

**St. Joseph Youth Alliance
Annual Report
2013**



**YOU
ROCK**



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

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You Rock



Robin Hammond

Do what you can, where you are, with what you have.

— Teddy Roosevelt.

In today's lingo, we say: Rock what you got! And that's what we do. Through a cadre of volunteers (who rock) and a bevy of programs (which also rock) Youth Alliance is rockin' along.

This year marks the 22nd anniversary of serving the youth of our community through Youth Alliance. As with most endeavors in life, there have been ups and downs, joys and trials. But through them all, one solid fact remains — community leaders, business partners, volunteers and our members believe in the next generation.

Investments in the youth of our community help them build a rock-solid foundation that will enable them to achieve their goals in life and become healthy, happy and productive citizens. We are empowering them with tools to make good choices and sound decisions. Together, through a myriad of programs that benefit youth — from birth to life on their own — we are making a difference in the lives of children and families.

On the following pages, you will see our impact in five key areas: crisis prevention, early childhood education, youth mentoring, substance abuse prevention, and youth asset development. You will also see stars, people who have shared their time and experience to help our programs. These people rock. And so do our supporters. Thank you for helping us improve the lives of children and families — You Rock!

Susan Campbell Rocks!

Susan J. Campbell rocks for the Youth Alliance and for our community! She is passionate about her work and she routinely asks "how can I help?"

She founded her own company in 2005 and instilled a vested interest in philanthropy. The rigors of business are strenuous, but Susan finds time to share herself with others. Susan is a rock for many different organizations in our community, and she not only offers her time and talents, but she encourages others to shine.

A staple at the Royal Family Kids Camp, Susan organizes the meals, invites community groups to help cook and serve and encourages others to take part in this summer camp for children who have been abused or neglected.

Susie also serves on the board of Hillcrest Transitional Housing, the Missouri Western State University Craig School of Business Council, United Way marketing committee, Eastside Rotary, Youth Alliance resource development committee, and is heavily involved with the Mid-Buchanan Booster Club.

Susan is a bright star who shares her light and brightens the lives of others. She gives of her self to make her community a better place. She believes in youth of tomorrow and supports them whole-heartedly.

We thank you, Susan for your hard work and dedication to our youth. We thank you for always offering a hand to help your community. We thank you, Susan, for encouraging others through your actions and selfless service.

You are a gift to our community— and we think You Rock!



Crisis Prevention

Crisis prevention services that work to combat suicide and child abuse and neglect are some of the most critical services provided by the St. Joseph Youth Alliance.

The Alliance provides families and youth with support, resources, and hope for a better future through many avenues. Often, early intervention results in a better outcome; therefore, the Alliance serves as a resource to link families to appropriate and timely services and resources to help families avoid major crises.

Child Abuse Prevention

As a Children's Trust Fund license plate partner, the St. Joseph Community Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention drives awareness, education and prevention. The Coalition finds community-based solutions to fill service gaps and promotes projects to prevent abuse and neglect.

This year, the Coalition partnered with Heartland Health to promote the safe sleep initiative.

Circle of Parents

A parent-led support group that complements the Family Connections program, Circle of Parents offers an understanding environment where parents can share the joys and challenges of parenthood. Structured children's programs are provided while the parents attend the monthly meetings.



"There are many ways to calm a negative energy without suppressing or fighting it. You recognize it, and you invite something nicer to come up and replace it."

— Thich Nhat Hanh

JoEllen Abbott

JoEllen Abbott was a good teacher and a good friend to Youth Alliance as a whole, but specifically to Circle of Parents. She had a knack for knowing exactly how to deal with diversity and disorder while maintaining dignity and desire. She could calm the savage beast, or in the case of Circle of Parents meetings, the 20-30 infants and toddlers that accompanied their parents.

Miss JoEllen planned and implemented structured programs for the children while their parents attended support group meetings. JoEllen did the impossible — she calmed the chaos, creating an environment where children could participate, learn and have fun!

Sadly, JoEllen's life was cut short in a tragic car accident in November 2012. We miss her enthusiasm, her contributions to the children, and her smile.

1560

families reached with the
safe sleep initiative

229

Family Connections home visits
completed

46

families who attend training and
networking opportunities

Early Childhood Education

"A hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money I had in the bank ... but the world may be a better place because I made a difference in the life of a child."

— Forest Withcraft

Early childhood education 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 these issues are addressed, the Alliance offers individualized one-on-one technical assistance focusing on quality care. The Alliance also supports community efforts to identify ways to assess school readiness, collaborates with community agencies on early childhood initiatives and takes the lead in organizing the annual Greater St. Joseph Area Community Children's Fair.

The Alliance receives funding through the Missouri Department of Social Services to support quality early childhood programs in the following Missouri counties: Atchison, Andrew, Buchanan, Caldwell, Clinton, Daviess, Dekalb, Gentry, Holt, Nodaway, and Worth.

Educare

Educare provides free resources, technical assistance and training opportunities to child care providers who accept state subsidy. Educare works to improve the early learning experiences for low-income children from birth to five years-of-age. Since these children are not yet attending school, the goal for Educare is to help ensure children receive a solid foundation for school success and are ready to enter kindergarten.

Monthly on-site technical assistance visits are individualized to improve or enhance the quality of child care.

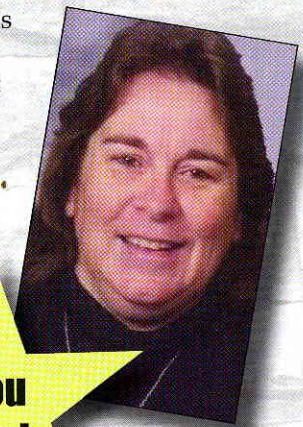
Children's Fair

The Greater St. Joseph Area Community Children's Fair is coordinated by the Alliance and is held every year at the St. Joseph Civic Arena. Children ages birth to 6 years old have the opportunity to enjoy over 30 activity areas designed around a particular theme. Morning, afternoon, and evening sessions are held to help accommodate family schedules. The activities for this event are planned by a community committee.

In 2013, 860 children and 685 adults attended Children's Fair. More than 200 volunteers helped with the event.

Community Partnership

We participate through committee involvement to support the United Way/Success by 6® early childhood initiatives. United Way also contracts with the Youth Alliance to provide technical assistance to their quality improvement projects.



**You
Rock**

Barb Michaels

Barbara Michaels has been a family child care provider for more than 18 years. She has dedicated her life to helping young children become productive and successful individuals.

She received her associates degree in Child Growth and Development in 2003, and graduated with honors. Her family child care has been accredited with the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC) since 2006. Barbara's home child care was the first, and currently the only, accredited family child care in St. Joseph.

She has chosen to make a difference by teaching and caring about young people as well as supporting families and other child care professionals.

961

number of children impacted

507

number of on-site visits

56

total number of childcare programs served

Youth Mentoring

Youth mentoring is about providing young people with positive role models in the community and the workplace. The Youth Alliance mentoring programs have core elements that provide young people with a sense of belonging, give them a sense the community cares about them, and supports them in identifying and capitalizing on their potential.

Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership

Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership develops employment skills in teens ages 14-23. Participants receive job preparatory classes including job search, creating a resume and cover letter, applying, interviewing and job retention. The program also offers on-the-job mentoring.



Angel Rowe

As a single parent, Angel excelled as an MMP participant and achieved her goals of attaining her high school diploma and engaging in unsubsidized employment. She is proof that hurdles arise in life, but with strength, determination, and a little guidance, you can succeed.

Journey to Unite Mentors and Parents

Journey to Unite Mentors and Parents (JUMP) connects pregnant and parenting teens with trained mentors who assist with parenting skills, academics and long-term goal setting. This program is a partnership program with Heartland Health and the YWCA.

Youth Employment

The WIA-Youth Employment program provides eligible youth, ages 14-21, with effective and comprehensive program activities. These activities are designed to enhance youth opportunities for obtaining and completing education along with training programs that will provide employment with job readiness skills and competencies for unsubsidized employment.

Youth are prepared for the modern workforce by utilizing a combination from ten elements: Tutoring and study skills training; Alternative secondary school offerings; Summer employment-linked to occupational and academic skills; paid and unpaid work experiences; occupational skills training; Leadership opportunities; supportive services; adult mentoring; follow-up services; and comprehensive guidance and counseling.

Youth should have a sense of belonging and to achieve academic success with positive, long-term employment experiences.

You
Rock



Tishanty Ewing

Tish enrolled in the Youth Employment program in December 2012. She completed a paid work experience and excelled in learning office management skills. These skills enabled her to seek out and secure full-time employment on her own. This single mother has worked hard to improve her skills and make a difference for her family.

146

number of youth served through
employment mentoring

83

number of participants in the
parent mentoring program

67

number of participants completing
job readiness classes

Substance Abuse Prevention

The Substance Abuse Prevention initiative empowers teens to live without the use of drugs or alcohol. Community programs are designed to reach thousands of teens with the message drug free is the way to be.

Drug Free Coalition

The Drug Free Community Coalition (DFC) provides community education, creates awareness on the dangers of substance abuse, and teaches adults how to model prevention.

Through passion, drive, and planning, the Coalition and its partners are making progress and systems change. Priorities have shifted from early interventions focused solely on community awareness and evidence-based programming, to inclusion of infrastructure changes that result in environmental change. Examples include new ordinances, implementation of routine compliance checks, establishment of fines and licensing fees that deter sales to minors, and improved enforcement of existing policies.

**You
Rock**

Jackie Spainhower

Jackie Spainhower is the Executive Director of the St. Joseph Safety and Health Council and has served in this position since 2010. During this time she has also been a valuable member of the Drug Free Community Coalition. The importance of healthy and safe youth is routinely demonstrated by Jackie in both her professional and personal passions and through her work on bicycle safety, substance abuse prevention, and distracted/impaired driving, just to name a few. Jackie is a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician and an active member of the Traffic Safety Coalition.



Youth Asset Development

In conjunction with substance abuse prevention efforts, Youth Alliance helps provide opportunities for teens to build positive values and serve their community. This powerful initiative creates future leaders and lowers teen risks for substance abuse. Our area's healthy communities' mindset has served to impact change. Creative partnerships help to improve the health and wellbeing of young people in our area.

Youth Action Coalition

Through affiliation with Youth Volunteer Corps, Youth Alliance works to provide organized volunteer service projects and opportunities for 11-18 year-old youth year-round. Youth Alliance partners with St. Joseph School District to offer YAC Attack!, a series of week-long service opportunities in the summer.

Trips for Kids

As an affiliate of the national organization, Trips for Kids (TFK) St. Joseph teaches youth about mountain biking and the benefits this activity provides for health and wellness. TFK-St. Joseph is a partner program with Live Well St. Joe.

**You
Rock**

Ellen Woodbury

As our van driver, Ellen was a true blessing to Youth Alliance and to the 4-week YAC Attack! Summer Program! Her level of flexibility, interest, and commitment was amazing! She started early to pick up those youth who didn't have transportation, took us to our service site, took us to lunch, picked us up when we were done, and took kids home at the end of the day. She even stayed at our volunteer sites to help if we needed an extra set of hands. We think Ellen rocks!



314

alcohol compliance inspections

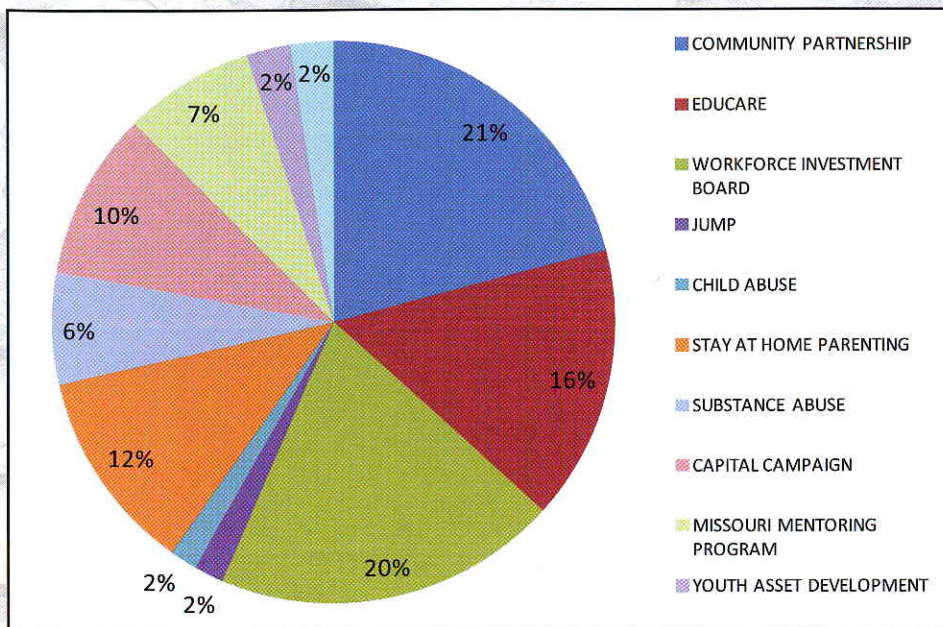
86%

businesses passing alcohol
compliance inspections

1728.5

youth volunteer hours

Resources



The St. Joseph Youth Alliance, which formed as a non-profit in 1994, has supported youth and their families by bringing in \$23 million in resources over the past 22 years to address crisis prevention, substance abuse prevention, early childhood development, youth mentoring and youth asset development. From fiscal year 2012 to 2013, the operating budget decreased by 19%, due in part to legislation which affected early childhood education funding. In fiscal year 2013, community contributions totaled more than 1,369 volunteer hours valued at \$27,317, with cash donations of \$83,914. In-kind donations totaled \$45,791. Overall, the Youth Alliance's total contributed resources are valued at \$157,024.

In Memory of Susie Cook Accounting & HR Director, 2001-2012



*A precious one from us has gone.
A voice we love is still.
A place is vacant in our hearts
which no one else can fill.
After our lonely heartaches
and our silent tears,
we will always have beautiful memories
of the one we loved so dear.
The battle is fought, the victory won.
Servant of God, well done!*

Funding through Youth Alliance helps area children and youth live safe, healthy and productive lives. The following lists includes our donors, business partners and members. With sincere appreciation, we thank the following:

2013 Fiscal Year Donors

Altec
American Family Charities, Inc.
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LaPetite Academy
LaVerna Village
Lawhon Glass
Legal Aid of Western MO
Lily Hill
Lino's Original Pizza
Lowe's
Luna's Fine Dining
MAHEC
McAlister's Deli
MERIL
Moila Food Service

N.W. Audio
North Village Cinema (JF)
Northwest Health Services
Oakridge of Plattsburg
Olive Garden
O'Reilly Auto Parts
Orscheln Farm and Home
Peace of Mind Home Care
Pizza Shoppe, Savannah
Pizza Shoppe, St. Joseph
Plattsburg Country Club
Rolling Hills Library
Saxton Woods
Shatto Milk Company
Specialty Industries
Sports Page
St Paul Lutheran Childcare
St. Joe Harley Davidson (JF)
St. Joseph Electronics
St. Joseph Parks and Recreation
St. Joseph School District
Subway-Gower, MO
Taco Bell
The Three Amigos Mexican Restaurant
Tip Top Tux
United Methodist Church
Valvoline Express Care
Westlake Hardware
YMCA

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Buchanan County Juvenile Office
Buchanan County Prosecuting Attorney
Buchanan County Sheriff's Dept.
Community Alliance of St. Joseph
Department of Social Services -
"Children's Division"
Family Guidance Center
First Lutheran Church
First Trust of Mid America
Girl Scouts of NE Kansas & NW Missouri
Heartland Foundation
Heartland Health System
Heritage Investments (Hinde & Company)
Inter/Serv
Parkway Christian Church
Missouri Career Center
Mo-Kan Regional Council
MWSU - Police Department
Northwest Health Services
Northwest Missouri Children's
Advocacy Center
Noyes Home for Children
Parents as Teachers
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Remax
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Social Welfare Board
Susan J. Campbell Copywriting Solutions, LLC
The Center
United Cerebral Palsy
United Way of Greater St. Joseph
University of Missouri Extension
Workforce Investment Board
YMCA
YWCA



The staff of the St. Joseph Youth Alliance is dedicated to the youth of the community. Pictured, from left, (seated) Robin Hammond, Rhonda Ewing, Kelly Tudor, Leslie Stone, Patti Long, (middle row) Melissa Weekly, Cindy McWhorter, Mayme Abbott, Anita Jolly, Judy Jacobs, Julie Wiedmer, Darrell Meadows, Selena Good, David Rich, (back) Kassie Collins, Linda Midyett, Gayle Babcock.

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