Welcome / Introductions

Kasten Award

Horizon Award

Community Partnership Award

Vote
Council Board Members
President-Elect

Installation of President & President-Elect

The Year in Review

Next Meeting
Friday, May 21, 2010 at 7:30 AM
Kasten Community Development Center
937 Broadway, Suite 102
Cape Girardeau, Missouri
The KASTEN AWARD is the highest honor given to any council member. It is named for former Missouri State Representative Mary Kasten who founded the Community Caring Council. This award is given to an individual who exemplifies the strength and commitment to the community as stated in the Caring Council's goals and ideals, and whose work is recognized as a "building block" of support for the council through active membership or extensive work on council sponsored activities.

Past Recipients Include:
1993  Barb Stribling
1994  Jim Davis
1995  Lori Hayden
1996  Shelba Branscum
1997  Charlotte Craig
1998  Tonya Fambr
1999  Paul Schniedermeyer
2000  Frances Gould
2001  Mary Gosche
2002  Jo Boyer
2003  Kevin Sexton
2004  Shirley Ramsey
2005  Ellie Knight, Aging Committee
2006  Tom Davisson, Kay Azuma
2007  Jeff Brune, Cape Transit Authority
2008  Denise Lincoln
2009  Dr. Janet Ruopp & Dr. Patrick Ruopp
The HORIZON AWARD is given each year to an individual or a group who has given extraordinary service to the council in a specific area, whether it be committee work, a special project or as a volunteer to support a council committee, event or activity.

Past Recipients Include:

1993  Jerry Wilmath
1994  Ted Fedler
1995  None Awarded
1996  Jim Watkins
1997  Beth Schmucker
1998  Jim Maginel
1999  Leah Shrum
2000  Denis Rigdon
2001  Kevin Sexton
2002  Joyce Holekamp
2003  Nancy Jernigan
2004  Kay Azuma
2005  Stacy Taylor
2006  Roy Jones, Natalie Sandoval
2007  THRIVE Youth Development Committee
2008  Department of Social Work, College of Health & Human Services, Southeast Missouri State University
2009  Linda Garner
The Council

Board of Directors

FOUNDER
Mary C. Kasten

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tom Davisson

COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Syd Egan, Childcare Resource & Referral

BOARD MEMBERS
Chair: Michael Parker, Southeast Missouri State University
Treasurer: Nancy Jernigan, United Way of Southeast Missouri
Secretary: Janice Jones, Success by 6
Steve Unterreiner, Retired
Ruth Dockins, SEMO Area Agency on Aging
Sister Theresa Davey, St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Cheryl Klueppel, American Red Cross
Jeff Brune, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
Gladys Mosley, Neighborhood Representative
Donna Taake, 4-H, University of Missouri Extension
Luke Landgraf, Thongate Ltd.
Frances Gould, Missouri Children's Division

Mission & Purpose
The mission of the Community Caring Council is to support communities in developing and providing a continuum of resources to help empower individuals and families meet life's challenges.

The purpose of the organization is to promote coordination and collaboration between all community groups in order to empower individuals and families to become more self-reliant, responsible and resourceful.

Monthly Meetings
(Networking / Featured Speaker)
3rd Friday of every month
7:30-8:30 AM
Kasten Community Development Center
937 Broadway, Suite 102 (Lower Level)
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
Funding Sources

Cape Girardeau County Senior Citizens’ Services Fund Board – Senior Unmet Needs

Cardinals Care Grant – Oral Health

Children’s Trust Fund – Missouri Mentoring Partnership

DYS Community Mentors Grant

HUD – Permanent Supportive Housing Program

Local Fundraising/Donations

Missouri Department of Corrections – Community Reentry Grant

Missouri Department of Social Services
  • Community Partnership
  • Missouri Mentoring Partnership

Missouri Family Support Division – HB 1519 (Edincare)

Missouri Foundation for Health – Health in Non-Traditional Settings (HINTS)

Missouri Housing Trust Fund
  • Rental Deposit Assistance
  • Senior Home Repair

The P&G Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation – Missouri Mentoring Partnership

Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) Stimulus Grant

United Way of Southeast Missouri
  • Community Case Management
  • Early Childhood Assistance
  • Health Assistance
  • Successful Parenting
  • THRIVE Initiative
  • Transportation

WalMart Community Grant

Zonta Club – Missouri Mentoring Partnership
Community Partnerships are good stewards of state dollars

Partnerships Impact Locally
Partnerships Stretch State Dollars

Total Community Partnerships Funding = $27,243,474

FY2008-2009 Sources of Funding for the Cape Girardeau Community Partnership

Local Investment: $251,039
In-Kind Donations: $286,609
Other State & Federal Funding: $98,313
Flexible Funding: $162,806
Participant Fees: $10,838
FY08-09 In-Kind Donations
TOTAL $162,806

- BUSINESS - FOR PROFIT: $28,051
- BUSINESS - NOT FOR PROFIT: $37,412
- CHURCHES/FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS: $3,750
- FOUNDATION/PHILANTHROPIC: $3,572
- FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: $21,442
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: $7,979
- STATE GOVERNMENT: $1,375
- INDIVIDUAL: $856
- LOCAL CBO/CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS: $3,775
- SCHOOL DISTRICTS/EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS: $56,604
From the Director

To All Community Partners:

As we look back over the past year, we have seen many, many challenges and many positive outcomes. As we anticipated, there has been a steady increase of people coming through our doors for assistance with housing, utilities, food, and other needs. Fortunately we have been blessed with resources that enable us to provide some sort of assistance to most who are in need.

We have been in collaboration with the County Commission to administer some federal stimulus dollars designated to prevent homelessness and to re-house people. The Community Case Manager’s report will give you more specifics on the impact of this initiative.

We continue to partner with the United Way of Southeast Missouri in a variety of ways, including being as part of the Education Solutions Team, which is developing strategies designed to positively impact the graduation rate for Cape Girardeau Public Schools.

We have recently entered into a contractual agreement with the Missouri Division of Youth Services to take over the administration of their Community Mentoring Program. This initiative links community-based mentors with youth in DYS custody at local Day Treatment Centers, and allows them to learn about and access community resources, and to bring that knowledge to their families. These youth and their families have been historically isolated in the community. We have assigned this project to our Asset Coordinator, because that initiative is ready-made for youth like these. This project will continue to develop and increase over the next few months. The goal is to provide a stable environment for the youth to return to, which in turn will reduce the odds of them re-offending.

We remain wary about budget issues, especially in our contractual arrangement with the State of Missouri. The Missouri Mentoring Partnerships may not survive in the FY11 budget currently being crafted by the state legislature. Community Partnership dollars have remained intact thus far, with a very slight decrease. The real challenges will be for the 2011-2012 year, when federal stimulus dollars will supposedly run out, and the state will face a billion dollar shortfall in revenue. It remains to be seen what the total impact of that will be, but certainly social services, health care, and education will be prime targets for cuts.

We always have done more with less. We will be challenged in the coming months to increase those skills and improve our relationships with local resources. We appreciate our very collaborative community.

Tom Davisson,
Executive Director
Community Coordinator

Statement of Purpose
The purpose of this position is to manage and facilitate the implementation of the Priority Issue Councils and Committees in order to address the goals and objectives of the Community Plan.

Additionally, the implementation and/or oversight for several Council programs and grants is the Community Coordinator's responsibility.

Program Activities
Maintained and sustained Priority Issue Committees under the Community Plan. Assisted with strategy implementation as needed.

Tracked and reported progress of Community Plan goals, objectives and strategies.

Managed the use of the Kasten Community Development Center.

Represented Community Caring Council on several community committees, advisory boards, etc.

Led planning and implementation of Community Caring Council's Annual Conference.

Supervised one VISTA volunteer for Missouri Reentry Process and four Social Work interns for macro-practice experience.

Coordinated activities and fiscal tasks for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

Co-produced three monthly calendars - Family Fun and Learning Activities, Successful Parenting and Senior Activities Calendar.

Oversaw and Implemented Community Reentry Grant, HINTS Health Events and Building Strong Families parent curriculum.

Completed and submitted relevant grant requests.

Program Outcomes
Ten Priority Issue Committees remain active committees addressing priority issues through the implementation of Community Plan strategies, annual evaluation of progress and ongoing revisions of the community plans. See individual reports for each priority issue for more information.

Kasten Community Development Center provides 2 meeting rooms which are available to the community for meetings and trainings. During the past year year, the Center was used for 272 meetings, an increase of 14% from the previous year. Of the total usage, 153 (56%) were for Council meetings and events and 119 (44%) were for community meetings/events.

Participated as a member with Campus and Community Coalition for Change, Cape County Transit Advisory Board, Domestic Violence Community Response Task Force, Family Transition Team, Jackson Chamber of Commerce/Non-Profit Alliance, Missouri Children's Division Family Support Teams and Continuous Quality Improvement, Parents As Teachers Advisory Board, Teen Pregnancy Responsibility Network, United Way of Southeast Missouri (Success by 6, Education Solutions Team and Community Impact Committee), WIB Youth Advisory Board and Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Board of Directors.

The 21st Annual CCC Conference, "Community and Schools Together...A Model for Change" was held on March 19, 2010. Over 120 participants attended and evaluations were very favorable.

Through a Community Reentry Grant, a Reentry Opportunity Center was opened in Jun 2009 to offer employment resources to offenders. One Vista member continues to address the needs and issues of returning ex-offenders. See the Missouri Reentry Program report for more information.

Collaborating Partners
Approximately 225 representatives from 175 community organizations and agencies serve as members of our Priority Issue Councils and Committees (some duplication across committee rosters).

Barriers
Connecting with those in our community who are unaware of available resources

Increased needs, decreased funding

Noteworthy
The Community Plan Progress!

The number of collaborating partners that participate in our various committees!

The outstanding reputation that CCC has in the community for addressing the needs of clients in such a way to empower clients to become self-reliant, responsible and resourceful!
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2010

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Cape County Transit continues to be the main provider of public transportation in Cape Girardeau County – 114,658 riders during Jan-Dec 2009 in 37 vehicles.

Fixed Route Bus System has 4 buses operating within the Cape Girardeau city limits (route expanded in early 2010).

- One-way rates: $1.50 for general public; $.75 for seniors, disabled, and students
- Monthly rates: $35 for general public, $17.50 for seniors, disabled, and students

Fixed Route Bus System operates from 6a-6p Mon-Fri and 9a-6p Sat. There is a bus available at each bus stop every 30 minutes during hours of operation.

Taxi Demand Response transportation is available 24/7. Curb to curb demand response is always available. One-way rates vary from $5.00 – 15.00 depending on mileage.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
SEMO State University provides campus transportation to River Campus. General public is not excluded.

Complementary Para-Transit Service Plan provides transportation services to eligible persons who live within 3/4 mile of the bus route and are unable to access the fixed route due to a disability or health-related condition.

Cape County Transit has been an official Greyhound Depot since Oct 2008. The bus stops here 4 times daily (7 days of the week) heading to St. Louis or Memphis. Tickets can be purchased at the business office from 8am – 4:30pm Mon-Fri.

Cape County Transit has initiated a Transit Sponsorship Program for local business and organizations wishing to advertise on the transit vehicles. Funds generated will primarily be used to replace aging vehicles and to purchase additional vehicles.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
SEMO Alliance of Disability Independence continues its transportation services for their clients and has removed all transportation fees. Donations are accepted.

BARRIERS
Increased fuel costs

Hesitancy and/or lack of awareness among general public to use public transportation
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2010

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Medical Care: Mental Health

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Paul Schniedermeyer
Ryan Essex

MEETINGS HELD 7
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 11

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Bootheel Counseling Center, Cape County Tax Board, Cape County Health Department, Cape Public Schools, Community Counseling Center, Cross Trails Medical Center, Gibson Recovery Center, Jackson Public Schools, MO Children's Division, MO Division of Youth Services, MO Family Support Division, MO Department of Mental Health, New Vision Counseling, Safe House for Women, SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, SEMO Area Agency on Aging, Sikeston Regional Office, Southeast Missouri Hospital, Southeast Missouri State University, Southeast Missourian Jr., Tender Hearts

FUNDING SOURCES
None at this time

NOTEWORTHY
The Mental Health Coalition is gaining community visibility through participation at well-attended community events (Parks & Rec Day, Back to School Fair, SEMO District Fair).

The Mental Health Coalition was invited to be part of the United Way's Education Solutions Team as they recognized that mental health issues are a factor in Cape School District's high drop-out rate.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
1500 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Resource Cards were distributed and are available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org

Three subcommittees have been active:
- All levels of care - drafted an outline for "Local Alternative Services" to address needs of adolescents as an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization. Next steps include sharing information with local providers and key stakeholders to finalize plan, develop a budget and identify possible funding sources.
- Mental health issues for seniors - exploring telephone reassurance, keeping active and Wellness Wizards for daily/weekly reminders (re: medicines, appointments, etc.)

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Community Caring Council and Mental Health Coalition are helping the university's Social Work Department to sponsor and promote a Non-Violent Communication Workshop in Apr 2010.

Presentation on Mental Health Services/Issues of students in Cape Public Schools was made to United Way's Education Solutions Team in Oct 2009.

Planning is underway to implement these suggestions:
- Host a meeting with providers and school administrators/staff to discuss resources, referrals, communication, etc.
- Develop a list of resources for school staff and parents.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Since Nov 2009, Cross Trails Medical Center has provided mental health services to clients who do not have a medical provider at Cross Trails.

SE Missourian Jr. featured an article on "Bullying" in SE Parent Magazine in Fall 2009 issue.

Safe House for Women offers a weekly group on Wednesdays for any female with mental health issues. Individual counseling is available for victims of domestic abuse.

BARRIERS
Funding and commitment from area providers to move forward with "Local Alternative Services" plan

Reaching those who need services, but are unaware of available resources

Submitted by: Kay Azuma
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2010

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Training for oral health screenings and fluoride varnish applications was provided online at www.mohealthysmiles.org to 35 dental professionals and volunteers.

“If You Are Pregnant” brochures were available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org and for distribution.

The second edition of our Oral Health Coalition Brochure was published in Mar 2010.

Oral Health Education: Cape Area Family Resource Center Afterschool Program (15 youth)

Dental Screenings in Cape County/Scott City served 23 schools in 9 school districts – 3831 youth and 20 preschools – 438 youth. 441 youth needed early dental treatment, 148 youth needed urgent treatment

Fluoride Varnish Applications were provided to 2289 school-aged youth and 428 preschool-aged youth.

Dental Treatment Scholarship Program was formalized and publicized among school nurses and participating dental providers.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Oral Health Displays: Grand Family Conference, MO Mentoring Partnership Health Fair, School Nurses’ Fair, Riverside Regional Library, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Jackson Health Fair, Cape Schools Resource Fair, Educare

7 youth and 1 adult were assisted with securing a dental appointment and were provided financial assistance.

2 adults are presently being assisted with grant requests to Midwest Special Needs Trust.

Part time position for Oral Health Coordinator was supported by Community Caring Council and MO Foundation for Health. All dental supplies were provided by MO Oral Health Preventive Services Program.

A Bull Drop fundraiser held in Apr 2009 yielded $1400 for treatment of youth in Cape and Bollinger Counties and Scott City. Proceeds from Cross Trails Medical Center Little Smiles Run were donated to the scholarship fund as well as other local donations.

The 1st Annual Sensational Smiles event was hosted by the Coalition in Mar 2010 to recognize all who helped with dental screenings/fluoride varnish applications. A silent auction was held to raise money for the Dental Treatment Scholarship fund.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Drs. Janet and Patrick Ruopp received the Council's Mary Kasten Award in Apr 2009 for years of providing dental screenings to Cape Public Schools students.

Dental Hygienist Donna Lichtenegger received the Jackson Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Award in May 2009 for her work with dental screenings and fluoride varnishing.

BARRIERS
Tracking of youth needing urgent treatment – did they receive treatment?

To increase the number of youth screened, additional dental providers and trained volunteers will be needed.
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2010

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Medical Care: Primary Care

COMMUNITY PLAN CO-CHAIRS
Judy Aslin
Angela Selzer

MEETINGS HELD 8
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 7

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
MEMBERS: AWL Clinic, Cape Area Family Resource Center, Cape County Public Health Center, Cross Trails Medical Center, Southeast Missouri Hospital Wellness Connection, Southeast Missouri State University Department of Nursing

PRESENTERS: AWL Clinic, Cape County Health Center, Cross Trails Medical Center, Red Star Baptist Church Food Pantry, Regional Poison Center, Southeast Missouri Hospital, Southeast Missouri State University Department of Nursing

FUNDING SOURCES
Community Caring Council, Missouri Foundation for Health

NOTEWORTHY
MO Foundation for Health grant provided 53 health and screening events that served almost 1000 participants from Dec 2007 through Feb 2010.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
"Finding Your Medical Home" – 1500 cards were distributed.
"Health Resource Card" was revised in Aug 2009 – 1500 were distributed; also available at www.communitycaringcouncil.org

Health Events for adults and youth were held at Family Resource Center through MO Foundation for Health HINTS grant:
- Apr – Oral Health Screenings and Education – 10 adults and 17 youth
- May – Fun with Wii – 8 adults and 22 youth; Asthma & Allergies – 10 adults
- Jun – Blood Pressure Checks – 22 adults
- Jul – Skin Cancer – 4 adults
- Aug – Shingles vs Herpes – 11 adults
- Sep – Influenza & You – 16 adults
- Oct – Cholesterol Screenings – 14 adults
- Dec – Blood Pressure Checks – 5 adults
- Jan – Poison Control – 5 adults and 19 youth
- Feb – Blood Pressure Checks – 8 adults
- Mar – Smoking Cessation/Secondhand Smoke – 0 adults

66 seasonal flu shots were provided to Cape County residents through MO Foundation for Health grant funds at outreach clinics sponsored by Cape County Public Health Center in fall 2009.

Starting in May 2009, grant money was used to purchase local produce to supplement the Food Pantry at Red Star Baptist Church. Over 5000 participants received local food products from May 2009 – Jan 2010. Approximately 150 individuals took advantage of the health education and screenings offered by Cape County Health Center.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Discussion of future strategies for community impact is focusing on obesity.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Cape County Public Health Center reached 44% (12,000 students) of Cape County youth with H1N1 flu vaccine. They visited 33 of 34 schools.

"March Into Heart Health", a 10-week Walking Program sponsored by AARP and other partners, started in Mar 2010 and has been very well-attended thus far.

BARRIERS
Overall attendance at our Health Events at Cape Area Family Resource Center has decreased.

Additional agency participation is needed for Coalition to move forward.

Decline in health insurance coverage and increase in health care costs is a challenge to patients and providers.

Healthcare reform is confusing and unclear.
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2010

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Alcohol & Drug Abuse: Adult & Youth

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Steve Narrow

YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION CHAIR
James Maginel

MEETINGS HELD 6
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 26

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Bethel Assembly of God, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Cape County Health Department, Cape Bible Chapel, Cape Police Department, Drug Court, Cape Schools, Family Counseling Center, Gibson Recovery Center, Girl Scouts of MO Heartland, Jackson Schools, KFVS TV, LJFE, Mid America Teen Challenge, MO Division of Youth Services, MO Mentoring Partnership, New Vision Counseling, Perry County Community Task Force, Rhodes 101, Safe Communities, SE Missouri Jr., SE Regional Support Center, SEMO State University, THRIVE, United Way of SEMO and interested individuals

FUNDING SOURCES
Community Caring Council, MO Department of Mental Health – SPF SIG Grant and Mini-Grant, Cardinals Care Grant, SAMHSA Town Hall Meeting Stipend, local donations and fundraising

NOTEWORTHY
SPF SIG Funding for Year 4 (final year) from Oct 2009 – Sept 2010 is $74,303.

A Drug-Free Communities grant was submitted in Mar 2010.

An active Coalition Board with 9 members is in place.

Coalition meeting attendance has exceeded our expectations this year.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
1500 copies of Alcohol & Drug Abuse/Mental Health Resource Card were distributed; also available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org

Student Advisory Groups (with 40 Developmental Asset focus) at Jackson Jr. High and High Schools and Cape Central Jr. High School promoted assets on each school campus and provided input on peer behaviors (31 students).

40 youth at 2 events enjoyed Dance Dance Revolution at alcohol-free parties. Cardinals Care Grant provided Rock Band Guitar Hero equipment which is also available for check-out.

Successful implementation of Years 3/4 of the Strategic Prevention Framework/State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) through MO Dept. of Mental Health addressed alcohol consumption of 12-25 year olds in Cape County, Perry County and Scott City.

Coalition’s media campaign is ongoing. Community events included Messy Morning, Back to School Fair and SEMO District Fair. Radio and television ads, billboards, shopping bags with logo, and a website www.mychildourfuture.org are ongoing.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Coalition revised their brochure with Kathy Sweeney (KFVS12 News Anchor) and her daughter as our featured spokespersons. Over 1000 brochures have been distributed.

A plan is in place to conduct a youth survey by mid-June to determine access points for alcohol and other substances.

An “I Respond” software system was purchased with Cardinals Care funding. This allows us to survey groups electronically through the use of mini responders. Immediate tallying of responses gives feedback to the audience and the presenters.

Subcommittee structure has been revitalized with 4 working groups: Advocacy, Faith-Based/Youth Groups, Resources/Fundraising and Community Outreach. Each group is developing a written plan of action.

Three adults and six Jackson youth attended the Speak Hard Event in Jefferson City in Mar 2010 through SPF SIG funding.

Three Town Hall meetings were held – two in Jackson and one in Cape to address local substance issues and solutions.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Scott City Women’s Club is using our Coalition as a model for their community’s approach to youth substance use and positive youth behavior.

Coalition honored Rhodes 101/PAJC0 with a certificate of recognition for their significant success in reducing youth access to alcohol in Cape Girardeau and Perry Counties.

BARRIERS
Future funding and leadership

Need for paid employee(s)
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2010

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Family Issues: Housing

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Roy Jones

MEETINGS HELD 12

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 17

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
4-Sight Counseling, American Red Cross, Cape County Public Health Center, City of Cape Girardeau, Community Counseling Center, East MO Action Agency, Family Counseling Center, Gibson Recovery Center, Habitat for Humanity, Leader One Mortgage, Love INC, Lutheran Family & Children’s Services, Mending Hearts, MO Department of Mental Health, New Frontier Mortgage, Oxford House, RCH Management INC, Safe House for Women, Salvation Army, Scott City Ministerial Alliance, SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, SEMO Area Agency on Aging, SEMO State University, Shelter of Hope, United Way of SEMO, USDA Rural Development

FUNDING SOURCES
Community Caring Council, US Housing and Urban Development, MO Housing Trust Fund, Federal Stimulus Funds, Area churches and individuals

NOTEWORTHY
Increased funding from MO Housing Trust Fund for rental deposit assistance will provide $64,000 in 2010.

Love INC is exploring funding possibilities for a transitional housing unit for the city of Cape Girardeau.

Gibson Recovery Center is the new owner of Vision House and units are being remodeled for occupancy in 2010.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
HUD Supportive Housing Grant continued to serve approximately 27 clients annually. A second grant was awarded to Family Counseling Center, providing housing to an additional 16 clients.

Housing Resource Cards: 700 distributed; also available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org

MO Housing Trust Fund grant served over 161 families (404 individuals) with Rental Deposit Assistance.

Homeless Awareness Week was observed in Nov 2009 with a display at Cape West Cine.

RAISE MO – Room at the Inn Southeast Missouri – provided transitional housing for less than 10 individuals at two churches. The program did lead to financial assistance from churches to provide short hotel stays for homeless persons.

Habitat again met its goal of constructing 3 to 5 houses per year in the Cape area. In their outreach efforts, houses have been completed in Perryville and Sikeston, and a house is in progress in Marble Hill.

A Landlord Workshop in Apr 2009 provided information/education on various housing issues to 90 participants.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Cape Girardeau City Council is still discussing the possibility of housing inspections of rental properties.

4-Sight Counseling provided foreclosure assistance to 100 households and prevented 93 foreclosures in 2009.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program – grant awarded to City of Cape and 4-Sight Counseling for the purchase, rehab and resale (at 85% value to persons with low/moderate income) of five houses in the Red Star area of town. One house has been purchased and rehab will start shortly.

Community Caring Council received Federal Stimulus Money (Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing) in Dec 2009 and provided assistance for 58 households.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Mending Hearts received a Community Reentry Grant to assist with housing needs of ex-offenders.

Schultz Senior Apartments (RCH Development, INC) opened for occupancy in Dec 2009. Site offers 21 one-bedroom apartments and 24 two-bedroom apartments.

Chaplain Terry Wildman has secured a location to open Shelter of Hope, an emergency shelter for men. Limited off-site housing is available for women/children.

Oxford House continues to house single men and women (2 sites) who are recovering from an addiction.

BARRIERS
Progress has been made in emergency and transitional housing resources, but a significant need remains.

Increase in rental cost and decrease in the number of rental units presents a challenge to persons seeking affordable housing.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

4/1/10
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2010

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Senior Calendar printed monthly, 200 copies distributed at 11 locations; also available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org

Senior Resource Card updated and printed courtesy of Cape County Senior Tax Board, 2000 copies distributed throughout Cape Girardeau County.

Monthly Aging Committee meetings held for networking and presentations: AARP Resources & Benefits, Healthcare Reform, Influenza Update, Medicare Prescription Plans, MO Safe Program, Recruiting Volunteers, Crown Hospice, Joint Replacement, Community Plan Update

Durable medical equipment (Wellness Wizards, shower chairs, shower benches, safety bars, etc.) valued at $1500 was provided to 17 individuals.

Several educational and social opportunities were provided for Seniors:
- Senior Information Day – Jul 2009 – 65 participants, 21 agencies provided information
- Grand Family Conference – Oct 2009 – 40 participants, 13 agencies provided information
- Christmas Tour of Lights – Dec 2009 – 307 in attendance

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Aging Committee’s Annual Retreat was held in August 2009 with 20 in attendance. Outcomes were reviewed and meeting presentations planned. The breakfast was hosted by Saint Francis Medical Center Regional Arthritis Center.

The Senior Needs Assessment mailed out Older Adult Surveys and Caregiver Surveys to Cape County residents 55 and older in Nov 2009 and again in Mar 2009. Results are still being tallied.

Community Caring Council received a grant ($1700) from Cape County Senior Tax Board to provide financial assistance for unmet needs for persons 60 and over residing in Cape Girardeau County.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Schultz Senior Apartments (RCH Development, INC), located at 101 S. Pacific Street in Cape were opened for occupancy in Dec 2009. Site offers 21 one-bedroom apartments and 24 two-bedroom apartments.

Jackson Senior Center is planning to expand its facility and services.

Christmas for the Elderly has been ongoing for 25 years. Sponsored by SE Missourian newspaper, Cape Jaycees, Cape County Health Department and MO Division of Senior Services, funds raised are used to purchase Christmas gifts for seniors in need.

BARRIERS
Complexity of Medicare presents challenges to the elderly.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2010

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Family Fun and Learning Activities calendar – 800 copies printed and distributed to 30 Parenting Corners monthly; also emailed to 85 individuals monthly and posted on SEMO Case Managers List Serv for 50 members.

Successful Parenting training calendars – 150 copies printed and distributed to 30 Parenting Corners monthly; also emailed to 85 individuals monthly and posted on SEMO Case Managers List Serv for 50 members.

Community Resources Card – 1500 (English version) and 700 (Spanish version) were distributed.

Monthly Calendars and all resource cards are available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org

Building Strong Families – 2 5-week sessions implemented: 33 adults and 26 youth (youth curriculum offered); 1 4-week session implemented: 17 adults and 21 youth (ages 0-5, no youth curriculum); 1 5-week session for childcare providers implemented: 20 providers participated.

Family Wellness – 2 6-week sessions implemented: 22 adults participated.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Building Strong Families trained facilitators have been implementing parent and youth sessions throughout the year at no additional cost to the program.

Two issues of Family Connect newsletter were published and mailed to 50 former participants of our parenting sessions.

Lutheran Family and Children’s Services continues to offer a monthly Parent Support Group.

Plans are underway to improve our Parenting Corners to be more appealing and more relevant in content.

MO Children’s Division asked our Committee to join with them to enhance their annual Foster Parent Conference. Plans are underway for the first annual “We Care About YOUTH” conference to be held on May 21 and 22, 2010. Two key note speakers and 10 break-out sessions are being planned. General public, foster parents and child care providers are welcome.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
United Way of Southeast Missouri – Born Learning monthly events and Tiny Toes weekly events for parents/caregivers and youth, ages 0-6 are facilitated by Success by 6.

A support group for Parents of Children with Mood Disorders meets at Good Shepherd Lutheran Chapel Youth Room on the 2nd Sunday of every month.

BARRIERS
Consistency of attendance among some participants during the 4-5 week sessions is lacking.

Parenting Corners in Cape and Jackson communities need to be revamped.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2010

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Family Issues: Self-Sufficiency

COMMUNITY PLAN CO-CHAIRS
John McGowan
Eva Hillis
Denise Wimp

MEETINGS HELD 9

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 8

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Clearpoint Financial Solutions, East MO Action Agency Head Start, First Call for Help, Jackson Ministerial Alliance, Love INC, McDonald's, MERS GoodWill, MO Family Support Division, Salvation Army, SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, SEMO State University, St. Vincent de Paul Church, United Way of SEMO

FUNDING SOURCES
Community Caring Council, East MO Action Agency, United Way of Southeast Missouri, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul Church

NOTEWORTHY
Quarterly Case Manager meetings are very well-attended with an average attendance of 22.

Group is looking at current Community Plan and discussing future goals, objectives and strategies in order to increase community impact.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Quarterly Case Managers' Meetings were implemented:
- May 6—MERS GoodWill – programs and services – 28 attended
- Aug 12—SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence – programs and services – 24 attended
- Nov 4—Effective Use of VITA Sites – 18 attended
- Feb 3—Non-Violent Communication – 20 attended

List Serv – SEMO Casemanagers continued with 50 members (11% increase) and 142 messages posted (30% decrease). A total of 560 messages have been posted since June 2006.

Weatherization kits are still available through United Way of Southeast Missouri.

A VITA site was obtained by United Way of Southeast Missouri. Over 64 returns were filed at NARS, Cape Area Family Resource Center and United Way office.

Earned Income Tax Credit among taxpayers was promoted as a means of increasing household income.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
United Way of SEMO will be convening an Income Solutions Team in the next year to address financial stability at the community level.

Love INC offered budgeting classes along with 1:1 mentoring.

Collaborative program (EMAA, CCC, UW, Sal Army, St. Vincent’s) continues to help households with utility bills less than $750. Participants must attend a training session, receive weatherization materials and an energy evaluation, and accept case management in order to receive $100 toward their utility bill. Only one participant to date has accessed the services.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Free tax preparation was available at multiple locations in Cape and Jackson areas.

For information on community resources and services, call First Call for Help or go to www.firstcallforhelpsemo.org.

BARRIERS
Identification of individuals/families wanting to work toward financial stability

Promotion and funding of Individual Development Accounts

Easy availability of pay day loans

Recruitment of volunteers to work at VITA sites

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

4/1/10
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2010

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Family Issues: Youth Development

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIRS
Evelyn Beussink (2009)
Jessica Belanger
Kristen Foltz-Schlegel

ASSET COORDINATOR
Stacy Taylor

MEETINGS HELD 5

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 12

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Big Brothers Big Sisters, Cape Chamber of Commerce, Cape County 4-H, Cape Public Library, Cape Schools, Child Care Resource & Referral, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Jackson Schools, LIFE Initiative, Lutheran Family & Children's Services, Girl Scouts of Missouri Heartland, Missouri Mentoring Partnership, Southeast Missouri Hospital – Building Blocks, Southeast Regional Support Center, St. Vincent de Paul School, United Way of Southeast Missouri, Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

FUNDING SOURCES
Community Caring Council, United Way of Southeast MO, Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant to Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Cape Public Schools, Jackson Public Schools, St. Vincent de Paul School, Hardee's

NOTEWORTHY
St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Cape is implementing the Asset Building Champions (ABC) Reading Program in grades K-6 for the 2009-2010 school year.

THRIVE Initiative was honored by Hardee's 2009 "Making It Happen" Tour in Aug 2009. The celebration included a cash award in the amount of $400. A THRIVE student member recommended our initiative to Hardee's.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Two free asset training sessions and five group presentations were held that reached 160 people.

THRIVE has active student advisory groups at Cape Central Jr. High (11 students), Jackson High (10 students), and Jackson Jr. High (10 students). Groups meet at least once monthly.

The THRIVE website remains current at www.capecountythrive.org

Monthly articles have been appearing in the SE Missourian Jr. which reaches more than 2000 students in the Cape area.

A monthly e-newsletter – "Activating Assets" - is sent to 220 community members.

The 3rd Annual THRIVE Celebration was held at Osage Centre in May 2009. Over 200 family members attended. Our 3rd Annual Asset Awards recognized a Jackson Jr. High student, Cape Jr. High parent, Trinity Lutheran teacher, Boys & Girls Club youth leader and a youth group from Alma Schrader School.

Asset Coordinator and THRIVE member facilitated four Change of Heart sessions for 140 people (youth and adults) at Central Middle School, St. Vincent de Paul School – 7th graders & 8th graders, and Cape Public Library (community members).

Asset information was provided at six community events.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Jackson Jr. High THRIVE facilitated "Compliment Day" in Apr 2009. Each student received (via mail to their homes) a hand-written note complimenting them on a personal accomplishment.

Jackson's Student Advisory Group members held a Garage Sale in May 2009 and Bingo Night in Mar 2010 and raised $2000 to attend the 2010 Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Conference in Houston, TX.

Three adults and six Jackson THRIVE students attended the Speak Hard Conference in Jefferson City in Mar 2010.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
The support of the SE Missourian Jr. to publish monthly asset columns has had a tremendous community impact.

The City of Cape provides the use of Osage Community Centre for the annual Asset Celebration.

The Jackson THRIVE students collected 180 pairs of jeans for Aeropostale's program to aid the homeless.

Asset Coordinator is very active at the community level: United Way's Education Solutions Team, Cape Chamber Education Committee Chair, Parent and Community Education Committee Chair, and Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition member.

BARRIERS
Additional funding sources are needed in order for the THRIVE Initiative to continue growing.

Asset promotion and participation among school partners is lacking.

New community members are needed to serve on the THRIVE committee.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

4/1/10
Statement of Purpose
The purpose of the Asset Coordinator is to educate the community on the 40 Developmental Asset framework and to coordinate the activities of the student advisory committees in our local schools.

Program Activities
Provided asset information and educational opportunities for various sectors in the community.
Facilitated student advisory committee meetings at Central Junior High, Jackson Junior High, and Jackson High School.
Facilitated a Change of Heart session for select 6th grade students at Central Middle School as well as the 7th grade and 8th grade at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School.
Collaborated start up of Asset Building Champions (ABC) parent reading program at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School for elementary classrooms.
Facilitated fundraising efforts for JJHS and JHS THRIVE students and sponsors to attend the Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Conference in Houston.
Facilitated JJHS and JHS THRIVE students and sponsors attending the Speak Hard Conference in Jefferson City.

Program Outcomes
Asset Coordinator and initiative members have provided 2 free asset training sessions (Everyone’s An Asset Builder and Hardwired to Connect) and asset presentations for five groups. It is estimated that 160 people received asset information during these events.
Asset Coordinator facilitated 4 sessions of Change of Heart. It is estimated that 140 people received this training.
Worked with members of student advisory committees and school sponsors at CJHS (11 students), JJHS (10 students) and JHS (10 students) to infuse assets into the school environments and improve the school climates.
Asset Coordinator and the THRIVE students and sponsors from Jackson have raised over $2,000 to attend the HCHY Conference in November 2010.
Three adults and 6 THRIVE youth attended the Speak Hard Conference in Jefferson City.
THRIVE continues to be a regular feature in the Southeast Missouri Jr, which reaches more than 2000 students in Cape Girardeau County, and has begun distributing a monthly e-newsletter called Activating Assets to roughly 220 people.

Collaborating Partners
Big Brothers Big Sisters, Cape Area Family Resource Center, Cape Chamber of Commerce, Cape County 4-H, Cape Police Department, Cape Public Library, Cape Schools, Child Care Resource and Referral, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Jackson Schools, LIFE, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Girl Scouts of Missouri Heartland, Missouri Mentoring Partnership, Southeast Missouri Hospital- Building Blocks, SE Regional Support Center, United Way of Southeast Missouri, and youth and adult members of the community.

Community Involvement
Education Solutions Team, Chair of the Jr High and Middle School Sub-Committee
Cape Chamber Education Committee, Chair
Parent and Community Education Committee, Chair
Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Member

Barriers
Sustained funding for future growth
School cooperation

Noteworthy
THRIVE was honored on the Hardee's Making It Happen Tour and received a $400 gift from Hardee's.
Oral Health Program

Statement of Purpose
The Oral Health Program implements dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications to aid in the prevention of caries for preschool and school-aged children in collaboration with the Missouri Oral Health Program through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Dorothy Gholson, Oral Health Coordinator, provides coordination of these services for Cape Girardeau County and Scott City youth (preschool through high school) and offers limited financial assistance for urgent dental needs.

Program Activities
Online training for dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications was available.

8 dentists, 12 hygienists, 22 assistants, and 22 parent volunteers implemented dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications. All materials were provided at no charge through the Missouri Oral Health Program.

Upon request, oral health displays and educational presentations on oral health are provided. A formal presentation is ready to present to community groups. Scholarship awards for youth in need of dental treatment are available.

A new Oral Health Coalition brochure is now available.

Program Outcomes
20 dental professionals and 22 staff members provided dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications:

- 23 schools - 3831 students screened; 2289 students received fluoride varnish; 1961 received the 2nd varnish.
- 20 preschools - 438 children (2-5 year olds) screened; 428 children received fluoride varnish; 49 children received the 2nd varnish.

Of those youth screened:
- 441 youth needed early dental treatment
- 148 youth needed immediate (urgent) dental treatment

Collaborating Partners
Missouri Oral Health Program, Drs. Janet & Pat Ruopp & staff, Dr. Terry Spence & staff, Dr. Danna Cotner & staff, Dr. Nathan McGuire & staff, Dr. Garrett Sparks & staff, Dr. Patty Merkley & Cross Trails Dental Center staff, Dr. John Sauer & staff, Dr. Ross Bennett & staff.

Community Hygienist Volunteers: Cindy Heischmidt,

Bev Whitmore, Amanda Judkins, Carla Darnell, Molly McBride, Donna Lichtenegger, Pam Brown

Community Volunteers: Nick Barna, Jenny Barna, Tanya Coomer, Tori Welch, Kathy Schloss, Bridgett Compass, Kelly Sweet, Kathy Childers, Candy Diebold, April Ponder, Laura Masterson, Kim Scheffer, Wendy Rieger, Christina Oswald, Julie Janzow, Christina Daugherty, Barbara Gibbs, Linda Davis, Kim Rhodes, Kerri Urhahn, Randy Gholson, Laura Brown, Sharee McAlister

Schools: Cape Girardeau, Jackson, Oak Ridge, Delta, Nell Holcomb, Scott City, St. Mary's, Immaculate Conception, St. Paul Lutheran

Daycares/Preschools: A Small World (Cape & Jackson), A Step At A Time, Angels Aware, Big Stuff, Cape Girardeau Montessori School, Watch Me Grow, Curious Kids, Christian School for the Young Years, Head Start, Just Kids (Cape & Jackson(2)), Kids Korner, Upza Daisy, University Child Enrichment Center, Nars, Centenary Parents Day Out, Oak Ridge Early Learning Center, KidZone, Little Hoppers

Barriers
The H1N1 flu eliminated several school sites during fall semester due to excessive student absences.

Noteworthy
Two fundraisers to benefit oral health treatment services for youth in Cape Girardeau County, Bollinger County, and Scott City were held in Apr 2009 and Mar 2010.

Cross Trails Medical Center donated the proceeds from their Little Smiles Fun Run/Walk to help fund treatment scholarships.

The cooperation and collaboration from local dental providers and community volunteers has been very impressive.
Community Case Management

Statement of Purpose
The purpose of the Community Case Manager is to create a collaborative relationship through assessment and evaluation that will help meet the clients’ needs. The Community Case Manager will also help the client exercise his or her choices by establishing goals and solutions while providing a sense of empowerment through identifying strengths.

Program Activities
Received referrals from First Call for Help, other service providers, and self-referrals.
Completed assessment on each individual/family to identify strengths, resources being utilized and needs.
Implemented Rapid Re-Housing and Homelessness Prevention (HPRP) through assessments and case management.
Assisted clients in applying for MO Housing Trust Fund Deposit Assistance.
Chair of Family Transition Team.

Program Outcomes
373 referrals/phone calls/walk-ins assisted from April 2009 to April 2010.
18 referrals for long term case management were received from First Call for Help.
All referrals were assessed and plan of action developed or referral made to appropriate agency.
Long-term case management was provided to approximately 30 families.

Collaborating Partners
First Call for Help, United Way of Southeast Missouri, Missouri Children’s Division, Missouri Mentoring Partnership, Cape Public Schools, Cross Trails Medical Center, Building Blocks, Salvation Army and other service providers

Barriers
Limited resources for individuals and families
Community Housing Assistance

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FY2010
By Roy Jones & Natalie Sandoval

Statement of Purpose
The Council's Housing Assistance Program strives to help residents of Cape Girardeau County and Scott City to have housing that is decent, safe, fair, energy efficient, affordable and accessible.

Program Activities
There is a monthly meeting of the Housing Needs Committee that shares housing information and supports efforts to improve housing in the Cape area. Discussions always include updates from HUD Supportive Housing grants, Missouri Housing Trust Fund (MHTF) grant and member agencies.

"RAISE MO" (Room At the Inn Southeast Missouri) housed less than 10 individuals at two churches in 2009. People seemed to fear the unknown and shied away from the shelter that was being offered. The program did result in financial support from several churches to house people in need at local hotels for a few nights.

The HUD grant continues to provide supportive housing with a housing case manager and a coordinator.

The MHTF grant provided $49,500 in 2009 to assist with deposits and senior housing repairs for those who qualify.

Federal Stimulus Funds (Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing) were received in Dec 2009 to assist families and individuals facing homelessness.

Program Outcomes
The MHTF grant served over 161 family units consisting of more than 404 individuals. Nearly all of these were served in the first five months of the grant year.

The HUD grant provided housing and case management for a maximum of 27 family units or individuals. Over the course of the fifth operating year, our agency has continued to serve participants from all of the special needs categories. Our program has become a truly permanent housing program. By helping our clients gain residential stability, we have been able to retain 44% of our clients for over four years. Clients are assisted in gaining more financial stability by filing for disability and connecting to vocational rehabilitation programs for employment and other mainstream benefits. Currently, 76% of all program participants have increased their income since they entered the Permanent Supportive Housing Program which has allowed them to contribute towards their rent, allowing them to feel a sense of responsibility over their lives.

Federal Stimulus Funds assisted 58 households since Dec 2009.

The Housing Needs Committee revised its Community Plan in Mar 2010 to reflect changes in objectives and strategies for 2010 - 2012.

Collaborating Partners
The MHTF grant has provided deposit assistance for our new HUD clients. The agencies serving the various disabilities of HUD clients have provided additional case management as well as recommendations for future clients when space is available. The Housing Case Manager continues to build a network of strong working relationships with various agencies to help clients sustain and enhance their well being.

The Housing Needs Committee is composed of over 40 individuals from various community agencies.

Church members continue to build ramps and provide home repairs for the elderly. Love INC has convened church teams to help with this project. MHTF grant has provided the material costs and a few professional expenses.

Chaplain Terry Wildman is working diligently to involve the Cape community in his efforts to open Shelter of Hope, an emergency shelter for men.

Working relationships with approximately 106 landlords help us to serve our clients more efficiently.

Barriers
While there has been some progress toward the willingness of community members to serve the needs of the homeless during the past year, some resistance to emergency shelters and/or transitional housing units remains.

HUD's inability to be flexible regarding increased fair market rental values has limited our ability to serve more homeless disabled individuals and families.

All of our housing efforts need increased funding to meet the increased need for housing assistance.

Noteworthy
A second HUD Supportive Housing Grant for homeless and disabled persons was awarded to Family Counseling Center for 2009-2011. The grant provides permanent housing for up to 16 adult women.

Shelter of Hope, an emergency shelter for men, is slated to open later this year thanks to the efforts of Chaplain Terry Wildman.
Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP)

Statement of Purpose
The purpose of the HPRP is to provide homelessness prevention assistance to households who would otherwise become homelessness—many due to current economic crisis—and to provide assistance to rapidly re-house persons who are experiencing homelessness.

Program Activities
The funds under this program can provide the following:
- Short-term rental assistance
- Medium-term rental assistance
- Security and utility deposits
- Utility payments
- Hotel/motel placement
- Case management

Program Outcomes
Since December 2009, HPRP has contributed to the following:
- 24 households were assisted under homelessness prevention
- 34 households were assisted under homelessness assistance
- 21 households were assisted with hotel/motel vouchers (please note that these numbers could be duplicated under homelessness prevention and assistance)

Collaborating Partners
Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, Town House Inn, Shelter of Hope, Gibson Recovery Center, Family Counseling Center, Safe House for Women, Community Counseling Center, Lutheran Family and Children Services, First Call for Help, Missouri Re-Entry Process

Barriers
Limited funding can only assist individuals for a short amount of time. Future of funding is uncertain as this program was under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Noteworthy
A single dad of two children was referred from 4-Sight Counseling due to a possible risk of homelessness. The single dad was recently divorced and left with a hefty house payment and minimal income. The house was foreclosed and left the family with no options.

Through the assistance of HPRP, the family was able to move into a home that was more affordable. HPRP funds paid for deposit and first month’s rent which has allowed the family to get back on their feet financially and off to a better start.
Statement of Purpose
The MMP assists in preparing youth for personal success in employment, education, healthy lifestyles and self-sufficiency through mentored support.

Program Activities
The MMP provides initial parenting skills education that covers pregnancy through the toddler years and includes information on maintaining healthy lifestyles and managing a home. Monthly group events are held in Cape Girardeau and Marble Hill. Additional small group activities are offered each month. Youth Specialists conduct quarterly Individual Service Plans with each participant. During this time participants set goals and develop strategies for achieving these goals.

A new employment program offers job skills training for participating moms and dads, assistance finding employment and employment mentoring.

Program Outcomes
From April 1, 2009 to April 1, 2010:
31 registered moms have received services.
• 20 of them have had a mentor.
• 4 additional moms completed parenting classes held at the Cape Alternative School.
• 1 additional mom attended program activities as a guest.

63% of currently participating moms are matched with a mentor.

10 dads have received parenting services.
• 5 dads who meet the age requirements have completed parenting classes.
• 1 dad who meets the age requirements frequently attends meetings, but has yet to complete parenting classes.

3 male volunteers have participated in group mentoring activities.

2 parents experienced repeat pregnancies, for a repeat pregnancy rate of less than 7% (state and national averages are more than 20%).

2 participants received employment assistance.

95% of current participants are either enrolled in school, working or participating in an approved program for stay-at-home parents. 47% of participants are meeting two of these goals and an additional 26% are working on all three life goals.

Collaborating Partners
Referrals: past and present mentors and participants; Building Blocks; DSS; WIC; Cape Public Schools.

Key donors (money or in-kind) and volunteers: Zonta; Anthem Blue Cross; Children’s Trust Fund (In Cape County MMP is now the official CTF License Plate sponsor); Marble Hill United Methodist Church; Bollinger County Library; Evangelical United Church of Christ; Red Star Baptist Church; Hutchinson Funeral Chapel.

Since July 1, 2008, 10 mentors have logged 180 volunteer hours with 13 participants.

Barriers
Our primary barrier is the uncertainty of our state contract, which makes up about 80 percent of our budget. Since our program provides long-term support, this has made recruitment a challenge.

Access to affordable, reliable child care is a barrier to parents seeking to achieve educational and employment goals. Through the help of Child Care Resource and Referral and private contacts, the MMP continues to work with daycare providers to address this issue.

Adequate transportation hinders parents abilities to travel to daycare, school, work and doctor visits. Cape County Transit does offer some options, but parents who live in rural parts of Cape Girardeau and Bollinger Counties still struggle to find rides.

Housing is a concern, as parents struggle to find an affordable, safe place to live that provides adequate room for their families and is close to school or work.

The MMP strives to raise public perception of the role of the dad in order to increase positive interactions between dads and their children.

Noteworthy
Three participants are continuing their education in college.

At 19, an MMP mom is one of the youngest applicants ever to be selected for a Habitat for Humanity house.

Two former participants are currently giving back to the program as active mentors.
Educare

Statement of Purpose
Cape Girardeau Educare programs are an early childhood initiative of the Missouri Department of Social Services. Educare’s focus is school readiness & this is achieved through programming for child care providers & parents. Cape Educare has the following six grants: Educare, Stay At Home Parents (3 grants), Start Up & Expansion, & Accreditation Facilitation. The counties served are Cape, Scott, Perry, Bollinger, Stoddard & Mississippi.

Program Activities
Educare offers a variety of training & technical assistance to child care providers in our service area. This includes Start Up & Expansion assistance for those wishing to care for infants & toddlers in a home or center setting. Accreditation Facilitation provides technical assistance & materials to help meet the requirements of accreditation or reaccreditation. The staff education component of accreditation can be met by completing the Child Development Associate (CDA) class offered each year at Educare. CDA renewal classes are also offered throughout the year. Educare provides training & technical assistance to providers receiving subsidized childcare through Division of Social Services. This would include unlicensed registered vendors, licensed providers & licensed exempt programs. Monthly training seminars are offered throughout the year in the counties served. Educare also offers once a year Emotional Beginnings Curriculum class. This curriculum focuses on working with infants & toddlers.

Educare has both the noncompetitive Stay At Home Parent grant (Cape), and two competitive Stay At Home Parent grants (Bollinger/Perry, Scott/Mississippi). These grants are called the P.E.P. programs and serve families with children birth up to age three. In P.E.P., families receive home visits, group meetings & toy incentives. Families network with each other, and referrals are made as needed to other agencies. Families must meet income guidelines to participate in P.E.P.

In collaboration with Cape Public Schools, Parents As Teachers (P.A.T.) is offered for families residing in the Cape school district. Educare also has a Resource Room that contains books, videos, toys, & other materials for child care providers & parents to check out.

Program Outcomes
The following are outcomes for FY10 (the first two quarters):
Five providers have received services from Start Up & Expansion, with three of these providers expanding the number of subsidized slots available for infants & toddlers.

Five providers have received services from Accreditation Facilitation, with one home care provider achieving Missouri Reaccreditation.

There are 27 child care providers in Educare’s CDA class, 12 providers attending Emotional Beginnings Curriculum class (CEUs being offered also).

Educare has served 61 early childhood programs, and offered 13 early childhood training seminars.

Educare staff has conducted 64 P.A.T. visits.

132 families have participated in the P.E.P./Stay At Home Parent programs.

Collaborating Partners
Cape Educare is a partnership of Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau Public Schools, and the Community Caring Council.
Family Transition Team

Statement of Purpose
The Family Transition Team is an interagency staffing team that communicates through e-mail and meetings to process cases of individuals and families in need of financial assistance.

Program Activities
Staffing of referrals for unmet needs of individuals and families
Annual Garage Sale
Solicitation of donations to maintain adequate supplies in the Community Closet
Continuation of resource education
Ongoing search for funding to assist populations that have unmet needs

Program Outcomes
Raised approximately $1000 at Garage Sale Fundraiser in May 2009.
Solicited $6172 in donations in 12 months to provide 370 individuals and families with household items from the Community Closet.
Family Transition Team members attend Case Management workshops and other informational meetings to stay aware of resources.
Grants were submitted for transportation assistance, childcare assistance and senior assistance in Cape Girardeau County.
127 referrals were received and processed from April 2009 to April 2010.

Collaborating Partners
Cape County Senior Citizens' Fund Board, Cape Girardeau Public Schools, Parents as Teachers, Cross Trails Medical Center, Educare, First Call for Help, Jim Watkins, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Missouri Children's Divison, Missouri Mentoring Partnership, Safe House for Women, Sikeston Regional Office, Southeast Missouri Hospital Building Blocks, Southeast Missouri State University, United Way of Southeast Missouri, Success By 6

Barriers
Limited resources for individuals and families

Noteworthy
A young single mother with 4 children delivered a baby with serious health issues and was forced to relocate temporarily with newborn to St. Louis hospital. Other children were left behind with relatives so they could attend school and carry on with their day to day lives. While mom was in St. Louis with baby, the bills were racking up here in Cape. Mom was able to pay rent and send money for food and for other needs but was not able to pay the utility bill in full. The FTT was able to contribute $100 to prevent disconnect. The mother and child have since returned to the home.
Missouri Reentry Program

Statement of Purpose
The Missouri Reentry Process provides guidance to offenders in breaking down barriers through the coordination of community reentry efforts.

Program Activities
Maintained Local Steering Team to guide the direction of the Missouri Reentry Process in Cape Girardeau County.
Planned and implemented Life Skills Focus Group sessions.
Assisted offenders with unmet needs.
A $25,000 grant request was received from Missouri Department of Corrections and a "Reentry Opportunity Center" opened in June 2009. Parttime staff and volunteers helped to assist clientele.
A local book drive donated over 100 books to the Story Link Project at Vandalia Women's Prison.

Program Outcomes
Local Steering Team with 34 members met quarterly. Co-chairs attended Regional SMART meetings in SE Missouri. Subcommittees (Employment, Life Skills and Mentoring) also met quarterly.
Life Skills Focus Groups provided 49 sessions and served 80 clients. The Reentry Opportunity Center assisted 104 clients during 238 visits with employment related needs.
Resource information and Focus Group materials were provided to offenders. Referrals were made to the Offender Assistance Program and other agencies for requested needs of clients.
Through the Offender Assistance Program, 151 clients were helped (46 referrals for financial needs, 108 bus passes and point to point service).
306 referrals were received from Probation and Parole (state and federal) and other agencies, as well as walk-ins. A total of 2596 client contacts was documented.
Of the 306 referrals, presently: 101 (30%) clients are known employed; 11 (3%) have entered school, 13 (4%) have been reincarcerated; 1 (.3%) is disabled; 2 (.6%) have moved out of the area. The remainder either continues ongoing participation, participated in a limited capacity or has not participated.
Employer list currently contains 83 employers who are willing to hire ex-offenders.
A $500 grant from East Missouri Action Agency was awarded to Vista Randy Huffman to provide pocket dictionaries to ex-offenders.

Collaborating Partners
Adult Basic Learning Center, AmeriCorps*Vista, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Cape Career and Technology Center, Cape County Public Health Center, Cape Chamber of Commerce, Cape Police Department, Cape Public Library, Cape County Transit Authority, City of Cape Girardeau, Community Counseling Center, Division of Workforce Development, DW Tool, East MO Action Agency, Family Counseling Center, First Call for Help, Gibson Center, Love INC, Mending Hearts, MERS Good Will, Missouri County Health Department, MO Career Center, MO Department of Labor, MO Family Support Division, MO Probation and Parole, Private Corrections, Quality Packaging, RSVP/VIC, Salvation Army, SE Correctional Center, SEMO State University, US Probation and Parole, Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce Investment Board

Barriers
Lack of community awareness about the challenges ex-offenders face as they reenter society.
Hesitancy of the legal system to fully enforce participation of ex-offenders in Life Skills Focus Groups and Reentry Opportunity Center programs.
Hesitancy of employers to hire ex-offenders. Though changing, more can be done through employer education and ex-offender preparedness.
Lack of ex-offenders' desire to change and willingness to accept help. Motivation and sense of urgency are key in their success rates.

Noteworthy
Vista Reentry Specialist, Randy Huffman participated in KFVS12 interview on "Reentry: Segment dealt with barriers to employment and overcoming those barriers.
Life Skills Focus Groups are being hosted by Division of Workforce Development and participants are given the opportunity to use the Career Center.
Referrals for Computer Literacy classes are made to Cape Public Library and Abby Road Christian Church Computer Lab for ex-offenders needing to further computer skills.
Life Skills Focus Group classes on "Time Management" and "Money Management" were added to build knowledge and skills. A class on the Reentry Opportunity Center (ROC) was also created to familiarize clients with available resources and volunteer opportunities.
Monthly reentry presentations to new clients at Probation and Parole are facilitated by Vista member.
Successful Parenting

Statement of Purpose
The purpose of this program is to provide ongoing community education for parents, grandparents and caregivers who play active roles in raising children. This program is part of the Family Issues Community Plan under the guidance of the Parent and Community Education Committee and is funded by United Way of SEMO.

Program Activities

Building Strong Families Curriculum
Educare (for parents) - Apr/May 2009
Educare (for childcare providers) - May 2009
Cape Area Family Resource Center (CAFRC) - Sep/Oct 2009 and Mar 2010

Family Wellness Curriculum
Lutheran Family and Children's Services - Jun/Jul 2009, Feb-Mar 2010

Family Support Group
Lutheran Family and Children's Services continued monthly support group meetings.

Family Connect Newsletter

Collaborating Partners
Cape Area Family Resource Center, EMAA Head Start, Educare, Foresight Counseling, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Missouri Mentoring Partnership, Safe House for Women, Southeast MO State University Social Work Interns, United Way of SEMO−LIFE and Success by 6, University of Missouri Extension

Barriers
Lack of consistent attendance among some participants during the 4-6 week sessions

Noteworthy
United Way of SEMO allocated funding to sustain Successful Parenting Program through 2010.
More fathers are attending Building Strong Families and Family Wellness classes.
Behavior changes noted by families: "being more patient, spending more quality time together, listening to each other, trying to do something from the lessons each week."

Program Outcomes

Building Strong Families

Educare: 4 sessions in Apr-May: 17 parents and 21 youth (ages 0-5). Family Strengths, Positive Discipline, Money Matters, Healthy Home

Educare: 5 sessions in May: 17 childcare providers. Family Strengths, Communication, Stress, Kids & Self Esteem, Positive Discipline

CAFRC: 5 sessions in Sep-Oct: 19 parents and 16 youth; 4 adults had perfect attendance. Family Strengths, Stress, Money Matters, Healthy Home, Reading for Families

CAFRC: 5 sessions in March: 14 parents and 10 youth; 4 adults had perfect attendance. Family Strengths, Stress, Healthy Home, Positive Discipline, Reading for Families

Family Wellness

LFCS: 6 sessions in Jun-Jul: 11 participants

LFCS: 6 sessions in Feb-Mar: 11 participants

Parent Support Group
Monthly meetings: 2-4 parents

Family Connect Newsletter
Apr 2009 issue was mailed to 40 parents, placed on SEMO Casemangers List Serv and emailed to 50 agency representatives.
Southeast Missouri Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FY2010
By James Maginel & Kay Azuma

Statement of Purpose
The mission of this coalition is to join together in a common effort to build a healthy and safe community, reducing the risks of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs while promoting the healthy attitudes and behaviors of youth in Southeast Missouri.

Program Activities
The media campaign developed and launched in September 2008 continued through January 2010. 1500 Alcohol & Drug Abuse/Mental Health Resource Cards were distributed.

THRIVE Youth Advisory groups continue to meet to provide input regarding peer behaviors.

Successful implementation of years three and four of the Strategic Prevention Framework/State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) through the MO Dept. of Mental Health addressed alcohol consumption of 12-25 year olds in Cape County, Perry County and Scott City.

The Coalition again submitted a Drug-Free Communities grant application in March 2010.

The Coalition was recently awarded a DMH Mini-Grant to complete a youth survey, which will identify their access to substances.

Program Outcomes
Continued support of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Perry County Community Task Force Life Skills, and THRIVE Initiative through SPF SIG funding.

Continued support of Alcohol Compliance Checks in Cape Girardeau, Jackson, and Perry County through SPF SIG funding.

SPF SIG funding for Oct 1, 2009 – Sep 30, 2010 is $74,303.

The Coalition Board of Directors successfully implemented a recruitment plan resulting in three new members.

The Coalition began soliciting local resources through small fundraising activities.

The Coalition also supported the attendance of 8 youth and 3 adults at the Speak Hard youth advocacy event in Jefferson City, MO in Mar 2010.

Collaborating Partners
Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club, Cape County Health Department, Cape Police Department, Drug Court, Cape Schools, Family Counseling Center, Gibson Recovery Center, Girl Scouts of MO Heartland, Jackson Schools, KFVS-TV, Southeast Missourian Jr., Mid America Teen Challenge, MO Division of Youth Services, New Vision Counseling, Perry County Community Task Force, Rhodes 101, Safe Communities, Scott City Women's Club, SE Regional Support Center, SEMO State University, THRIVE, United Way of SEMO.

Barriers
Cape County Sheriff's Department failed to uphold contract to complete alcohol compliance checks.

Drug-Free Communities Grant submitted in Mar 2009 was not approved.

SPF SIG funding ends on Sep 30, 2010.

Noteworthy
Three town hall meetings were completed during the past year. Two in Jackson focused on youth abuse of prescription drugs, while the one in Cape Girardeau targeted underage drinking.
Statement of Purpose
Guided by the mission of the Community Caring Council of Cape Girardeau County, this committee shall inter-link agencies and professionals to better serve older adults within the county.

Program Activities
Monthly meetings were held the second Wednesday of each month (Aug - May) and provided members the opportunity to share information, network and learn about existing programs and services. Case reviews were held if requested by attending members.

An annual retreat was held in Aug 2009 to review outcomes and plan for the coming year.

The Senior Resource card was updated in Nov 2009 and was printed with funds from Cape Girardeau County Senior Citizens’ Fund Board. The cards are available for distribution online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org. A Senior Calendar is published monthly and is available throughout Cape County as well as online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org. Member agencies share the printing of 200 copies each month.

Senior Safety Committee continues to implement the "Durable Medical Equipment Program" to provide selected medical equipment to disabled and senior individuals in need.

The Aging Issues Task Force was successful in securing funds from the Cape Girardeau County Senior Citizens’ Fund Board to implement a Senior Needs Assessment. Surveys have been mailed to approximately 15,000 county residents, ages 55 and older. Surveys were directed to older adults and their caregivers. Completed surveys are still being received and data is being entered for analysis.

Program Outcomes

Average monthly attendance = 17
Annual Retreat was hosted by Saint Francis Medical Center in Aug 2009 with 20 in attendance.
2000 Senior Resource Cards were distributed.
200 copies of Senior Calendar were delivered monthly to 11 locations.

Senior Safety Committee - Durable medical equipment (valued at $1500) was provided to 17 individuals at no charge.

Seniors At Home program through Visiting Nurses Association was continued.

Collaborating Partners
AARP, Alzheimer's Association, American Red Cross, APPLE, AseraCare Hospice, Cape Area Family Resource Center, Cape Girardeau County Senior Citizens’ Fund Board, Cape County Health Department, Cape Girardeau Police Department, Capetown Independent Living, Chaffee Nursing Center, Community Caring Council, Cross Trails Medical Center, Crown Hospice, Hartle Management Agency, Jackson Ministerial Alliance, Life Care Center, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, MO Department of Health & Senior Services, Regional Arthritis Center at Saint Francis Medical Center, RSVP/VIC, Rural Development, SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, SEMO Area Agency on Aging, SEMO State University, Smooth Moves, Southeast Missouri Hospital - Wellness Connection and Woundcare, The Lutheran Home, United Way of SEMO, University of MO Extension Service, Visiting Nurse Association of SEMO

Barriers
Reaching those seniors who have no support systems continues to be a challenge. Our community is very rich in resources, but not all are aware and/or able to access what is available.

Noteworthy
The Aging Committee is an active and growing committee.
Community Caring Council – Cape Girardeau
Established: 1995

FY09 Result Achievement: Children Ready to Enter School
September 2009

Community Profile: The Community Caring Council is located at 937 Broadway in Cape Girardeau, MO. Most of our efforts are directed to residents residing in the county of Cape Girardeau (population 68,693), although some of our programs also serve the surrounding counties of Scott, Bollinger and Perry. Our Partnership is governed by a 13-member board. A majority vote among a quorum (9 or more) is required for board decisions. The Council consists of 12 full time staff and 2 part time staff: Executive Director, 2 Community Coordinators, Housing Coordinator and Case Manager, Community Case Manager, VISTA Volunteer, Asset Coordinator, .5 Oral Health Coordinator, Office Manager and MO Mentoring Partnership Director and 2.5 Parent Educators.

HB 1519 and Educare are a part of the Community Caring Council’s initiatives to address children being ready to enter school. School readiness is addressed through programming for child care providers and parents. The Council has the following grants to support this important work: Educare, Start Up and Expansion, Stay at Home Parents (3 grants) and Accreditation Facilitation. The program serves Cape Girardeau, Perry, Bollinger, Scott, Mississippi and Stoddard Counties. Educare offers a variety of training and technical assistance opportunities to child care providers and parents.

Start Up and Expansion assists those providers who wish to care for infants/toddlers in a home or center setting.

Accreditation Facilitation offers Child Development Associate (CDA) classes which allow providers to meet the needed educational requirements. CEU classes for CDA renewal are held throughout the year.

Stay at Home Parents grants (P.E.P. Programs) serve families with children from birth to age 3. These families receive home visits, group meetings and toy incentives, and are referred to other agencies as needed. There are income guidelines which must be met to be eligible to these services. As another resource, by partnering with Cape Public Schools, the Parents As Teachers curriculum is also offered to the families residing in the Cape School District.

An additional service provided by Educare is a very well-stocked Resource Room which is open to the public for free check-out of materials.

FY09 Major Collaborative Accomplishments: The focuses of these HB 1519 grants are school readiness and a reduction in child abuse and neglect. Through these 6 grants, over 80 child care providers receive ongoing onsite services, and 110 families receive home visitation each month. Results include:

Start Up and Expansion
- 8 providers served
- 3 home care providers licensed, 5 expansions
- 46 DSS child care slots added
- 106 children served (unduplicated)

Accreditation Facilitation
- CDA class completed by 25 providers
- CEU classes for CDA renewal completed by 35 providers (only a $10 cost per provider)
- 4 programs served in Early or Re-Accreditation including 1 home care provider and 3 center-based programs
- 134 children served (unduplicated)

Stay At Home Parent (Cape County data)
- 52 children (88%) assessed for social and emotional development and developmental level (Ages & Stages assessment)
- 1 child referred for additional services
- 30 parents (100%) reported a reduction in stress according to Everyday Stressors Index
- 1 parent referred for additional services
- 2 teen parents served
- 30 parents read to their child 20 minutes/day
- 49 parents were provided access/explanation of the DESE Pre-K Early Learning Standards
- 46 families also received Parents as Teachers
- 19 families stable after exiting program
- 27 families retained in program

Noteworthy: Educare offered the Emotional Beginnings Infant/Toddler Curriculum Class during September 2008 through June 2009 and 26 providers graduated.

In-kind resource for these partnership grants totaled $26,009.00 for FY 2009.

List of Partners: Cape Girardeau Public Schools, Southeast Missouri State University, United Way Success by 6, Bank of Missouri, Child Care Resource and Referral and Missouri Preschool Projects.
In the News

Two Cape Girardeau agencies receive grants to help homeless
Tuesday, December 29, 2009
By Rudi Keller ~ Southeast Missourian

Homeless assistance programs in Southeast Missouri received almost $1 million in grants to help women with children and the homeless disabled, among others, find transitional and permanent housing.

The grants, announced last week by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, are part of the Continuum of Care program to alleviate and end homelessness.

In Cape Girardeau, two agencies received grants. The Community Caring Council received $186,389 for its Supportive Housing Lease Assistance Program, which is aimed at helping homeless people with disabilities find permanent housing. The grant represents a 4 percent increase in funding, said Roy Jones, housing coordinator for the council. The program regularly has slots for 27 people and is generally full.

"It pays for their rent with the understanding that they will pay whatever they are capable of paying up to 30 percent of their income," Jones said. "There is no time limit on it, but the kicker in it is that they have to be working to improve their quality of life with our case management."

To qualify, applicants must be referred by a caseworker and have an income less than 50 percent of the county median, Jones said. The program is currently full and new applicants will be placed on a waiting list, he said.

The council received another grant, about $177,000, last week that will provide short-term help with homelessness, Jones said. That grant, part of the economic stimulus bill approved in the spring, provides up to three months of rental assistance in emergency situations, he said.

Jones said the council has already received a large number of applications but that money is still available for qualified applicants.

Other Southeast Missouri grants announced last week under the Continuum of Care program include:

- $137,627 to the Family Counseling Center Inc. for the Cape Girardeau Women and Children Safe Haven Program.
- $124,575 to the Family Counseling Center Inc. for permanent housing for SEMO's Homeless Disabled.
- $135,780 to the Family Counseling Center Inc. for SEMO SafeHaven in Kennett, Mo.
- $116,657 to the Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation/Bootheel House of Progress Permanent Housing in Portageville, Mo.
- $149,719 to the Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation/Bootheel House of Progress Transitional Housing in Portageville, Mo.
- $108,576 to the Missouri Department of Mental Health's Bootheel Area Shelter Plus Care Tenant Rental Assistance program.
Renewed grant helps ex-felons find work

*Saturday, August 22, 2009*

By AARON DOHOGLNE ~ Southeast Missourian

Ex-felons in Cape Girardeau will continue to have at least one program designed to help them successfully reenter society.

This August, the Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council received federal grant funds for the second time to help ex-felons in the area find jobs and reenter society, said Cheri Heeren of the Pettis County Community Partnership, who applied for the one-year grant.

Heeren said the grant was renewed due to the support it provides ex-felons in helping them reenter society. She also said the grant was made without regard to statistics, because it's too soon to evaluate the grant's effectiveness.

"Our statistics will come down the road," Heeren said. "We are looking two years out, or three, to see if we've had a lasting impact. There's always a chance for an ex-felon to relapse."

Statistics from the caring council state that in 2003 one in three Missouri prison admissions was a returning parole violator.

In 2005, the Missouri Re-entry Program was established with the intent to organize state governmental bodies and help ex-felons re-enter society, but wasn't making much progress, said Kay Azuma, the community coordinator at the caring council.

In April 2006, the partnership in Pettis County received a three-year grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service and distributed the funds to the then 11 partnerships in Missouri. The caring council was one of the partnerships.

The Pettis County grant was used to hire each partnership an extra worker from AmeriCorps VISTA, a program under the Corporation for National and Community Service, who could help the reentry program coordinate local government and not-for-profit organizations to meet the mission of helping ex-felons reenter society, she said.

**Meeting goals, accountability**

Over the past three years, Azuma said, the caring council has put the most importance on the goal of helping ex-felons find employment. This was the biggest challenge ex-felons in Cape Girardeau faced, she said, and it will continue to be the focus for the next year. Each partnership decides which goals to achieve, Azuma said.

Randy Huffman, the current AmeriCorps VISTA representative with the caring council said he often loses contact with ex-felons after they leave the caring council's nine-week life skills focus group, making it difficult to track successful re-entry. The focus group covers reentry issues, such as employment skills, computer training, education preparation and transportation services.

Still, Huffman has compiled local employment statistics for 343 ex-felons who have contacted the caring council. The statistics, which document the period from August 2006 through June 2009, show 110 ex-felons, or 32 percent, found jobs. He said he doesn't know if these individuals are still holding jobs.

**New expenditures**

The current grant, set to expire in August, is different from the last three-year grant, Heeren said. The first grant allocated funds for a Missouri supervisor to help coordinate the mission of the state's local volunteers. Now, that position is being funded by the 21 Missouri partnerships, totaling around $12,000, Heeren said. The position works out of the Pettis County Partnership, she said.

Patricia Cox, who is an ex-felon, said she hopes participating with the caring council will improve her chances of finding a job.
Missouri Mentoring Partnership celebrates 10th anniversary

Sunday, December 13, 2009
By Brian Blackwell ~ Southeast Missourian

A mentoring program for young parents and pregnant teens celebrated its 10th anniversary with an open house Friday.

Volunteers and others who have worked with the Missouri Mentoring Partnership since its establishment in Cape Girardeau stopped by 937 Broadway to share stories about how the program has affected their lives.

Rebecca Kugel-Rolls, a social work major at Southeast Missouri State University, has mentored two teenaged girls since she started volunteering in June. A former Big Sister, Kugel-Rolls said the experience has been encouraging for not only the girls but for herself.

"Since I don't have a kid myself, I've learned so much about what it's like to prepare for motherhood and life afterwards," Kugel-Rolls said. "This program is a great way to give back to the community. These girls need this in their lives, and we're here to help them out in any way we can."

Kugel-Rolls is one of about 12 mentors for some of the 20 young people enrolled in the program at its two locations in Bollinger and Cape Girardeau counties. An organization of the Community Caring Council, the Missouri Mentoring Partnership's main service is the Young Parent Program, which educates parents or expectant parents younger than 21 with a child no older than 3.

Benefits for participants in the Young Parent Program included pregnancy classes that teach labor and delivery preparation, newborn and toddler care and household hints and budgeting. Resources for each person include infant simulators, a maternity clothes closet and a parenting library.

Missouri Mentoring Partnership director Charles DiStefano said more fathers have become involved in the program since the Just for Dads service began in late 2007. Sponsored by the Children's Trust Fund, the service is aimed at keeping young fathers involved in their children's lives, which DiStefano said is important for child development and well-being.

"Dads are often overlooked, but I think we're trying to do our part to change that," DiStefano said. "When a dad has a quality involvement, that helps the mom know she's not doing it on her own, even if the dad isn't married to the mom. Since we began the Just for Dads group we've seen those dads have a different mindset in that they believe they should be involved in their children's life."

Howard Bellew, the Just for Dads program specialist, said the program needs role models to nurture parenting skills and provide encouragement during a troubling time.

"A lot of the young men and ladies could use a role model because most of them have no idea what it's like to be a parent," Bellew said. "Our mentors provide that strength at times."

"Our goal is to always be here for those moms and dads who need help with their educational and life goals," DiStefano said. "Many people hear about us by word-of-mouth. We're hoping to create more awareness by those in our community."

For more information on volunteering, call 332-0066, visit www.missourimentoring.com or e-mail info@missourimentoring.com.
Asset Building for Kiddos, Tweens and Teens
Article for the Southeast Missourian Jr
By Stacy Taylor

Last month, I challenged you to see how many of the 40 Developmental Assets* you could build in 2010. How are you doing so far? Forty things to do may seem like a lot, but just try to do a few at a time and you’ll find that it’s easy to build assets!

The first six assets are called “SUPPORT” assets. They are:

1. Family support – Family life provides love and support.
2. Positive family communication – Family communication is positive and open.
3. Other adult relationships – Child receives support from three or more non-parent adults.
5. Caring school climate – School provides a caring, encouraging school environment.
6. Parent involvement in schooling – Parent(s) are involved in teen’s schooling.

There are countless ways to build the support asset, including:

Adults
- Do something new together. Instead of a walk, go jogging...or skipping.
- If possible, eat at least one meal a day together.
- Choose a book to read together as a family.
- Every day show love through hugs, words, and smiles.
- Frame your child’s artwork and hang it on the wall.

Tween and Teens
- Help plan and prepare a meal for the entire family.
- Challenge an adult to a board game or other activity.
- Consider doing a service project with an adult that you admire.
- Show the adults in your life that you appreciate them by saying thank you.
- Invite your parent to visit your classroom.

Kiddos
- Help set the table for a family dinner.
- Smile and wave to neighbors you know when you see them outside.
- Open the door for a teacher or student with a lot to carry.
- Ask an adult to teach you to do something they enjoy, like planting a flower, baking, building something, or playing a game.
- Say nice things about other people.

By building developmental assets, we can help the young people in our community be more successful and make our community a better place to live!

*The 40 Developmental Assets are relationships, values and qualities that help kids succeed. Assets were developed by Search Institute in Minneapolis, MN and are being promoted by a local youth development initiative called THRIVE. For more information on THRIVE, call 573-651-3747, ext. 118.