'S

Youth Asset Development

Youth asset development requires a long-term investment in youth. It begins at birth and continues into adulthood. The St. Joseph Youth Alliance is committed to supporting programs and services that empower youth, while at the same time set 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 identity. The Youth Alliance actively engages youth in service learning opportunities through Americorps and Youth Volunteer Corps of America.

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.

Crisis Prevention

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Family Connections, funded by the Children's Trust Fund Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), works to establish an integrated system for delivering health, family support, and social services to children and families to improve outcomes, reduce costs, and reduce risk of child abuse and neglect. Over the five years of the CBCAP grant, which ended June 30, 2008, Family Connections served 115 families, including 406 individuals.

A key feature of Family Connections is involving the family in setting goals, using a strengths-based model to help preserve dignity and empower individuals and families in solving their own problems. Family Connections also has a close working relationship with Parents As Teachers and uses their **Born to Learn** curriculum. The program's focus is on providing the parent or parents with information about developmental stages and to assess a child's developmental progress.

STAY AT HOME PARENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION GRANT

The Stay At Home Parent Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention funding is from the Missouri Department of Social Services and is for families with children under age 3. Services include monthly home visits, plus educational training and social opportunities offered by the St. Joseph Youth Alliance Family Connections program, or by others in the community. In this initial year, Family Connections served 37 children from 28 families in this grant.

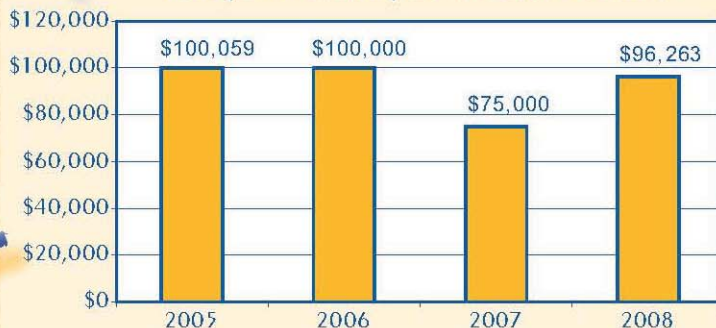


HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay At Home Parent Child Abuse and Neglect grant award. This grant, complete with five years of funding, was written using the Community-based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) framework. The integrity of the CBCAP process will be maintained through continued support of the Provider Network, parent support groups, and home visitation services. The Stay At Home Parent Child Abuse and Neglect program focuses on families with children under the age of three.
- ★ Family Connections resumed publishing a monthly newsletter distributed to families in both programs and at Pleasant Heights housing complex, and to other organizations for use with their families. In addition to articles on parenting, the format includes a calendar of low- or no-cost family-friendly events and meetings, a list of support groups ranging from domestic violence to depression education, and updates about other community resources.
- ★ Three Circle of Parents chapters met during the year, providing twice-monthly family nights out. These parent-led support groups offered special events to promote healthier lifestyles. Topics included First Aid for Parents, Stress Management, Family Fun and Fitness, A Healthy Blood Pressure for Life, and How to Shop on a Budget and Eat Well. The Circle of Parents families held their third annual picnic in June.



PROGRAM FUNDING FROM GRANT SOURCES

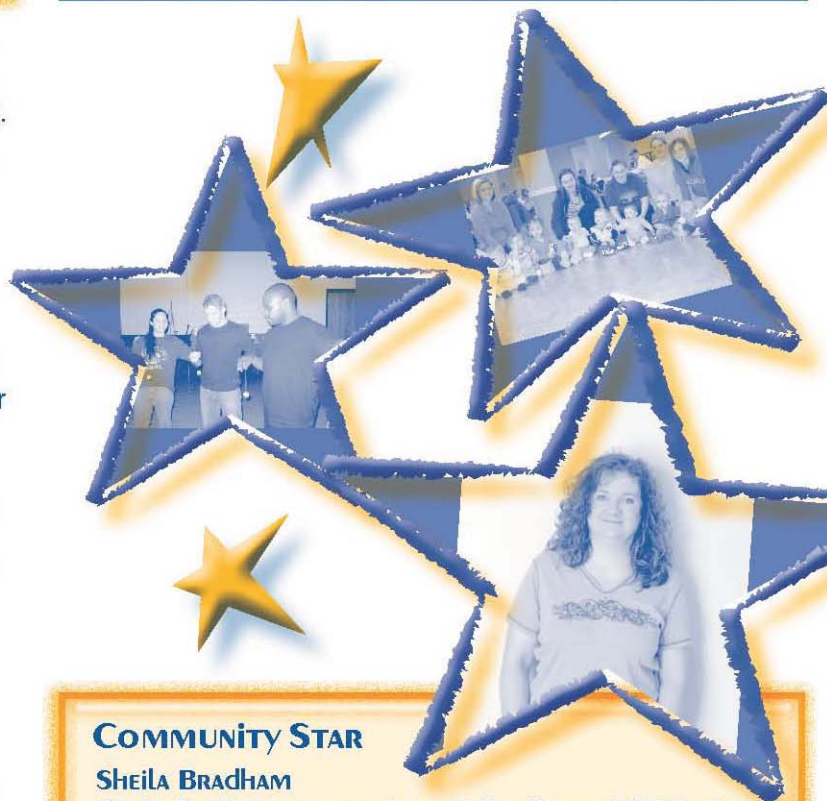


EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING AVAILABLE THROUGH FAMILY CONNECTIONS AND MEMBERS OF THE PROVIDER NETWORK

- ★ Circle of Parents
- ★ Parents as Teachers
- ★ Strengthening Families
- ★ Head Start
- ★ Early Head Start
- ★ Family Development Credentialing
- ★ Born to Learn Prenatal to Three
- ★ Parent Aid
- ★ Mom's Time
- ★ Mother's Day Out
- ★ Shelter for Abused Women and Children
- ★ SAFE Exams

- ★ Development of a Respite Care Task Force that has undertaken an assessment of existing resources for respite care to build the foundation for future funding.
- ★ Parents in the CBCAP program were required to be assessed using the Child Abuse Potential Inventory (CAPI) and Parent Stress Index (PSI) instruments. Of the participants who completed both the initial and six-month follow-up assessments, the average CAPI score was 228.6 (200+ is considered to be cause for concern); six months into the program, the average score was 156.5. The PSI scores are harder to analyze, because of the wide disparity of the scores: most were above the "normal" score of 80, but the few who were very low skewed the numbers. The initial average score was 76.7, with the follow-up average being 72.36. In any event, 86 percent of those participating showed a decrease in both their CAPI and PSI scores.
- ★ St. Joseph Youth Alliance, Family Connections and the Children's Trust Fund sponsored "Keep Your Bobber Up", a seminar for parents. The highly interactive seminar provided tools and techniques to improve and strengthen relationships among parents, children and care providers.
- ★ Evidence-based programming.

CBCAP SERVICE VOLUMES	2008
TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES SERVED	36
FAMILY INTAKES COMPLETED	25
ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED	23
REASSESSMENTS COMPLETED	14
INITIAL FAMILY CARE PLANS DEVELOPED	25
FAMILY CARE PLANS REVISITED	15
HOME VISITS	250
HOME VISITS BY PROVIDER NETWORK MEMBERS	667
CRIBS PROVIDED	24
FAMILIES RECEIVING FLEX POOL FUNDS	14



COMMUNITY STAR

SHEILA BRADHAM

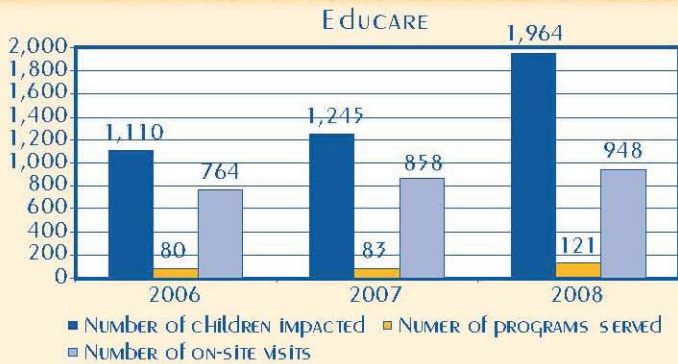
Sheila Bradham, caseworker with the Missouri Children's Division, represents Provider Network members who give 110% to help improve the lives of families.

Early Childhood

EDUCARE

Educare works with child care providers to promote the growth and quality of early childhood care and school readiness for children. The goal for Educare is that more children enter kindergarten "ready to learn".

It is estimated that Educare impacted 1,964 children in fiscal year 2008, of which 25.6 percent were subsidized. There were 121 programs and 298 teachers served, through 948 on-site visits and 11 trainings. Nearly 700 teachers attended the trainings on a multitude of topics based on core competencies.



CHILDREN'S FAIR

The theme of the 2008 Children's Fair was "Oh, The Places You'll Go At The Fair", based on Dr. Seuss. There were a total of 30 activity areas to educate and entertain 1,380 children. This year's fair was the largest yet, with 85 outside volunteers and 149 agency volunteers dedicating their time and energy to make it such a success! There were also 63 hearing and 166 eye screenings conducted, up from 51 hearing exams and 71 eye exams in 2007.

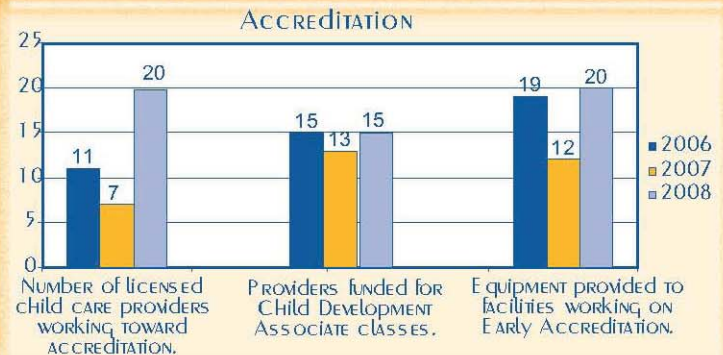
CHILD CARE EARLY ACCREDITATION

Child Care Accreditation provides funding through HB 1519 to child care programs that are committed to reaching beyond the minimum requirements defined by licensing and achieving recognized standards of excellence. The goal is for accredited homes and centers to voluntarily measure up to accreditation standards of quality that have been established by state-recognized accrediting organizations.

For fiscal year 2008, 15 students enrolled in CDA classes, four students enrolled in AA classes and two students enrolled in BA classes. Additionally, five individuals attained their Child Development Associate and seven students completed coursework and have submitted their application for their CDA credential. Technical assistance and incentives were provided to 20 early accreditation sites.

In March 2008, 92 early childhood teachers attended an all day training on **Conscious Discipline®** which is a comprehensive classroom management program and a social-emotional curriculum. This training is designed to make changes in the lives of adults, and in turn, change the lives of children.

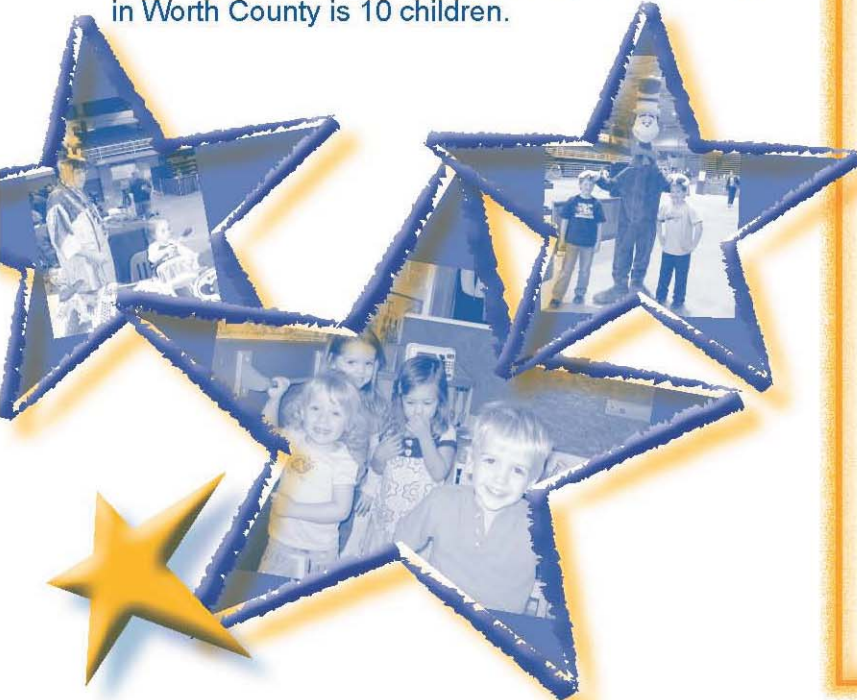
In May 2008, 31 early childhood teachers attended the **Infant/Toddler High Scope®** curriculum training. This two day training emphasizes adult-child interaction, a carefully designed learning environment, and a plan-do-review process that strengthens initiative and self-reliance in children and young people.



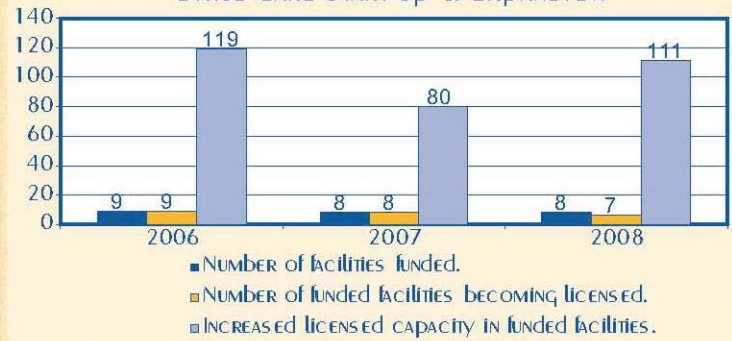
Child CARE START-UP AND EXPANSION

The goal of Child Care Start-Up and Expansion is to increase the capacity of quality child care programs that offer care for infants and toddlers of low-income working families. In fiscal year 2008, eight facilities were funded in six counties. One facility received expansion funding and the remainder received start-up funding. Seven of the facilities have become licensed, while the final facility had its initial licensing visit in June.

- ★ One facility in Nodaway County received expansion funding and increased its licensed capacity from 20 children to 39 children;
- ★ Two family homes and one center in Buchanan County received start-up funding; their total licensed capacities are 42 children;
- ★ The family child care home in Andrew County that received start-up funding has a licensed capacity of 10 children;
- ★ The family child care home funded in DeKalb County has a licensed capacity of 10 children;
- ★ The group child care home funded in Daviess County has a licensed capacity of 20 children; and
- ★ The proposed capacity of the family child care home in Worth County is 10 children.



Child CARE START-UP & EXPANSION



COMMUNITY STAR

My name is Chris Turner. In September 2007, I applied for and received an Early Child Care Facility Grant to help me start and open a home daycare in Cameron, Missouri. Although there are requirements for this grant, I did not find them too difficult and all the individuals involved with the grant helped me step-by-step and answered any questions I had. Financially, this grant made starting a home day care so much easier. For me, it allowed me to fence in my play-yard, lay new flooring, and purchase paint without having to dip into my own pocket for these expenses. It also allowed me to purchase toys and equipment for the children. I would not have been able to do this without the grant. In the end, the children I care for and their families are reaping the benefits from the extras this grant allowed me to purchase. If I haven't said it already, "Thank You", to each individual who helped me throughout the process.

Substance Abuse Prevention



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. Current funding is made available through the State Incentive Grant and a recently awarded Drug Free Communities federal grant.

Coalition members, both individuals and organizations, have invested significant time, energy and resources toward the issue of underage alcohol and substance use and prevention. From coalition-sponsored programs and curriculum and family-supporting programs like Strengthening Families, members are committed to this issue. The coalition membership exceeds thirty individuals and organizations, and investments total over \$750,000 since 2004, including the Drug Free Community grant of \$100,000 annually for five years.

SIG GRANT – The St. Joseph Youth Alliance was awarded a State Incentive Grant for a Strategic Prevention Framework Project to address underage and binge drinking. The award was in excess of \$133,276 for three years and targets Buchanan County youth. A focal point of the grant is “Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol”, a community organizing program designed to reduce adolescent access to alcohol by changing community policies and practices. The primary environmental strategy is youth asset development. Research shows that youth with more assets are more likely to be successful in life and school, as well as demonstrate more resiliency factors, reducing the likelihood of involvement with alcohol, drugs, and other risky behaviors.

FREQUENCY OF USE IN PAST 30 DAYS

BUCHANAN COUNTY	% REPORTING USE EVER		% CHANGE	% REPORTING 30 DAY USE		% CHANGE
	2006	2008		2006	2008	
ALCOHOL	54.1%	52.2%	3.5% ▼	21.3%	22.7%	6.6%
TOBACCO	31.7%	29.5%	6.6% ▼	15.2%	14.8%	2.6% ▼
MARIJUANA	15.4%	15.6%	1.3%	8.0%	7.9%	1.2% ▼

ST. JOSEPH DRUG FREE COMMUNITY COALITION HIGHLIGHTS

Safe Prom and Graduation Initiative: This initiative involved local businesses by placing “Stop Underage Drinking” on their marquee signs outside their businesses during prom and graduation season. Local florists, hair salons, nail salons, tanning salons, formal wear merchants, and restaurants were asked to hand out business cards, stickers, or table tents with a “celebrate sober” message on them with each prom related order. Over 50 businesses participated in the Safe Prom and Graduation Initiative.

AVERAGE AGE OF FIRST USE

BUCHANAN COUNTY	2006	2008	% CHANGE
ALCOHOL	11.8	11.9	0.8%
TOBACCO	11.2	11.3	0.9%
MARIJUANA	12.6	12.6	0

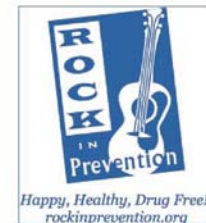
Rock N’ Bowl AFTER PROM PARTY:

The Youth Alliance partnered with the Belt Bowl and other local businesses to host alcohol/drug free after prom parties for high school students. Youth were provided with bowling, pool tables, disc jockey, games, hypnotist, food, fun, and prizes. These events had over 200 youth in attendance. Information about underage drinking was distributed to all youth in attendance.



TOWN HALL MEETING/ROCK IN PREVENTION:

The Town Hall Meeting was held on March 20, 2008 at the local Civic Arena in St. Joseph. The meeting had 171 in attendance and featured the group, *Rock In Prevention*, who delivered an interactive, educational, long lasting and fun prevention program encouraging youth to lead an alcohol free life. The key to this program is to reach



youth with a persuasive prevention message before they experiment the first time with alcohol. Also, presenting at this meeting was Erica Whaley, a speaker from *Think First Missouri* who spoke about underage drinking and the impact that alcohol had on her life. She presented her story about being involved in an alcohol related car crash and encouraged youth to not get involved with underage drinking. An open forum was held at the end of the Town Hall meeting to discuss issues regarding underage drinking in the local community.



PREVENTION CONFERENCE: The Coalition hosted an all day Prevention Conference at Missouri Western State University on May 13, 2008. The Coalition partnered with Preferred Family Healthcare, Partner's in Prevention, Drug Free Community grant, and Missouri Western State University Public Safety to host the prevention conference. The conference had over one hundred people in attendance. Peggy Quigg, Director of Community Programs, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, spoke about collective strength to the entire group. Four other workshops were offered on underage drinking, social norms, prescription and over the counter drugs, and methamphetamine use.

PERCEPTION OF RISK OR HARM - 2008

	No Risk	Slight Risk	Moderate Risk	Great Risk
DRINKING DAILY	11.3%	20.4%	27.1%	41.3%
SMOKING PACK OF CIGARETTES DAILY	5.8%	8.9%	21.7%	63.7%
SMOKING MARIJUANA REGULARLY	8.7%	7.0%	12.5%	71.9%

COMMUNITY STAR

Larry Stobbs: Larry is a star for the Drug Free Community Coalition for his great work in underage alcohol enforcement. Larry works hard to ensure that the alcohol compliance checks are implemented to reduce underage access to alcohol in our community. Thank you to Larry and to the St. Joseph Police Department for helping keep our youth safe.

Alcohol Compliance Checks: Since September 2007 the Drug Free Community Coalition and the St. Joseph Youth Alliance have contracted with the St. Joseph Police Department to conduct alcohol compliance checks in the City of St. Joseph and Buchanan County. Every establishment within Buchanan County that had a license to sell packaged alcohol was checked (70 locations). Of those 70 locations, 39 sold alcohol to a minor (failure rate of 56%). In addition, 22 liquor-by-the-drink locations were inspected. Of those, eight sold liquor to minors (failure rate of 36%). This contract continues with the St. Joseph Police Department for alcohol compliance checks. Those checks are periodically executed throughout the year.

Alcohol Prevention Media Campaign: The Buchanan County community was blanketed with messages regarding underage drinking using a variety of media venues. KQTV aired messages about the Safe Prom Initiative, which provided an alcohol-free after prom Rock 'N Bowl party. The St. Joseph Youth Alliance purchased rights to national prevention commercials, added a tag line, and aired these commercials locally, also. Local radio stations broadcast prevention messages throughout the year, and local youths appeared in a billboard campaign to promote prevention messages in two areas along the main highway in the City of St. Joseph.



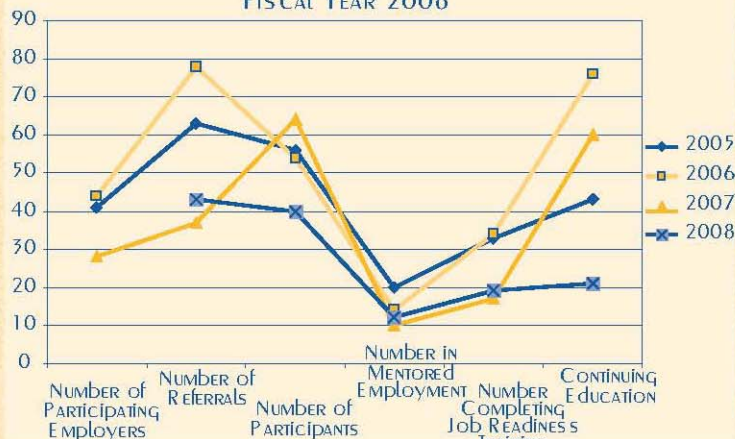
Youth Mentoring

NORTHWEST MISSOURI MENTORING PARTNERSHIP

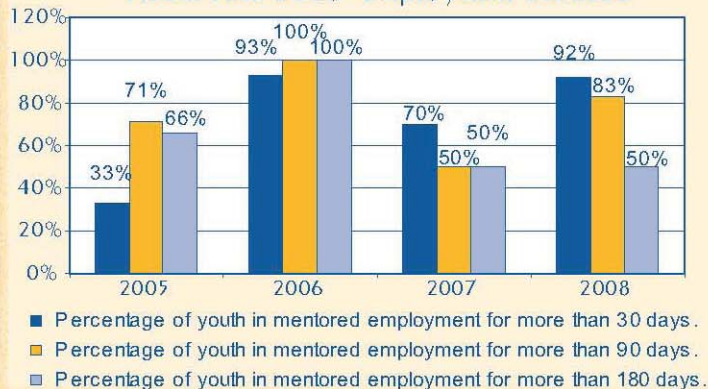
Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership offers 16-21 year olds the skills, tools, and resources needed to find and retain employment with an on-the-job mentor. The goal of the program is to help youth gain employment skills and knowledge that can assist them in long-term employment as well as prepare them for future employment opportunities.



NORTHWEST MISSOURI MENTORING PARTNERSHIP
FISCAL YEAR 2008



NORTHWEST MISSOURI MENTORING PARTNERSHIP
FISCAL YEAR 2008 - EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS



JOURNEY TO UNITE MENTORS & PARENTS (JUMP)

Journey to Unite Mentors & Parents (JUMP) provides education, support, home visits, and mentoring to teens facing the challenges of parenthood. The program provides young people with positive adult role models in the community and is a partnership between the St. Joseph Youth Alliance, Heartland Health and the YWCA. The primary objectives of the program are education completion, decreased repeat pregnancies, increased self sufficiency and school readiness for the infant or child.



There were 101 participants enrolled in JUMP in fiscal year 2008. Of the 101 participants, 41 were pregnant mothers. Fourteen young moms (27%) were also matched with a mentor.

COMMUNITY STAR

"It absolutely thrills me to see that my son is accountable and has discipline at such a young age. The program has given him skills and confidence", says Julie Ford, referring to the Missouri Mentoring Partnership program that her son successfully completed.

Anthony said that he enrolled in the program because he "wanted to be able to help his mom financially" and "find something useful to do with his time".

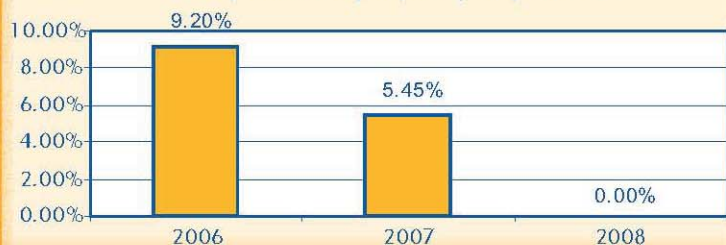
Anthony, with pride, explained how his supervisors have consistently complimented him on his dedication and hard work at Panera Bread where he is currently employed. Anthony recently received his first of many promotions "training new employees". Anthony said that he has referred several friends to the program.



COMMUNITY STAR

Ashley Rasco entered the program with her high school diploma in the Fall of 2006. During her time with the JUMP program she became a full-time employee with Heartland Regional Medical Center and in turn was provided health benefits for her family. She bought her own car while in the program, moved out of her parents home and into her own apartment and is now engaged to her baby's father and looking to buy a home. She is involved in Parents as Teachers and graduated the JUMP program in the Spring of 2008. She is a great example to other young mothers and to our working community.

PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLED YOUTH EXPERIENCING REPEAT PREGNANCIES.



JUMP Highlights

- ★ **PARTICIPANT TRAINING AND EDUCATION.** In fiscal year 2008, JUMP provided training and education on more than 30 topics. Topics included, but were not limited to, personal safety, infant massage, immunizations, importance of reading, nutrition, exercise, baby bottle tooth decay, dental health, summer safety, fire safety, car seat safety checks and more. JUMP also hosted three events to include the annual Christmas party, annual picnic and a Halloween parade at the Independent Living Facility for the Elderly.
- ★ **PLAYGROUPS.** Five playgroups were held with the themes of Make Believe Thanksgiving, Importance of Sleep Routines, Puzzle Play, Family Fun Night and Green Theme.
- ★ **STAFF TRAINING.** Staff training was also provided on issues of personal safety, applied suicide intervention, poverty simulation, mandated reporter training, and child restraint technician training.

BIRTHS TO TEENS (AGES 10-17)

COMMUNITY	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
BUCHANAN	58	57	38	58	43	58
MISSOURI	2,938	2,785	2,691	2,767	2,660	2,935

JUMP SUCCESSES

- ★ 0% of young moms participating in the program became pregnant while participating in the program.
- ★ 97% of children of enrolled mothers were current with required immunizations.
- ★ 77% of moms showed improvement in parenting skills.
- ★ 93% of moms continued working toward their educational goals, whether it was high school, GED, vocational, college or other academics.

COMMUNITY STAR

BEFORE: I am an 18 year old mother that suffers from high anxiety. I can barely leave my house even for groceries. I put furniture in front of my doors in order to sleep at night because I fear my abuser will come back to find me. I do not have my high school diploma or GED and am not working. I have no friends or support system. My son is beginning to show signs of anxiety and I know that part of it is learned from my behaviors. I follow him around constantly because I am afraid he will get hurt.

NOW: I am now 20 years old with a child age 2. I have been involved with JUMP for 2 years and now allow my child the freedom to roam the house without fear he will get hurt and with the knowledge that if he does, it is how he learns. I have had a mentor that has encouraged me to open up & given me the support I did not have before. I have been through domestic violence support groups. In May of 2008, I passed my GED test. I have put my child into a licensed daycare facility & am working full time. My child no longer shows signs of anxiety that are abnormal for a child of his age and really enjoys engaging with people other than myself.

Youth Asset Development

YOUTH VOLUNTEER CORPS OF AMERICA

The St. Joseph Youth Alliance has maintained its affiliation with Youth Volunteer Corps of America (YVC) even though we no longer receive AmeriCorps Members through their organization. YVC, whose mission is to create and increase volunteer opportunities to enrich America's youth, address community needs and develop a lifetime commitment to service, provided the foundation for the YAC Attack! Summer Volunteer Program that we still use today.



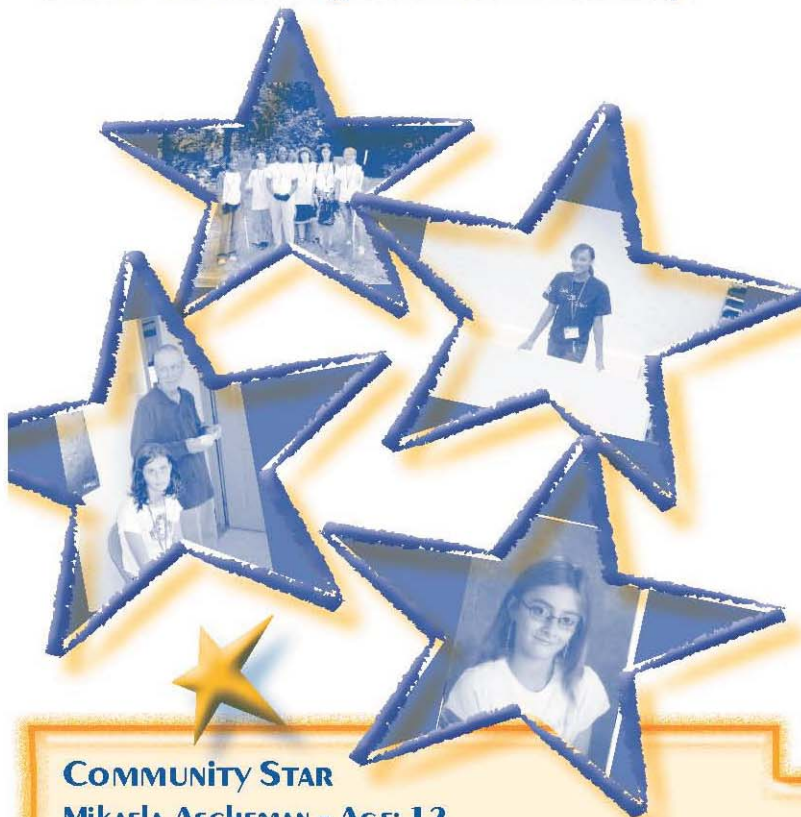
YAC ATTACK! SUMMER PROGRAM

Youth Alliance recently completed the fourth year of their Youth Action Coalition (YAC) summer volunteer program entitled YAC Attack! YAC Attack! is a program that offers youth an opportunity to become more involved in their community. It is a structured, supervised program that provides youth the opportunity to participate in meaningful activities that are free from drugs and alcohol, while empowering them to make a difference in their own life and the lives of others.



AmeriCorps Members planned and implemented the program. Ten youth, ages 11-17 were engaged in week-long service learning projects with various agencies and organizations throughout the community, giving 870 hours of volunteer service. In previous years, only ten youth were served due to limitations in funding and supervision. This year, we had more AmeriCorps Members to provide supervision, but still had limited funds with which to pay for transportation and meals.

In an effort to serve more children, the Youth Alliance AmeriCorps program partnered with the Housing Authority to operate our program out of a three bedroom apartment located in a large housing complex. The Housing Authority provided this apartment rent and utility free. So, in addition to the off campus experience for ten lucky youth, there were activities scheduled at the apartment twice daily for the remainder of youth in the complex. We are excited about this new partnership with the Housing Authority and look forward to more cooperative arrangements like this in the future.



COMMUNITY STAR

Mikaela Ascheman - Age: 12

Mikaela really stood out in our summer program this year. She showed up every day with an excellent, sunny attitude. She was always ready to work very hard and many times had to be told to take breaks. She was just a real joy to have in the program.

- Dawn Davis, AmeriCorps Member

Risk Factor Comparison From 2004 to 2008

MEASURE	2004	2006	2008	PERCENT CHANGE
Percentage of Buchanan County students reporting they believe it is only a little bit wrong or not wrong at all for someone their age to drink beer, wine, or hard liquor.	24.4%	20.2%	21.7%	7.4%
Percentage of Buchanan County students who think there is either no risk, or only a slight risk, of harm in drinking one or two alcoholic drinks nearly every day.	30.8%	32.1%	31.7%	1.2% ▼
Percentage of Buchanan County students who think adults in their neighborhood would consider it only a little bit wrong, or not at all wrong for kids to drink alcohol.	15.0%	16.1%	16.1%	0
Percentage of Buchanan County students who indicated none of their four closest friends had tried alcohol when their parents did not know about it.	37.5%	53.5%	49.6%	7.3% ▼

NOTE: PERCENT CHANGE WAS CALCULATED FROM 2006 TO 2008.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

AmeriCorps Members of the Youth Alliance partnered with Missouri Western State University (MWSU) Center for Multicultural Education and Heartland Foundation to plan and implement festivities in celebration of the Martin Luther King (MLK) National Day of Service. The event was held at MWSU and was free and open to the public. Approximately 250 people attended the January 21, 2008 event that offered dynamic documentaries, a panel discussion, Civil and Human Rights Living History Museum, community service projects, entertainment, and a keynote speaker.



AMERICORPS

Youth Alliance successfully completed its first year of the STAND (Students Taking Action Not Drugs) AmeriCorps grant. Ten half-time AmeriCorps Members were recruited to facilitate a variety of activities with the ultimate goal of reducing underage drinking. Youth Alliance partnered with Heartland Foundation, YMCA, and the St. Joseph School District to focus services on youth in one of three overarching areas: asset development, drug and alcohol prevention education, and youth volunteerism.

Two AmeriCorps Members served with Heartland Foundation at the emPower Plant, assisting with the mock councils, making challenge videos, and promoting Public Achievement. The remaining Members served at Lindbergh, Edison, and Noyes Elementary Schools through the YMCA Before and After Program during the school year, facilitating the Positive Action curriculum introducing asset development games, and serving as mentors. Throughout June and July, AmeriCorps Members planned, implemented, and supervised youth in the YAC Attack! summer volunteer program. In addition to their individual assignments, AmeriCorps Members engage in team building activities on national days of service, including Make a Difference Day, Martin Luther King Day, and Global Youth Service Day.



Other Benchmarks & Indicators

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

The following data for Buchanan County is from the Missouri Student Survey, which is conducted every other year in the schools. The study was conducted in 2004, 2006, and 2008. Participating school districts were required to survey 9th graders and were additionally requested to survey two more grades, of which one was an even number grade. The percent change was calculated from 2006 to 2008.

30-Day Alcohol Use

DURING THE PAST 30 DAYS, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU HAD AT LEAST ONE DRINK OF ALCOHOL?

NUMBER OF TIMES	2004	2006	2008	% CHANGE
0 TIMES	60.2%	78.7%	77.7%	1.8% ▼
1-2 TIMES	11.0%	10.3%	8.6%	16.5% ▼
3-5 TIMES	5.0%	3.0%	4.3%	43.3%
6-9 TIMES	3.6%	2.7%	3.2%	18.5%
10-19 TIMES	2.5%	2.6%	3.2%	23.1%
20-39 TIMES	1.3%	1.1%	1.7%	54.5%
40 OR MORE TIMES	1.1%	1.6%	1.6%	0

The above table indicates that responses of students drinking 3 or more drinks in the past 30 days is increasing. This is alarming in that kids that are choosing to drink are drinking often.

BINGE DRINKING – PAST TWO WEEKS

THINK BACK OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU HAD FIVE OR MORE ALCOHOLIC DRINKS IN A ROW?

	2004	2006	2008	% CHANGE
NONE	73.9%	89.1%	88.0%	1.2% ▼
ONCE	4.0%	4.8%	4.1%	14.6% ▼
TWICE	2.6%	2.2%	2.7%	22.7%
3-5 TIMES	2.1%	1.4%	2.6%	85.7%
6-9 TIMES	1.1%	0.8%	1.7%	112.5%
10 OR MORE TIMES	1.1%	1.6%	1.0%	37.5% ▼

Although 88.0% percent of the students responded they had not had five or more alcoholic drinks in a row (binge drinking), there were significant increases in number of times students indicated they had binged.

AGE OF FIRST USE OF ALCOHOL

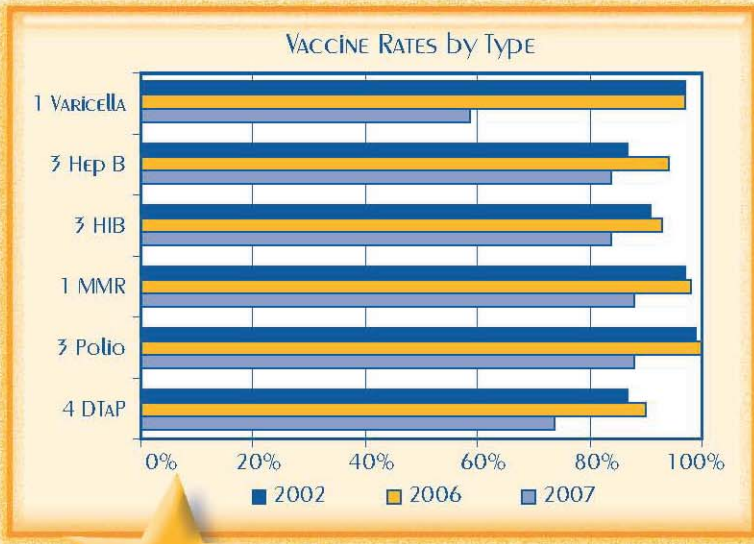
	2004	2006	2008	% CHANGE
NEVER	37.9%	54.4%	54.2%	0.3% ▼
8 OR YOUNGER	7.3%	7.2%	7.6%	5.5%
9	2.5%	2.7%	2.4%	1.1% ▼
10	4.2%	3.5%	3.5%	0
11	3.8%	3.7%	3.5%	5.4% ▼
12	8.2%	5.5%	6.0%	9.0%
13	11.0%	11.0%	10.2%	7.3% ▼
14	6.9%	8.1%	8.6%	6.2%
15	3.4%	2.8%	3.4%	21.4%
16	0.5%	0.2%	0.6%	200%
17	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	
18 OR OLDER	0.1%	0.1%	0.0	100% ▼

In comparing results from 2008 to 2006, the percentage of students reporting never having taken a sip of alcohol decreased slightly. Overall, the average age of first use of alcohol in Buchanan County, Missouri is 11.9 years of age, up from 11.76 in 2006.



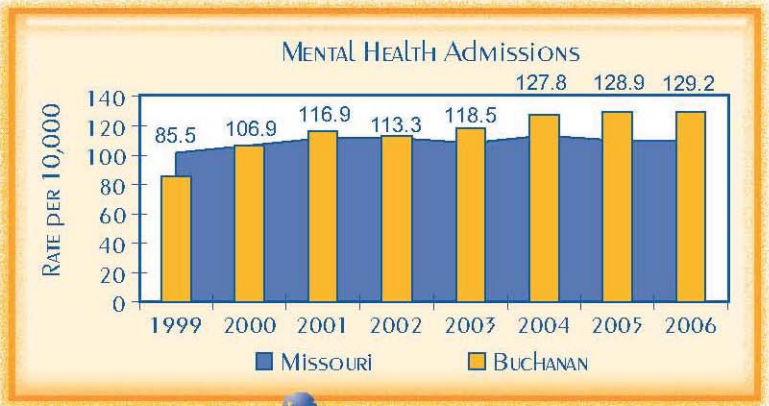
IMMUNIZATION RATE

The immunization rate for children receiving the 4-3-1-3-3 series at Lakeside Pediatrics held steady with slight declines for most of the vaccines.



MENTAL HEALTH Admissions

Mental health inpatient hospitalizations in Buchanan county have been steadily on the rise since 1999, with a 0.2% increase from 2005 to 2006. The Missouri rate declined by 0.6 percent for this same time period.



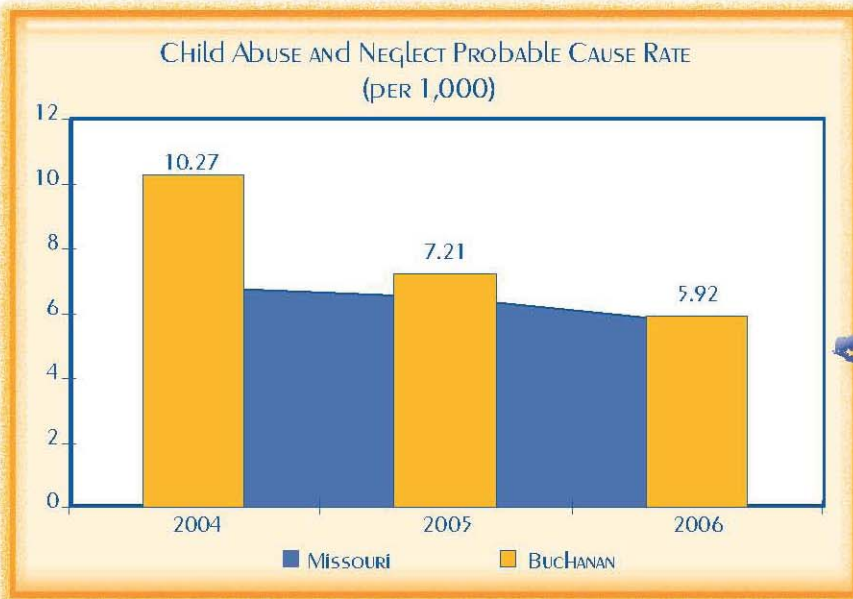
Low Birth Weight Babies

The percentage of low birth weight babies decreased by 23.4 percent from 2005 to 2006. The Buchanan County rate is significantly lower than the Missouri rate of 8.1.

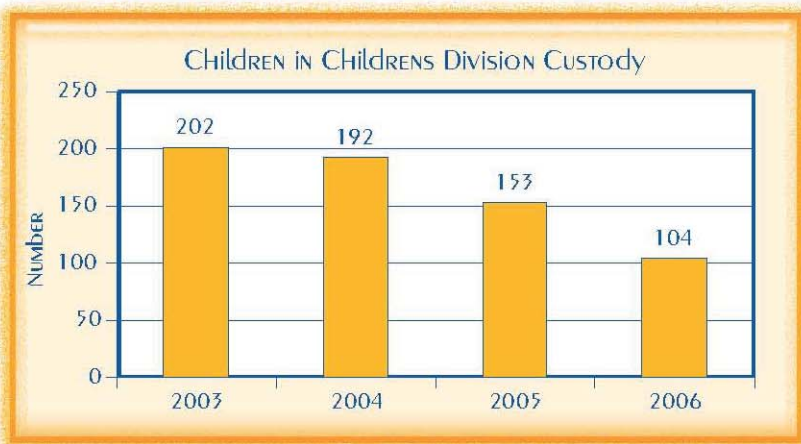


Other Benchmarks & Indicators

Child Abuse and Neglect



Children in Children's Division Custody

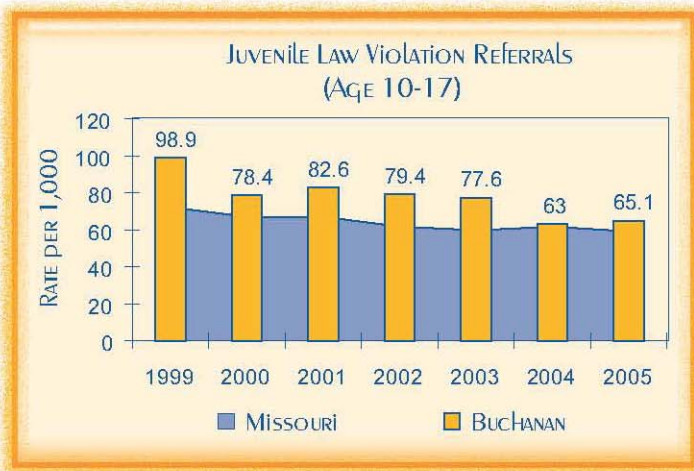


NOTE:

2007 Data on Child Abuse and Neglect and Children in Children's Division Custody is not yet available from the Missouri Department of Social Services.

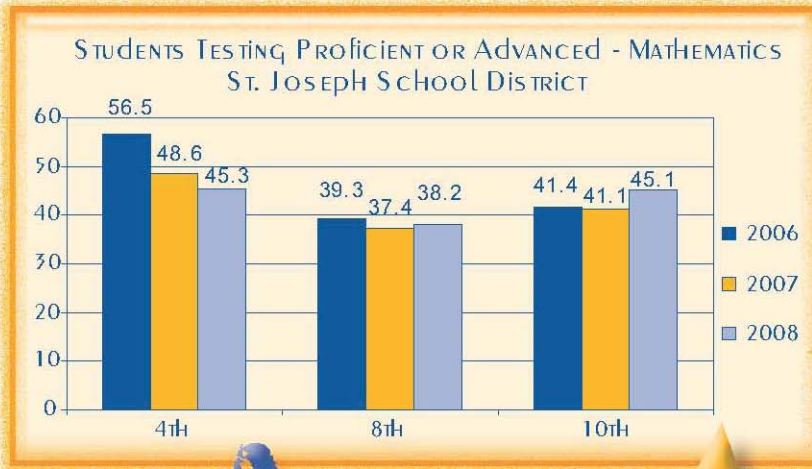
Juvenile Law Violation Referrals

Juvenile law violations have increased and are higher than the Missouri rate of 59.0. Buchanan County experienced a 3.3 percent increase in juvenile law violation referrals from 2004 to 2005.



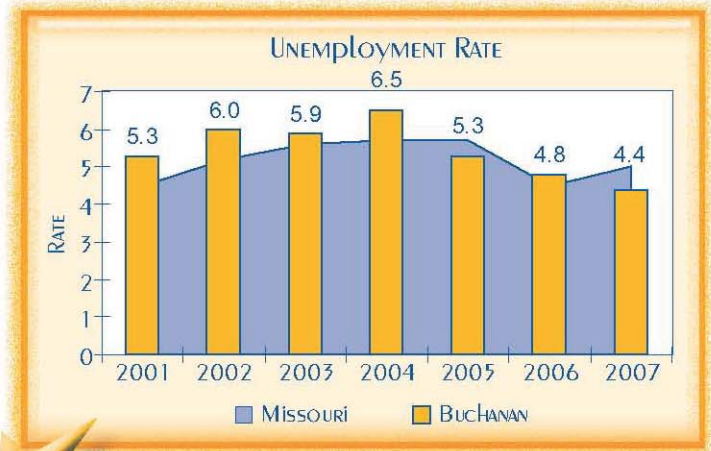
MATHEMATICS MAP SCORES

The graph below 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 are steadily declining in the fourth grade, with a 19.8 percent decrease in scores for fourth graders, but a 9.7 percent increase in scores for tenth graders.



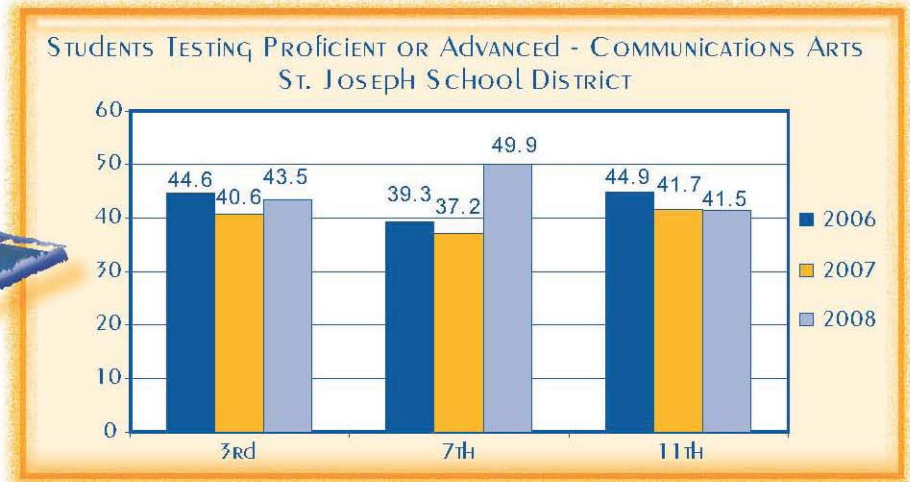
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The annual average unemployment rate for Buchanan County was at 4.4 percent for 2007, an 8.3 percent decrease from 2006.



COMMUNICATION ARTS MAP SCORES

The graph below reflects the percentage of students testing "proficient or advanced" using the standard MAP test (conducted in 3rd, 7th and 11th grades). The percentage of students testing proficient or advanced in Communication Arts increased or remained constant. The largest increase was in the 7th grade, with a 34.1 percent increase.



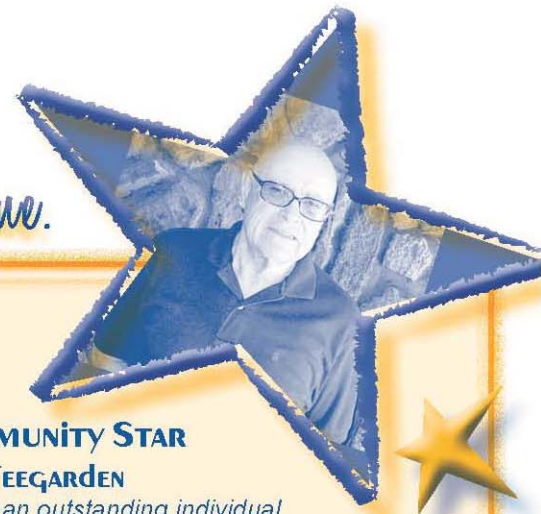
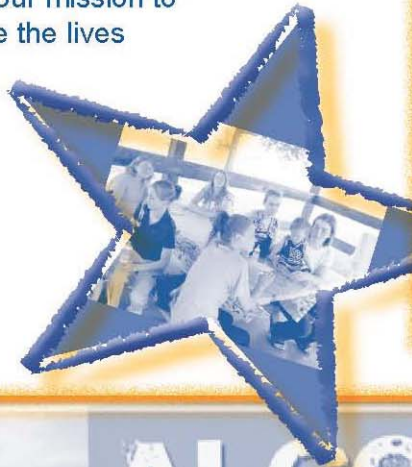
Thank you for being the light
that helps to make our stars shine.



In keeping with the spirit and purpose of the St. Joseph Youth Alliance, we would like to say thank you to our partners for being the shining stars in our work. We are very fortunate to have surrounded ourselves with so many extraordinary people that truly care about helping kids and families become stars in our community. It is through these partnerships that true community change can occur.

The St. Joseph Youth Alliance thanks all the individuals who have played a role in helping us implement our mission to “engage community partners to improve the lives of children and families.” The Board of Directors routinely earns a walk down the red carpet for the work they do in support of the Alliance. And for that, we say, “thank you.”

As you step out and observe the twinkle in the evening sky, take a moment to think of the stars that surround you every day.

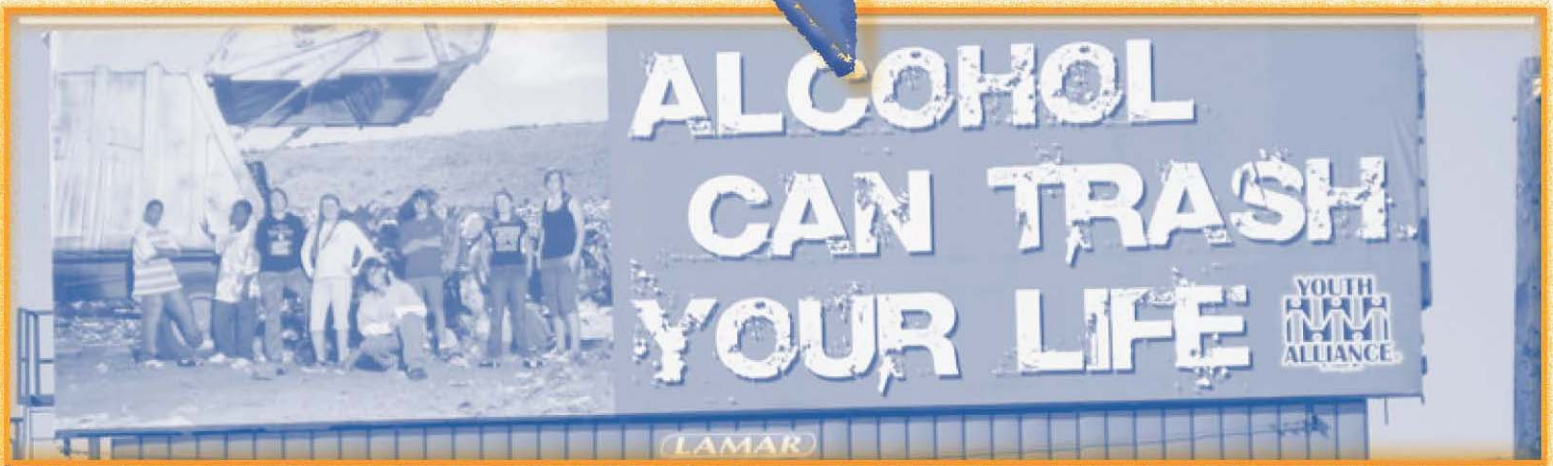


COMMUNITY STAR

JACK TEEGARDEN

Jack is an outstanding individual that gives of his time freely. He is always there with a helpful hand for the Alliance and its staff. Jack currently serves on the Alliance Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Resource Development Committee, the Children's Fair Committee, and the Drug Free Community Coalition. It is obvious from his commitment that Jack is never at a loss for something to do. Jack also serves on various other committees throughout the community as well as regularly volunteering for Heartland Health. For all of his hard work and dedication to the Youth Alliance and the community, we say, “thank you.”

Thank you, Jack, for letting the light from your star shine on so many people!



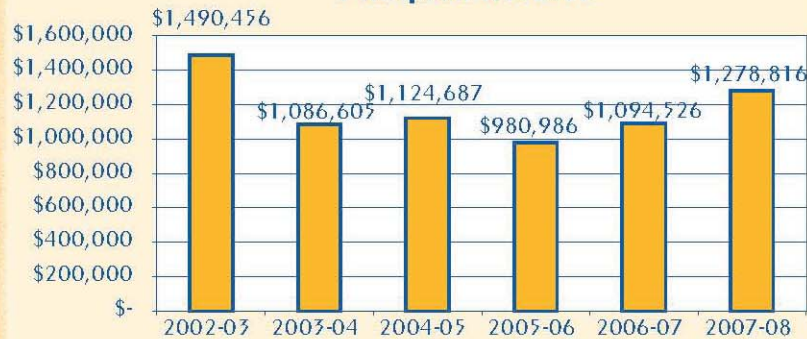
Resources

Since 1995, the St. Joseph Youth Alliance has administered nearly \$17.5 million, with an operating budget of \$1.2 million for fiscal year 2007-08. The pie chart illustrates how the funds were invested locally, with the largest investments in Caring Communities, Educare, Early Childhood Education, and Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership. Revenues are on an increasing trend as a result of three new grant awards in fiscal year 2008: Drug Free Communities, AmeriCorps, and Stay at Home Child Abuse Prevention.

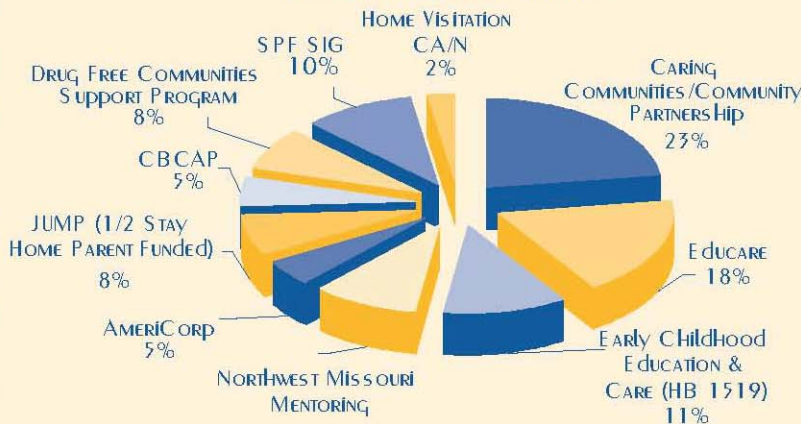
The St. Joseph Youth Alliance recognizes that its partners play a valued role in supporting the programs and services through frequent requests for volunteers, letters of support, match funding and donations. These contributions make a huge difference in the ability to provide the maximum level of services with limited resources. In fiscal year 2008, these contributions totaled 4,133 in volunteer hours valued at \$77,311, with cash donations of \$7,095 and in-kind donations of \$148,257 for a total value of \$232,663.



**ST. JOSEPH YOUTH ALLIANCE
PROGRAM REVENUE**



**ST. JOSEPH YOUTH ALLIANCE
INVESTMENT BREAKDOWN**



St. Joseph Alliance Membership

St. Joseph Youth Alliance Leadership Team

St. Joseph Youth Alliance Staff



Clockwise: Linda Midyett, Susie Cook, Anita Jolly and Robin Hammond



*Back row from left to right: Neva Carrel, Angie Reynolds, David Rich, Julie Wiedmer, Anita Jolly, Mayme Abbott, Irene Walker
Middle row from left to right: Gayle Babcock, Linda Midyett, Lisa May, Susie Cook, Robin Hammond
Front Row from left to right: Kelly Tudor, Fran Brothers
Not pictured: Rhonda Ewing*

Individual Membership

COLIN CLINE
 JACK TEEGARDEN
 LAVELL RUCKER
 PETER GREGORY
 DAN BRACHMAN
 MARY ANN BRACHMAN
 JASON CALLAWAY

Agency Membership

ALBANY REGIONAL CENTER
 AMERICAN RED CROSS
 AMERICA'S SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
 BUCHANAN COUNTY ACADEMY
 BUCHANAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 BUCHANAN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
 CATHOLIC CHARITIES
 COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP
 CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
 FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER
 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
 FIRST TRUST OF MID AMERICA
 GIRL SCOUTS OF N.E. KANSAS & N.W. MISSOURI



HEARTLAND HEALTH
 INTERSERV
 MAK CONSULTING, LLC
 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 AND SENIOR SERVICES
 MO DIVISION OF ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE
 MISSOURI CAREER CENTER
 MWSU SAFETY COUNCIL
 NORTHWEST MISSOURI CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
 NOYES HOME FOR CHILDREN
 PARENTS AS TEACHERS
 PONY EXPRESS COUNCIL, BSA
 PREFERRED FAMILY HEALTHCARE
 PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

ROLLING HILLS CONSOLIDATED LIBRARY
 SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD
 ST. JOSEPH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 ST. JOSEPH CITY COUNCIL
 ST. JOSEPH PARKS, RECREATION & CIVIC FACILITIES
 ST. JOSEPH POLICE DEPARTMENT
 ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC LIBRARY
 ST. JOSEPH SAFETY & HEALTH COUNCIL
 UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY
 UNITED WAY OF GREATER ST. JOSEPH
 UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION
 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
 YMCA
 YWCA



Data Sources

PAGE 4

Family Connections Unduplicated Families and Persons Services; and Family Connections Percentage of Total Program Funding; Family Connections primary data.

PAGE 5

Child Abuse and Neglect Probable Cause Rate; Department of Social Services, Missouri Children's Division FY 2006 Report. Cases of Substantiated Child Abuse and Neglect, 2006; Department of Social Services, Missouri Children's Division FY 2006 Report.

PAGE 6

Educare and Accreditation graphs generated from primary data.

PAGE 7

Child Care Start-up and Expansion graph generated from primary data.

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Average Age of First Use; Percent Reporting Use Past 30 Days; and Frequency of Use in Past 30 Days; Department of Mental Health, 2008 Missouri Combined Youth Survey.

PAGE 9

Perception of Risk or Harm; Department of Mental Health, 2008 Missouri Combined Youth Survey.

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Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership Employment Success and Measures; Missouri Mentoring Program primary data.

PAGE 11

JUMP Repeat Pregnancies; JUMP program primary data. Births to Teens; Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

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Risk Factor Comparison from 2004 to 2008; Missouri Department of Mental Health, 2008 Missouri Combined Youth Survey.

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30 Day Alcohol Use; Binge Drinking-Past Two Weeks; Age of First Use of Alcohol; and Missouri Department of Mental Health, 2008 Missouri Combined Youth Survey.

PAGE 15

Low Birth Weight Babies; Missouri Kids Count, 2007. Immunization Comparison; Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and Youth Health Partnership. Mental Health Admissions; Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

PAGE 16

Child Abuse and Neglect Probable Cause Rate; Department of Social Services, Missouri Children's Division FY 2006 Report. Children in Children's Division Custody; Department of Social Services, Children's Division. Juvenile Law Violation Referrals; Missouri Kids Count 2007.

PAGE 17

MAP scores; Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Unemployment Rate; Missouri Department of Labor.

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St. Joseph Youth Alliance Investment Breakdown; and St. Joseph Youth Alliance Program Revenue; St. Joseph Youth Alliance Revenue Matrix.



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