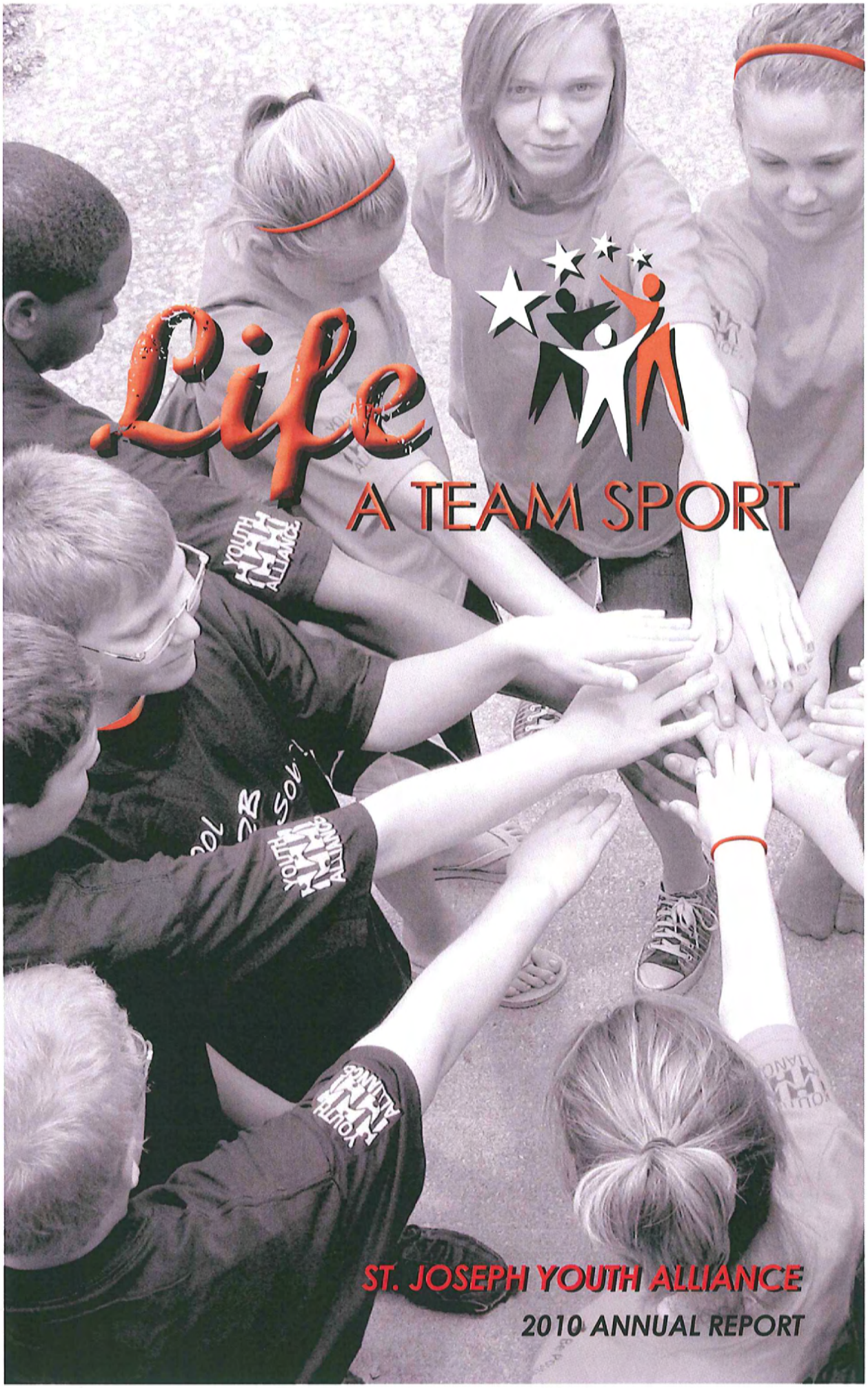

Life
A TEAM SPORT

ST. JOSEPH YOUTH ALLIANCE

2010 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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St. Joseph, MO 64503
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www.youth-alliance.org

Find us on Facebook.

St. Joseph Youth Alliance Board

Dan Brachman, Past President ..... Retired Healthcare Administrator
Jason Callaway ..... Central High School
Ray Carson ..... Noyes Home for Children
Chris Connally ..... St. Joseph Police Department
Peter Gregory ..... Missouri Western State University Student
Sandy Hamlin, Secretary ..... Retired Educator
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Jerry Lau ..... First Trust of Mid America
Roger Lenander ..... First Lutheran Church
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Joey Thompson ..... Children's Division, Department of Social Services

From the Executive Director

ROBIN HAMMOND

October 2010

As we began our new fiscal year in July, and with the Kansas City Chiefs in our back yard, I was thinking about goals and how they relate not only to sports and our organization, but to life in general. My pondering led me to our annual report theme, "LIFE: A Team Sport". Just as sports have goals, whether it is to win a game, win a tournament, or make it to districts or state championships, the team has a goal. These goals have tangible symbols. In basketball, there is the basketball goal; in football, the field goal; in hockey, the hockey net; in track, the finish line tape; for baseball, the home plate; and so on. Medals and trophies are awarded to the athletes for a "job well done."

Life is no different. Just as sports have tangible goals and symbolic rewards, it is as important that we encourage our children and youth to set goals for which they receive symbolic recognition – certificates of achievement, scholarships, ceremonies, and graduations, just to name a few. For youth to meet their goals and overcome challenges in life, they must have coaches, peer support, family involvement, and recognition for things "well done". It takes this entire team to keep youth on the right track as they make their way to adulthood. This report is in appreciation of our team of staff, community leaders, volunteers, youth and families, as we strive to meet our goals and help the youth we serve meet their goals. Go team!!

Robin Hammond

Robin Hammond
Executive Director

Introduction

St. Joseph Youth Alliance strives to positively impact issues relating to children and youth. Since 1991, five key elements have been identified as key drivers for the organization, unlocking the potential of youth in our community. These five key elements are what we now refer to as the Five Keys for Kids.

CRISIS PREVENTION

Family Connections works to establish an integrated system for delivering health, family support, and social services to children and families in order to improve outcomes, reduce costs, and ultimately reduce risks of child abuse and neglect. Family Connections also offers educational and social activities for parents and opportunities for families to connect with other families, forming support groups and friendships.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Youth Alliance works with childcare providers to promote the growth and quality of early childhood care and school readiness for children. Services are provided to 11 counties and include child care provider training, technical assistance, scholarships, and equipment to meet quality improvement goals. We also offer grants for people opening or expanding their child care business.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

Youth Alliance is working to positively change community attitudes surrounding drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, encouraging youth to choose substance free lives. Through education and awareness, and partnership with the Drug Free Community Coalition, youth are educated on the dangers of substance abuse. Youth Alliance partners with many agencies and organizations in the surrounding area to teach adults how to model prevention.

ALL STAR PLAYER - SANDY HAMLIN

Sandy Hamlin is an outstanding individual and a driving force who works tirelessly to improve the lives of many within St. Joseph and the surrounding area. For 32 years, she worked as a business teacher at Savannah High School, maintaining excellence in this position while she focused on her volunteer efforts and launched one of the most successful Royal Family Kids' Camps in the nation. Aside from her dedication to running this camp, she gives her time to Relay for Life, Heartland Foundation, InterServ, Preservation Society, St. Joseph Youth Alliance, and as a facilitator at EmpowerU. Sandy knows the offensive line and how to protect the quarterback at all times. This is demonstrated by how she lives her daily life. She never gives up on what she believes in and knows the true meaning of "teamwork". Her offensive plays are most certainly demonstrated by her approach to serving youth in the community for more than 20 years. For all her hard work and dedication to St. Joseph Youth Alliance and the community as a whole, we say "thank you". Thank you, Sandy, for being our all star player. You truly hit it out of the park every time!

Unlocking Potential

Five Keys for Kids

YOUTH ASSET DEVELOPMENT

Core elements of youth asset development are to instill positive values and a commitment to learning through carefully planned and integrated service opportunities. This process is built on a solid foundation of substance abuse prevention education, leadership and team work development, and opportunities to serve. There are several programs supported through the youth asset development efforts of the St. Joseph Youth Alliance.

YOUTH MENTORING

Youth mentoring provides young people with positive adult role models in the community and in the workplace. Our programs have core elements that provide young people with the sense of belonging and help them build a strong foundation for future social success. Key objectives are for youth to achieve academic success and have positive experiences, setting a strong foundation for future social success, both in employment and in their personal lives.

Thank you

As we come upon our 20th anniversary in 2011, we have much to reflect upon and much to be proud of since we were founded in 1991 to improve the well-being of St. Joseph's youth and their families.

The Youth Alliance became incorporated in 1994 and since that time has brought an array of diverse funding streams, services and programs to the community. Just a few highlights include obtaining funding from Drug Free Communities, implementation of compliance checks, development of the provider network to address child abuse and neglect, flex pool funding for families in crisis, baby cribs to keep babies safe, child care provider education and accreditation assistance, and so much more.

This year was a difficult year, though, for the St. Joseph Youth Alliance as we dealt with diminishing state and grant resources. Yet overall, our work continues to grow, supporting more youth through mentoring programs, summer programs, crisis prevention and intervention, and child care – work that couldn't be accomplished without the many volunteers and donors who provide countless hours of service. It is always with great pride that we acknowledge the achievements we've made in the past year, recognize those individuals who have a passion for unlocking the potential of our community's children and youth, and acknowledge our board members, Alliance members, sponsors and donors. The skills, tools and experiences youth receive through St. Joseph Youth Alliance programming will aid them for years to come as they transition to adulthood. Thank you for being part of our Team!

MMP Business Partner

Car City Chrysler
Cheddar's Restaurant
Country Squire
CiCi's Pizza
DAV Thriftstore
Fazoli's
Heartland Business Machines
Heartland Health (Dietary)
J Soft Computers
K-Mart
Kohl's Department Store
Lino's Original Pizza
Lowe's Home Improvement
Luna's
McDonald's
Mr. Goodcents
Pizza Shoppe
Rolling Hills Consolidated Library
Sack-N-Save Grocery Store
Saint Joseph Parks and Recreation and Civic Facilities
Saxton Woods Care Center
Simple Simon's Pizza
Southside Family Fun Center
Specialty Industries
St. Joe Harley-Davidson
St. Joseph Public Libraries
Taco Bell Restaurants

Crisis Prevention

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

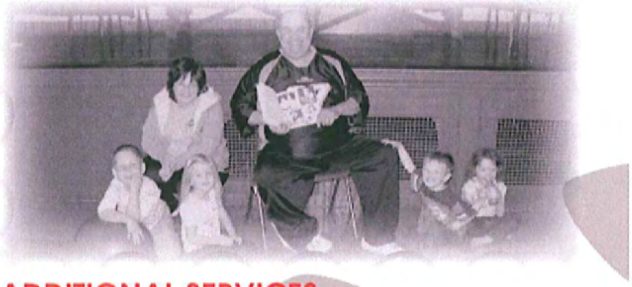
Family Connections is a home visitation program funded by a Stay at Home Parent Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention grant. Families from Andrew, Buchanan and DeKalb counties who meet income guidelines and have at least one child under age 3 in the home are eligible to enroll. To participate, families must have a household income below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines. Home visits are conducted to monitor physical and social-emotional progress and to complete assessments with parents for purposes of early intervention. Family Connections works closely with St. Joseph School District Parents As Teachers and Early Head Start to avoid duplication of services. In 2010, 44 children received assessments.

CURRICULUM

Recognizing that parents are a child's first teachers, Family Connections uses Parents As Teachers' *Born to Learn-Prenatal to Three* curriculum. Parents learn about milestones in their children's development and age-appropriate behavior through home visits and other activities. Early interventions and realistic expectations are key strategies in reducing risk of abuse and neglect.

CIRCLE OF PARENTS

Circle of Parents is a peer-led parenting national model and proved to be successful in engaging parents during the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grant that ended in 2008. During 2009-2010, Family Connections started two circles that encourage socialization, but also provide opportunities for organized parent meetings. Childcare is also available while parents are meeting.



ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Safety & Wellbeing - Annual home safety risk and parental stress index assessments are conducted as needed, with referrals made when appropriate.
Literacy - Family Connections distributes literacy materials on a monthly basis, with more than 200 children's books distributed in 2009-2010.
Newsletter - Families receive *Family Connections*, a monthly newsletter containing parenting tips, community news, calendar of low-and no-cost family activities, budget recipes, product safety recalls, and timely articles about everyday living.
Lending Library - A lending library of parenting materials is available on-site at the Youth Alliance.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Several agencies teamed up to plan awareness activities for the annual observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month (April). This team raised funds for several activities by hosting an all-day bake sale at the YWCA, selling pinwheels at the East Hills Shopping Center, and selling t-shirts with the Missouri Go Blue prevention theme. Additional awareness activities included:

- Mayor's Proclamation of ***April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in St. Joseph***
- Child Abuse Prevention Banner over Frederick during April
- Blue-ribboned bookmarks with prevention tips
- Baby Sign Language workshop
- Parents Calendar of Daily Activities to do with their children during April

PRECIOUS KEEPERS

Family Connections was awarded a Missouri Children's Trust Fund grant of $5,000 to purchase baby cribs and mattresses for families in need. Community partners made referrals that resulted in distribution of 22 cribs and 25 mattresses to help keep babies safe while they are sleeping.

PROVIDER NETWORK

The Provider Network of community service providers met seven times during fiscal year 2010, hosted by Family Connections. Several education programs were hosted throughout the year for local providers on issues such as of depression and suicide prevention. Members also participated in the *Not In Our Town* Impact Forum on Child Abuse issues in St. Joseph in May.

NORTHWEST MISSOURI RESPITE CARE TASK FORCE

The Respite Care Task Force, in cooperation with the St. Joseph Youth Alliance, Ladies Union Benevolent Association, and the Junior League of St. Joseph undertook an effort to acquire funds to support a crisis nursey at the Noyes Home for Children, hosting a kick-off event to announce fundraising plans. Another priority of the task force is respite care for families with children who have severe emotional disorders (SED), including establishing local access to respite care information and a warm line for parents seeking help.

Family Connections Service Volumes - 2010	
Total number of families served (41 parents/caregivers)	31
Total number of children under age 3 served	44
Other children in enrolled families	16
Number of home visits	252
Number of families participating in Parents as Teachers activities	31
Number of families participating in literacy activities	31
Number of individuals impacted by Family Connections	108

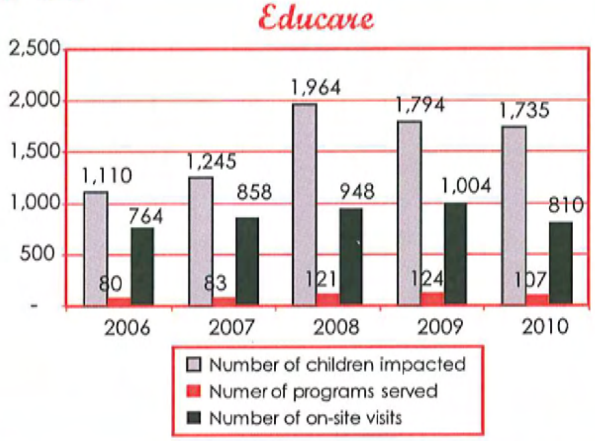
MOST VALUABLE PLAYER - REGINA SHELTON

Regina Shelton wins the spirit award for her performance on the 2010 "April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month" planning team. Her positive attitude, laced with large doses of humor, was instrumental in developing camaraderie among the team members. We started with no funds to launch and maintain our awareness campaign, and huddled to brainstorm fundraisers. We soon executed a quick handoff to Regina to come up with a t-shirt design with a child abuse prevention logo. She teamed up with Roderick Advertising for a winning design. We then sold the long- and short-sleeved tees at a modest profit, with Regina as scorekeeper. The refreshment stand—a day-long bake sale at the YWCA—was led by Nancy Gray and Megan Carter, and produced lots of cookies and more to score funds. Cheerleaders for the pinwheel team were AmeriCorps volunteer Steve Holdenried, whose megaphone voice invited mall shoppers to participate, and little Grace Carter, who charmed the dollars right out of pockets and pocketbooks in exchange for the colorful pinwheels. Oh, and all those X's and O's on the blackboard are not game plays: they're kisses and hugs for all those wonderful kids!

Early Childhood

EDUCARE

Educare's primary purpose is to increase the quality of child care and improve school readiness of children. Educare impacted 1,794 children in fiscal year 2010. Of these children, 25% received subsidized assistance through Department of Social Services. Educare served 124 programs and 351 teachers through 1,004 on-site visits. Throughout the year, 720 teachers attended educational training based on the Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals.



CHILDREN'S FAIR

Our annual Community Children's Fair was held on Tuesday, April 20th, at the Civic Arena. The fair is a collaborative effort of several organizations in our community. The planning committee included Buchanan County Health Department, Community Action Partnership/ Head Start. Parents As Teachers, St. Joseph Museum, St. Joseph Public Library, United Cerebral Palsy, United Way/Success By 6®, YMCA child care program, and YWCA/Child Care Resource and Referral.

Children's Fair is free, open to the public, and targets children age birth to 5 years. We advertise to parents, preschools and child care providers to bring their children to participate in more than 30 activities. They can hear books read in the reading tent, play in the obstacle course, experience a variety of learning activities at agency booths, as well as see a fire truck, police car, highway patrolman, meet McGruff, and much more. The Lion's Club provides free hearing and eye screenings and Parents As Teachers sets up a special room for infants and toddlers. This year we had 1,380 children and 949 adults attend with approximately 200 volunteers who made this event a success.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER - SUSIE VANCE

Friends Gather Here Child Care opened in 2002. As the family day care grew, so did our family's dream of expanding to a larger facility. As young girls, we were surrounded by people that nurtured us, prayed with us, taught us, and believed there was nothing we could not accomplish. We felt we needed to "pay it forward" by giving these values to the next generation.

When I heard the words "dream big-make a list of what you want and need to open", I knew Neva from the Youth Alliance understood what we needed and would be there to help with the expansion.

Our children now have a comfortable environment year round, a larger inside learning area to explore with hands-on equipment, an infant area, and a privacy fenced area to discover the outside world. Friends Gather Here Child Care Center is a work in progress – we are not finished – we have just begun with the help of the people God has put on our path.

CHILD CARE 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 child care homes and centers to work to achieve and maintain the high quality standards that are so important to the early education of our children.

HIGHLIGHTS

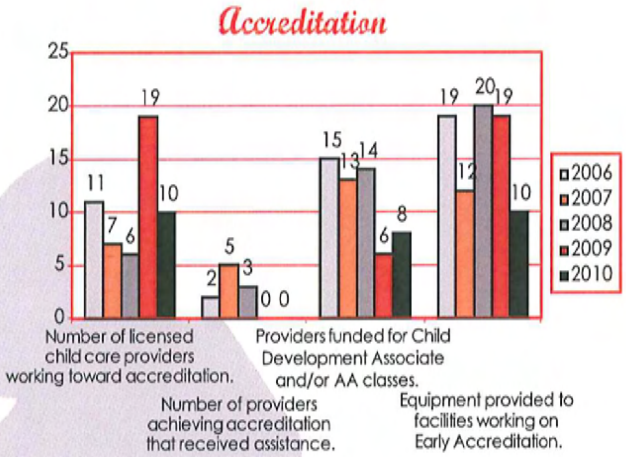
- For FY 2010, eight students enrolled in AA classes and three individuals received their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.
- A partnership was formed with North Central Missouri College to offer CDA and AA classes.
- Missouri Western State University now offers a BS in Early Childhood Education.
- In addition to scholarships, we supported 10 sites working to achieve accreditation with technical assistance, incentives and equipment.
- We provided Conscious Discipline® training to 69 early childhood teachers. This one day training focused on comprehensive classroom management and a social-emotional curriculum.

CHILD CARE START-UP AND EXPANSION

The goal of Child Care Start-Up and Expansion is to increase capacity of quality child care programs that offer care for infants and toddlers of low-income working families.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Five facilities were funded and three additional facilities became licensed.
- Three family child care homes were licensed for a capacity of ten children each, in the counties of Buchanan, Daviess and DeKalb.
- Two centers were funded for a capacity of 20 children, one in Buchanan County and another in Clinton County.
- Three facilities funded last fiscal year created licenced capacity for 34 children.
- The total number of children who may be cared for in these facilities is 94.



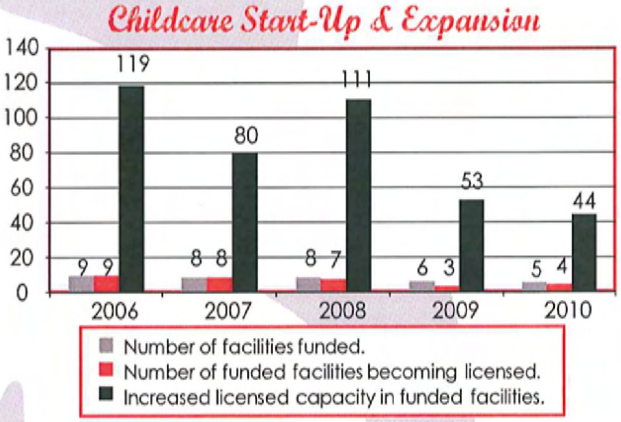
Note: *If numbers are lower, it may not be because there are fewer people pursuing accreditation in the community, just that they pursued other community resources to meet their financial needs.*

BUSINESS WEBINARS

The National Association for Family Child Care and Tom Copeland provided business trainings for family child care providers via monthly webinars. Mr. Copeland, a licensed attorney, authored two proposals adopted by the IRS that significantly reduced record keeping requirements for family child care providers. Webinar topics included:

- Tax Update (New Rules for 2009 and 2010)
- Basics of Record Keeping
- Marketing Your Business in Times of Recession
- Legal Issues
- Managing Your Money to Meet Short Term Goals

A new support group was also started for family child care providers. They met each evening before the webinars. New providers as well as experienced providers attended. One of the providers who has been licensed for many years was able to use information from the Tax Update webinar to amend her tax returns for the past three years and receive a very substantial refund.



Note: *Licensed capacity may vary significantly from year to year due to the type of facility funded (e.g., home (up to 10 slots) group home (up to 20 slots) or center (depends on size of facility)).*

Substance Abuse Prevention

St. Joseph Drug Free Community Coalition is a volunteer group of concerned citizens, parents, students, educators, business leaders and other community stakeholders who meet and work together to develop and promote anti-substance use initiatives and policies to make the community a healthier and safer place to work and live. This year, the Coalition completed its fourth year of federal Drug Free Communities funding. Its mission is to "work together to positively change community attitudes and behaviors surrounding drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, ultimately encouraging youth to choose substance-free lives."

The Coalition's work has resulted in eight community changes since July 2009, and a total of 20 since December 2007. All of the changes were related to changing alcohol ordinances in Buchanan County and improving compliance checks, including an anonymous on-line reporting tool and a "300 foot" rule. This rule requires notification of alcohol sales at catering events to all residences and churches within 300 feet, as well as an alcohol fence and security. A fine structure has also been put into place for businesses failing compliance checks.

AVERAGE AGE OF FIRST USE

Buchanan County	2006	2008	2010	% Change
Alcohol	11.8	11.9	12.3	3.4%
Tobacco	11.2	11.3	11.8	4.4%
Marijuana	12.6	12.6	13.2	4.8%

Note: Age of first use increased significantly in all three substances, demonstrating that community efforts to reduce underage drinking are having an impact.

RESPONSIBLE BEVERAGE SERVER TRAINING

On November 2, 2009 the Coalition realized positive results from work on the Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA) program. Specifically, St. Joseph City Council voted in favor of an ordinance to require people who serve alcohol in the City of St. Joseph to obtain a Server Identification badge upon completion of Responsible Beverage Service Training (RBS).

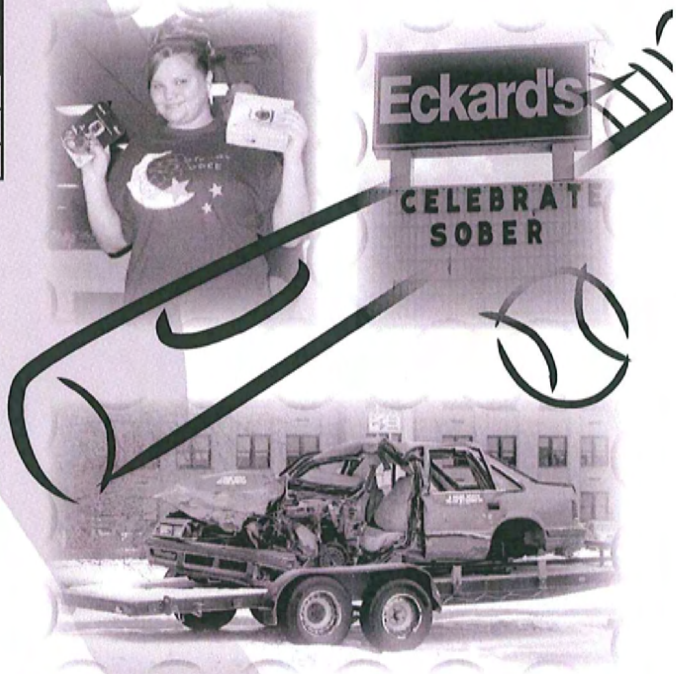
RBS is a community-based approach to reducing risks associated with retail alcohol environments that has three essential elements:

- alcohol policy for the alcoholic beverage licensed establishment;
- server education and oversight; and
- partnerships with law enforcement, other local agencies and community groups.

Licensed servers who fail three compliance checks lose their server license. The St. Joseph Police Department in partnership with the Coalition has provided Beverage Server Training courses in the community and over 741 compliance checks since September 2007.

RED RIBBON WEEK

- Red Ribbon week took place October 23-31. Banners promoting Red Ribbon Week were placed over Interstate 29 and on a walking bridge visible on Highway 169.
- Over 430 large red bows were put up in numerous locations throughout St. Joseph.
- Bookmarks explaining Red Ribbon Week, along with a lapel ribbon to wear, were distributed to all public libraries, major pharmacies, area businesses, City Hall, Missouri Western State University and schools, totaling 5,000 bookmarks.
- 9,500 stickers promoting Red Ribbon Week were distributed to four Sonic locations to be placed on all bagged orders.
- Supplies were given to St. Joseph School District schools and St. Joseph Christian School to promote Red Ribbon Week.
- A United States Air National Guard reconnaissance helicopter flew in from Jefferson City and landed at St. Joseph Middle Schools.
- St. Joseph Mayor, Ken Shearin, read a proclamation with the help of students at Bode Middle School Assembly.
- The Coalition ran radio ads on all major radio stations and promoted Red Ribbon Week in Kin Magazine reaching 8,000 homes.



3-D MONTH

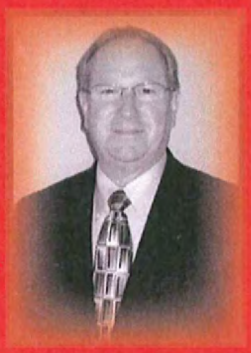
The Bauman family from Wathena, Kansas, donated the vehicle involved in the drunk driving fatality that killed their daughter, Jodi, for display during National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3-D) month. Along with the car, the Bauman's have donated pictures and stories to accompany the car to tell the story of Jodi's life. Jodi was killed by a drunk driver on her way home. A banner displaying the pictures and a letter from Jodi's sister accompanies the car to each location. The Coalition has displayed the car in several locations in Buchanan County and two Kansas counties.

SCOREBOARD

Buchanan County	% Reporting Use Ever 2006	2008	2010	% Change	% Reporting 30 Day Use 2006	2008	2010	% Change
Alcohol	54.1%	52.2%	34.2%	34.5% ▼	21.3%	22.7%	15.3%	32.6% ▼
Tobacco	31.7%	29.5%	24.6%	16.6% ▼	15.2%	14.8%	13.2%	10.8% ▼
Marijuana	15.4%	15.6%	11.1%	28.8% ▼	8.0%	7.9%	5.6%	29.1% ▼

Note: What is important to note is that while there is a significant drop in the percentage of youth reporting ever using alcohol, tobacco or marijuana, those that are reporting use are drinking more heavily. Those reporting use in the last 30 days is also decreasing.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER - CHARLES "CHUCK" BIDDING



Chuck Bidding is a 22-year veteran of the Missouri Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control. Prior to that, he served as a St. Joseph Missouri Police Officer for six years from October 1982 to December of 1988. Chuck has worked with the St. Joseph Police Department for the last ten years in support of our underage alcohol enforcement program.

In 2007, he was instrumental in helping to create the Midland Empire Alcohol Task Force that covered Andrew and Buchanan Counties. His knowledge of liquor laws, performance of compliance inspections and provision of responsible beverage server training to vendors is something that he brought to the task force and he has helped teach his fellow law enforcement officers. In 2008, the task force was recognized by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the work being done to keep alcohol out of the hands of our young people.

This task force has since grown into a 10-county operation covering most of Northwest Missouri. St. Joseph is the largest city in Missouri to require responsible beverage server training from anyone that sells or serves alcoholic beverages. These programs would not be the success that they are today without the leadership and commitment Chuck has provided to the task force over the years.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

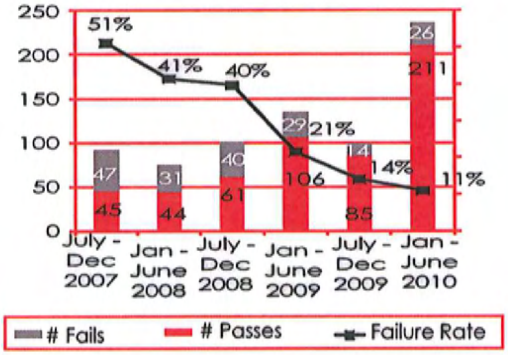
The Drug Free Community Coalition was highly successful in generating public awareness, producing over half a million impressions in the community related to reducing rates of alcohol and drug use. Half of the media impressions were directed to reducing rates of alcohol use alone, while 40 percent targeted both increasing community capacity to address drugs and reduce rates of alcohol use. Data in the *Benchmarks and Indicators* section (beginning on page 14) reflect that this messaging, along with other community efforts, is having a positive impact.

COMPLIANCE CHECKS

The table illustrates the results of compliance checks in Buchanan County from September 2007 through June 2010. Each time period is a 6-month interval, showing the total number of passed and failed compliance checks, as well as the failure rate over time. Failure rates trended down every six months. The first 6-month period, shows a total of 92 compliance checks with a failure rate of 51%. The second period failure rate dropped 10% and has continued to fall over time. For the most recent period, over 230 compliance checks were completed with a failure rate of only 11% (a 78.4% decrease since the program was put into place).

Compliance Checks, Buchanan County

St. Joseph Drug Free Community Coalition



Youth Mentoring

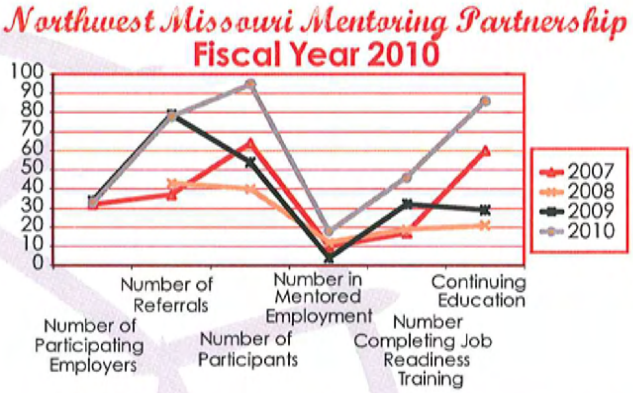
Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership

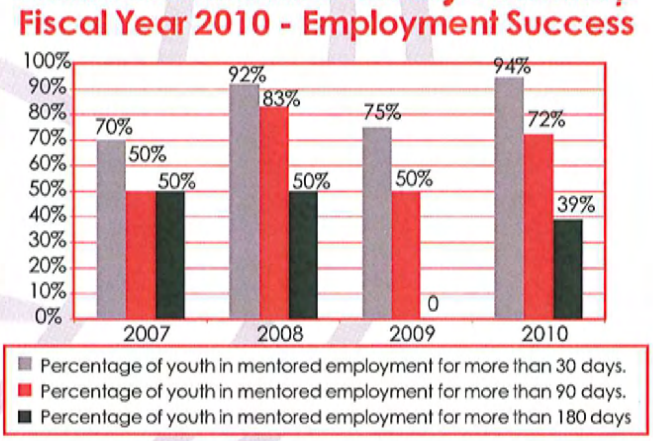
The essence of the Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership (MMP) is believing in our youth. We need to believe in them before asking that they believe in themselves. Through MMP we assist youth in locating personal motivators to move them forward. We set positive examples of commitment, discipline, consistency and truth. Through our business partners, we offer opportunities for success, self confidence, hope and motivation.

Specifically, MMP helps youth age 16 to 21 with job readiness by offering skill building workshops and training in job search, completing employment applications, writing resumes, and interviewing. The result is personal success in employment and self-sufficiency.

HIGHLIGHTS

- MMP held job fairs in November 2009 and March 2010 - 26 youth participated. Business partners replicated an "authentic" interview process and setting. Three youth were subsequently hired and three new business partners joined MMP.
- In February 2010, MMP educated youth, business partners, community activists, and schools about MMP funding cuts.
- A support group was held in February 2010, with nine youth to discuss problem-solving and anger management.
- A new 2-day class format for job readiness was introduced in April and June 2010. Four youth successfully completed this class and moved on to mentored employment; 12 youth received certificates of completion.



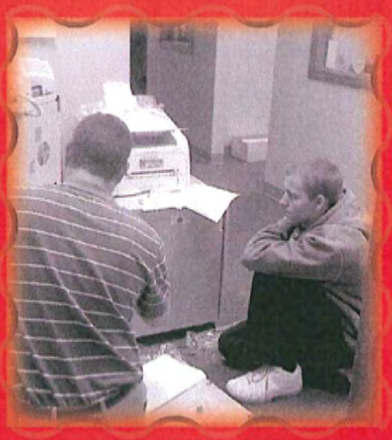


MOST VALUABLE PLAYER - GERALD ASHFORD

While we feel that all of our participants are deserving of this title, there is one exceptional youth we have the pleasure of naming as MVP of the MMP program. Gerald Ashford, a young man determined to enhance his quality of life through hard work and commitment.

Gerald Ashford has been in the program since April 2009. Gerald adamantly advocates for programs and causes he believes in. He is a member of the State Youth Advisory Board, the NW MO Regional Advisory Board, and a 2010 High School Graduate. He attends support groups, job fairs and other activities that are a vital part of the MMP program.

Gerald came to the MMP program seeking employment where his computer and technical skills could be utilized. Gerald has been employed with Heartland Business Machines as a service technician since October 2009. His employer describes him as exceptional and a valuable team player.

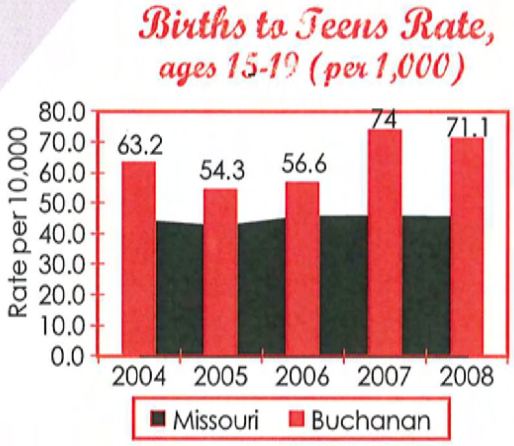


JOURNEY TO UNITE MENTORS & PARENTS (JUMP)

JUMP was formed in 1998 to provide education, support, home visits and mentoring to teens facing parenthood. JUMP places a strong emphasis on persistence to graduation, decreasing repeat pregnancies, and increasing self sufficiency. The program also strives to improve school readiness for their children. Adult role models in the community serve as mentors in partnership with St. Joseph Youth Alliance, Heartland Health and the YWCA. There were 71 participants enrolled in JUMP in 2010; 30 mothers were also matched with a mentor.

JUMP HIGHLIGHTS/SUCCESSES

- Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians provided car seat safety inspections and demonstrated proper installation to parents.
- Play groups were held with mothers and their toddlers.
- Infant massage instruction was provided to new mothers.
- Mentors were recognized at the January JUMP meeting (Mentor Appreciation Month).
- 41 children were current with required immunizations all 12 months.
- Monthly average of participating children that were current with required immunizations was 98%.
- 60 mothers participated in parenting skills classes.
- 44 mothers continued working toward their educational goals.
- Twelve participants graduated from high school; graduates were honored at the annual picnic.
- 11% of participants had a high school diploma or GED upon enrollment in JUMP.



Hello,

It has been a joy to be a part of the JUMP program for the past 2 1/2 years. I have really enjoyed my friendship with my mentee and I am proud of her and how well she is doing as a mom.

My mentee and I have developed a genuine friendship and I plan on still getting together with her occasionally -- even though I won't be a JUMP "mentor" any more.

Thanks for all you do as you and your program cares for teen moms -- I think it is a great program and I know that you all are affecting girls lives in very positive ways.

Sincerely,

JUMP Mentor

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER - SYLVIA

Sylvia enrolled in JUMP in January 2008. She was a junior at Savannah High School and two months pregnant. Sylvia was a single mother finishing high school. Adaline was born in August at the start of Sylvia's senior year. During Fall 2009, things began to fall apart. Sylvia was moving frequently, and Adaline was staying with Sylvia's parents.

Sylvia began counseling and became more active in JUMP, coming to monthly meetings and doing home visits. She was able to get an apartment and, with donations, JUMP was able to help her with home essentials.

In December 2009, Sylvia was matched with her mentor, Tisha Shelton, who provided her with emotional support. Sylvia now has a full-time job at a telemarketing company, has Adaline with her full-time, and has a great relationship with her mentor. She graduated from high school in May 2009 and will graduate from JUMP in September 2010.

Youth Asset Development

AMERICORPS

Youth Alliance completed the third year of its AmeriCorps STAND (Students Taking Action Not Drugs) grant. Eight half-time and four quarter-time Members were recruited to facilitate activities targeted at reducing underage drinking. Youth Alliance partnered with Heartland Foundation, St. Joseph School District, and Circle of H.O.P.E. to organize youth services in the areas of asset development, drug and alcohol prevention education, and youth volunteerism.

Youth Alliance was also the recipient of a one-year AmeriCorps grant (American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds) for nonprofit capacity building. These funds enabled Youth Alliance to enroll four additional half-time AmeriCorps Members to assist with Family Connections outreach, MMP job readiness classes, MO HealthNet marketing, development of youth volunteer opportunities, and volunteer recruitment.

POSITIVE ACTION

Positive Action is a nationally recognized, evidence-based program that improves academics, behavior, and character development. The program includes a classroom curriculum, a school-climate program, and a parent and community program. Positive Action was implemented in five elementary schools during this past year, serving 145 students in grades K-6. In total, Positive Action held over 230 sessions on topics ranging from empowerment to drug and alcohol awareness. Three successful family-night events were also held to allow parents an opportunity to meet the AmeriCorps Members and staff responsible for working with their children each week, while providing them with supplemental information that supported the curriculum.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERISM

One key way to increase the number of developmental assets in our young people is through service. The Youth Alliance strives to develop service projects for youth of all ages to instill an ethic of service in generations to come. Highlighted below are some of the projects that youth have enjoyed this past year.

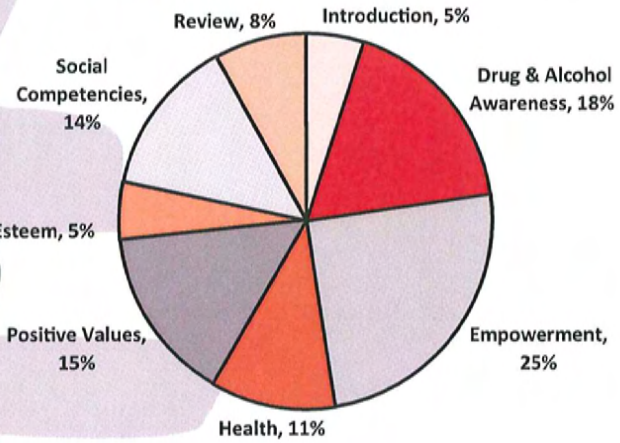
Operation Outflow: Youth and adults worked together to make 75-100 lunches each month for distribution to patrons of the Open Door Food Kitchen, serving approximately 600 people.

6th Grade Service Day: Youth Alliance and Skaith Elementary placed approximately 60 sixth graders in volunteer service on 6th grade service day.

National Days of Service. AmeriCorps Members and youth volunteers performed service on these nationally recognized days of service: Make a Difference Day, National Family Volunteer Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Global Youth Service Day.

XYC (Extreme Youth Coalition): XYC is a group of young people ranging in age from 11-18, interested in serving in a leadership capacity. XYC identifies and plans projects for youth interested in reducing underage drinking. Currently, XYC members are planning training and implementation of strategies around environmental scans designed to improve placement of signage for alcohol and tobacco. They are also considering a project on homeless youth and their relationship with drugs and alcohol.

Positive Action Topics



XTREME YOUTH COALITION

YAC ATTACK! SUMMER PROGRAM

Youth Alliance just completed its 6th and most successful summer program. YAC Attack! is a structured, supervised program providing youth with meaningful activities free from drugs and alcohol, while assisting them in making a difference in their life and the lives of others. This year, four AmeriCorps Members planned and implemented the program that served 25 youth volunteers ages 11-17 over eight weeks. Dedicated youth volunteers donated an amazing 1,308 hours of service to the community.

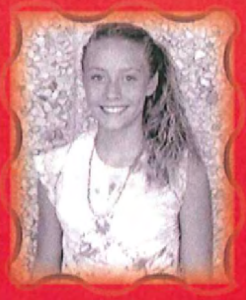
Youth Volunteer Corps

YOUTH VOLUNTEER CORPS OF AMERICA In Partnership with YVC, the Youth Alliance participated in *Summer of Service (SOS)* (funded by Corporation for National and Community Service). SOS provided youth opportunities to earn a $500 education award for completing at least 100 hours of environmental or disaster related service. Seven youth completed the requirements and received an education award.

PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

The Presidential Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals, families, and groups achieving a certain number of hours of service over 12 months or cumulative hours earned over a lifetime. Youth Alliance tracks participation of youth involved in events coordinated through XYC and YAC Attack! Summer Program. This year, 17 young people have earned the Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER - KATELYNN MYERS



Katelynn was such a determined individual. She had a willingness to work hard and never failed to lead the group in whatever task was at hand. She was our "go-to-girl", always willing to do what others would not. It was very apparent that Katelynn is quite diligent at home because it carried through in her community service. She has great leadership qualities that will benefit her in the future. She is a prime example of a great volunteer.

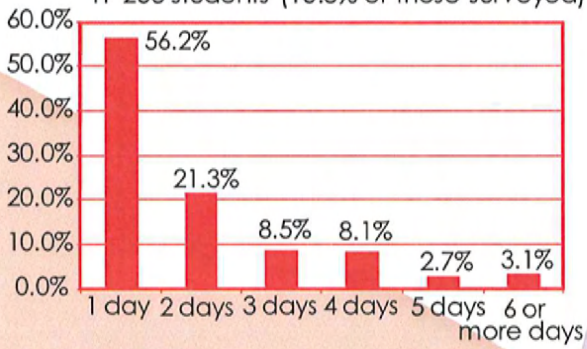
Other Benchmark INDICATORS

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 most recent study was conducted in 2010. 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 2008 to 2010.

Number of Days Used Alcohol in Past 30 Days

n=258 students (15.3% of those surveyed)



Nearly 22.4% of the students responding they drank alcohol in the last 30 days said they drank three or more days; 5.8% drank five or more days.

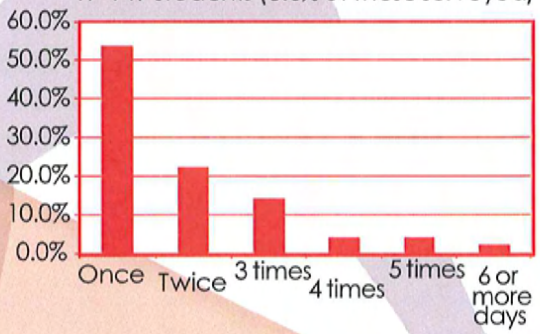
AGE OF FIRST USE OF ALCOHOL

	2004	2006	2008	2010	% Change
Never	37.9%	54.4%	54.2%	65.8%	21.4%
8 or younger	7.3%	7.2%	7.6%	4.1%	46.1% ▼
9	2.5%	2.7%	2.4%	2.0%	16.7% ▼
10	4.2%	3.5%	3.5%	3.3%	5.7% ▼
11	3.8%	3.7%	3.5%	5.6%	60.0%
12	8.2%	5.5%	6.0%	6.9%	15.0%
13	11.0%	11.0%	10.2%	6.7%	34.3% ▼
14	6.9%	8.1%	8.6%	3.4%	60.5% ▼
15	3.4%	2.8%	3.4%	0.6%	82.4% ▼
16	0.5%	0.2%	0.6%	0.1%	83.3% ▼
17	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	95.0% ▼
18 or older	0.1%	0.1%	0.0	0.2%	na

In comparing results from 2008 to 2010, the percentage of students reporting never having taken a sip of alcohol increased significantly – more than 20%. Overall, the average age of first use of alcohol in Buchanan County, Missouri is increasing, at 12.3 years of age in 2010, up from 11.9 in 2008.

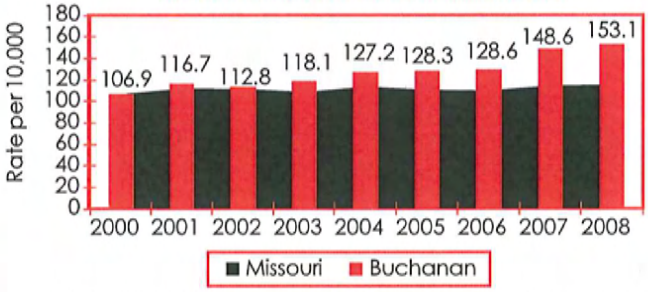
Binge Drinking - Past 30 days

Number of days drinking 5 or more drinks
n=149 students (8.8% of those surveyed)



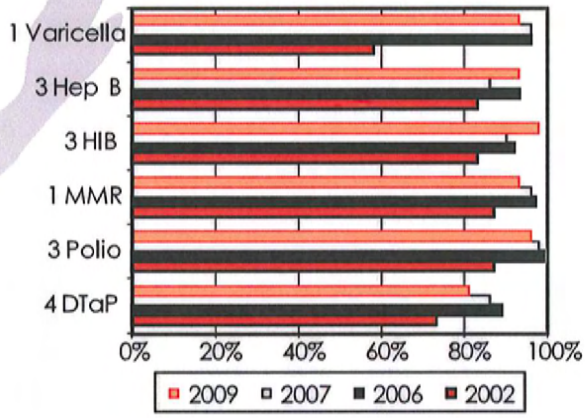
Of the 8.8% of students responding they drank five or more alcoholic drinks in the last 30 days (binge drinking), 24.1% reported drinking five or more drinks for three or more days. Six percent reported drinking five or more drinks for five or more days in the past 30 days. While efforts to delay age of first use of alcohol are increasingly successful, it is clear from the data that youth choosing to drink are drinking more often and more heavily.

Mental Health Admissions



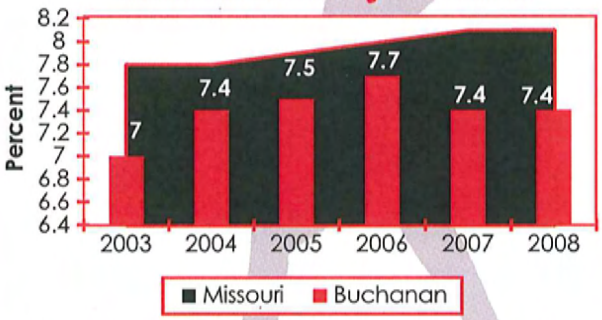
Mental health inpatient hospitalizations in Buchanan County have been steadily on the rise since 2000, with a 3% increase from 2007 to 2008. The Missouri rate also increased by 0.9% for this same time period.

Vaccine Rates by Type



The immunization rate for children receiving the 4-3-1-3-3 series at Lakeside Pediatrics held steady with increases for Hep B and HIB and only slight declines for the other vaccines.

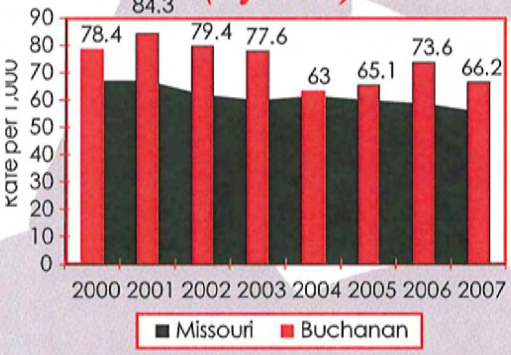
Low Birth Weight Babies



The percentage of low birth weight babies remained consistent from 2007 to 2008. The Buchanan County rate is significantly lower than the Missouri rate of 8.1.

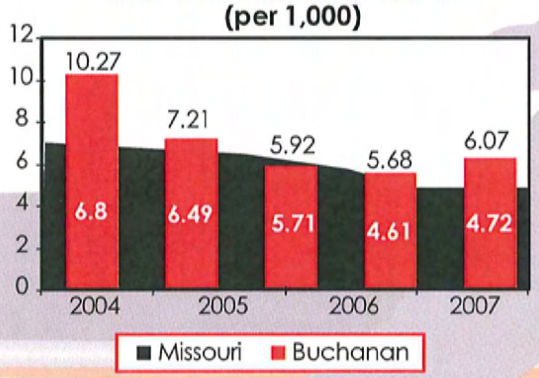
Other Benchmark & INDICATORS

Juvenile Law Violation Referrals (Age 10-17)

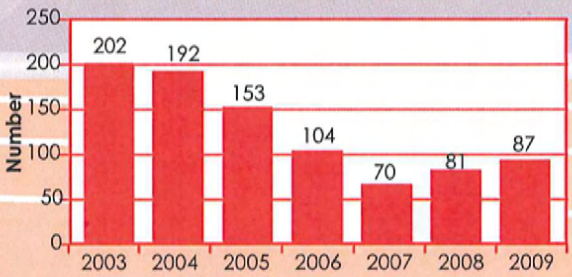


Juvenile law violations for 2007 have decreased since 2006, yet are still higher than the Missouri rate which declined to 55.6. Buchanan County experienced a 10.1% decrease in juvenile law violation referrals from 2006 to 2007.

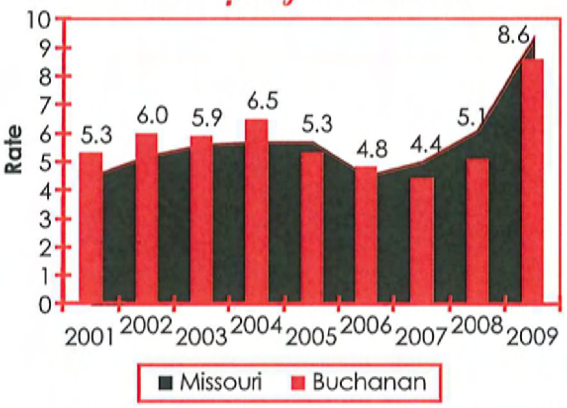
Child Abuse and Neglect Probable Cause Rate (per 1,000)



Children in Childrens Division Custody

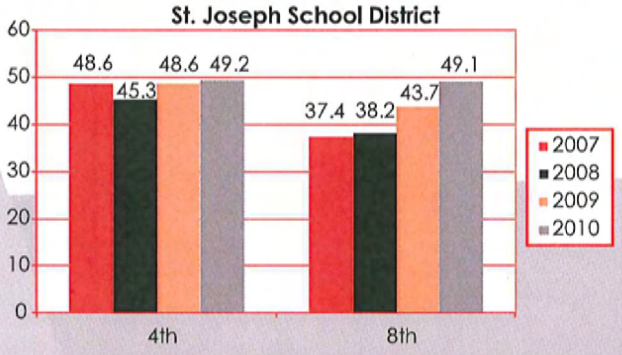


Unemployment Rate

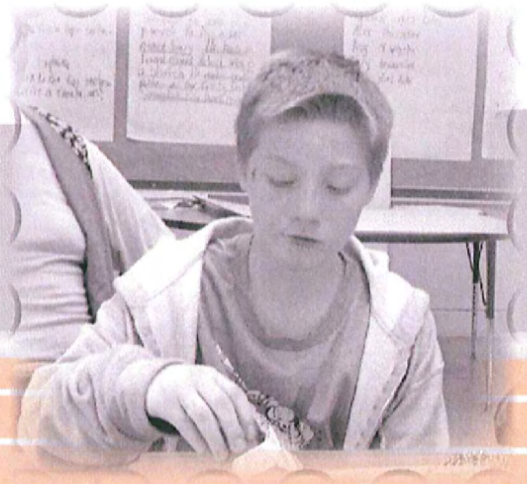


The annual average unemployment rate for Buchanan County was 8.6% for 2009, a 68.6% increase over the 2008 rate.

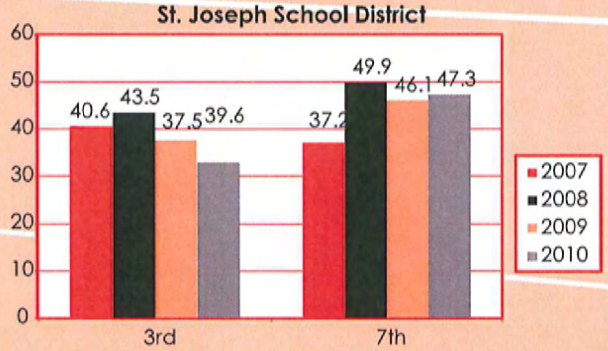
Students Testing Proficient or Advanced Mathematics



The graph above reflects the percentage of students testing "proficient or advanced" using the standard MAP test (conducted in 4th and 8th grades). As depicted in the graph, scores increased in the fourth grade by 1.2% and by 12.4% in the eighth grade. Of greater significance is that scores are being consistently maintained from fourth to eighth grade.



Students Testing Proficient or Advanced Communications Arts



The graph above reflects the percentage of students testing "proficient or advanced" using the standard MAP test (conducted in 3rd and 7th grades). The percentage of students testing proficient or advanced in Communication Arts increased by 5.6% for 3rd graders and by 2.6% for 7th graders.

SJYA Hall of Fame

The following individuals have been entered into the St. Joseph Youth Alliance Hall of Fame to recognize their generous cash contributions to programs and services that support the youth of our community.

Amy Ryan
Anita Jolly
Barb LaBass
Buchanan County Prosecutor's Office
Carla Sage
Chris Connally
Commerce Bank
Creal-Clark & Seifert
Cynthia O'Daniell
Denise Kiehnhoff, C.P.A.
Fran Brothers
Goodsearch
Harry Messick Charitable Trust
Heartland Foundation
Hofheimer Charitable Trust
Irene Walker
Jack Teegarden
Jerry Lau
Karen Turner
Kenney Trust
Kevin Brown
Kohl's
Lisa Wisdom-Strayer
Luna's
Martha Wakely
Melissa Koch
Messick Trust
Mike Hanneman
Nancy Hillebrand
Robin Hammond
Sam's Club
SAMSHA
Sandy Hamlin
St Joe Chairtable Fund Air Show
Susie Campbell
Susie Cook
Tilton Thomas & Morgan
Wireco

Coupons 4 Kidz

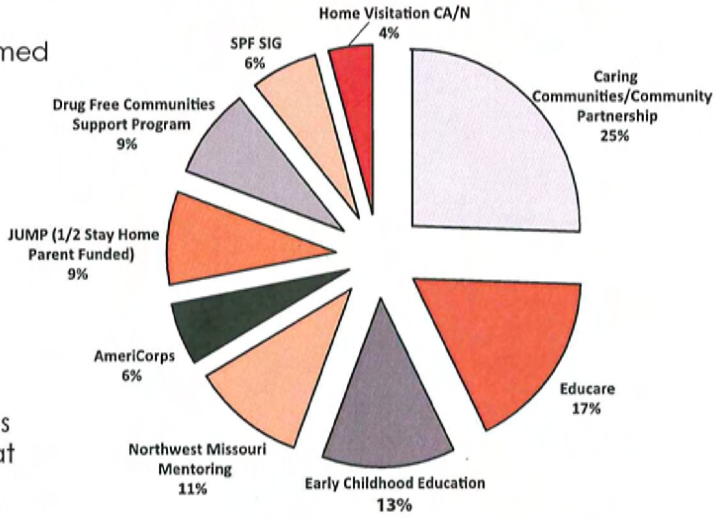
The Youth Alliance held its annual fundraiser, Coupons for Kids. Local businesses provided discounted coupons with profits from sales going toward Youth Alliance programs and services. Contributing businesses we wish to thank include:

- Belt Bowl
- Legends Sports Bar & Grill
- Breadeaux Pizza
- Pizza Shoppe
- Grand Slam Ice Cream
- The Printing Centre
- Cool Crest
- Cabana (South Belt)
- Papa Murphy's
- 36th Street Food & Drink
- Barbosa's Mexican Restaurant
- Todd's Tire Service
- Cookie Cakes
- Norty's Bar & Grill
- UPCO
- Mr. Goodcents Subs & Pastas
- Basil's Italian Café
- Beck Road Cleaners, Inc.
- Anderson Auto Group
- Crumbly Burger
- Subway
- Monroe's ATA Martial Arts
- Cabana (St. Joseph Ave.)
- Arby's
- Fun Tan
- Fredrick Inn

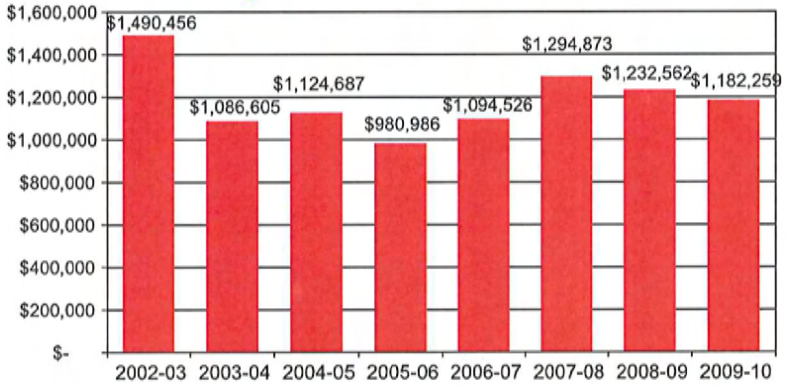
Resources

The St. Joseph Youth Alliance, which formed as a non-profit in 1994, has supported youth and their families by bringing in nearly $20 million in resources over the past 16 years to address crisis prevention, substance abuse prevention, early childhood development, youth mentoring and asset development. From fiscal year 2009 to 2010, our operating budget decreased by 2.6%, but quality programming and services continue through local investment. In fiscal year 2010, community contributions totaled 4,742 in volunteer hours valued at $95,980, with cash donations of $57,763, and merchandise sales of $6,082. In-kind donations grew by 1.4% over last fiscal year and totaled $132,032. Overall the Youth Alliance's total contributed resources are valued at $291,857, a 32.5% increase over fiscal year 2009.

St. Joseph Youth Alliance Investment Breakdown 2009-10



St. Joseph Youth Alliance Program Revenue 2009-10



On June 2, 2010, The Youth Alliance was thrilled to accept a check for $5,000 from the St. Joseph Development Corporation Air Show Charitable Fund. The Air Show was a great community event and it was wonderful that the Alliance was able to participate in and support the event.

In photo to left, pictured from left to right:
Bill Faulkner, Mayor; Ron Hook, County Commissioner; Ted Allison, President & CEO Chamber of Commerce; Robin Hammond, Executive Director; Sharon Ritchey, Youth Alliance Board President; Colonel Michael McEnulty, MO Air National Guard; Becky Boerkircher, St. Joseph Downtown Partnership Corporation.

St. Joseph Alliance Membership

ST. JOSEPH YOUTH ALLIANCE STAFF

Kneeling in front from left to right: Linda Midyett, Susie Cook, Anita Jolly, Gayle Babcock
Second row: Kelly Tudor, Rhonda Ewing, Christy Miller, Stefanie Linville, David Rich
Third row: Mayme Abbott, Irene Walker, Fran Brothers, Neva Carrel, Julie Wiedmer, Robin Hammond

ST. JOSEPH YOUTH ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

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

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Dan Brachman
Marianne Brachman
Deb Butterfield Ministries
Jason Callaway
Colin Cline
Peter Gregory
Ken Hamlin
Sandy Hamlin
Carla Sage
Stephen T. Holdenried, Sr.
Teresa Mier
Gary Miller
Rachel Richey
LaVell Rucker
Morgan Taylor
Jack Teegarden
Amanda Turner
Natalie Ward
Lela Warner
Ann Waggoner

AGENCY MEMBERSHIP

Albany Regional Center
American Red Cross
America's Second Harvest Food Bank
Buchanan County Academy
Buchanan County Juvenile Office
Buchanan County Prosecuting Attorney
Buchanan County Sheriff's Department
Catholic Charities
Circle of Hope
Community Action Partnership
Community Housing Ministries
Consumer Credit Counseling
Department of Social Services
First Lutheran Church
First Trust of Mid America
Girl Scouts of NE Kansas & NW Missouri
Heartland Foundation
Heartland Health System
Inter/Serv
MAK Consulting, LLC
Missouri Career Center
Missouri Dept. of Health & Senior Services
Mo-Kan Regional Council
MWSU - Public Safety
Northwest Health Services
Northwest Missouri Children's Advocacy Center
Noyes Home for Children
Parents as Teachers
Pony Express Boy Scout Council
Preferred Family Healthcare
Pregnancy Resource Center
Remax
Rolling Hills Consolidated Library
Salvation Army
St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce
St. Joseph City Council
St. Joseph Public Library
St. Joseph Safety and Health Council
St. Joseph School District
St. Joseph-Buchanan County Health Department
St. Joseph Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities
St. Joseph Police Department
Social Welfare Board
The Center
United Cerebral Palsy
United Way of Greater St. Joseph
University of Missouri Extension
Workforce Investment Board
YMCA
YWCA

YOUTH ALLIANCE©

Data Sources

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Family Connections primary data.

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Educare graphs generated from primary data.

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

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Average Age of First Use; Department of Mental Health, 2010 Missouri Combined Youth Survey.

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Frequency of Use in Past 30 Days; and Perception of Risk or Harm; Department of Mental Health, 2010 Missouri Combined Youth Survey.
Compliance Checks in Buchanan County; St. Joseph Police Department.

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

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Births to Teens; Missouri Kids Court 2009.

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Missouri Strategic Prevention Framework - State Incentive Grant, Community Level Evaluation Report, July 2010.

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30 Day Alcohol Use; Age of First Use of Alcohol; Binge Drinking-Past 30 Days; Missouri Department of Mental Health, 2010 Missouri Combined Youth Survey.

PAGE 16
Immunization Comparison; Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and Youth Health Partnership.
Low Birth Weight Babies; Missouri Kids Count, 2009.
Mental Health Admissions; Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

PAGE 17
Child Abuse and Neglect Probable Cause Rate; Department of Social Services, Missouri Children's Division FY 2008 Report.
Children in Children's Division Custody; Department of Social Services, Children's Division - Buchanan County.
Juvenile Law Violation Referrals; Missouri Kids Count 2009.

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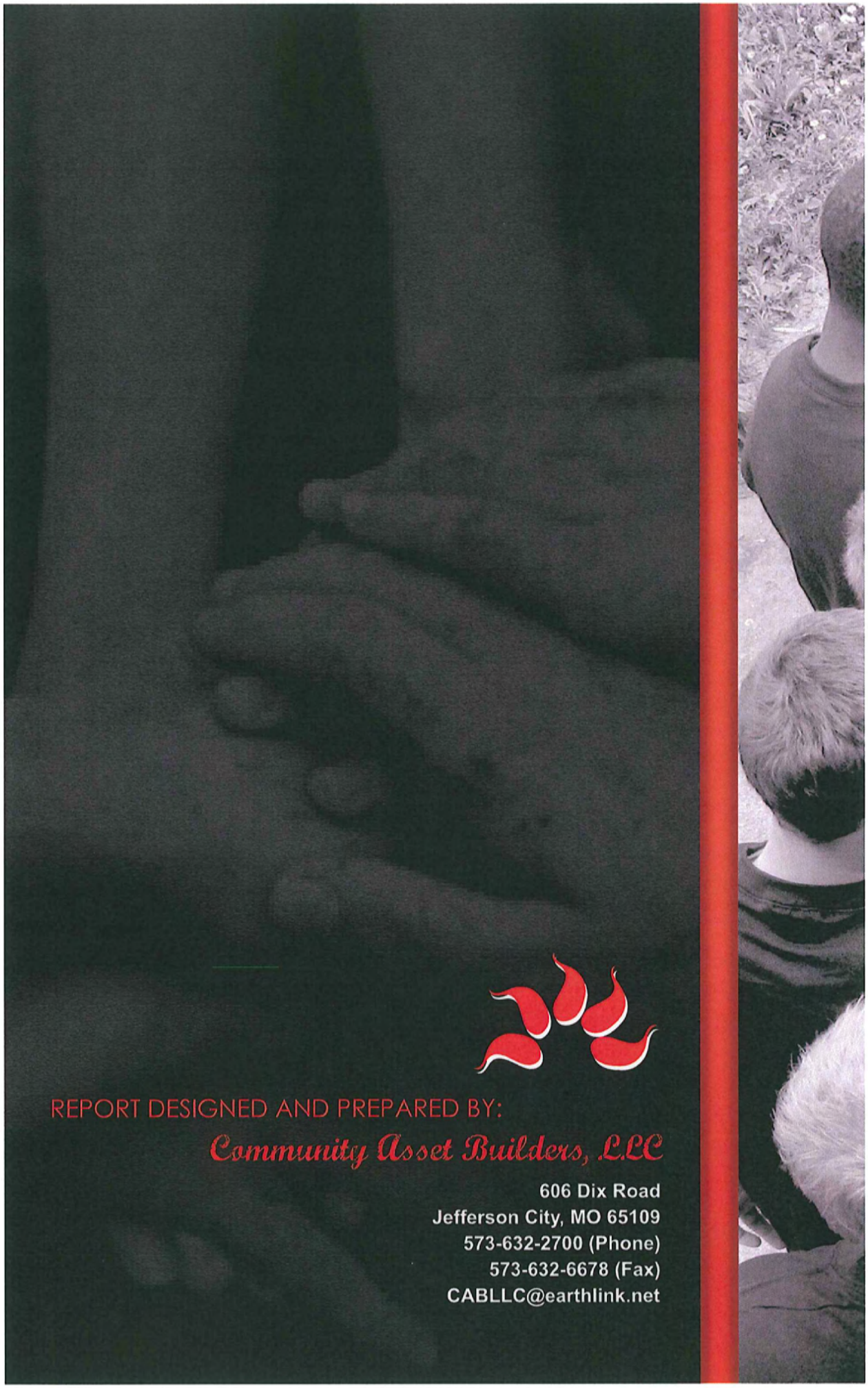
MAP scores; Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Unemployment Rate; Missouri Department of Labor.

PAGE 20
St. Joseph Youth Alliance Investment Breakdown; and St. Joseph Youth Alliance Program Revenue; St. Joseph Youth Alliance Revenue Matrix.



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