Welcome / Introductions

Kasten Award

Horizon Award

Friend of the Council Award

Vote
Council Board Members
President-Elect

Installation of President & President-Elect

Next Meeting
Friday, June 15, 2012 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 Fambro
- 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
- 2010 Kathy Sweeney
- 2011 C. James Maginel
Horizon Award

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
2010  Cheryl Ellis
2011  Jackson Public Schools
The Council

Board of Directors

FOUNDER
Mary C. Kasten

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tom Davisson

COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Gina Matysik, Chaffee Nursing Center

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, Chateau Girardeau
Gladys Mosley, Neighborhood Representative
Frances Gould, Missouri Children’s Division
Kevin Sexton, SEMO University
Jill Miller, Habitat for Humanity

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 (except Mar, Apr, May)
7:30-8:30 AM
Kasten Community Development Center
937 Broadway, Suite 102 (Lower Level)
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
COMMUNITY CARING COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monthly Council Meetings

Aging Committee
Children & Youth Committee
Conference Committee
Nominating Committee

Executive Director

Office Manager
Asset Coordinator
Community Coordinator
Community Case Manager
Housing Coordinator
Missouri Mentoring
Administered Programs
- Community Mentoring (DYS)
- Educare (HB1519)
- Family Transition Team
- Parenting with Purpose
- Show Me Healthy Women
- Successful Parenting
- WISEWOMAN

Health Coordinator
Community Plan Priority Issue Councils

Transportation
Access to Medical Care
Alcohol & Drug Abuse
Family Issues

- Mental Health Care
- Oral Health Care
- Primary Health Care
- Adult
- Youth
- Housing
- Independent Living
- Parent & Community Education
- Self-Sufficiency
- Youth Development
- THRIVE Initiative
Funding Sources

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

Centenary Methodist Church - Family Transition Team

DYS Community Mentors Grant

Governor’s Committee to End Homelessness

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

HUD – Permanent Supportive Housing Program

Local Fundraising/Donations

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

Missouri Family Support Division – HB 1519 (Educare)

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

Sprig of Hope Mini-Grants

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

Zonta Club – Missouri Mentoring Partnership
From the Director

To All Community Partners:

As we marvel at this unusual weather, and hope that we don’t have our usual late freeze, this has been a busy year for all of our staff.

It is too obvious, based on the people coming through our doors daily, that the economic crisis finally arrived in Cape Girardeau. People need every basic thing you can imagine: food, shelter, health care assistance, transportation, employment help, etc. Thankfully we are fortunate to have access to several different funding sources to help meet some of these needs. But there is never enough money to help everyone, so we have to say no. None of us like to do that.

We continue to partner with many others in the community as needs are identified and resources are developed. A major event is scheduled for October 5. This will be our community’s opportunity to offer Project Homeless Connect. This is a national initiative and ours will be the fourth in Missouri. It will be at the Osage Centre and the plan is to have as many services as possible for people to access. Everything from birth certificates to applying for various kinds of financial aid will be available. Haircuts, medical screenings, showers, food, and take away items will be available. Our goal is to have 300 people attend. It is directed at our homeless population but no one will be turned away. Of course an endeavor of this size will take hundreds of volunteers. We are actively recruiting volunteers and donations at this time. More information will be available about the event on a website when it is created.

We continue to look for other sources of funding to expand and sustain all that we do. We are considering partnering with the Department of Social Work at SEMO to pursue a Missouri Foundation for Health mini-grant to provide Mental Health First Aid training in our community. We have applied to Children’s Trust Fund for a grant to expand our efforts to provide Love and Logic as an alternate Parent Education resource. We have requested additional funds for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing initiative that we managed two years ago.

There is great need, but ours is a generous community. It is our pleasure to serve our community.

[Signature]

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 and advisory boards.

Supervised three Social Work interns for macro-practice experience.

Produced three monthly calendars - Family Fun and Learning Activities Calendar, Successful Parenting Calendar 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, the Center was used for 260 meetings, an increase of 9% from the previous year. Of the total usage, 165 (63%) were for Council meetings/events and 95 (37%) were for community meetings/events.

Represented the Community Caring Council as a member of the following: 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 SEMO Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

Collaborating Partners
Approximately 254 representatives from 209 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.

Providing resources (education, job training, job opportunities, transportation, etc.) to address the issues that result in unmet needs.

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.
Statement of Purpose
Facilitate community-wide awareness and use of 40 Developmental Assets Initiative to increase number of positive assets in youth.

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. A new group was created at Jackson Middle School.
Continued group at ECHO Community Resource Center and added 2 groups at the Girardot Center.
Participated in Cub Club Plus by offering Artistic Expression one time per week at Central Middle School.
Facilitated Change of Heart sessions at the Girardot Center and twice for Jackson R2 Schools.
Provided continuing support of Asset Building Champions (ABC) parent reading program at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School for elementary classrooms.

Program Outcomes
Asset Coordinator and initiative members have provided 1 free asset training, and 8 asset presentations. THRIVE had a booth or table at another 7 community events. An estimated 534 people received asset information during these events.
Asset Coordinator facilitated 3 sessions of Change of Heart for a combined total of 78 students at the Girardot Center and Jackson R2 Schools.
Worked with members of student advisory committees and school sponsors at CJHS (5 students), JMS (27 students) JHHS (19 students), JHS (11 students), Girardot Center (25 students) and ECHO (10 students) to infuse assets into the school and facility environments.
Approximately 20 students participated in Artistic Expression as part of Cub Club Plus. 141 people attended the final celebration on March 27, 2011, featuring Assets as protective factors for kids when it comes to underage drinking.
THRIVE continues to be a regular feature in the Southeast Missouri Jr, which reaches more than 2000 students in Cape Girardeau County. We distribute an e-newsletter called Activating Assets to roughly 220 people per month.

Collaborating Partners
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern MO, Cape Public Library, Cape Girardeau Public Schools, Jackson R2 Schools, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, MO Division of Youth Services, MO Mentoring Partnership, Southeast Hospital/Building Blocks, Southeast Missouri State University, Southeast Missouri St., United Way/LIFE Initiative, University of MO Extension, Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, parents and youth from the community.

Community Involvement
Parent and Community Education Committee, Chair
Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Coalition Chair
Community Liaison Council, Chair
Leadership Cape 2, 2011 Graduate

Barriers
Sustained funding for future growth
School cooperation
More staff needed to adequately address numerous areas of need

Noteworthy
THRIVE members participated in the Parade of Lights for the first time in 2011. Students dressed as gifts and reminded the crowd that the holidays were more about your "presence" than your "presents."
Jackson THRIVE students participated in the Aeropostale Teens for Jeans campaign. They collected a total of 2230 pairs of jeans that will be distributed to homeless shelters that help teens across the U.S. and Canada. Last year, they collected 733 pairs of jeans.
THRIVE partnered with the Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and Cape and Jackson schools to implement Search Institute's Attitudes and Behaviors Survey in the winter of 2011. 1120 students participated in the survey. The results are in and are being reviewed.
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
19 volunteers completed the online training for the dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications.
9 dentists, 8 hygienists, 18 dental assistants, 9 dental hygiene students and 2 nursing students 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.

Program Outcomes
63 community volunteers (35 dental professionals and 28 volunteers) assisted with the school and daycare dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications.

27 schools
- 5601 students screened
- 3233 students received fluoride varnish (Some children have received two fluoride varnish applications.)

17 preschools
- 553 children (2-5 year olds) screened
- 334 children received fluoride varnish (Most children have received two fluoride varnish applications.)

Of total youth (6154) screened:
- 538 youth (9%) needed early dental treatment
- 200 youth (3%) needed immediate (urgent) dental treatment.

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

Daycares: A Small World (Cape & Jackson), Christian School For Young Years, Daycare @ Nars, Kids Korner, Jackson Early Learning Center, Oak Ridge Early Learning Center, Just Kids (Cape & Jackson 2)), Little Hoppers, A Step At A Time, Centenary Mothers Day Out, Community Day School, Curious Kids, University Child & Enrichment Center, Big Stuff, Watch Me Grow

Barriers
Circumstances beyond our control (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
The 2nd Annual Sensational Smiles fundraiser to benefit oral health treatment service for local youth was held on April 16, 2011 Over $4,600 was raised for our Dental Treatment Scholarship Program.
The 3rd Annual Sensational Smiles fundraiser will be held on April 14, 2012.
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 one volunteer from the RSVP Retired Volunteer Program who helped with 15 dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications.
SEMO Dental Hygiene students were able to do their community service hours with our Oral Health Program.

Collaborating Partners
Missouri Oral Health Program, Drs. Janet & Pat Ruopp & Staff, Dr. Nathan Seyer & staff, Dr. Terry Spence & staff, Dr. Danna Cotner & staff, Dr. Brad Baden, Dr. Garrett Sparks & staff, Dr. Byron Aden & staff, Dr. Jim Fox & staff.
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.
Chair ed Family Transition Team.

Program Outcomes
308 total calls, walk-ins and referrals*
Long term case management was provided to 73 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).
*Numbers include individuals and families assisted by Southeast Missouri State Social Work Practicum Students.

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
Two clients of the Community Case Manager became eligible for Habitat for Humanity home ownership. Both clients are single mothers and have three children each. These women have made great strides in the past several years. Their ability to become first time homeowners is an example of their hard work and determination.
Community Housing Assistance

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FY2012
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.

There are currently two active subcommittees, Awareness and Data Assessment, that are working on ways we can help our area become more aware of the homeless and their needs as well as documenting the changing issues that the various agencies in our community track.

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 $60,000 in 2011 to assist with deposits and senior housing repairs for those who qualify. For 2012, $60,000 will be received.

Program Outcomes
The MHTF grant served over 194 family units consisting of more than 442 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, 35 adults and 17 children. Over the course of the seventh 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 true permanent housing program. By helping our clients gain residential stability, we have been able to retain 60% of our clients for over two years. We are also proud to report that 42% of our clients have been in our program for over 5 years and the longest housed client has been in the program for 7 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, 86% 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.

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 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. MHTF grant has provided funds to cover the material costs and a few professional expenses. The church community has also been a vital partner in financing hotel stays for homeless persons.

Family Counseling Center's HUD Supportive Grant serves 16 adult women and their children.

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

Emergency shelters continue at Revival Center in Jackson and Cape's New Beginning Church. The Sprig of Hope Board continues to work towards providing emergency shelter by providing mini grants to local agencies. A new shelter in Delta called the Amen Center has also begun to service homeless families and individuals by providing shelter. All of these shelters help to service the growing numbers of homeless in our community and that find their way to the Council.

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

Homeless Awareness Week was observed in Nov 2011 with a display at West Park Cine including youth art, a press conference and mayoral proclamation recognizing the week. An art display was also held at the Arts Council of Southeast Missouri in Cape Girardeau. The art was on display from the months of December through January and included art from those who have experienced homelessness, professionals that work with the homeless and other interested community members. Artist spoke about their pieces at a social event held at the Arts Council.

42 transitional housing beds were added in Cape County during FY 2011 by New Beginnings (10 male and 10 female), Homeless Outreach Center (12 male) and Amazing Grace in Gordonville (10 male). Two additional shelters opened in early FY12 - Agape Center (10 male beds) and AMEN Center (at least 50 beds for men, women and children). From 50 beds in FY10 to 152 in FY12 represents a 202% increase!

The Council, along with support from the Housing Needs Committee, heads the MO Point in Time Homeless Count for Cape, Perry and Bollinger Counties. Eleven homeless individuals were reported in Jul 2010 and 24 in Jan 2011.

A local church has established a "Home for Hope" - one house for one family at a time, working with the family to become self-sufficient.

Project Homeless Connect is an event that is a one-stop service day for those in our community that are experiencing a housing crisis. Cape Girardeau has been selected by the Governors Committee to End Homelessness as the next community to host the event. Other events have been held in Columbia, Branson and Sedalia. The event will be held in October of 2012 and will be a wonderful collaborative effort that will benefit those in our community. The Community Caring Council has been selected as the lead agency for the event planning.

Since 2004, the Council has received a total of $2,104,464 in funding for housing efforts!
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.

Program Activities
This program ended in September 2011 due to expiration of stimulus funding. Minimal people were assisted due to limited funding in the last few months of the HPRP program. A reallocation of funds was issued in April with original program criteria. These funds must be spent by May 31, 2012.

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
2 households consisting of 7 people were assisted.

Since April 2011, HPRP has contributed to the following:
- 1 person assisted with long-term rent for 6 months.
- 1 person assisted with deposit and first month’s rent.

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

Barriers
Limited funding can only assist individuals for a short amount of time. Funding is ending due the expiration of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The reallocation will provide assistance to some but the strict time frame will allow for housing needs to be left unmet.

Noteworthy
A single mother of 5 was referred to our agency after her Section 8 voucher was considered invalid. The family was separated after the eviction and the mother lost her employment due to bouncing from place to place and lack of transportation. HPRP funds were able to assist her with hotel stay while she was able to pursue employment and housing. Client found part-time employment and shortly after housing, HPRP funds assisted with full deposit and first month’s rent. Other resources such as furniture, linens, food, and other household items were provided to help the family until income was received. While her part-time job barely paid the bills, client has been successful in maintaining housing with clever budgeting and minimal expenses.
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.

Program Outcomes
From April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012:
16 registered moms have received services.
- 10 of them have had a mentor.
- 61% of currently participating moms are matched with a mentor.
3 dads have received parenting services.
- 3 dads who meet the age requirements have completed parenting classes.
100% of current participants are either enrolled in school, working or participating in an approved program for stay-at-home parents. 36% of participants are meeting two of these goals.

Collaborating Partners
Referrals: past and present mentors and participants; Southeast Hospital Building Blocks; Positive Educational Parenting (PEP) Club; 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, Woodland Public School, Parents As Teachers, and Marble Hill Country Mart
Key donors (money or in-kind) and volunteers: Zonta Club; Bollinger County Library; Evangelical United Church of Christ; Red Star Baptist Church; Hutchings Funeral Chapel; Abby Roads Church, community individuals, individual consignors of Little Lambs Children’s Sale
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 and this is achieved through programming for child care providers and parents. Cape Educare has the following six grants: Educare, Stay At Home Parents (3 grants), Start Up & Expansion, and Accreditation Facilitation. The counties served are Cape, Scott, Perry, Bollinger, Stoddard and Mississippi.

Program Activities
Educare offers a variety of training and technical assistance to child care providers in our service area. This includes Start Up & Expansion assistance for those wishing to care for infants and toddlers in a home or center setting. Accreditation Facilitation provides technical assistance and 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 and technical assistance to providers receiving subsidized childcare through Division of Social Services. This would include unlicensed registered vendors, licensed home care/group home providers and 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 and 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 and 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, and other materials for child care providers and parents to check out.

Program Outcomes
The following are outcomes for FY12 (the first two quarters):

Four providers have received services from Start Up & Expansion, with the goal of providers expanding the number of subsidized slots available for infants and toddlers. Two have been home based providers, one center based and one group home.

Six providers have received services from Accreditation Facilitation.

There are 14 child care providers in Educare's CDA class, 33 providers completed Emotional Beginnings curriculum class (CEUs were also offered).

Educare has served 40 early childhood programs with on-site services, and offered 5 provider support groups.

Educare staff has conducted 65 Parents As Teachers visits since the beginning of this school year.

122 families have participated in the P.E.P./Stay At Home Parent program.

Collaborating Partners
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
86 referrals were received and processed from April 2011 to March 2012.
Raised approximately $1000 at Garage Sale Fundraiser in May 2011.
Solicited approximately $1000 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, Centenary Methodist Church, 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, Parents as Teachers, 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 referral was made by a social work practicum student working with a 27 year old female client needing scrubs for employment. The client was recently hired at Heartland Health Care and Rehab as a CNA and will be required to wear scrubs. The client is a single mother raising two small children. The client will make $9.00/hr. working approximately 30-40 hours per week. However, $160 will be taken out of each paycheck (paid biweekly) for child support. After she pays all of her monthly bills (rent, electric, etc), the client struggles to have money for uniforms, etc.
The student requested and received $35 from the FTT to purchase a pair of scrubs for the client. The client was able to maintain employment and monthly expenses.
Parenting with Purpose

Statement of Purpose
Parenting with Purpose program was implemented in Cape Girardeau county in January 2011 utilizing Becoming a Love and Logic Parent®, Love and Logic Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun™, and the 40 Developmental Assets. The program focuses on equipping parents with resources and techniques to help increase the odds of raising more respectful and responsible children, building stronger families, and stronger community. These resources and techniques encourage eliminating anger, lectures and threats which often foster stressful relationships between parent and child; often leading to rebellion and disrespect, feeding into abuse.

To further support families and their success, Parenting with Purpose also seeks to provide professionals and educators, working with children professional development opportunities utilizing the same resources that parents will be accessing to reinforce what is being taught in the home in the child's care/school environment.

Barriers
Lack of funding
Community Awareness

Program Activities
Establish Quarterly community parenting classes
Create & maintain www.capefamilies.com
Provide parenting resource information at various fairs/venues throughout the community

Program Outcomes
4 Community Parenting classes offered serving 25 adults
Professional development training for social service workers serving 23 professionals
Break out session for We Care About YOUth Conference serving 17 parents, foster parents and professionals.
Booth at 3 fairs/venues reaching over 1000 adults

Collaborating Partners
Cape Girardeau Public Schools, Educare, Parents As Teachers

Community Involvement
Actively participates with Parent & Community Education Committee, Success by 6 Leadership Team, and THRIVE Initiative.
Selected to serve as Family Leader for Success by 6 Leadership Team
Chair for Messy Morning! Planning Committee
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 interagency organizations on a monthly basis and events to promote the program.

- Displays at the Women’s Health Fair in Marble Hill, and Medicenter Health Fair in Jackson for recruitment of participants.
- Participation in the Relay for Life in April, the Pink Moon Run for Breast Cancer in October, the Pink Ribbon Luncheon Committee & the Heart to Heart Luncheon.
- The Barnes Hospital Mammogram Van was in New Madrid & Sikeston in June, Charleston & Portageville in November, Missouri Baptist Mammogram Van was in Perryville in June.
- Participated in the SMHW/WW training in May at Poplar Bluff, and Health Conference in Columbia.

Program Outcomes
Program goal is to reach 200 women by the end of June 2012.

Collaborating Partners
FOUR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: American Cancer Society, Breast Cancer Foundation of the Ozarks, Cape Girardeau County, Community Breast Care Project, Gateway to Hope: A Breast Cancer Lifeline, Hope 4 You Breast Cancer Foundation, Knox/Schuyler County, Komen Mid-Missouri Affiliate, Komen St. Louis Affiliate, Komen Kansas City Affiliate, Missouri Cancer Consortium, National Cancer Institute, Randolph County, Washington County

PROVIDERS: Bernie Medical Clinic in Bernie, Cross Trails Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, Advance, and Marble Hill, East Missouri Action Agency in Cape Girardeau and
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 - Mar 16-17, 2012
(23rd Annual Community Caring Conference)
- 200 parents, foster parents, childcare providers, social service providers, educators and general audience
- Keynote speakers: Dr. Veronica Getskow, "Raising Emotionally Healthy Children" and Marie Clark, "Abuse Reactive Children and Young Sexual Perpetrators"
- 9 breakout sessions by local experts

Collaborating Partners
American Red Cross, Beacon Health Center, Cape Career and Technology Center, Centerpoint Hospital, ChildCare Aware, Educare, Evangelical United Church of Christ, Jackson Schools, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Marie Clark (Behavioral Science Institute), Missouri Children's Division, Missouri Mentoring Partnership, New Vision Counseling, Safe House for Women, SEMO Center for Autism, 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 has allocated funding to sustain Successful Parenting Program through 2013.

Comments from participants:
"Strategies were presented that gave me insight on rethinking when I feel frustrated as a parent and things I can do to try something new."
"I learned how to give my daughter options to do things and to read to her every night."
"To look, listen, breathe, take a minute to relax and enjoy my children."

WE CARE ABOUT YOUTH CONFERENCE - May 2011
Building Strong Families Curriculum
- Educare - Apr/May 2011
- University of MO Extension, Jackson - Oct/Nov 2011
- Evangelical United Church of Christ, Cape - Mar/Apr 2012

Family Wellness Curriculum
- Lutheran Family and Children's Services - Jul/Aug 2011

WE CARE ABOUT YOUTH CONFERENCE - May 2011
- 150 parents, foster parents and childcare providers
- Keynote speaker: Carol McCloud, "Bucket Lady"
- 15 breakout sessions by local experts

Program Outcomes

WE CARE ABOUT YOUTH CONFERENCE - May 20-21, 2011
- 150 parents, foster parents and childcare providers
- Keynote speaker: Carol McCloud, "Bucket Lady"
- 15 breakout sessions by local experts

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES
Educare:
- 4 sessions in Apr-May: 15 parents and 18 youth (ages 0-5); 9 adults had perfect attendance
- Family Strengths, Positive Discipline, Managing Stress, Healthy Home

University of MO Extension, Jackson:
- 5 sessions in Oct-Nov: 15 parents and 12 youth; 7 adults had perfect attendance
- Family Strengths, Managing Stress, Positive Discipline, Parent/School Engagement, Reading as a Family

Evangelical United Church of Christ, Cape:
- 5 sessions in Mar-Apr: 20 parents and 20 youth; 10 adults had perfect attendance
- Family Strengths, Kids and Self Esteem, Positive Discipline, Managing Stress, Healthy House

FAMILY WELLNESS
Lutheran Family and Children's Services
- 6 sessions in Jul-Aug: 15 adults, 9 "successful" participants attended 8 of 12 hours
Southeast Missouri Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FY2012
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
The Coalition is measuring parent perceptions regarding youth substance abuse. Surveys have been collected from 326 parents in Cape Girardeau County and the results are currently under review. Information from this survey will be shared with the community soon.

The Coalition partnered with the Cape County THRIVE Initiative to complete the Search Institute’s Attitudes and Behaviors survey in Dec 2011. Local junior high school students completed this survey which is designed to measure how many of the 40 Developmental Assets they have as well as risk behaviors and high-risk behavior patterns. The results are currently under review and will be shared in the near future.

“Rise Above”, our youth media campaign continues to evolve. In the summer of 2011 new commercials were filmed highlighting 13 Cape Girardeau County youth. Local youth are currently providing feedback to the Coalition about potential ways to increase the effectiveness of this media campaign.

The Coalition developed a partnership with Above the Influence (ATI) this summer when we worked with ATI to pilot their new project “Be It” with a group of local youth. Footage including youth from our community is included in the newest ATI Activity Kit.

The Coalition continues to partner with local law enforcement on compliance checks and Prescription Drug Take Back events.

The Coalition is partnering with sponsors of backpack programs in Cape and in Jackson to provide prevention information and materials with the “Rise Above” message on them to local youth.

Various youth groups have provided input to the Coalition this year including youth from Boys and Girls Club, Division of Youth Services, Family Counseling Center Adolescent Program, Salvation Army and THRIVE.

Program Outcomes
The Advocacy Committee collaborated with the Prosecuting Attorney’s office to send over 1800 letters to parents of high school Juniors and Seniors in Cape County. The letters explained the consequences of underage drinking and were mailed out prior to proms and graduations.

At the Coalition’s request, the Cape Girardeau City Police Department will now consider bar employees' participation in Responsible Beverage Service training when making recommendations to the City Manager regarding license renewals.

141 people (adults and youth) attended the Cub Club Plus celebration. The theme of the celebration was building assets to reduce underage drinking. The event included a presentation on underage drinking and prevention strategies followed by an asset building craft activity.

Gordonville Grill sponsored a “Ten Percent Tuesday” for the Coalition and raised $195.09.

97.5 pounds of prescription medications were collected from 40 community members at the Prescription Drug Take Back Event on October 29, 2011.

Students from the Department of Health Human Performance and Recreation at Southeast Missouri State University worked with the Coalition to survey 48 off-premise alcohol outlets. As a result of information learned from the survey, students have developed an Alcohol Age of Sale sign and are working to increase age of sale signage at the stores they surveyed.

Regional Development Funds supported a continued Coalition presence at the SEMO District Fair in September 2011. More than 50 adult and youth community members volunteered to help at the fair and we interacted with at least 641 youth and 761 adults, and raised a record $642.

Collaborating Partners
Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club, Cape County Health Department, Cape County Juvenile Office, Cape County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, Cape County Sheriff’s Department, Cape Police Department, Cape Safe Communities, Cape Schools, Cash Book Journal, Charter Communications, Delta Schools, Drug Court, Drury Southwest Signs, Family Counseling Center, Gibson Recovery Center, Gordonville Grill, Jackson Schools, Jimmy Johns, KFVS-TV, KRCU Radio, Mississippi River Radio, MO Division of Youth Services, New Vision Counseling, Notre Dame High School, Oak Ridge Schools, Perry County Community Task Force, Pop’s Pizza, Shawnee Community Center, Southeast Missourian Jr., Southeast Missourian, SE Regional Support Center, SEMO State University, THRIVE, United Way of SEMO

Barriers
Participation in youth focus groups about prescription drug abuse was limited.
Noteworthy

Jim Maginel retired from the Coalition after many years of service to prevention and to our community. Jim was honored with the Inaugural Jim Maginel Award at the Coalition's first annual awards event in October 2011.

Cheryl Ellis and Kathy Sweeney, co-chairs of the media committee, were honored with the first annual Jim Maginel Award.

Mercedes Fort was hired as the new DFC Project Director.

We are in the second year of our DFC grant.

The Coalition was awarded a Basic Support Grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health.

The Coalition was awarded a Mini Grant from the Department of Mental Health through ACT MO.

The Coalition was awarded a grant from Cardinals Care.

Nic Barna, local youth, member of the Coalition and member and co-chair of the THRIVE Youth Development committee, was recognized by the national Above the Influence Team for the slogan he developed during the Be It project this summer. Nic's slogan "Make Your Own Path" will be displayed in local outdoor advertising throughout the month of April.
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 2011 to review outcomes and plan for the coming year.
The Senior Resource cards continue to be available for distribution and online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org
Monthly Senior Calendar continues to be published and distributed throughout Cape County as well as online at 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. Plans are in process to collaborate with DeProw Services to provide pest control services at a reduced cost to seniors and disabled individuals.

Program Outcomes
Topics presented at meetings included USDA Housing Assistance, Community Plan Update, Public Transportation in Cape County, Modern Woodmen Programs and Services, Legislative Issues, Reverse Mortgages, APPLE Paperwork Services and Legal Aid Services.
Average monthly attendance = 17
Annual Retreat was hosted by Capetown Assisted Living (Americare) in Aug 2011 with 15 in attendance.
1500 Senior Resource Cards were distributed.
Approximately 200 copies of Senior Calendar were provided to clientele at 11 sites each month.
Assessment findings resulted in funding from Cape County Senior Citizens Tax Board to Love INC for 2012 (second annual allocation). Part time Senior Coordinator's position to coordinate volunteers to meet those identified needs was sustained.
Senior Safety Committee - Durable medical equipment (valued at $500) was provided to three individuals.

Collaborating Partners
AARP, Alzheimer's Association, American Red Cross, APPLE, Cape County Health Department, Cape County Senior Citizens' Tax Board, Cape Police Department, Cape Senior Center, Capetown Assisted and Independent Living by Americare, Caring Hands in Home Care, Chaffee Nursing Center, Chateau Girardeau, Community Counseling Center, Cross Trails Medical Center, Crown Hospice, Four Oaks Hospice, 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, SE HEALTH, 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.
Thanks to Cape County Public Health Center for hosting our meetings for over five years!
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2012

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Cape County Transit continues to be the main provider of public transportation in Cape Girardeau County – 139,350 riders from Jan-Dec 2011 in 31 vehicles.

Fixed Route Bus System has 3 buses operating within the Cape Girardeau city limits (2 routes – North and South). One-way rates are $1.00, two-week rate is $20.00, and monthly rate is $35.00.

Fixed Route Bus System operates from 6am-7:30pm Mon-Fri and 9am-6pm Sat. There is a bus available at each bus stop every 30 minutes during hours of operation for the South Route and 45-60 minutes during hours of operation for the North route.

Taxi Demand Response transportation is available 24/6.5 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 continued its 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 its transportation services for their clients and has removed all transportation fees. Donations are accepted.

BARRIERS
Increased fuel costs will result in increased rates effective April 1, 2012 (bus rates and taxi rates).

Hesitancy and/or Lack of awareness among general public to use public transportation still exists.
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2012

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Medical Care: Mental Health

COMMUNITY PLAN CO-CHAIRS
Paul Schniedermeyer
Ryan Essex

MEETINGS HELD 7

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 8

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, 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 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
Members of the Coalition have been participating in the Putting Kids First Initiative. Group has assessed the mental health needs and resources of youth in Cape Girardeau County and is moving forward in the process to seek voter approval for a Children’s Services Fund in Cape County.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
1000 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Resource Cards were distributed and were available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org

Resource Cards are in the process of being revised and reprinted as supply is nearly exhausted.

Coalition partnered with Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition to sponsor a booth at the Salvation Army’s Back to School Fair in Jul 2011.

Meetings continued to serve as a platform for sharing and networking among mental health providers.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Mental Health Coalition collaborated with the Parent & Community Education Committee and the United Way’s Success by 6 to plan and implement the Council’s 23rd Annual Conference – “We Care About YOUth – Raising Emotionally Healthy Children” in Mar 2012. About 175 community members, including many foster parents and childcare providers were in attendance.

Coalition sponsored a booth at the 2nd Annual Mental Health Fair at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Oct 2011.

Coalition continued to brainstorm how a system of local alternative psychiatric services could be established, funded, implemented and sustained in our community.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Dhira Crunkilton (Social Work Department, SEMO State University) implemented a series of Non-Violent Communication trainings in Apr 2011.

Safe House for Women offered a quarterly series on “The Empowered Woman” for community participants.

Pastor Dan Johnson, Evangelical United Church of Christ offered a free, two-day, faith-based Mental Health First Aid Training for 28 community participants in Feb 2012. Another two-day training is being planned for late April 2012.

BARRIERS
Increasing access to those in need of treatment

Reducing the stigma of mental illness and treatment
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2012

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Medical Care: Oral Health

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Dr. Janet Ruopp

MEETINGS HELD 8

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 9

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Cape County Public Health Center, Cape Public Schools, Cross Trails Medical Center, Dental Providers (Dr. Janet Ruopp, Dr. Nathan Seyer, Dr. Terry Spence), Innovative Orthodontics, Jackson Public Schools, MO Children’s Division, MO Division of Youth Services, MO Oral Health Preventive Services Program, 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, Cardinal Care Grant, local donations and fundraiser events

NOTEWORTHY
Over 6000 youth in Cape Girardeau County/Scott City received FREE dental screenings during the 2011-2012 school year.

A total of 63 community volunteers, including 35 dental professionals and 28 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.mohalthysmiles.org to 15 volunteers.

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

Approximately 500 Coalition brochures were distributed throughout the community.

Dental Screenings in Cape County/Scott City served 5601 youth in 27 schools and 553 youth in 17 preschools and daycares.

- 538 (9%) youth needed early dental treatment
- 200 (3%) youth needed urgent treatment.

Fluoride varnish applications were provided to 3233 school-aged youth and 334 preschool-aged youth, an overall 11% increase from the previous year.

Jackson Schools added 1st, 4th and 5th grades for dental screenings for the 2011-2012 school year. Youth at ECHO Community Learning Center (Division of Youth Services) participated for the first time this year.

Dental Treatment Scholarship Program provided $2215 for treatment for five individuals this past year. Several more referrals are currently in process.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Dental Health Displays/Education: Salvation Army Back to School Fair, VIP Industries, Southeast Hospital School Nurses Conference, Salvation Army Youth Group, Children & Youth Issues Resource Fair, GrandFamily Conference, Senior Information Day, SEMO University Career Day, MO Mentoring Partnership Health Fair and SEMO University Volunteer Fair.

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. Other supplies were provided by Cardinal Care Grant (St. Louis Cardinals).

A Sunday Brunch Fundraiser was held at The Venue in Oct 2011. Proceeds from the restaurant and private donations yielded $300.

The 3rd Annual Sensational Smiles Social is being planned by the Coalition for Apr 14, 2012 at the Crowe Gallery/Celebrations Downtown 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 $4700 ensured funding for disadvantaged youth in Cape and Bollinger Counties and Scott City.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Drs. Janet and Patrick Ruopp were honored as community volunteers in May 2011 by the United Way of Southeast Missouri for years of providing dental screenings to youth in Cape Public Schools.

Community volunteer Lois Flannery received the Jackson Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Award in May 2011 for her work with dental screening and fluoride varnishing events in Jackson schools and daycares.

Community volunteers Julia Rush and Virginia Ford were honored at the May 2011 RSVP/VIC Volunteer Recognition Event.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

4/1/12
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.
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2012

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Medical Care: Primary Care

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Angela Selzer

MEETINGS HELD 2

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 5

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Cape County Public Health Center, Cross Trails Medical Center, Midwest Family Care, Salvation Army, SE HEALTH, Southeast Missouri State University (Show Mobile and Department of Social Work)

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

NOTEWORTHY
Coalition members continued to promote individual responsibility for personal health.

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

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

An informational booth was provided at Salvation Army's Back to School Fair in Jul 2011.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Coalition members have been participating in the steering committee for the Samaritan Regional Clinic which will provide free primary medical services for low-income individuals.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Cape County Public Health Center provided flu shots to 17% of Cape County youth for this school year, a 3% decrease from the previous school year. This does not account for any youth who may have been vaccinated at a physician's office or other designated sites (Wal-Mart, Walgreens, etc.).

Samaritan Regional Clinic will 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 a few months.

BARRIERS
Additional agency and individual participation is needed for Coalition sustainability.

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

Healthcare reform is confusing and unclear.

More emphasis (public education) regarding importance of vaccinations is needed.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma 4/1/12
COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
1000 copies of Alcohol & Drug Abuse/Mental Health Resource Card were distributed and card was also available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org. 1000 copies of Coalition brochures were distributed. 2000 Rise Above bookmarks were printed and distributed. Rise Above t-shirts were provided at no charge to youth at various community events.

Students at Jackson Middle and Jr. High and Cape Jr. High completed 1120 Attitudes and Behaviors surveys in Dec 2011. Student Advisory Groups (with 40 Developmental Asset focus) at Cape Jr. High, Jackson Middle, Jr. High and High Schools, ECHO Community Learning Center and Girardot Center promoted assets on their campuses and provided input on peer behaviors. 97 students belong to these groups—an increase of 15% from previous year.

A MO Department of Mental Health Min-Grant allowed the development and completion of 326 Adult Community Perception surveys to determine adult attitudes toward youth alcohol and drug use. Results are being tallied.

Year 2 of the Drug-Free Communities grant began Sep 30, 2011. Jim Maginel retired as Program Director and Mercedes Fort was hired to replace him. Kathy Lefebvre replaced Ron Johnson as Evaluator. Shelly Wood and Kay Azuma remained as Project Coordinator and Budget Specialist.

One Town Hall Meeting was held in Mar 2012 with 141 Cub Club Plus students and family members at Cape Middle School. The presentation focused on the 40 developmental assets as protective factors for youth substance abuse.

Alcohol compliance checks continued with Cape Girardeau City and Jackson Police Departments. Collaboration with these two departments and the Drug Enforcement Administration resulted in Drug Take Back events in Apr and Oct 2011.

All Stars prevention program was implemented at Delta Schools in Sep/Oct 2011.

The youth-focused media campaign, “Rise Above” continued on television and radio stations. The adult-focused campaign is also underway. Our advertising costs have been matched 1:1 with all of our media partners.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Five subcommittees are actively engaged in the work of the Coalition:
- **Advocacy:** Letter from Prosecuting Attorney's office was mailed to 1800 parents of junior and senior high school students in Apr 2011 regarding consequences of youth alcohol and drug use. Quarterly "Lunch and Learn" sessions will be offered, starting in Jun 2012.
- **Community Outreach:** Group planned and implemented a presence at Parks & Rec Day and Fall Festival (Oct 2011), Halloween Hoopla (Oct 2011) and Fall Festival (Nov 2011).
- **Faith-based/Youth groups:** A drug-free event on Jun 2012 is in the planning stages for youth from Division of Youth Services, Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, THRIVE and MO Mentoring Partnership.
- **Media:** Group continued implementation of Rise Above media campaign with both a youth focus and an adult focus.
- **Program:** Group hosted an informational session on All Stars evidence-based program in order to better promote implementation among local community sectors.
NOTEWORTHY
Grants provided over $162,000 for Coalition’s budget in the past year.

Jim Maginel retired after many years of service to the Coalition. Jim was honored with the Inaugural Jim Maginel Award in Oct 2011. Kathy Sweeney and Cheryl Ellis were awarded the first annual Jim Maginel Award for their work with the Rise Above media campaign. This award will be presented annually to an individual who has contributed significantly to the work of the Coalition.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
All Cape County Schools allowed the mailing of a letter to the parents of 1800 high school juniors and seniors from the office of the Prosecuting Attorney regarding the legal consequences of underage drinking in Apr 2011. This will be repeated in Apr 2012.

97.5 pounds of prescription medications were collected from 40 community members at the Take Back event in Oct 2011.

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

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

Additional venues for All Stars prevention program are needed in our community.
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2012

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Family Issues: Housing

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Roy Jones

MEETINGS HELD 10
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 13

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
4-Sight Counseling, Agape Center, AMEN Center, American Red Cross, Bank Star, Cape County Public Health Center, Catholic Charities, City of Cape Girardeau, City of Jackson, 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, Missouri Children's Division, Missouri Probation and Parole, 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, Soulful Harvest, Sprig of Hope, United Way of SEMO, USDA Rural Development

FUNDING SOURCES
Community Caring Council, US Housing and Urban Development, MO Housing Trust Fund, Sprig of Hope, Area churches and Individuals

NOTEWORTHY
Two HUD Supportive Housing Grants are serving 44 area residents through Community Caring Council and Family Counseling Center. Community Caring Council has sustained their grant for eight years.

Continued funding from MO Housing Trust Fund for rental deposit assistance will provide $60,000 in 2012.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Housing Needs Committee continued to meet monthly with representatives from more than 30 community entities.

HUD Supportive Housing Grant continued to serve approximately 27 clients annually through Community Caring Council and approximately 17 clients through Family Counseling Center.

Approximately 1000 Housing Resource Cards were distributed; also available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org.

MO Housing Trust Fund grant served 194 households (442 individuals) with Rental Deposit Assistance in FY 2011.

Homeless Awareness Week was observed in Nov 2011 with a display at Cape West Cine including a press conference and proclamation presentation, an informational booth at Empty Bowls event and an Art Show at the Arts Council of Southeast Missouri. Art was provided by homeless artists and by others who work with the homeless population.

Habitat for Humanity dedicated its 46th home in the Cape area in Nov 2011. Construction on the 47th home started soon after that.

Emergency/transitional shelters that have been added in the past year – AMEN Center in Delta (50 beds house men, women and children), Agape Center (10 beds house men only), Love INC (one transitional house).

Emergency/transitional shelters that have sustained services 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 24 unsheltered persons in Jan 2011 and 15 in Jul 2011. The official count for Jan 2012 has not yet been released.

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

Neighborhood Stabilization Program continued–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 nine houses in Blanchard and Franklin School Districts. One house has been sold; two more are ready to sell. Assistance with down payment and closing costs is available.

Sprig of Hope has delayed the opening of an emergency shelter. They have designated $5000 to be used for direct client assistance to homeless individuals working with a case manager in various agencies. Community Caring Council has received $1075 to assist up to seven clients with deposit assistance, transportation costs and/or rental assistance.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Community Counseling Center has started construction on a permanent housing facility with 10 one-bedroom apartments for those with mental disabilities (HUD Grant).

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

St. Andrew's "Home for Hope" program has housed one family for approximately 6 months. Client has qualified for a Habitat for Humanity house.

Gibson Recovery Center opened Vision House in March 2012 with 16 beds for women in substance abuse treatment.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma
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. Existing shelters are operating on limited budgets.

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

Section 8 Housing list has been closed since Nov 2011.
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2012

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: USDA Housing Assistance, Community Plan Update, Public Transportation in Cape County, Modern Woodmen Programs and Services, Legislative Issues, Reverse Mortgages, APPLE Paperwork Services and Legal Aid Services.

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

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Aging Committee’s Annual Retreat was held in August 2011 with 15 in attendance. Outcomes were reviewed and meeting presentations planned. The breakfast was hosted by Capetown Assisted and Independent Living by Americare.

Love INC again received funding for 2012 from Cape County Senior Citizens Tax Board to sustain a part-time Senior Coordinator to address senior needs.

Community Caring Council received a grant ($2300) 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 been implementing 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.

Collaborating partners include SEMO Area Agency on Aging, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, MO Department of Health & Senior Services, Regional Arthritis Center at St. Francis Medical Center, RSVP/VIC, SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, SEMO Area Agency on Aging, SEMO State University, SE HEALTH, The Lutheran Home, United Way of SEMO, University of MO Extension, USDA Rural Development, Visiting Nurse Association of SEMO and interested individuals.

FUNDING SOURCES
Cape Girardeau County Senior Tax Board

NOTEWORTHY
A 10-week Walking Program sponsored by AARP, St. Francis Medical Center, Southeast Wellness Connection, SEMO Area Agency on Aging, University of MO Extension, and Cross Trails Medical Center was again offered, starting in Mar 2012. This year’s theme is “Striking a Balance through Tai Chi”.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2012

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Family Fun and Learning Activities calendar – emailed to 121 individuals monthly and posted on SEMO Case Managers List Serv for 58 members. Approximate number of paper copies distributed monthly = 300.

Successful Parenting training calendar – emailed to 121 individuals monthly and posted on SEMO Case Managers List Serv for 58 members. Approximate number of paper copies distributed monthly = 225.

Community Resources Card – 1500 (English version) and 700 (Spanish version) were distributed. Card is being revised and will be reprinted in May 2012.

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

Building Strong Families – 2 5-week sessions implemented: 35 adults and 34 youth (youth curriculum offered); 1 4-week session implemented: 15 adults and 18 youth (ages 0-5, no youth curriculum)

Family Wellness – 1 6-week session implemented: 15 adults

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

The second annual “We Care About YOuth” conference was held on May 20-21, 2011. Carol McCloud presented two keynote presentations; 15 break-out sessions were offered. About 150 participants attended multiple sessions.

The third annual “We Care About YOuth” conference became part of CCC’s 23rd Annual Conference with the topic being “Raising Emotionally Healthy Children” and was held on March 16-17, 2012. Two keynote speakers (Dr. Veronica Getskow and Marie Clark) presented four sessions; nine additional break-out sessions were offered. About 175 participants attended multiple sessions.

Parenting with Purpose held 4 sessions of varying lengths serving 25 adults; 4-week session planned in Apr/May 2102.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
United Way of Southeast Missouri – Born Learning monthly events continued at Cape Public Library during the school year. This event was also held at Riverside Regional Library in Jackson, starting in Mar 2012.

United Way is attempting to increase parent engagement in order to positively impact Cape Public School’s Graduation rate.
- A Resource Fair for school staff (all of Cape County) was held in Nov 2011.
- United Way and Community Caring Council implemented a Building Strong Families activity at the Boys & Girls Club Parent Night at Shawnee Community Center.

Messy Morning will be held at the Show Me Center for ages 0-6 with parent(s) in Apr 2012.

BARRIERS
Consistency of attendance among some participants during the 4-5 week Building Strong Families sessions is lacking.
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2012

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 11 – MO Career Center – programs and services/payday loan policies – 11 attended
- Aug 10 – SADI – Agency Updates from LFCS, Love INC, CCC, Boys/Girls Club, Cape Parks & Recreation – 22 attended
- Nov 9 – St. Mary’s – Habitat for Humanity, update from MO Division of Senior Services – 22 attended
- Feb 8 – United Way – Homeless shelters, unmet needs – 24 attended

List Serv – SEMO Case Managers group continued with 58 members and 109 messages posted. A total of 660 messages have been posted since June 2006.

Weatherization program is ongoing at East Missouri Action Agency.

Committee attempts to meet monthly on the first Tuesday to provide regular updates of community resources.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Members have discussed a “Living on Less” campaign that would be promoted throughout Cape Girardeau County.

EMAA's Community Empowerment Collaboration group has joined forces with our committee.

Efforts to implement a community-wide data base for client tracking have not materialized due to issues with client confidentiality.

Members are researching “Centers for Working Families” to gain insight into possible local implementation.

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

Mission Coupon Program is being implemented monthly at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and is open to anyone.

BARRIERS
Identification and participation of individuals and families wanting to work toward financial stability

Significant budget cuts to the Community Services Block Grant which funds East Missouri Action Agency has resulted in reduced hours and reduced services.

How can we promote/achieve “self-sufficiency”?

Continued economic instability and reduction of community resources has resulted in more families seeking assistance.
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2012

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Family Issues: Youth Development

COMMUNITY PLAN CO-CHAIR
Nicholas Barna
Shelly Wood

ASSET COORDINATOR
Stacy Taylor

MEETINGS HELD 5

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 13

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Big Brothers Big Sisters, Cape Public Library, Cape Public Schools, Jackson R2 Public Schools, LIFE Initiative, Lutheran Family & Children's Services, Missouri Division of Youth Services, Missouri Mentoring Partnership, SE Health – Building Blocks, St. Vincent de Paul School, Southeast MO State University, Southeast Missourian Jr., THRIVE Parents, United Way of Southeast Missouri, University of MO Extension, Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

FUNDING SOURCES
Community Caring Council, United Way of Southeast MO, Drug Free Communities grant to SEMO Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Cape Public Schools, Jackson Public Schools, St. Vincent de Paul School, Missouri Division of Youth Services, local fundraising

NOTEWORTHY
MO Division of Youth Services has become an active THRIVE partner this past year.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
One free asset training session and eight group presentations were held. Informational booths were set up at seven community events. Total number of people reached was 534.

THRIVE sponsored active student advisory groups at Cape Central Jr. High (5 students), Jackson High (11 students), Jackson Jr. High (19 students), Jackson Middle School (27), ECHO Program at Division of Youth Services (10 students) and at Girardot Center (25 students). Groups met at least monthly.

The THRIVE website remains current at www.capecountythrive.org

Asset articles were featured monthly in the SE Missourian Jr. which reaches more than 2000.

A monthly e-newsletter – “Activating Assets” - was sent to 220 community members. An “asset of the month” was featured as well as an “asset tagline” for use by other community groups/individuals. The number of intentional asset messages circulating in our community is currently being tracked.

Asset Coordinator facilitated three Change of Heart sessions for 78 students at Girardot Center and Jackson R2 Schools.

1120 students from Cape Jr. High, Jackson Middle School and Jackson Jr. High completed Search Institute’s Attitudes and Behavior Survey in Dec 2011. This same survey was given in fall 2005. Results are under review.

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 Bingo Night in Apr 2011 and a Garage Sale in May 2011 to raise funds for future THRIVE student projects.

A new group, Artistic Expression, was added this year at Central Middle School as part of United Way’s LIFE Initiative, Cub Club Plus. Twenty students participated. The Family Celebration in Mar 2012 was attended by 141 students and family members. Assets were featured as protective factors for underage alcohol use.

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

Jackson THRIVE students collected 2230 pairs of jeans for Aeropostale’s program to aid the homeless in the US and Canada in 2012. That is an increase of over 200% from their 2011 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.
Community Caring Council – Cape Girardeau
Established: 1995

FY11 Result Achievement: Housing -- Children and Families Safe

December 2011

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 75,674), 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 (at least seven) is required for board decisions. The Council consists of nine full time staff and one part time staff: Executive Director, Community Coordinator, Housing Coordinator (.75) and Case Manager, Community Case Manager, Asset Coordinator, Health Coordinator, Office Manager and two MO Mentoring Partnership staff.

Since 1999, the Council has facilitated the Housing Needs Committee. Since 2004, the Council has annually received a US Housing and Urban Development Supportive Housing Grant and a MO Housing Trust Fund Grant for housing assistance.

FY11 Major Collaborative Accomplishments:
(1) HUD Supportive Housing Grant funded Housing Coordinator, Housing Case Manager and clerical assistance in addition to providing 27 housing units for homeless and disabled persons. Case Management provides direct support for each family unit in the hopes of their becoming self-sufficient. The longest standing placement thus far is seven years and 60% of placements have lasted for over 2 years. For FY11:
# served – 27 households (35 adults, 17 children)
  Direct Client Assistance = $120,374.00
Family Counseling Center also receives HUD funding and houses an additional 16 family units in our county.
(2) MO Housing Trust Fund Grant funded deposit assistance to family units ($300 per unit). For FY11:
  # served – 194 households, 442 individuals
  Direct Client Assistance = $57,481.00
(3) Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) Grant funded Community Case Manager and housing assistance in the form of rent, mortgage, and/or utility assistance. For FY11:
  # served – 134 households, 277 individuals
  Direct Client Assistance = $64,942.00
(4) Housing Resource Cards were updated and printed by a community partner. These cards are available at no cost to agencies, businesses and community residents needing to know more about local housing resources.

(5) Homeless Awareness Week was observed in Nov 2010 with a display at West Park Cine including youth art, a press conference and mayoral proclamation, educational presentations to Centenary Methodist Church and SEMO University Social Work Club, and an informational booth at Empty Bowls event.
(6) Operation Backpack provided 23 adult and five youth backpacks to local homeless shelters.
(7) 42 transitional housing beds were added in Cape County during FY 2011 by New Beginnings (10 male and 10 female), Homeless Outreach Center (12 male) and Amazing Grace in Gordonville (10 male). Plans are under way for two additional shelters to open in early FY12 - Agape Center (10 male beds) and AMEN Center (at least 50 beds for men, women and children). From 50 beds in FY10 to 152 in FY12 represents a 202% increase!
(8) The Council, along with support from the Housing Needs Committee, heads the MO Point in Time Homeless Count for Cape, Perry and Bollinger Counties. Eleven homeless individuals were reported in Jul 2010 and 24 in Jan 2011.
(9) A local church has established a “Home for Hope” – one house for one family at a time, working with the family to become self-sufficient.
(10) The Housing Needs Committee meets monthly and has an average attendance of 17 members. All of the results noted reflect the combined efforts of the Community Caring Council and over 30 community partners.

Noteworthy: Since 2004, the Council has received a total of $2,104,464 in funding for housing efforts!

List of Partners: 4-Sight Counseling, AMEN Center, Am Red Cross, Bank Star, Cape County Public Health, Catholic Charities of Southern MO, City of Cape, Community Counseling Center, East MO Action Agency, Family Counseling Center, Gibson Recovery Center, Habitat for Humanity, Homeless Outreach Center, Love INC, Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, Mending Hearts, MO Children’s Division, MO Dept of Mental Health, Nehemiah Project, New Beginnings, Oxford House, RCH Management, 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, and USDA Rural Development.
In the News

Homeless students a growing concern for school districts

Monday, April 4, 2011
By M.D. Kittle ~ Southeast Missourian

The Rev. Deborah Young has met scores of homeless children in her time in ministry to the poor, but the face she just can’t seem to shake is of the 6-year-old boy who begged to stay.

“This mother had six children, and they were living in a van and this particular child had been in the van for two weeks,” said Young, director of New Life Evangelical Ministry Homeless Outreach Center and Thrift Store at 707 Broadway. “And he was so tired that he asked me, ‘Can I stay with you tonight?’ I let them stay for as long as I could.”

The maximum tenancy at the small emergency shelter is two weeks, barring a special circumstance. There’s typically more need than beds. On Friday, Young was making arrangements for another single mother and her two school-aged children.

Young and other advocates of the homeless in Southeast Missouri say they have seen a growing number of displaced families in recent years – the result of recession and the wounded economy it left behind, a record number of foreclosures and the usual culprits of domestic violence and addiction.

And educators say Southeast Missouri is seeing a surge in homeless students, a group of children more prone to hunger, failure and hopelessness than their peers.

The Cape Girardeau School District was serving 47 homeless students as of late February, according to Deena Ring, the district’s director of special services. Ring said the numbers are at record levels this school year.

In the Jackson School District, 50 students were identified as homeless in January, up from 27 in the 2009-2010 school year, according to Beth Emmendorfer, the district’s associate superintendent of student services.

Statewide, 15,564 homeless children were enrolled in Missouri’s public schools last year, up 3 percent from 2008-2009 but up nearly 30 percent from 2007-2008, according the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

There is dispute over the numbers, and much of that has to do with definition. In Southeast Missouri — a 10-county area including Cape Girardeau, Bollinger and Perry counties — the number of total homeless was reported at 185 in July, according to the Governor’s Committee to End Homelessness. But in 2008, at the beginning of the most crippling U.S. recession in decades, there were an estimated 30,478 homeless children in Missouri, according to the National Center on Family Homelessness. The not-for-profit center’s 2009 report, “America’s Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness,” found that more than 1.5 million children were homeless in the United States, or one in every 50.

Defining homelessness is the trick. By certain guidelines, homelessness means literally being dispossessed of a dwelling. The federal McKinney-Vento Act, which outlines the rights of homeless children, defines child homelessness as “children and unaccompanied youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.”

In short, the homeless, under the law, aren’t just those who live under a bridge or in an abandoned garage; children who are moved from one place to the next, for instance, are considered displaced, even though they may have a roof over their heads.

Natalie Sandoval, master’s level social worker for the Community Caring Council, said the numbers of homeless and homeless students in Cape Girardeau are higher than are being reported, and they are growing. She said the figures are difficult track.

“You never get everyone out there, you never get the people doubting up, or those who are couch bouncing or couch surfing. We see a lot of that,” Sandoval said.

There is a good deal of fear and myth in the homeless community, Sandoval said, and that keeps many from coming forward and seeking help, much less standing up and being counted.

“They are afraid the state will get involved, that their children will be removed,” Sandoval said, adding that the schools may not always be equipped to identify and handle homeless students.

Through the cracks
The numbers don’t come as a surprise to Mike Cowan, principal at Cape Girardeau Central High School.

“There is no doubt we have seen a greater number of kids who are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless,” he said.
There's been a gathering storm of statistics underscoring deep pockets of poverty in the school district. The number of participants in the free-and-reduced meal program has soared over the past half-dozen years, with several schools posting figures above 80 percent. Mobility also is an indicator. Less than half of elementary students remain with the same teacher for the entire school year, according to the “Mobilization Plan for Ensuring the Success of Our Children,” a report just issued by the United Way of Southeast Missouri Education Solutions Team.

Cowan has seen many forms of student displacement, including two high school teens found to be living in a car.

The teen homeless population is emerging as a considerable problem, Sandoval said. About 14,000 Missouri teens in grades 9 to 12 were considered homeless at one point in 2008, according to the National Center on Family Homelessness.

“When you are a teen, you’re kind of in no man’s land,” Sandoval said. “It’s an untouchable legal age. Landlords don’t want to rent to them, and the state doesn’t want to touch them. There’s a liability there.”

The problem is that there are few resources to assist these teens, she said. And they’re typically not welcome at homeless shelters, where adults and small children are served.

Falling behind
Homelessness is a strong indicator of academic failure. Homeless children are an average 16 percent less proficient in math and reading, and less than 25 percent graduate from high school, according to the National Center on Family Homelessness.

“If you don’t know where your next meal is going to come from or that you are safe, how are you concentrating on what’s going on in your math class,” Ring said.

Still, the Cape Girardeau school official said she doesn’t think the national homeless student graduation rate applies to her school district. Of three homeless seniors she’s worked with most recently, she said two have gone on to graduate.

The saddest thing, homeless advocates say, is displaced potential. Sandoval knows of one exemplary student in the area who recently has become homeless, months before graduation and the real possibility of post-secondary education.

That’s why it’s so important to have school policies that identify and assist homeless students quickly and effectively, educators say. It’s also mandated under the McKinney-Vento Act. The law, which establishes federal grant funding for states, outlines what states must do to assist homeless students. Cape Girardeau and Jackson school districts have policies designed to help staff identify homeless students and connect them with services they and their families need.

In Jackson, for instance, policy mandates homeless students automatically are entitled to free school lunches, and the district cannot require immunization records as an enrollment requirement.

“I know our social workers really are working closely with guidance counselors and principals to investigate that piece, and they are doing a better job identifying families,” Jackson’s Emmendorfer said.

Cowan said school is even more critical for displaced students. It is the one place where they can count on the comfort of routine.

“They can be warm and safe for six and a half hours. School really is a haven for those kids, who oftentimes during the day that is their only semblance of normalcy,” he said.

With the housing market still weak and the economy sluggish, educators and social service officials don’t see the numbers of homeless families and students easing anytime soon.

Sandoval said her office is seeing a growing number of people behind in their rent, close to eviction. And there are a growing number of people who have lost their housing and have run out of places to stay with family and friends.

“That says to me we’re not done yet at all,” she said. “Usually I’m not a pessimist but you have to look at the reality of what’s going on.”
Women discuss how art helped them deal with homelessness

Sunday, January 15, 2012
By CHARLES FRANCIS — Southeast Missourian

While the topics of art and homelessness normally don't go hand in hand, a small local group has found that art has helped them cope with the stress and turmoil of having been displaced from their homes.

Cape Girardeau resident Julie Griffin, 53, discussed how painting and writing has helped her heal from a 14-year abusive marriage and the homelessness that resulted when she fled from her husband.

Griffin was one of the speakers at the Arts Council of Southeast Missouri's Saturday Social on Saturday afternoon. She is one of about 10 women who have been homeless whose art is part of the exhibit "Opening Doors to the Homeless," on display at the Community Counseling Center's gallery at 5 N. Main St. The event was attended by more than 20 people.

One of Griffin's paintings on display pictures a woman with only part of a mouth. Griffin said that women who come from abusive relationships often have trouble expressing themselves.

"That painting is about a woman who is not only beat up, but she loses her voice to talk about it and even express herself," Griffin said.

The painting is not just symbolic for her, Griffin explained. She said that her husband once broke her jaw, literally limiting her speech.

Griffin, who lived in a shelter with her daughter for about three years after escaping her marriage, said the artists who display their work at the Community Counseling Center gallery serve as a support group for each other.

"We all have that common thread," she said. "Even if we can't communicate with others in the community at times, we all understand each other's art."

The arts council is hosting the exhibit during January featuring art produced by victims of homelessness and those who provide services to them.

Murielle Wyman, executive director of the arts council, said "all different kinds of perspectives and media are represented" in the exhibit. Wyman said the arts council provided space for the display to the Community Caring Council so people can "see how the arts are making an impact and making a difference" for the homeless.

Community Caring Council representative Natalie Sandoval told the audience that the goal of Saturday's program was to get people to talk about what for many is an uncomfortable subject.

"The biggest goal of this project today is to create dialogue," Sandoval said. "We certainly know that through getting people talking and acknowledging the issue that we hope to work together to create opportunities of change for the various housing needs in our community."

Sandoval said the Community Caring Council, a not-for-profit organization, assists the homeless through two programs. A program for permanent supportive housing funded by a federal grant serves 27 individuals and families with a variety of disabilities. Another grant through the Missouri Housing Development Commission provides assistance with rental deposits and helps people locate rental property.

Two women who provide services to the homeless, Evelyn Beussink Martin of Lutheran Family and Children Services and Lauren Masterson of the State of Missouri Children's Division, also spoke at the event. They told of their experiences in dealing with homeless women and also talked about art they had created for the exhibit.

One of those in attendance at the program was the Rev. Dan Johnson, pastor of the Evangelical United Church of Christ in Cape Girardeau and chairman of Sprig of Hope.

Johnson said Sprig of Hope had hoped to build a new homeless shelter in the city, but that project has been delayed due to the high costs of building a shelter to meet building codes. In the mean time, the organization will be directing funds to assist the homeless through grants to the Salvation Army, the Community Caring Counsel and the Safe House for Women. Johnson said Sprig of Hope would distribute about $5,000 in grants to assist the homeless this year.
SEMO conference deals with emotional needs of children

*Sunday, March 18, 2012*

*By Erin Ragan ~ Southeast Missourian*

A conference held Friday and Saturday at Southeast Missouri State University brought together community social service agencies, childcare providers, current and soon-to-be foster parents and mental health professionals to promote understanding of children's emotional needs.

The Raising Emotionally Healthy Children conference was hosted by the Community Caring Council, a local agency that partners with state agencies to develop strategies for meeting the needs of families.

Kay Azuma, community coordinator for the council, said the conference provides an opportunity for parent and community education on children's well-being all in one event.

Until three years ago, the council held separate conferences for parents and agencies. Now those events are combined. There is a different topic each year that is chosen to address timely issues for families in the community, Azuma said. Previous topics have included autism and homelessness.

Making sure the community and parents are educated on how to help children who have experienced emotional or physical trauma was this year's choice because of the number of children in the area at risk, Azuma said.

"There just seems to be so many now," she said. "We are trying to combat that and educate caretakers how to turn them around to be successful adults;"

Speakers at the conference included Veronica Getskow, a professor of child development and author. Getskow presented concepts to attendees from a well-known book for parents, "How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Children," written by Gerald Newmark. Her presentation was titled "Strategies for Meeting the Five Critical Needs of Youth."

According to the author and Getskow, the needs of children include feeling respected, important, accepted, included and secure.

"Basically, this is a message that says that when we start treating each other with respect, then we meet the needs of each other," Getskow said.

Marie Clark works with Cape Girardeau County to train foster parents for state approval. Clark also spoke at the conference. Her topic was "The Impact of Trauma on the Development of an Emotionally and Socially Healthy Child" and covered fostering resilience in children.

Jeff Johnston, a psychotherapist with Cape Girardeau-based Associated Counseling Services, attended the conference and said it contained practical strategies for strengthening relationships between children and others in their lives.

"This has really been about teaching them skills to deal with life, and that is something valuable to know," Johnston said.

Getskow said she also saw through talking with attendees that local agencies seem to be using funding appropriately and effectively for helping local families and that a strength of the community's services showed well at the conference by many agencies coming together.

Around 135 people attended each day, according to Resa Anderson with the council. There were also breakout sessions held throughout the two days that covered topics such as bullying and encouraging behavioral changes.