From the Director

To All Community Partners:

This has been a year of significant increase in the number of folks seeking assistance from our staff. Assistance for rental deposits, homeless prevention services, dental needs, case management needs, and unmet significant needs of families were among some of the needs that were presented to and dealt with by staff. The homeless prevention funds alone kept 110 families (226 individuals) from ending up with nowhere to live. Many of these were due to foreclosures and other economic stressors.

We continue to collaborate with many as the Priority Issue Councils continue to move through implementation of goals and objectives identified in the community plan that our Community Coordinator manages. We are gearing up for a new community assessment to be implemented in 2012. It will be interesting to see if priority needs have shifted much.

We continue in our new and developing relationship with the Division of Youth Services. Our annual conference this year was all about the 40 Developmental Assets and we were able to provide for more than 130 youth who are in custody of the Division of Youth Services to attend the event. The conference was for the large part designed by youth and carried out by youth. The speakers were amazing, the kids were definitely energized – it was a great day. Of course all the youth want to do it again next year!

We have added new outreach and education initiatives around breast and cervical cancer prevention and detection, and healthy women, which emphasizes cardiovascular health for women. Our coordinator, Dorothy Gholson, covers five counties around Cape Girardeau. This is a much needed program and has some federal funding as well.

In collaboration with the United Way of Southeast Missouri, the Education Solutions Team kicked off the Mobilization Plan to address the success of Cape students on March 31. It was a well-attended meeting with a good cross section of the community participating. The guest speaker was Dr. Chris Nicastro, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education for the state of Missouri. She was very impressed with the commitment from the community, and remarked how the strategies of the local plan aligned so well with those of the state-wide plan for improvement. An annual review of the progress in this implementation effort is planned.

We continue to enjoy strong partnerships with other organizations in our community. As many have said, this is a caring and sharing community. And there is so much more to be done. It takes all of us.

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 oversight for several Council programs and grants is the Community Coordinator’s responsibility. The Community Coordinator further serves as a liaison between the Council and the community.

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.
Supervised one VISTA volunteer for Missouri Reentry Process and two Social Work interns for macro-practice experience.
Coordinated activities and fiscal tasks for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.
Produced three monthly calendars - Family Fun and Learning Activities, Successful Parenting and Senior Activities Calendar.
Planned and implemented fall and spring sessions of 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 two meeting rooms which are available to the community for meetings and trainings. During the past year year, the Center was used for 239 meetings, a decrease of 12% from the previous year. Of the total usage, 127(53%) were for Council meetings/events and 112 (47%) were for community meetings/events.

Community Coordinator represented the Community Caring Council as a member of the following: 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, and Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Board of Directors

Collaborating Partners
Approximately 267 representatives from 211 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 and the number of collaborating partners that participate in our various committees.
The outstanding reputation that the Council has in the community for addressing the needs of clients in such a way to empower clients to become self-reliant, responsible and resourceful.
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COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Cape County Transit continues to be the main provider of public transportation in Cape Girardeau County – 145,000 riders from Jan-Dec 2010 in 32 vehicles.

Fixed Route Bus System has three buses operating within the Cape Girardeau city limits (two routes – North and South). One-way rates are $1.00 and monthly rates are $35.00.

Fixed Route Bus System operates from 6a-7:30pm Mon-Fri and 9am-6pm Sat. There is a bus available at each bus stop every 30-45 minutes during hours of operation.

Taxi Demand Response transportation is available 24/7 Mon-Sat. Service stops at 2pm Sunday and resumes at 5am on Monday. One-way rates vary from $5.50 – $9.00 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 ¾ 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 continues a Transit Sponsorship Program for local businesses and organizations wishing to advertise on the transit vehicles. Funds generated are primarily used to replace aging vehicles and to purchase additional vehicles.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
SEMO Alliance of Disability Independence continues transportation services for their clients at no cost. Donations are accepted.

BARRIERS
Increased fuel costs

Hesitancy and/or lack of awareness among general public to use public transportation
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PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Medical Care: Mental Health

COMMUNITY PLAN CO-CHAIRS
Paul Schniedermeyer
Ryan Essex

MEETINGS HELD 7

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 9

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

FUNDING SOURCES
There is no financial funding at the present time.

NOTEWORTHY
The Mental Health Coalition continues to gain community visibility through participation at well-attended community events (SEMO District Fair, DBSA's Mental Health Education Fair). Planning was being finalized for two additional community events, but the events were canceled by their sponsors.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
1200 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Resource Cards were distributed and are available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org

Coalition partnered with Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition at the SEMO District Fair during Sep. Members helped to solicit prizes from local vendors and to be present at the booth to share mental health and substance abuse information and support.

Coalition partnered with Depression Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) at a community Mental Health Education Fair held in Oct at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. An informational table was provided and several members provided community presentations. There were approximately 100 participants.

Meetings are used as a platform for sharing and networking among members to help keep abreast of current caseloads, to discuss new issues, and also to initiate new collaborative strategies across agencies.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Conversations are in progress at the state level regarding the Coalition serving as a local System of Care (interagency staffing team).

Coalition continues to brainstorm how a system of local alternative psychiatric services could be established, funded and implemented.

Starting in March, a guest presentation will be included in each meeting agenda to enhance the knowledge of members regarding existing resources and the knowledge of the presenter regarding the work of our Coalition.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Dr. Dhira Crunkilton, SEMO State University, Department of Social Work, continues Non-Violent Communication training and practice groups for any interested community individual or group.

Gibson Recovery Center is involved with a new “recovery-oriented” System of Care using federal Access to Recovery funds. The service area will be the southeastern quadrant of the state.

Community Counseling Center has received a grant for “Promoting Older Adults Well-Being” from MO Foundation for Health to serve low income individuals, 55 years and older, struggling with mental health issues. Assessments and services will take place in the participants’ homes and at nursing homes.

Putting Kids First is a new task group in Cape Girardeau County assessing the needs and resources of youth for mental health issues. If significant gaps or limited access to services can be documented in the assessment, the group will move forward in seeking voter approval for a Children's Services Fund in Cape County. The group is following the procedure used by St. Charles County where they were successful in securing a tax that provides in excess of $5 million annually.

BARRIERS
Coalition’s progress in moving forward with a proposal to offer alternative services locally to prevent adolescent psychiatric hospitalizations has been a challenge.

Making services more accessible to all with mental health needs remains a concern. Members have reported that the number of un-served consumers has tripled in the past year and that those in crises seeking services have also increased significantly.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

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PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Medical Care: Oral Health

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Dr. Janet Ruopp

MEETINGS HELD 6

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 10

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Cape County Public Health Center, Cape Public Schools, Cross Trails Medical Center, Dental Providers (Dr. Janet Ruopp, Dr. Terry Spence), EMAA Head Start, Innovative Orthodontics, Jackson Public Schools, MO Children’s Division, MO Division of Youth Services, MO Oral Health Preventive Services Program, Southeast Missouri Hospital Wellness Connection, Southeast Missouri State University (Show Mobile, Departments of Speech and Communication Disorders and Social Work)

FUNDING SOURCES
Community Caring Council, Missouri Oral Health Preventive Services, Midwest Special Needs Trust, local donations and fundraiser events

NOTEWORTHY
Cape Girardeau County ranked second in the state of Missouri for the number of youth screened during 2009-2010 school year!

A total of 69 community volunteers including 32 dental professionals and 37 volunteers assisted with the school and daycare dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Training for oral health screenings and fluoride varnish applications was provided online at www.mohealthysmiles.org to 12 volunteers.

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

Coalition brochures were distributed throughout the community.

Oral Health Education by Oral Health Coordinator was provided for Educare and Cape Kindergarten Screenings.

Dental Screenings in Cape County/Scott City served 4,245 youth in 27 schools and 532 youth in 20 preschools/daycares. 460 (10%) youth needed early dental treatment, 276 (6%) youth needed urgent treatment.

Fluoride varnish applications were provided to 2,676 school-aged youth and 529 preschool-aged youth.

Jackson Schools added 3rd grade and Early Childhood Center for dental screenings for the 2010-2011 school year. Cape Schools added 3rd grade and Alternative School.

Dental Treatment Scholarship Program provided $2,224 for treatment for eight individuals this past year.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Oral Health Displays were provided: Grand Family Conference, MO Mentoring Partnership, School Nurses’ Fair, Cape Public Library, Riverside Regional Library, Jackson Health Fair, Oak Ridge Health Fair, Senior Information Day, HealthPoint Health Fair and Special Olympics.

One adult received treatment assistance from Midwest Special Needs Trust.

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

The 2nd Annual Sensational Smiles Social is being planned by the Coalition for Apr 16, 2011 at the Crowe Gallery to recognize all who helped with our dental screenings/fluoride varnish applications and to raise funds for our Dental Treatment Scholarship. Last year’s profit of $1,970 ensured funding for disadvantaged youth in Cape and Bollinger Counties and Scott City.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Drs. Janet and Patrick Ruopp will be honored at the upcoming Volunteer Recognition by the United Way of Southeast Missouri for years of providing dental screenings to youth in Cape Public Schools.

Community volunteer Jenny Barna received the Jackson Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Award in May 2010 for her work with dental screenings and fluoride varnishing in Jackson schools and daycares.

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

In order to increase the number of youth screened, additional dental providers and trained volunteers are needed.

Sustaining the position of Oral Health Coordinator is essential to maintaining the dental screening program.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

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COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
"Finding Your Medical Home" – 1000 cards were distributed.

"Health Resource Cards" – 1500 were distributed; also available at www.communitycaringcouncil.org

Health education programs were provided at Cape Area Family Resource Center to youth, grades K-6th by Coalition members (Cross Trails Medical Center – dental hygiene; Cape County Health Department – hand washing; Southeast Hospital – Wii Fit Exercising).

Programs on general personal hygiene (Cape County Health Department) and dental hygiene/effects of tobacco and drugs/oral cancer (Cross Trails Medical Center) were provided at Salvation Army’s summer camp for youth, 7th -11th grades.

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

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Cape County Public Health Center provided flu shots to 20% of Cape County youth for this school year, a marked decrease from the 44% (12,000 students) of Cape County youth that were vaccinated for H1N1 flu the previous school year. However, prior to 2009, only 2% of the student population was receiving vaccinations.

A new local group is planning to open the Samaritan Regional Clinic to provide free health services to low-income individuals. The location will be at 937 Broadway, Suite 203. Volunteers (lay people and medical providers) and medical supplies are needed. Opening date is expected to occur in 2011.

BARRIERS
Decline in attendance at bi-monthly Health Screening and Education events at Cape Area Family Resource Center did not justify program continuance without MO Foundation for Health support.

Additional agency and individual participation is needed for Coalition sustainability.

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

Healthcare reform is confusing and unclear.
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PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Alcohol & Drug Abuse: Adult & Youth

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Steve Narrow

YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PREVENTION COALITION
CHAIR
Ellen Carlson

MEETINGS HELD 6
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 18

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Bethel Assembly of God, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Cape Bible Chapel, Cape County Public Health Center and Sheriff's Office, Cape Police Department, Cape Schools, Charter Communications, Christ Episcopal Church, Climate Protection Initiative, Delta Schools, Drug Court, Family Counseling Center, FOR-JMO, Fort Law Firm, Gibson Recovery Center, Girl Scouts of MO Heartland, Jackson Police Department, Jackson Schools, KFPS-TV, KRUC Radio, LaCroix Church, LIFE, McDonalds, Mid America Teen Challenge, Mississippi River Radio, MO Army National Guard, MO Division of Probation & Parole, MO Division of Youth Services, MO Mentoring Partnership, New Vision Counseling, Notre Dame High School, Oak Ridge Schools, Perry County Community Task Force, Pops Pizza, Rhodes 101, Safe Communities, Scott City Women's Club, SE Missourian, SE Missourian Jr., SE Regional Support Center, SEMO State University, THRIVE, United Way of SEMO and interested youth and adults

FUNDING SOURCES
Drug Free Communities Grant through US Department of Health and Human Services, MO Department of Mental Health Mini-Grant and Regional Development Funds, local donations and fundraising

NOTEWORTHY
A Drug-Free Communities (federal grant) was awarded in Sep 2010. The $125,000 award allowed the hiring of one fulltime employee and two part-time employees. Office space was provided at Community Caring Council and Fort Law Firm.
Coalition Board has 14 voting members and 1 ex-officio member.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
1200 copies of Alcohol & Drug Abuse/Mental Health Resource Card were distributed and was also available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org. 1000 copies of Coalition brochures were distributed. A "Parent Drug Card" was developed, printed and distributed to over 500 parents.

Student Advisory Groups (with 40 Developmental Asset focus) at Jackson Jr. High and High Schools, Cape Central Jr. High School and ECHO Day Treatment Center promoted assets on their school campus and provided input on peer behaviors (38 students).

A MO Department of Mental Health Min-Grant allowed the development and implementation of a Youth Access Survey to determine what and where alcohol and substances were being accessed among Cape County youth.

Four Town Hall Meetings were held in Nov 2010 to share the results of the Youth Access Survey. Sites and attendance included Cape Public Library (7), Oak Ridge High School (5), Jackson Middle School (9) and Delta High School (13).

Participation at four well-attended community events helped to create substance abuse and Coalition awareness – Messy Morning in Apr, Cape Parks and Recreation Day in Jul, Salvation Army’s Back to School Fair in Aug and SEMO District Fair in Sep.

Alcohol compliance checks continued with Cape Girardeau City and Jackson Police Departments.

All Stars prevention program was implemented at the Boys and Girls Club in Sep.

A youth-focused media campaign, “Rise Above” is currently being aired on television and radio stations. Local youth are encouraged to create videos that depict “rising above” the use of alcohol and tobacco.

Twenty-six local law enforcement officers and 40 local youth participated in a Party Patrol and Controlled Dispersal Techniques training and mock party in Jan.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Six subcommittees are actively engaged in the work of the Coalition.
- Advocacy – Change policies that may affect youth substance abuse.
- Community Outreach – Build capacity through community connections.
- Faith-based/Youth – Engage youth in prevention efforts.
- Media – Develop campaign to promote Coalition’s mission.
- Program – Identify and promote evidence-based prevention programming at appropriate sites.
- Resources/Fundraising – Explore funding and fundraising opportunities.

Over 200 local youth attended the Community Caring Council’s “Huddle-Up” Conference focused on the 40 Developmental Assets in Mar. About 40 youth participated as announcers, presenters, entertainers and huddle leaders.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
All Cape County schools allowed the mailing of a letter to the parents of 1800 high school seniors from the office of the Prosecuting Attorney regarding the legal consequences of underage drinking.

Cape’s City Council recognized the Coalition with an official Proclamation on Oct 18, 2010, for its receipt of the Drug Free Communities grant.

BARRIERS
Sustained DFC funding is dependent on local in-kind match.

Additional and diverse funding sources are needed for long-term sustainability.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma
COMMUNITY PLAN
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PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Family Issues: Housing

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Roy Jones

MEETINGS HELD 10

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 17

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
4-Sight Counseling, American Red Cross, Bank Star, Cape County Public Health Center, Catholic Charities, City of Cape Girardeau, Community Counseling Center, East MO Action Agency, Family Counseling Center, Gibson Recovery Center, Habitat for Humanity, Homeless Outreach Center, Love INC, Lutheran Family & Children's Services, Mending Hearts, Mississippi County Health Department, Missouri Department of Mental Health, New Beginnings, Oxford House, RCH Management INC, Safe House for Women, Salvation Army, SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, SEMO Area Agency on Aging, SEMO State University, Shelter of Hope, Sprig 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, Youth United Way of SEMO, 4-Sight Counseling, Area churches and individuals

NOTEWORTHY
Two HUD Supportive Housing Grants are serving 43 area residents through Community Caring Council and Family Counseling Center. Community Caring Council has sustained their grant for seven years.

Community Caring Council succeeded in gaining approval to increase the fair market value of rental units provided through the HUD Supportive Housing Grant.

Continued funding from MO Housing Trust Fund for rental deposit assistance will provide $60,000 in 2011.

Sprig of Hope continues efforts to raise funds for renovation of their property for a shelter.

Lynwood Baptist Church continues effort to establish emergency-transitional housing for women and children.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Housing Resource Cards were updated and reprinted in Nov 2010 by 4-Sight Counseling. Approximately 1000 cards were distributed; also available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org

MO Housing Trust fund grant served over 193 families (439 individuals) with Rental Deposit Assistance.

Homeless Awareness Week was observed in Nov with a display at Cape West Cine including youth art, a press conference and proclamation presentation at Cape West Cine, educational presentations to Centenary Methodist Church and the Social Work Club at the university. An informational booth was provided at Empty Bowls event.

"Operation Backpack" provided 23 adult backpacks and five youth backpacks at two shelters in Dec.

Habitat for Humanity met its annual goal of constructing three to five houses.

Emergency/transitional shelters that have been added in the past year – New Beginnings (20 beds), Homeless Outreach Center (12 beds) and Amazing Grace in Gordonville (10 beds).

Point in Time counts for Cape Girardeau County reported 11 homeless in Jul 2010 and 24 homeless in Jan 2011.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Cape Girardeau City Council is still discussing an occupancy code.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program will fund the purchase, rehab and resale of 9 houses in Blanchard and Franklin School Districts.

Community Caring Council received Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing funds and provided assistance for 110 households with 226 individuals.

4-Sight counseling provided foreclosure assistance to 113 households and prevented 100 foreclosures in 2010.

Community Caring Council received $1850 from Youth United Way to provide temporary hotel stays and food vouchers for nine families.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Safe House for Women is securing funds for construction of a larger shelter.

Bank Star offers "reverse mortgages" for homeowners, ages 62 or older.

Community Counseling Center has received a HUD grant to construct a permanent housing facility with 10 units for those with mental disabilities.

Lou Masterson Center now has three beds available for two - three week stays.

St. Andrew's "Home for Hope" program is housing one family at a time.

Gibson Recovery Center continues renovations at Vision House.

Oxford House continues to house individuals recovering from addiction.

BARRIERS
Significant need for emergency and transitional housing remains.

Increase in rental costs and decrease in the number of rental units presents challenges to low-income individuals.

Decreases in funding at the federal and state levels will impact local resources.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

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

1500 Senior Resource Cards were distributed throughout Cape County; also available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org

Monthly Aging Committee meetings were held for networking and presentations:
Community Plan Update, Senior Challenges, Veteran’s Care Coordination, Senior Needs Assessment, Medicare Options, Capetown Assisted Living, Love INC Senior Services, Community Disaster Preparedness and Assistive Technology.

Durable medical equipment (shower chairs, shower benches, safety bars, etc.) valued at $500 was provided to nine individuals.

The Senior Needs Assessment had a return of 1895 surveys. The five greatest needs according to survey results are: (1) Yard work, (2) Help with housekeeping, (3) Minor home repair, (4) Companion service and (5) Someone to call in an emergency.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Aging Committee’s Annual Retreat was held in August with 17 in attendance. Outcomes were reviewed and meeting presentations planned. The breakfast was hosted by Saint Francis Medical Center Regional Arthritis Center.

Love INC received funding from Cape County Senior Citizens Tax Board to hire a part-time Senior Coordinator to organize volunteer resources for seniors.

Community Caring Council received a grant ($2000) 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
Community Counseling Center has received a grant for “Promoting Older Adults Well-Being” from MO Foundation for Health to serve low income individuals, 55 years and older, struggling with mental health issues. Assessments and services will take place in the participants’ homes and at nursing homes.

Christmas for the Elderly has been ongoing for over 25 years. Sponsored by SE Missourian newspaper, Cape Jaycees, Cape County Public Health Center and MO Division of Senior Services, funds raised are used to purchase Christmas gifts for seniors in need. Through an agreement with the Community Caring Council, excess funds can be used to meet senior needs beyond the holiday season.

BARRIERS
Complexity of Medicare presents challenges to the elderly.

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Family Issues: Independent Living

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Shannon Kitchen

AGING COMMITTEE CHAIR
Shannon Kitchen

AGING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR
Morgan Beasley

MEETINGS HELD 10
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 17

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
AARP, Alzheimer’s Association, American Red Cross, APPLE, Cape Area Family Resource Center, Cape County Public Health Center, Cape County Senior Tax Board, Cape Police Department, Cape Senior Center, Capetown Independent Living, Chaffee Nursing Center, Chateau Girardeau, Community Counseling Center, Cross Trails Medical Center, Crown Hospice, Four Oaks Hospice, Hartle Management Agency, Hoover Center, Jackson Ministerial Alliance, Jackson Senior Center, Life Care Center, Love INC, Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, MO Department of Health and Senior Services, Regional Arthritis Center - Saint Francis Medical Center, RSVP/VIC, SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, SEMO Area Agency on Aging, SEMO State University, SEMO Hospital-Wellness Connection, Smooth Moves, The Lutheran Home, United Way of SEMO, University of MO Extension, USDA Rural Development, Visiting Nurse Association of SEMO & Interested individuals

FUNDING SOURCES
Cape Girardeau County Senior Tax Board

NOTEWORTHY
Results from the Senior Needs Assessment were shared with the Cape County Senior Citizens Tax Board, who then awarded funds to Love INC to address the greatest needs of persons 60 and over residing in Cape Girardeau County.

Results from the Senior Needs Assessment were also shared with the Cape Girardeau County Commissioners who expressed gratitude for our work with the senior population. The Commissioners asked that they be allowed to share our findings with other counties in Missouri.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

4/1/11
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COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Family Fun and Learning Activities calendar – 500 copies distributed at 20 Parenting Corners monthly; also emailed to 103 individuals monthly and posted on SEMO Case Managers List Serv for 53 members.

Successful Parenting training calendars – 200 copies distributed at 20 Parenting Corners monthly; also emailed to 103 individuals monthly and posted on SEMO Case Managers List Serv for 53 members.

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

Monthly calendars and all resource cards were available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org

Building Strong Families – 2 5-week sessions implemented: 36 adults and 24 youth (youth curriculum offered); 1 4-week session implemented: 21 adults and 22 youth (ages 0-5, no youth curriculum)

Family Wellness – 1 6-week session implemented: 11 adults

Facilitator Training for Building Strong Families Curriculum: 2-day training implemented: 5 committee/community members who will each provide 8 hours of future curriculum implementation.

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

Ongoing improvements were made to our Parenting Corners to make them more appealing and more relevant in content.

The first annual “We Care About YOuth” conference was held on May 21 and 22, 2010. Two key note speakers and 18 break-out sessions were offered. About 150 participants attended multiple sessions. Planning for the 2011 conference is underway.

Love and Logic® Parent Curriculum – 2 preview sessions: 19 participants; 2-day curriculum training: 29 participants; 2-hour presentation: 74 participants

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
United Way of Southeast Missouri – Born Learning monthly events at Cape Public Library and Tiny Toes weekly events at Cape Area Family Resource Center for parents/caregivers and youth, ages 0-6, were facilitated by Success By 6 from Sep - May.

A support group for Parents of Children with Mood Disorders met 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.
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COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Quarterly Case Managers' Meetings were planned and implemented. In addition to
topic presentation, time for individual case reviews and networking was allowed.
• May 5 – Cross Trails Medical Center – programs and services – 10 attended
• Aug 11- Housing and Homeless Services – 28 attended
• Nov 10 – Holiday Assistance & Case Reviews – 22 attended
• Feb 9 – cancelled due to inclement weather
List Serv – SEMO Case managers group continued with 53 members and 105
messages posted. A total of 660 messages have been posted since June 2006.
Weatherization program is ongoing at East Missouri Action Agency.
Committee will meet monthly on the first Tuesday and an update of community
resources will be given for that month. Committee will not meet during months
when Quarterly Case Manager Meetings are held.

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's collaborative church ministries continue to increase. A part-time
senior coordinator has been hired to address the needs of seniors that were
identified in a recent Senior Needs Assessment.
Research is underway to determine the feasibility of a community-wide data base
for client tracking. Several agencies use ROSIE, but much information is
confidential.

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
Significant budget cuts to the Community Services Block Grant which funds East
Missouri Action Agency
Easy availability of pay day loans
Lack of a clear direction on how to promote self-sufficiency
Continued economic instability and reduction of community resources

NOTEWORTHY
Quarterly Case Manager meetings are very
well-attended with an average attendance of
20.
Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri
opened a district office in Cape Girardeau in
August 2010 to serve those who are
ineligible to receive services elsewhere. St.
Mary's Food Pantry is located in the same
office.

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Family Issues: Self-Sufficiency

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIRS
John McGowan

COMMUNITY PLAN CO-CHAIRS
Eva Hillis
Denise Wimp

MEETINGS HELD 6
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 13

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
4-Sight Counseling, Catholic Charities,
Chaffee Nursing Center, Clearpoint Financial
Solutions, Community Counseling Center,
Cross Trails Medical Center, East MO Action
Agency, Family Counseling Center, Habitat
for Humanity, First Call for Help, Jackson
Ministerial Alliance, Love INC, McDonald's,
MERS Goodwill, MO Family Support Division,
Safe House for Women, Salvation Army,
SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence,
SEMO State University, St. Vincent's, United
Way of SEMO, and interested individuals

FUNDING SOURCES
There is no financial funding at the present
time.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

4/1/11
COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Two free asset training sessions and five group presentations were held that reached 219 people.

THRIVE sponsored active student advisory groups at Cape Central Jr. High (12 students), Jackson High (8 students), Jackson Jr. High (8 students) and ECHO Program at Division of Youth Services (10 students). Groups met twice monthly.

Jackson students and parents continue to actively participate in THRIVE Committee meetings. This has allowed for greater input from the youth for planning and implementation of THRIVE strategies.

The THRIVE website remains current at www.capecountythrive.org

Monthly articles appeared monthly in the SE Missourian Jr. which reaches more than 2000 students in the Cape area.

A monthly e-newsletter – “Activating Assets” - was sent to 220 community members.

A Harlem Ambassadors basketball game was held on November 12, 2010 as a fundraiser. Approximately 330 people were in attendance. Thirty THRIVE students/parents/committee members helped with the event.

Four adults and 10 youth attended the BIG TENT Conference in Houston, TX in Nov 2010. Several fundraising events were held to help raise money to cover the cost of this trip.

Asset Coordinator facilitated one Change of Heart session for 21 individuals at Central Jr. High School. A Train the Trainer session on “Everyone’s an Asset Builder” was facilitated by Search Institute for 23 adults in Mar 2011.

Asset information was provided at five community events.

Asset Coordinator presented “Building Developmental Assets in the School Community” to 35 staff members at St. Vincent de Paul School.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Each Student Advisory Group continued to plan and implement campus-wide asset strategies.

Jackson’s Student Advisory Group members held a Garage Sale in May 2010 and are planning a Bingo Bonanza in April 2011 to raise funds for future THRIVE student projects.

The Council’s Annual Conference in Mar 2011 focused on the 40 Developmental Assets. Cape and Jackson THRIVE youth were very involved in planning and hosting the day-long event. A total of 345 people were in attendance, including 230 youth and 115 adults.

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

Cape Jr. High, Jackson Jr. High and Jackson Sr. High THRIVE students collected 733 pairs of jeans for Aeropostale’s program to aid the homeless in 2011. That is an increase of over 300% from their 2010 collection.

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

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

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FY2011  
By Stacy Taylor

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 education opportunities for various sectors in the community.

Facilitated student advisory committee meetings at Central Junior High, Jackson Jr High, and Jackson High School.

Developed a new group at ECHO Community Resource Center.

Facilitated a Change of Heart session at Central Jr High.

Provided continuing support of Asset Building Champions (ABC) parent reading program at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School for elementary classrooms.

Arranged and hosted an assembly at CJHS and a basketball game between the Harlem Ambassadors and the Hometown Heroes.

Facilitated fundraising efforts for JJHS and JHS THRIVE students and sponsors to attend the Big Tent Conference.

Attended Big Tent Conference in Houston.

Hosted an Essentials of Asset Building Train the Trainer session.

Planned and implemented the Huddle Up! Asset Building is NOT a Spectator Sport! Conference.

Program Outcomes

Asset Coordinator and initiative members have provided 2 free asset trainings, 5 asset presentations, and 1 professional development training. 219 people received asset information during these events.

Asset Coordinator facilitated 1 session of Change of Heart for 21 students at Central Jr High.

Worked with members of student advisory committees and school sponsors at CJHS (12 students), JJHS (8 students), JHS (8 students) and ECHO (10 students) to infuse assets into the school and facility environments.

The entire CJHS student body attended the Harlem Ambassadors assembly and approximately 330 people attended the game. 20 community members, including the mayors of both Cape and Jackson volunteered to be part of the Hometown Heroes team.

Asset Coordinator and the THRIVE students and sponsors from Jackson raised over $4,500 to attend the Big Tent Conference. Students contributed $2,450 and Jackson R2 Schools contributed $6,400 toward the trip.

Asset Coordinator, 3 adult sponsors, and 10 youth from Jackson and Cape attended the Big Tent Conference in Houston, TX.

Asset Coordinator and 22 others attended training to become facilitators of the Essentials of Asset Building sessions.

345 people attended the Huddle Up! Asset Building is NOT a Spectator Sport! Conference. Approximately 2/3 of those that attended were youth.

THRIVE continues to be a regular feature in the Southeast Missourian Jr, which reaches more than 2000 students in Cape Girardeau County. An e-newsletter called Activating Assets was distributed to roughly 220 people per month.

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, 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

Cape Chamber Education Committee, Chair
Parent and Community Education Committee, Chair
Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Member
Community Liaison Council, Member

Barriers

Sustained funding for future growth
School cooperation

Noteworthy

THRIVE students participated in the Aeropostale Teens for Jeans campaign. They collected a total of 733 pairs of jeans that will be distributed to homeless shelters that help teens across the U.S. and Canada. Last year, they collected 180 pairs of jeans.
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. Dotty Gholson, Oral Health Coordinator, provides coordination of these services for Cape Girardeau County schools and daycares and Scott City schools and offers limited financial assistance for urgent dental needs.

Program Activities
12 volunteers completed the online training for the dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications.
7 dentists, 6 hygienists, and 19 dental assistants volunteered their time to implement dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications throughout Cape Girardeau County and Scott City. All materials were provided at no charge through the Missouri Oral Health Program.
Upon request, oral health displays, educational presentations on dental health, and brochures on dental varnish are provided.
Our Oral Health Coalition of Southeast Missouri brochure was updated and printed.

Program Outcomes
A total of 69 community volunteers (32 dental professionals and 37 volunteers) assisted with the school and daycare dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications.
27 schools - 4245 students screened; 2676 students received fluoride varnish (Some children have received two fluoride varnish applications.)
20 preschools - 532 children (2-5 year olds) screened; 529 children received fluoride varnish (Some children have received two fluoride varnish applications.)
Of total youth (4777) screened:
- 460 youth (10%) needed early dental treatment
- 276 youth (6%) needed immediate (urgent) dental treatment.

Collaborating Partners
Missouri Oral Health Program, Drs. Janet and Pat Ruopp & staff, Dr. Terry Spence & staff, Dr. Danna Cotner & staff, Dr. Nathan McGuire & staff, Dr. Garrett Sparks & staff, Cross Trails Dental Staff, Dr. Jim Fox
Schools: Cape Girardeau, Jackson, Oak Ridge, Nell Holcomb, Delta, and Scott City Public School Districts, Eagle Ridge Christian School, St. Mary's, St. Paul Lutheran, Immaculate Conception
Daycares: A Small World (Cape & Jackson), Cape Girardeau Montessori, Christian School For Young Years, Daycare @ Nars, Kids Korner, Jackson Early Learning Center, Eagle Ridge, Oak Ridge Early Learning Center, Just Kids (Cape & Jackson 2), Little Hoppers, A Step At A Time, Centenary Mothers Day Out, Upza Dazy, Curious Kids, University Child & Enrichment Center, Big Stuff, Watch Me Grow

Barriers
Circumstances beyond our control (fire at school site, change in staff at schools and daycares) often interrupt our dental screening process.
There is a need for more dental providers to participate in our screenings.

Noteworthy
A fundraiser to benefit oral health treatment service for youth in Cape Girardeau County, Bollinger County and Scott City will be held on April 16, 2011.
Molly McBride-Mooty is our new Oral Health Program Consultant from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.
The cooperation from local dental providers has been very impressive.
The Oral Health Coalition of Southeast Missouri, chaired by Dr. Janet Ruopp, continues to be an active group focused on quality dental care for youth in our community.
We had two volunteers from the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) who helped with four dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications.
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 applying for MO Housing Trust Fund Deposit Assistance.
Chaired Family Transition Team.

Program Outcomes
236 total calls, walk-ins and referrals
Long term case management provided to 58 individuals and families.
All referrals were assessed and plan of action developed or referral made to appropriate agency.
Assisted around 100 families with household items from the Community Closet.
Implemented HPRP program (see report for details).

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

Noteworthy
A local landlord referred a tenant who was no longer able to pay his rent and was being evicted. The landlord explained that he had to evict but was concerned about the well being of this individual. Community Case Manager and tenant met to develop a plan to avoid homelessness in the streets. The plan also included finding a shelter, employment and mental health services. The individual was able to find a bed in a local shelter and is now connected to Vocational Rehabilitation. He is getting closer to finding employment and hopefully stable housing.
Community Housing Assistance

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FY2011
By Ray 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.

There is currently a subcommittee planning ways we can help our area be more aware of the homeless needs. The Point in Time counts in July and January indicate an increase in the number of homeless in Cape Girardeau County.

The HUD grant supports a housing case manager and a coordinator. The current grant serves 27 individuals who have been identified as homeless and disabled by HUD standards. Their family members are also housed.

The MHTF grant provided $64,000 in 2010 to assist with deposits and senior housing repairs for those who qualify. For 2011, $60,000 will be received.

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

Program Outcomes
The MHTF grant served over ___ family units consisting of more than ___ individuals. Nearly all of these were served in the first eight 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. Over 10 other community agencies partner to help our clients remain connected to community programs and resources. Our program has become a truly permanent housing program. By helping our clients gain residential stability, we have been able to retain 63% of our clients for over three years. We are also proud to report that 37% of our clients have been in our program for over five 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, 82% 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 110 households and 226 people since April 2010.

Collaborating Partners
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 that support our grants and provide ideas to improve efforts to fulfill our purpose.

Church members continue to provide labor to build ramps and do handyman home repairs for the elderly in our area. Love INC has convened several church teams to help with this project. The church community has also been a vital partner in financing hotel stays for homeless persons.

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

Emergency shelters continue at Revival Center in Jackson, Gordonville's Amazing Grace Church, Cape's New Beginning Church, and Homeless Outreach. The Sprig of Hope Board continues its renovation of the building on Sprigg Street for an emergency shelter.

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.

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

Noteworthy
HUD in Washington notified their office in St. Louis and Cape's Community Caring Council that we have the flexibility to use the current Fair Market Rental amounts to find housing for our clients as long as CCC has the funds to cover the cost. CCC has sought this flexibility since the beginning of the grant.

New Beginning Church has added another shelter allowing them to have separate shelters for males and females.
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 homeless—many due to current
economic crisis—and to provide assistance to rapidly
re-house persons who are experiencing homelessness.
This program will be ending in September 2011 due to
expiration of stimulus funding.

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
110 Household assisted consisting of 226 people
- 40 people were assisted with deposit
- 58 people were assisted with rent
- 18 people were assisted with utilities
- 37 people were assisted with hotel vouchers
- 20 people were assisted with rental arrearages
  (please note that these numbers could be duplicated)

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. Funding is ending due to the expiration

Noteworthy
A single mother of three was referred by the Cape Public
School District stating that the mother was evicted
due to non-payment of rent and the family was now
homeless. The mother shared that she lost her job
and was not able to pay her rent. This led to her two
youngest children having to relocate to her mother’s
home out of town leaving the children not actively
enrolled in school. The mother had a full-time job but
was not financially capable of paying first month’s rent
and deposit. With the assistance of HPRP we were able to
reunite the family in a hotel, get children enrolled back
in their school and provide financial assistance to get
into a new place of their own.
Missouri Mentoring Partnership

Statement of Purpose
The Missouri Mentoring Partnership 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. Participants are also matched with a volunteer mentor to spend time with. An employment program offers job skills training for participating moms and dads, assistance in finding employment and employment mentoring.

Program Outcomes
**From April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011:**
- 20 registered moms have received services.
  - 16 of them have had a mentor.
  - 88% of currently participating moms are matched with a mentor.

- 6 dads have received parenting services.
  - 3 dads who meet the age requirements have completed parenting classes.
  - 3 dads were over the program age requirement but still came to program activities with the mothers.

75% of current participants are either enrolled in school, working or participating in an approved program for stay-at-home parents. 25% of participants are meeting two of these goals and an additional 25% are working on all three life goals.

Collaborating Partners
**Referrals:** past and present mentors and participants; Southeast Hospital Building Blocks; Positive Educational Parenting (P.E.P.) Club; Missouri Department of Social Services; Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center - Women Infants, & Children (WIC) program; Bollinger County Health Center, Cape Public Schools; Perryville Public Schools
**Key donors (money or in-kind) and volunteers:** Zonta; Children's Trust Fund (in Cape County MMP is an official CTF License Plate sponsor); Marble Hill United Methodist Church; Bollinger County Library; Evangelical United Church of Christ; Red Star Baptist Church; Hutchings Funeral Chapel; community individuals, individual consignors of Little Lambs Children's Sale

Barriers
Our primary barrier is the uncertainty of our state contract, which makes up the majority 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 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**
100% of the current participants are currently enrolled in an educational program or have already completed one.
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 (three 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 home care/group home providers & licensed exempt programs. Quarterly provider support groups 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 FY11 (the first two quarters):
Five providers have received services from Start Up & Expansion, with the goal of providers expanding the number of subsidized slots available for infants & toddlers.

Two have been center based and three have been home based providers.
Four providers have received services from Accreditation Facilitation.
There are 33 child care providers in Educare's CDA class, 30 providers are attending Emotional Beginnings Curriculum class (CEUs being offered also).
Educare has served 40 early childhood programs, and offered five provider support groups.
Educare staff has conducted 120 P.A.T. visits.
134 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
102 referrals were received and processed from April 2010 to March 2011.
Raised approximately $800 at Garage Sale Fundraiser in May 2010.
Solicited $1322 in donations through Christmas gift cards, collaborating partners and donations to the Community Closet.
Grants were submitted for transportation assistance, childcare assistance, and senior assistance in Cape Girardeau County.
Family Transition Team members attend case management workshops and other informational meetings to stay aware of resources and community issues.

Collaborating Partners
Cape County Senior Citizens' Fund Board, Cape Girardeau Public Schools, Parents as Teachers, Closet Keepers of First General Baptist Church of Jackson, Cross Trails Medical Center, Educare, First Call for Help, Jim Watkins, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Missouri Children's Division, 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
The Housing Case Manager of the Community Caring Council referred her 52 year old female client who was in need of an application fee. The client is going through the Culinary Arts program at the Cape Girardeau Career and Technology center and was invited by the instructor to be part of a group that competed in a culinary competition in Columbia. There was a fee of $50. The FTT approved the $50 fee in order for the client to attend the competition. The client was also in need of a haircut for the competition as well and funds were approved for the haircut. Client has no income at this time and has been in the Supportive Housing program for 27 months.
Show Me Healthy Women (SMHW) & WISEWOMAN

Statement of Purpose
The purpose of Show Me Healthy Women (SMHW) and WISEWOMAN is to provide community health workers through four community partnerships to support low-income women in obtaining access to prevention health services. This outreach intervention program was initiated in February 2011.

- SMHW provides for breast and cervical cancer early detection services for low-income women through provider clinics across the state.
- WISEWOMAN provides heart disease screenings and lifestyle education services for SMHW clients.

To qualify, women need to be between 35 to 64 (or older if not covered by Medicare Part B), uninsured or insurance does not cover breast or cervical cancer screenings, and household income is less than 200% above federal poverty guidelines.

Program Activities
Visits to area health providers in Cape Girardeau, Bollinger, Perry, Stoddard and Scott Counties.
Visits to area inter agency organizations and events to promote the program.
Educational presentations and displays at local community events for recruitment of participating 2011 Cancer Summit will be held in Columbia on April 19-21.
Annual training will be held in Poplar Bluff on May 12.
The Missouri Baptist Mammogram Van will be in Perryville at Walgreens on May 13.

Program Outcomes
February 1-March 31, 2011
10 visits were made to healthcare providers
1 visit to area interagency
No education presentations or displays have been implemented as of March 31, 2011.
80 potential participants have received program information
Program goal is to reach 200 women by the end of June 2011.

Collaborating Partners
FOUR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: Knox/Schuyler, Washington, Randolph, & Cape Girardeau Counties
PROVIDERS: Cross Trails Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, Advance, and Marble Hill, East Missouri Action Agency in Cape Girardeau and Perryville, Bollinger and Stoddard County Health Center, DAEOC Women's Health Care Clinic in Dexter, SEMO Health Network in Bernie, Missouri Delta Medical Center and Family Medicine of Southeast Missouri in Sikeston.
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 funded by United Way of Southeast Missouri.

Program Activities
We Care About YOUTH Conference - May 2010
Building Strong Families Curriculum
- Educare - Apr/May 2010
- Cape Area Family Resource Center - Oct/Nov 2010 and Mar/Apr 2011

Family Wellness Curriculum
- Lutheran Family and Children's Services - Jun/Jul 2010

Facilitator Training for Building Strong Families Curriculum - Feb 2011

Love and Logic® Parenting Curricula - Jan - Mar 2011
- Love and Logic Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun! (0-6 yrs)
- Becoming a Love and Logic Parent® (All Ages)

Program Outcomes
WE CARE ABOUT YOUTH CONFERENCE - May 21-22, 2010
- 150 parents, foster parents and childcare providers
- 2 keynote speakers: Jill Molli - "Sit Still, Pay Attention, Look at Me" and Marie Clark - "Issues in Sexual Abuse"
- 18 breakout sessions by local experts

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES
Educare
4 sessions in Apr - May: 21 parents and 22 youth (ages 0-5)
- Family Strengths, Positive Discipline, Money Matters, Healthy Home

Cape Area Family Resource Center
5 sessions in Oct - Nov: 19 parents and 12 youth; 5 adults had perfect attendance
- Family Strengths, Stress, Positive Discipline, Parent/School Engagement, Reading for Families

5 sessions in Mar - Apr: 17 parents and 12 youth; 7 adults had perfect attendance
- Family Strengths, Kids and Self Esteem, Positive Discipline, Parent/School Engagement/Communication, Reading for Families

FAMILY WELLNESS
LFCS (classes held at Family Counseling Center)
6 sessions in Jun - Jul: 11 participants, 7 "successful" participants - attended 8 of 12 hours

FACILITATOR TRAINING
Five committee/community members were trained to implement the adult and youth Building Strong Families Curriculum. The training was provided by a United Way grant; each participant was asked to provide eight hours of future implementation of the curriculum.

LOVE AND LOGIC® PARENTING CURRICULA
- Love and Logic Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun! Curriculum Preview - Jan 2011, 15 participants
- Becoming a Love and Logic Parent® Curriculum Preview - Feb 2011, 4 participants
- Becoming a Love and Logic Parent® Intensive Class - Mar 2011, 29 participants
- Parenting with Love and Logic® - Mar 2011, 74 participants

Collaborating Partners
4-Sight Counseling, Cape Area Family Resource Center, Educare, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Missouri Children's Division, Missouri Mentoring Partnership, New Vision Counseling, 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 2013.

Many behavior changes were noted by families: "more positive communication, more effective discipline, better ways to relate to children, spending more time as a family, hugging a child for at least 20 seconds."
Southeast Missouri Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FY2011
By Shelly Wood

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
In an effort to determine what substances area youth are using and where they are obtaining them, the Coalition completed our Youth Access Survey. The results of the survey continue to be shared with the community. As always, the Coalition will continue examining this data and other local data to drive our strategic planning process.

The media subcommittee has developed and implemented "Rise Above", a youth focused media campaign. "Rise Above" commercials are currently airing on television and radio stations. The commercials show young, local swimmers, and illustrate how these youth rise above the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The Coalition has developed a new youth Facebook page for the campaign and is currently soliciting videos from other local youth depicting how they rise above the use of drugs.

The advocacy subcommittee collaborated with the office of the prosecuting attorney to draft a letter to parents explaining the consequences of underage drinking. The letter will be sent to parents of graduating seniors during the time directly before proms and graduations.

The Coalition recently coordinated a training between local law-enforcement and the Underage Drinking and Enforcement Training Center.

Various youth groups have provided input to the Coalition this year including youth from THRIVE, Division of Youth Services, Family Counseling Center Adolescent Program, and Youth United Way.

Program Outcomes
Approximately 700 Youth Access Surveys were completed by Cape County youth. Four Town Hall Meetings (Cape Girardeau, Jackson, Oak Ridge and Delta) were held to share the results of the Youth Access Survey with community members in November 2010.

In addition to the Town Hall Meetings, the Coalition was invited to present at seven other locations this year.

Regional Development Funds supported a continued Coalition presence at the SEMO District Fair in Sep 2010.

Twenty six local law-enforcement officers and forty local youth volunteers participated in a Party Patrol and

Controlled Dispersal Techniques training followed by a mock part in Jan 2011.

The Coalition has secured continued support of Alcohol Compliance Checks in Cape Girardeau and Jackson through DFC funding.

The Coalition was successful in recruiting eight new board members this year.

Collaborating Partners
Bethel Assembly of God, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club, Cape Bible Chapel, Cape County Health Department, Cape County Sheriff's Office, Cape Police Department, Cape Schools, Charter Communications, Christ Episcopal Church, Climate Protection Initiative, Community Caring Council, Delta Schools, Drug Court, Family Counseling Center, FORU-MO, Fort Law Firm, Gibson Recovery Center, Girl Scouts of MO Heartland, Jackson Police Department, Jackson Schools, KFVS-TV, KRCU Radio, LaCroix Church, LIFE, McDonalds, Mid America Teen Challenge, Mississippi River Radio, MO Army National Guard, MO Division of Probation and Parole, MO Division of Youth Services, MO Mentoring Partnership, New Vision Counseling, Notre Dame High School, Oak Ridge Schools, Perry County Community Task Force, Pop's Pizza, Rhodes 101, Safe Communities, Scott City Women's Club, SE Missourian, SE Missourian Jr, SE Regional Support Center, SEMO State University, THRIVE, United Way of SEMO, interested youth and adults

Barriers
Participation from local schools in the completion of the Youth Access Survey was limited.

A location to implement the All Stars Program this spring was not secured.

There is a need for increased community involvement in the Coalition, including additional support from the business community.

Noteworthy
The Coalition was awarded a Drug Free Communities grant in October 2010. The $125,000 annual award (for the next five years) allowed the hiring of James Maginel as Project Director, Shelly Wood as Project Coordinator and Kay Azuma as Grant Budget Specialist.
Aging Committee

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 2010 to review outcomes and plan for the coming year.

The Senior Resource cards continue to be available for distribution and online at http://www.communitycaringcouncil.org

Monthly Senior Calendar continues to be published and distributed throughout Cape County as well as online at http://www.communitycaringcouncil.org

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

The Cape County Senior Needs Assessment was completed. Results were analyzed and shared with members of the Aging Committee, Cape County Senior Citizens Tax Board and Cape County Commissioners.

Program Outcomes
Topics presented at meetings included Community Plan Update, Senior Challenges, Veterans' Care Coordination, Senior Needs Assessment, Medicare Options, Capetown Assisted Living, Love INC Senior Services, Community Disaster Preparedness and Assistive Technology.

Average monthly attendance = 17
Annual Retreat was hosted by Saint Francis Medical Center in Aug 2010 with 17 in attendance.
1500 Senior Resource Cards were distributed.
Approximately 200 copies of Senior Calendar were provided to clientele at 11 sites each month.
A total of 1895 Senior Assessment surveys were returned. Results cited the five greatest needs as (1) Yard work, (2) Help with housekeeping, (3) Minor home repair, (4) Companionship, and (5) Someone to call in an emergency.
Assessment findings resulted in funding from Cape County Senior Citizens Tax Board to Love INC for 2011.

Love INC has hired a part-time Senior Coordinator to coordinate volunteers to meet those identified needs.
Senior Safety Committee - Durable medical equipment (valued at $500) was provided to nine individuals.

Collaborating Partners
AARP, Alzheimer's Association, American Red Cross, APPLE, Cape Area Family Resource Center, Center, Cape County Health Department, Cape County Senior Citizens' Tax Board, Cape Police Department, Cape Senior Center, Capetown Independent Living, Chaffee Nursing Center, Chateau Girardeau, Community Counseling Center, Cross Trails Medical Center, Crown Hospice, Four Oaks Hospice, Hartle Management Agency, Hoover Center, Jackson Ministerial Alliance, Jackson Senior Center, Life Care Center, Love INC, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, MO Department of Health & Senior Services, Regional Arthritis Center at Saint Francis Medical Center, RSVP/VIC, SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, SEMO Area Agency on Aging, SEMO State University, SEMO Hospital-Wellness Connection and Wound Care, Smooth Moves, The Lutheran Home, United Way of SEMO, University of MO Extension, USDA Rural Development, Visiting Nurse Association of SEMO and interested individuals

Barriers
Reaching those seniors who have no support systems continues to be a challenge.

Noteworthy
The Aging Committee is an active and dedicated group committed to addressing senior issues.
Community Caring Council – Cape Girardeau
Established: 1995

FY10 Result Achievement: THRIVE INITIATIVE -- Children & Youth Succeeding in School
September 2010

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 (nine or more) is required for board decisions. The Council consists of nine full time staff and two part time staff: Executive Director, Community Coordinator, Housing Coordinator and Case Manager, 1.5 Community Case Managers, Asset Coordinator, .5 Oral Health Coordinator, Office Manager and MO Mentoring Partnership Director and Parent Educator.

Of particular concern this past year is the significantly low graduation rate (72.3%) for Cape Girardeau School District # 63. Executive Director Tom Davison has chaired United Way’s Education Solutions Team over the past year to explore causes and recommend solutions to positively affect this indicator.

As one of the Council’s nine active Priority Issue Councils, the Youth Development committee has been instrumental in guiding the THRIVE Community Initiative – TEACH, HOPE, REACH, INVOLVE, VALUE and ENCOURAGE (youth). Using Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Asset framework, the initiative has impacted our youth and our community over the past five years. THRIVE is dedicated to promoting positive youth development throughout Cape County through relationships, skills, and values. Research shows a positive relationship between higher assets, greater academic achievement, and lower risky behaviors.

This is not a “program”, but an initiative that encourages all community sectors to build intentional and meaningful relationships with youth – as teachers, as neighbors, as relatives, as employers, as church leaders, etc. Our goal is to increase the number of assets of youth through interaction with meaningful adults and positive peers in their homes, schools, neighborhoods, youth programs and churches.

FY10 Major Collaborative Accomplishments:
THRIVE has hosted two asset training sessions for 160 adults in the community. Everyone’s An Asset Builder was attended by parents and other adults who care about youth; Hardwired to Connect was attended by local youth pastors. Asset presentations were also made to five groups.

THRIVE also provided four Change of Heart Retreats for 140 youth and faculty in several local schools. Change of Heart is an asset-based look at our perceptions of others and the way we treat them.

THRIVE is also offering student advisory committees in three secondary schools. These students and their faculty sponsors learn about the 40 Developmental Assets and plan and implement school or community service projects in areas where they see a need to build assets. Usually these projects require extensive planning and fundraising.

Asset Building Champions (ABC), our newest program, utilizes 20 parent volunteers to read an anti-bullying story and do activities in every class at St. Vincent de Paul School on a monthly basis. 300 students in grade K-6 participated in this program.

THRIVE is a regular feature in the Southeast Missourian Jr., a monthly youth newspaper, which reaches more than 2000 students in Cape Girardeau County. We also distribute a monthly e-newsletter called Activating Assets to an estimated 250 people.

THRIVE is in the process of planning a Harlem Ambassadors basketball show in November. This game will not only provide a fun family-friendly event, but will also allow local “heroes” to show their support for THRIVE and the youth in our community.

Noteworthy: THRIVE is helping 12 youth and three adults attend Search Institute’s Big Tent Conference this November in Houston, TX. Best practices in asset building from around the world will be highlighted. The attendees have been raising money for two years and are near their fundraising goals.

List of Partners: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Cape Chamber of Commerce, Cape County 4-H, Cape Public Library, Cape Public Schools, Child Care Resource & Referral, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Division of Youth Services, Jackson R2 Schools, LIFE Initiative, Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, Girl Scouts of Missouri Heartland, Missouri Mentoring Partnership, SE MO Hospital – Building Blocks, Southeast Regional Support Center, St. Vincent de Paul School, United Way of SE MO, Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.
Building Strong Families is topic of weekly program

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

The Cash-Book Journal

Having a strong, positive family life takes work. Building Strong Families, a program to help area parents, grandparents and guardians address a variety of family issues, will begin on Monday, October 4 and will continue on all Mondays through November 1, 2010. The program will be held at the Cape Area Family Resource Center, 1202 S. Sprigg Street in Cape Girardeau.

A light supper for the participating families (adults and children) and program staff starts at 5:45pm. Following the meal, youth are divided into age groups and moved to separate classrooms.

The adults and the youth receive instruction on the same topics. If adults are learning about "communication," the youth are hearing about the same topic, with age-appropriated, hands-on activities.

Children learn that they have responsibilities at home, just as their parents have certain roles and responsibilities. In addition, a take-home activity is offered each week that involves all family members working and playing together.

Building Strong Families is a program developed by University of Missouri Extension Service. This five-week series is made possible through Cape Girardeau County Extension Center, Community Caring Council, United Way of Southeast Missouri, and the Cape Area Family Resource Center. Topics to be covered will include Family Strengths, Communication, Food and Fitness, Kids and Self Esteem and Ideas to becoming a reading family.

There is no cost to participate, but registration is needed in order to provide adequate food and supplies. Please call Kay Azuma at 651-3747 x 104 or Mary Gosche at 243-3581 to register or to request a brochure and registration form.
Homeless Awareness Week recognized
Tuesday, November 16, 2010
seMissourian.com

Photo by Kristin Eberts. Mayor Harry Rediger presents Roy Jones, left, Housing Coordinator for the Community Caring Council, with a proclamation recognizing Nov. 15 to 21 as Homeless Awareness Week in Cape Girardeau. Nov. 14 to 20 is also National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. A crowd gathered at Wehrenberg Theater in Cape Girardeau on Monday to hear the proclamation. A homeless awareness display has been assembled in late November at the theater for the past six years.
Youth substance abuse discussed at Cape Girardeau town hall meeting

Tuesday, November 16, 2010
By Erin Hevern ~ Southeast Missourian

Educating the public, especially parents, may be a key component in reducing alcohol and tobacco use among young people, members of the Southeast Missouri Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition said Monday.

The group discussed the results of a survey at a town-hall meeting at the Cape Girardeau Public Library. The survey, distributed from May to September, discloses where youth, ages 12 to 20, in Cape Girardeau County, commonly access alcohol, illegal drugs and tobacco. A total of 737 young people responded to the questionnaire.

Sharing the results with a group of community members, LeAnn Kuhlmann, an intern with the Community Caring Council, said more than half of the teenagers who admitted to using alcohol and tobacco in the last 30 days got the substances from a family member or a different adult. Thirty-one percent of teens who used tobacco received it from their peers, and 37 percent of teens drinking alcohol also got it from their friends.

“If I can speculate, some adults think it’s safer to provide alcohol to youth in their own home,” said Shelly Wood, program coordinator for the coalition. “Not only is it illegal, but drinking has serious health implications for youth.”

Wood, sharing nationwide statistics, said youths who begin drinking at age 13 are 45 percent more likely to become dependent on alcohol. Of the adults who begin drinking at the legal age of 21, just 7 percent are likely to become addicted to alcohol.

Youth who attempted to purchase tobacco at Cape Girardeau convenience stores were six times more likely to be successful than those who tried to purchase alcohol, Kuhlmann said.

The percentages of teens accessing substances from their peers or youth dealers increased when the survey question mentioned prescription drugs and marijuana. Thirty percent of the respondents who had used marijuana got it from a youth dealer and 23 percent of youths using prescription drugs bought the substance from their friends.

Kuhlmann said that although the percentage of teens using prescription drugs may appear low, rates have been on the rise nationally, especially among people ages 12 to 14.

Caring council coordinator Kay Azuma said now they’ll begin to develop strategies on how to best use the data.

“We hope if we gave this survey in three years we’d find different use patterns in the county,” she said.

The coalition will hold additional discussions on the results today at the Oak Ridge High School cafeteria, Nov. 23 at the Delta High School cafeteria and Nov. 30 at the Jackson Middle School library. All the meetings will be at 6 p.m.
Cape Girardeau County has strong demand for senior housing

Sunday, November 21, 2010
By Carrie Bartholomew ~ Southeast Missourian

The demand for affordable senior housing in Cape Girardeau County is strong, as evidenced by a recent survey and an area developer.

The United Way and the Community Caring Council conducted a senior needs assessment and found that more than 89 percent of Cape Girardeau County senior citizens were living either alone or with a spouse.

Dan Sanders with MACO Development of Clarkton, Mo., said his company has three senior housing developments in Cape Girardeau that are always full and have waiting lists. The company’s most recent senior housing development opened on West End Boulevard with 100 percent occupancy. Between the three properties – Heritage Manor, Rosebrook Apartments and West Court Manor -- Sanders said the company has about 130 living units for people 55 and older.

To meet the demand, Sanders said, the company is planning another property with duplexes with garages. MACO is trying to secure funding and tax credits to build the duplexes on LaSalle Avenue. While the properties are not federally subsidized housing, he said the units will be affordable at about $450 a month and include utilities, appliances and yardwork services.

"The rents are affordable. Something for someone living on Social Security, a pension," he said.

If the company receives the funding and credits, he said, the LaSalle Avenue property would be the most expensive of its Cape Girardeau senior developments.

Roy Jones, housing coordinator for the Community Caring Council, said while there may be waiting lists at some senior-only properties, Cape Girardeau County does a better job than most surrounding areas at providing housing for seniors. The reason, he said, is entrepreneurship.

"Developers figure out ways to provide this through tax credits, grants," he said. "With seniors there are more opportunities than others, such as young mothers with children."

However, Jones said there is some senior homelessness in the county. He said his organization receives calls asking for housing assistance, which often means helping with a deposit.

"At any age it's hard to come up with two months' rent. Getting the deposit can sometimes make the difference," he said.

He said it was difficult to provide exact numbers of how many seniors in the county are homeless. Just because someone is homeless does not mean they are living in their car or on the street.

"They can be bouncing from friends and family," he said. "They have no permanent house. They are homeless."

Seniors will often be homeless for a few weeks while they try to secure a place to live. Jones said the demand for affordable housing for college students in Cape Girardeau raises rents for everyone. Seniors, however, tend to make better tenants, Jones said.

"They have learned to take care of their property," he said. "Fewer seniors would use drugs and party. They typically wouldn't do anything destructive to the property."

Seniors who decide to live in retirement communities or independent living facilities do so because of the desire for companionship and help with yardwork, home maintenance and housekeeping, Jones said.

Scott Sprandel, manager at Saxony Village, one of Cape Girardeau's independent living facilities, said the extra help provided at some facilities allows seniors to focus more on taking care of themselves.
"It's like an all-inclusive resort," he said. "We take care of the stuff they don't enjoy doing, giving them more time for socialization."

Jones and Sprandel said the more interaction seniors receive, the happier and healthier they are.

When Virginia Lewis, now in her 90s, moved into Saxony six years ago, it was so her family would know she was taken care of, even when they were not around. Saxony's services gave Lewis and her family comfort and allowed her to keep her active lifestyle.

Lewis and her friend Gloria Robbins, who is in her 80s, continue to drive, take trips and participate in a variety of activities.

"It's a fun life," Lewis said. "The activity lady, Dolores Pobst, is great."

Robbins said typical activities include trips, cards, trivia, playing Wii games, formal dinners and teas.

She said she is fortunate to live in an independent living facility like Saxony because not everyone can afford it.

Sprandel said services at Saxony include one meal a day, housekeeping every two weeks, maintenance, bus service and daily activities.