COMMUNITY CARING COUNCIL

Annual Progress Report FY2013
From The Director

Maybe spring is finally here! What a long winter it seemed to be.

We have been fortunate this year in securing funding from various sources to help those in need in our community. The Missouri Housing Development Commission awarded the Council $120,000 for rental deposit assistance. Our normal award from them has been $60,000. Staff put together an excellent grant proposal and it proved to be the best in the state! Roy Jones is the contact person for this grant.

We are in partnership with the City and County of Cape Girardeau to administer funds through the Emergency Solutions Grant for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing services. Jaime Ludwig is the contact person for this grant.

The Council continues our partnership with the Division of Youth Services to utilize Stacy Taylor’s talents in providing Asset Development activities for their residents and their staff. This relationship continues to grow as they identify other areas that they want Stacy involved in. We are exploring some changes in our staffing that will address these continuing needs.

The Permanent Housing Program continues to serve a stable population with little turnover, and Natalie Sandoval provides excellent case management services to this very unique group of clients.

The Oral Health Coalition had another successful fundraiser this year. Funds are used to provide dental scholarships for treatment services for children in our community. Dorothy Gholson is the contact person for oral health issues.

Our second annual Project Homeless Connect is scheduled for October 5, 2013 at the Osage Centre. More information will be forthcoming from Natalie and the planning committee regarding service provider and volunteer recruitment.

The Council and the United Way of Southeast Missouri are once again combining resources to do another community survey. The last one was finished in 2005. Kay Azuma is the contact person for this. More information will be coming to you.

I am soon entering my 13th year as Director of the Council, and it is still a privilege to work with such dedicated and compassionate staff. Our staff stability says a lot about our organization, and sometimes I have to get to the 20,000 foot level to get a real picture of how much we truly impact this community. As I always say, there is great need here, but more important there is great generosity. It continues to be a pleasure to serve our community.

Tom Davisson
Executive Director
Community Coordinator
Written by Kay Azuma

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 in the interest of avoiding duplication of services.

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.
• Facilitated the monthly Council meetings and represented Community Caring Council on several community committees and advisory boards.
• Supervised two 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
Eight 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.

Nine Council meetings were held in the last 12 months with an average of 18 in attendance. Meetings were not held in April (Annual Breakfast), May (Family Transition Team Garage Sale) or December (Christmas Open House).

The Community Caring Council was represented as a member of the following: Domestic Violence Community Response Task Force, ECHO Community Liaison Council, Family Transition Team, Jackson Chamber of Commerce/Non-Profit Alliance, Missouri Children’s Division - Family Support Teams and Continuous Quality Improvement, Teen Pregnancy Responsibility Network and EPIC Coalition.

Collaborating Partners
Approximately 235 representatives from 200 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

Connecting with those in our community who can provide additional resources to address community issues

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

Having more time to research and write grants for additional program funding

Noteworthy
THE COMMUNITY PLAN PROGRESS and the number of collaborating partners that participate in our various committees.

The overall accomplishments of the Priority Issue Councils are AMAZING! See individual reports for detailed information.
COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Cape County Transit continues to be the main provider of public transportation in Cape Girardeau County – 135,906 riders from Jan-Dec 2012 in 34 vehicles.

Fixed Route Bus System has three buses operating within the Cape Girardeau city limits (3 routes – North and South). One-way rate is $2.00, two-week rate is $20.00, and monthly rate is $35.00. One-way rates are discounted to $1.00 for disabled individuals and senior citizens.

Fixed Route Bus System operates from 6am-6pm Monday-Friday and 9am-5pm Saturday. There is a bus available at each bus stop every 30 minutes during hours of operation for the South Route and every 60 minutes during hours of operation for the North route.

Taxi Demand Response transportation is available 24/6.5 Monday-Sunday. Service stops at 2pm Sunday and resumes at 5am on Monday. One-way rates vary from $6.00 – $16.50 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 twice daily (seven days of the week) heading to St. Louis or Memphis. Tickets can be purchased at the business office from 8am – 4:30pm Monday-Friday.

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

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

BARRIERS
The hesitancy and/or lack of awareness among general public to use public transportation still exists.
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PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Medical Care: Mental Health

COMMUNITY PLAN CO-CHAIRS
Paul Schniedermeyer
Ryan Essex

MEETINGS HELD 14
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 7

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Bootheel Counseling Center, Cape County Tax Board, Cape Girardeau Public Schools, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Community Counseling Center, Cross Trails Medical Center, Evangelical United Church of Christ, Gibson Recovery Center, Jackson Public Schools, MO Children’s Division, MO Department of Mental Health, New Vision Counseling, Safe House for Women, Sikeston Regional Office, Southeast HEALTH, Southeast Missouri State University

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. A petition drive to collect signatures to place the issue on the ballot will be kicked off soon.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
800 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.

In response to comments given by participants at the March 2012 conference (“Raising Emotionally Healthy Children”), the Coalition planned and implemented a community conference (“Response to Adolescent Turmoil”) for mental health providers, case managers and foster parents on November 9, 2012. There were 80 participants.

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

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Mental Health Coalition is collaborating with the Community Caring Council to plan and implement the Council’s 24th Annual Conference to be held in May 2013. The topic will be related to Mental Health and Violence in America.

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

Coalition has agreed to attend LIFE Advisory Council meetings with Cape and Jackson School administrators to discuss current mental health concerns on school campuses.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Pastor Dan Johnson, Evangelical United Church of Christ, offered a free, two-day, faith-based Mental Health First Aid Training for 12 community participants in late April 2012. This training is for non-mental health providers.

As of May 2012, Terry Kinder is coordinating a new Cape ADHD Support Group that meets monthly at the Cape Girardeau Public Library.

Coalition worked with Project Homeless Connect Committee to ensure that mental health providers participated in the event in October 2012.

In July, Stacy Taylor, Asset Coordinator for Community Caring Council attended a Train the Trainer workshop to implement Mental Health First Aid. There is also a new YOUTH Mental Health First Aid curriculum.

BARRIERS
Increasing access to those in need of treatment

Reducing the stigma of mental illness and treatment

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

4/1/13
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PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Medical Care: Oral Health

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Dr. Janet Ruopp

MEETINGS HELD 7

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 8

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Cape County Public Health Center, Cape Public Schools, Dental Providers (Dr. Janet Ruopp, Dr. Nathan Seyer, Dr. Terry Spence), Innovative Orthodontics, Jackson Public Schools, MO Oral Health Preventive Services Program, Southeast Missouri State University (Department of Speech and Communication Disorders)

FUNDING SOURCES
Community Caring Council, Missouri Oral Health Preventive Services, Cardinal Care Grant, local donations and fundraiser events

NOTEWORTHY
Over 6000 youth in Cape Girardeau County/Scott City received FREE dental screenings during the 2012-2013 school year.

A total of 58 community volunteers, including 38 dental professionals and 20 volunteers, assisted with the school and daycare dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications. One school district and two daycares are now doing the second varnish applications on their own.

During 2012, five youth received dental scholarships; during 2013, twelve youth were assisted – an increase of 140%!

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Training for oral health screenings and fluoride varnish applications was provided online at www.mohealthysmiles.org to approximately 20 volunteers.

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

Approximately 150 Coalition brochures were distributed throughout the community.

Dental Screenings in Cape County/Scott City served 5528 youth in 27 schools and 546 youth in 22 preschools/daycares, for a total of 6074 youth.

485 (8%) youth needed early dental treatment, 155 (2%) youth needed urgent treatment. This reflects a 1% decrease in youth needing early treatment and a 1% decrease in youth needing urgent treatment since 2012.

Fluoride varnish applications were provided to 3233 school-aged youth and 334 preschool-aged youth for a total of 3567 youth (an overall increase of 14% from 2012).

Dental Treatment Scholarship Program provided $4600 for treatment for 12 individuals this past year.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Dental Health Displays/Education: Cape Public Library and Riverside Regional Library, Salvation Army Back to School Fair, Grandfamily Conference, Senior Information Day, SEMO University Wellness Fair and Care Camp, RSVP Volunteer Fair, Jackson Healthpoint and SEMO Case Managers Quarterly Meeting.

Part time position for Oral Health Coordinator was supported by Community Caring Council and local fundraising. All screening and varnishing supplies were provided by MO Oral Health Preventive Services Program. Other supplies were provided by Cardinal Care Grant (St. Louis Cardinals).

The 3rd Annual Sensational Smiles Social was held on 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 Program. Profit of $5000 was realized for the Dental Treatment Scholarship Program.

The 4th Annual Sensational Smiles Social was held on Mar 23, 2013 at The Concourse. Profit is expected to be approximately $5000.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Dr. Janet Ruopp is the local Chairman of the upcoming Missouri Mission of Mercy (MoMOM) event on May 3-4, 2013. FREE dental care will be provided at the Show Me Center in Cape Girardeau.

Community volunteer Martha Friese received the Jackson Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Award in May 2012 for her work with dental screening and fluoride varnishing events in Jackson schools and daycares.

Local dental providers donated almost $12,000 in dental services to participants of Project Homeless Connect in October 2012.

BARRIERS
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.
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PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Medical Care: Primary Care

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
None at the present time

MEETINGS HELD 0

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 0

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Cape County Public Health Center, Cross Trails Medical Center, Midwest Family Care, Southeast HEALTH, Southeast Missouri State University

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

NOTEWORTHY
Nothing to report at this time.

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

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

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Coalition members participated in the steering committee for the Samaritan Regional Clinic which opened in early 2013.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Samaritan Regional Clinic provides free health services to low-income individuals at 937 Broadway, Suite 203. Volunteers (lay people and medical providers) and medical supplies are needed. Clinic is open on Wednesdays and Fridays. Appointments are recommended, but not required.

BARRIERS
Due to lack of a focus for this Primary Care Coalition, group is currently inactive.
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PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Alcohol & Drug Abuse: Adult & Youth

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Kay Azuma

EPIC COALITION
Stacy Taylor, Chair
Adam Blum & Mike Clark, Chair-Elect

MEETINGS HELD 6

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 22

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Cape Christian School, Cape County Health Department, Juvenile Office, Prosecuting Attorney's Office and Sheriff's Office, Cape City Police Department, Cape Schools, Cashbook Journal, Charter Communications, Delta Schools, Drug Court, Drury Southwest Signs, Family Counseling Center, Fort Law Firm, Gibson Recovery Center, Jackson Police Department, Jackson Schools, KFVS-TV, KRKC Radio, Mississippi River Radio, MO Army National Guard, MO Division of Probation & Parole, MO Division of Youth Services, MO Mentoring Partnership, New Vision Counseling, Notre Dame High School, Oak Ridge Schools, Perry County Community Task Force, Rhodes 101/PAJCO, Safe Communities, Shawnee Community Center, SE Drug Free Communities Coalition, SE Food Bank, SE Missourian, SE Missourian Jr., SE Regional Support Center, SEMO State University, THRIVE, TRH Accounting, United Way of SEMO-LIFE Initiative, Interested youth and adults

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

NOTEWORTHY
Grants provided over $162,000 for Coalition's budget in the past year.

The Advocacy Committee was honored with the 2012 Jim Maginel Award. Chairpersons Kathy LeFevre and Sharee Galnro accepted the award on behalf of the committee. This award is presented annually to an individual or group who has contributed significantly to the work of the Coalition.

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. All of the above are being revised and updated with the new EPIC logo.

Students at Jackson Middle and Jr. High and Cape Jr. High reported an average of 21.6 assets (out of 40) on the Attitudes and Behaviors survey taken in Dec 2011. The same survey was administered to 354 students at Jackson High School and Oak Ridge High School in Dec 2012. Results are being analyzed and will be shared with the schools shortly.

Student Advisory Groups (with 40 Developmental Asset focus) at 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. 120 students belong to these groups which is an increase of 25% from previous year. These groups have served as focus groups for topics related to substance abuse prevention.

The name of the Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition was changed to EPIC Coalition (Early Prevention Impacts Community). A MO Department of Mental Health Mini-Grant in the amount of $5000 is providing for development of a new logo, website design, brochures and media promotion.

Year three of the five-year Drug-Free Communities grant began Sep 30, 2012. There was no change in staff positions. Year two (final year) of the Missouri Foundation for Health Basic Support Grant began in October 2012.

A Kaizen Evaluation of the Coalition was implemented by MO National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. Results were presented to the group in Dec 2012. Overall, the Coalition is doing very well. The evaluation is to be completed annually to track progress. As weaknesses are identified, MO National Guard will offer appropriate training and technical assistance.

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

Collaboration with the Cape City Police Department, Jackson Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration resulted in Drug Take Back events in Apr and Oct 2012. A combined total of 819.8 pounds of medications were collected from 265 community members.

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

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Four subcommittees are actively engaged in the work of the Coalition:

- Advocacy – A letter from Prosecuting Attorney's office was again mailed to 1800 parents of junior and senior high school students in Apr 2012 regarding consequences of youth alcohol and drug use. Breakthrough Breakfast Workshops are offered quarterly. The topics thus far have been Synthetic Drugs and Prescription Drug Abuse. Average attendance has been 50 participants.

- Community Outreach – Group planned and implemented a presence at Messy Morning (Apr 2012), Parks & Rec Day and Sal Army Back to School Fair (Jul 2012), SEMO District Fair (Sep 2012), Halloween Hoopla (Oct 2012) and Fall Festival (Nov 2012). Participation in the same events in 2013 is expected.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma
Prevention materials are included in the Backpacks for Friday program each week in Cape and Jackson Public Schools.

Coalition engaged over 600 youth and adults and raised $1001 with their booth activities at the SEMO District Fair in Sep 2012.

- **Faith-based/Youth groups** – A drug-free youth event was held in Jun 2012 at Washington Park. Over 200 youth from Division of Youth Services, Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, THRIVE and MO Mentoring Partnership attended, along with youth from the neighborhood surrounding the park. Event was a huge success and planning has begun for the second annual event in Jun 2013.
- **Media** – Group continued implementation of Rise Above media campaign with both a youth focus and an adult focus. Group has been assisting with the development of the Coalition’s new logo and branding campaign.
- **Program** – Group would like to implement All Stars, an evidence-based program in our community. Information sessions for staff at several schools are being planned.

**COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

All Cape County Schools again allowed the mailing of a letter to the parents of 1800 high school seniors from the office of the Prosecuting Attorney regarding the legal consequences of underage drinking in Apr 2012. This will be repeated in Apr 2013. Envelopes were provided by the Prosecuting Attorney and postage was donated by Coalition member agencies.

Both Jackson Police Department and Cape City Police Departments have each allowed EPIC Coalition to house Permanent Drug Drop Boxes at their offices for year-round disposal of prescription and over-the-counter drugs. The purchase of these boxes was made possible through a Basic Support grant from MO Foundation for Health.

**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.
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PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Family Issues: Housing

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Roy Jones

MEETINGS HELD 11
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 12

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
4-Sight Counselling, AMEN Center, American Red Cross, Bank Star, Cape County Public Health Center, Cape Public Schools, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, City of Cape Girardeau, City of Jackson, Community Counseling Center, East MO Action Agency, Family Counseling Center, Gibson Recovery Center, Habitat for Humanity, Love INC, Lutheran Family & Children's Services, Mending Hearts, Missouri Department of Mental Health, Missouri Children's Division, Missouri Job Corps, 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, Governor's Committee to End Homelessness, local churches, businesses and individuals

NOTEWORTHY
Cape Girardeau was chosen as the site for the Project Homeless Connect event by the Governor’s Committee to End Homelessness in response to our high homeless counts during the semi-annual Point In Time counts. Community Caring Council was chosen to host the event and Natalie Sandoval, Housing Case Manager led the planning efforts. The event was held on Oct 5, 2012 at the Osage Centre in Cape Girardeau. About 290 participants were provided services by almost 70 provider agencies, ranging from health care to clothing to Ugly Quilts to showers. This will be an annual event.

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 nine

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 175 households (359 individuals) with Rental Deposit Assistance in FY 2012.

Homeless Awareness Week was observed in Nov 2012 with a display at Cape West Cine and a Burn Barrel public awareness event in downtown Cape Girardeau.

Habitat for Humanity dedicated its 50th home in the Cape area in early 2013.

New emergency/transitional shelters include: AMEN Center in Delta (60 beds house men, women and children), New Beginnings (able to house nine men and eight women; no children allowed), and Love INC (one transitional house for a family). The Revival Center in Jackson remained operational.

Point In Time counts for our region reported nine unsheltered persons and 202 sheltered persons in Jan 2012. Data from Jul 2012 and Jan 2013 counts is not yet posted online.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Cape Girardeau City Council enacted an Occupancy Code in Sep 2012. The local Landlord Association has become a viable organization that encourages landlords to be more proactive and involved in the community.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program continued—five houses have been sold and more are in the process of being remodeled.

Sprig of Hope operated a “virtual shelter” while continuing to raise money and search for a building lot. Ten grants @ $500 were provided to homeless individuals through Community Caring Council and Safe House for Women.

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

Section 8 Housing list was opened on Feb 13, 2013 (first time since Nov 2011) for 1000 applications. List was closed within two hours.

Gibson Recovery Center continued to operate Vision House in Mar 2012 with 16 beds for women in substance abuse treatment.

Oxford House continued 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.

Section 8 Housing is only able to serve a small portion of the population.

Safe and affordable housing remains an issue for low-income residents.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

4/1/13
years.

Continued funding from MO Housing Trust Fund to Community Caring Council for rental deposit assistance will provide $120,000 in 2013, an increase of 100% from the previous year.

Beginning in April 2013, an Emergency Solutions Grant awarded to the city of Cape Girardeau will provide rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention assistance to Community Caring Council and operating funds to Safe House for Women.
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PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Family Issues: Independent Living

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Shannon Kitchen

AGING COMMITTEE CHAIR
Morgan Beasley

AGING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR
Gina Matsysik

MEETINGS HELD 10
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 16

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
AARP, Alzheimer's Association, American Red Cross, APPLE, Around the Clock Alarms, 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, Laiben Insurance, Life Care Center, Love INC, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, MO Department of Health & Senior Services, Pyramid Tri-County Hospice, Regional Arthritis Center at Saint Francis Medical Center, RSVP/VIC, SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, SEMO Area Agency on Aging, SEMO State University, Southeast 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

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

Senior Resource Card was updated and reprinted in Mar 2013. 1700 Senior Resource Cards were distributed throughout Cape County; also available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org

Monthly Aging Committee meetings were held for networking and presentations: Community Plan Update, Cape County Senior Tax Board, Samaritan Regional Clinic, Medicare Open Enrollment, Legislative Issues (Wayne Wallingford), Jackson Ministerial Alliance, Capetown Assisted Living by Americare, Medicaid Update by MO Family Support Division, and Around the Clock Alarms.

Durable medical equipment (shower chairs, shower benches, safety bars, etc.) valued at $300 was provided to three individuals.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Aging Committee's Annual Retreat was held in August 2012 with 21 in attendance. Outcomes were reviewed and meeting presentations for 2012-2013 were planned. The breakfast was hosted by Capetown Assisted and Independent Living by Americare.

Love INC continues to employ a Senior Coordinator to organize volunteer resources for senior needs.

Community Caring Council received a grant ($2500) 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
Christmas for the Elderly has been ongoing for over 27 years. Sponsored by SE Missourian newspaper, Cape Jaycees, Cape County Health Department and MO Division of Senior Services, funds raised are used to purchase Christmas gifts for Seniors in need. Excess funds continued to serve seniors in need throughout the year.

Two major events for seniors are sponsored by the SALT Council (Seniors and Lawmen Together) annually. Senior Information Day and a Christmas Celebration are very popular events attended by many seniors from our community.

BARRIERS
The complexity of Medicare and the new Obama Care plan presents challenges to the elderly.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma
event. This year’s event started on Mar 13, 2013 and will conclude on Apr 25, 2013. Sessions are being held at Saint Francis Health & Wellness Center. Program is free and open to all.

Area Agency on Aging is planning a Senior Share Day for service providers in late April.
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COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Family Fun and Learning Activities calendar – emailed to 125 individuals monthly and posted on SEMO Case Managers List Serv for 59 members. Approximate number of paper copies distributed monthly = 300.

Successful Parenting training calendar – emailed to 125 individuals monthly and posted on SEMO Case Managers List Serv for 59 members. Approximate number of paper copies distributed monthly = 200.

Community Resources Cards in English and Spanish were undated in Jul 2012 – 1200 (English version) and 500 (Spanish version) have been distributed.

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

Building Strong Families – 2 5-week sessions implemented: 37 adults and 16 youth (youth curriculum offered).

Love and Logic (sponsored by Educare) - 1 4-week session implemented: 20 adults and 15 youth (ages 0-5).

Family Wellness – 1 6-week session implemented: 3 adults

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

The fourth annual “We Care About YOUTH” conference will be held on April 12-13, 2013.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
United Way of Southeast Missouri – Born Learning monthly events continued at Cape Public Library and Riverside Regional Library during the school year.

United Way continued 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 2012.
• United Way of SEMO funded a fulltime Parent Liaison at Cape Central High School this year to strengthen student success and parent engagement.
• Messy Morning was held at the Show Me Center for ages 0-6 with parent(s) in Apr 2012 after a two-year absence. Approximately 1700 youth and 1400 adults attended. Over 100 agencies/vendors provided activities. Messy Morning for 2013 will be held on April 6, 2013.

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

Submitted by: Kay Azuma
COMMUNITY PLAN
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PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Family Issues: Self-Sufficiency

COMMUNITY PLAN CO-CHAIRS
Jaime Ludwig
Denise Wimp

MEETINGS HELD 8

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 10

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
4-Sight Counseling, American Red Cross, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Chaffee Nursing Center, Community Counseling Center, Cross Trails Medical Center, East MO Action Agency, Family Counseling Center, Gibson Recovery Center, Head Start, First Call for Help, Jackson Ministerial Alliance, Love INC, Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, MERS Goodwill, MO Department of Mental Health, MO Family Support Division, Safe House for Women, Salvation Army, SE HEALTH Building Blocks, SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, SEMO State University, Sikeston Regional Office, Soulful Harvest, St. Mary’s, St. Vincent’s, United Way of SEMO

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

NOTEWORTHY
Quarterly Case Manager meetings are very well-attended with an average attendance of 20.

Members of the Financial Stability Partnership will participate in United Way’s upcoming focus on “income”.

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 9 – Autism Services – 11 attended
- Aug 8 – Project Homeless Connect, House of Hope, Regional Samaritan Clinic – 18 attended
- Nov 14 – SE HEALTH Building Blocks, MO Mentoring Partnership, Oral Health Program/MoMOM – 14 attended
- Feb 6 – MoMOM, Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, VITA Tax Services, Intentional Collaboration Model – 35 attended

List Serv – SEMO Casemangers group continued with 59 members and 60 messages posted.

Due to inactivity with the SEMO Case Managers List Serv, a new g-mail account was created in Feb 2013 for group mailings and case reviews (FSPCape@gmail.com). There are currently 50 members in this group.

Committee continued to meet monthly on the first Tuesday to provide regular updates of community resources. Committee did not meet during months when Quarterly Case Manager Meetings were held.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Members continued to research “Centers for Working Families” and created a model of Intentional Collaboration for local implementation. In summary, case managers are invited to present client cases to the Financial Stability Partnership at meetings or through the email process established.

At the Mar 6, 2013 meeting, the first presentation of client cases began. Three cases were formally presented to the group and solutions discussed. The process proved to be successful for each case as case managers were given several possible solutions for meeting the needs of those clients.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Free tax preparation is 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

United Way of SEMO is pursuing implementation of Dr. Donna Beegle’s “Opportunity Community” curriculum which bridges the gap between social services and the people who need the services. Implementation will start in May 2013.

Both Salvation Army and Love INC are currently offering multi-session financial education curricula that are open to anyone who is interested.

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

Lack of a clear direction on how to promote/achieve “self-sufficiency”

Increased need for assistance and less assistance available
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2013

PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Family Issues: Youth Development

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Nic Barna (until Nov 2012)
Alexa Pfeiffer (as of Jan 2013)
Shelly Wood

ASSET COORDINATOR
Stacy Taylor

MEETINGS HELD 6

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 9

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Big Brothers Big Sisters, Cape Public Library, Cape Public Schools, EPIC Coalition, Jackson R2 Public Schools, Lutheran Family & Children's Services, MO Division of Youth Services, MO Mentoring Partnership, SE Health - Building Blocks, SEMO State University, SE Missourian Jr., St. Vincent de Paul School, United Way of SEMO/LIFE Initiative, University of MO Extension, parents and youth from the community

FUNDING SOURCES
Children's Trust Fund, Community Caring Council, United Way of SEMO, EPIC Coalition, Jackson Public Schools, MO Division of Youth Services.

NOTEWORTHY
Jackson School District and MO Division of Youth Services continued to be very active THRIVE partners this past year.

MO Division of Youth Services is incorporating assets into their Individual Treatment Plans for every youth involved with DYS. Asset Coordinator is involved in the development of the treatment plan.

THRIVE subcommittees each meet every other month and have been instrumental in fundraising, community outreach, marketing, training, technology and evaluation.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Two asset training sessions and three asset presentations were held.
Informational booths were set up at five community events. Total number of people reached was 600.

THRIVE sponsored active student advisory groups at Jackson High (11 youth), Jackson Jr. High (13 youth), Jackson Middle School (34 youth), ECHO Program at Division of Youth Services (15 youth) and at Girardot Center (47 youth) for a total of 120 youth. This represents a 26% increase in participation over last year. Groups met weekly or every other week for an asset lesson and corresponding activity.

The THRIVE website remained current at www.capecountythrive.org

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

A monthly e-newsletter - "Activating Assets" - was sent to 260 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 eight Change of Heart sessions for 123 students at Division of Youth Services and St. Vincent de Paul School. Jackson School staff facilitated one session with 26 students.

1120 students from Cape Jr. High, Jackson Middle School and Jackson Jr. High completed Search Institute's Attitudes and Behavior Survey in Dec 2011. The average number of assets for all schools combined was 23.6 (out of 40). The national average for seventh graders is 20.2 and the average for eighth graders is 18.7.

354 students from Oak Ridge High School and Jackson High School completed the same survey in Dec 2012. Results are being analyzed and will be shared with the respective schools later this spring. The cost of these surveys was provided by EPIC Coalition's Drug Free Communities grant and MO Foundation for Health grant (formerly SEMO Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition).

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Each Student Advisory Group remained active and engaged in the asset curriculum.

Jackson's Student Advisory Group members held a Bingo Bonanza in Apr 2012 to raise funds for future THRIVE student projects.

Asset Coordinator received certification in Mental Health First Aid and Families and Schools Together for Teens.

THRIVE has contracted with Hendrickson Business Advisors to develop appropriate asset messages for the community-at-large. Funding sources include several fundraisers, a donation from Sell It SEMO and a $5000 grant from Children's Trust Fund.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
SE Missourian Jr. newspaper continued to include THRIVE asset information each month.

Jackson THRIVE students collected 2100 pairs of jeans for Aeropostale's program to aid the homeless population. This year, jeans were given to Cape LaCroix Church in conjunction with Love INC. The collected jeans were then distributed locally.
BARRIERS
Additional community members are needed to serve on the THRIVE committee.
Additional funding sources are needed in order for the THRIVE Initiative to continue growing.
Asset Coordinator
Written by Stacy Taylor

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

Program Activities
- Provided asset information and educational opportunities for various sectors in the community.
- Facilitated student advisory committee meetings at Jackson High School (JHS), Jackson Jr. High (JJHS), and Jackson Middle School (JMS).
- Continued group at ECHO Community Resource Center and two groups at the Girardot Center.
- Facilitated Change of Heart sessions for seven groups of DYS youth from Sears Youth Center, New Madrid Bend and Sierra, as well as St. Vincent de Paul Parish School.
- Provided continuing support of Asset Building Champions (ABC) parent reading program at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School for early childhood.

Program Outcomes
Asset Coordinator and initiative members have provided two asset trainings, and three asset presentations. THRIVE had a booth or information at five community events. An estimated 600 people received asset information during these events.

Asset Coordinator facilitated eight sessions of Change of Heart for a combined total of 123 youth in the Division of Youth Services and St. Vincent School. A session for an additional 26 students was facilitated by Laura Baugh for Jackson R2 Schools.

Asset Coordinator worked with members of student advisory committees and school sponsors at JMS (34 students), JJHS (13 students), JHS (11 students), Girardot Center (47 students) and ECHO (15 students) to infuse assets into the school and facility environments.

THRIVE continued to be a regular feature in the Southeast Missouri Association and Children’s Services, MO Division of Youth Services, MO Mentoring Partnership, Southeast HEALTH/Building Blocks, Southeast Missouri State University, Southeast Missouri Jr., United Way/LIFE Initiative, University of MO Extension, parents and youth from the community

Community Involvement
Cape Chamber Work Ready Committee, Member
Parent and Community Education Committee, Chair
EPIC, Coalition Chair
Girardot Center Community Liaison Council, Chair
ECHO Community Resource Center Community Liaison Council, Chair

The Asset Coordinator received certification in two curricula this year: Mental Health First Aid and Families and Schools Together for Teens.

Noteworthy
THRIVE is currently working with Hendrickson Business Advisors on a marketing plan. We have hosted two focus groups and are preparing to implement a survey that will help us develop a fine-tuned asset message for the community.

THRIVE students at Jackson Jr. High attended a team building retreat in October at the Trout Lodge in Potosi, MO. The group has been invited back to participate in some service projects around the camp.

Jackson THRIVE students participated in the Aeropostale Teens for Jeans campaign. They collected over 2100 pairs of jeans. That totals over 5400 pairs in the last four years!

Collaborating Partners
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern MO, Cape Public Library, Cape Girardeau Public Schools, EPIC (Early Prevention Impacts Community), Jackson R2 Schools, Lutheran Family
Oral Health Program
Written by Dorothy Gholson

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

Program Activities
Nine dentists, nine hygienists, 20 assistants, and three nursing students volunteered their time to implement dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications throughout Cape 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
58 community volunteers (38 dental professionals and 20 volunteers) assisted with the school and daycare dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications.

27 schools
- 5528 students screened
- 3532 students received fluoride varnish (Some children have received two fluoride varnish applications.)

22 preschools
- 546 children (2-5 year olds) screened
- 546 children received fluoride varnish (Most children have received two fluoride varnish applications.)

Of total youth (6074) screened
- 483 youth (8%) needed early dental treatment
- 155 youth (2%) needed immediate (urgent) dental treatment

Schools: Cape Public, Cape Christian, Deer Creek Christian Academy, Delta, Immaculate Conception, Jackson R2, Nell Holcomb, Oak Ridge, Scott City, St. Mary’s, St. Paul Lutheran, St. Vincent de Paul

Daycares: A Small World (Cape & Jackson), A Step At A Time, Big Stuff, Christian School for Young Years, Community Daycare, Curious Kids, Daycare @ NARS, Deer Creek, Early Childhood Center @ South Elementary, Just Kids (3), Kids Korner, Little Hoppers, Lynwood Baptist Mother’s Day Out, Oak Ridge Early Childhood, Parents Day Out @ Centenary, Rock-A-Bye Baby, Trinity Lutheran, University Child Enrichment, Watch Me Grow

Barriers
There is a need for more dental providers to participate in our screenings.

Noteworthy
The 4th Annual Sensational Smiles Fundraiser to benefit oral health treatment service for local youth was held on March 23, 2013 at The Concourse. Approximately $5000 was raised for our Dental Treatment Scholarship Program.

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. They will also be helping with the MOMOM event on May 3-4, 2013 at the Show Me Center.

We have one faithful volunteer from the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) helping with the dental fluoride varnish applications.

One school district and two daycares have completed the varnish application training so they are able to do the second applications on their own.

Collaborating Partners
Missouri Oral Health program, Drs. Janet & Pat Ruopp & Staff, Dr. Nathan Seyer & staff, Dr. Terry Spence & Staff, Dr. Danna Corner & Staff, Dr. Garrett Sparks & Staff, Dr. Byron Aden & Staff, Dr. Christine Schoolman & Staff, Dr. Nathan McGuire & Staff
Community Case Manager  
*Written by Jaime Ludwig*

**Statement of Purpose**  
The purpose of the Community Case Manager is to create a collaborative relationship through assessment and evaluation that will 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  
- Supervised social work practicum students from Southeast Missouri State University  
- Assisted clients applying for MO Housing Trust Fund Deposit Assistance  
- Chaired Family Transition Team  
- Co-Chaired Financial Stability Partnership

**Program Outcomes**

- 276 unduplicated phone calls received*  
- 100 walk-ins assessed and processed*  
- Case management services provided to 64 unduplicated individuals/families*  
- Assisted around 98 individuals and families with household items from the Community Closet.

*Numbers include individuals and families assisted by Southeast Missouri State University social work practicum students.*

**Collaborating Partners**
First Call for Help, United Way of Southeast Missouri, and a majority of the social service providers in the area including churches and faith-based initiatives.

**Barriers**
Limited resources continue to be a barrier for the majority of people seeking assistance.

**Noteworthy**
A referral was received from First Call for Help regarding a 54 year old single female residing in Cape. Client was reporting that she was being evicted from her home due to nonpayment of rent and had a need of food and mental health services.

The Community Case Manager (CCM) went to visit the woman in her home and determined that the woman was experiencing depressive symptoms that have led the woman to neglect the upkeep of her home and self.

Due to the presence of her home and her reported mental health symptoms, CCM made a hotline call to the Department of Health and Senior Services. An investigation was conducted which eventually connected her with services from Senior Services and the appropriate mental health treatment.

Through collaboration, CCM and Senior Services were able to provide wrap around services which provided solutions to the client's insufficient income and unaffordable housing. Client is now living in an income based housing unit, receiving disability income, and receiving mental health treatment.
Community Housing Assistance
Written by 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
The Housing Needs Committee held 11 monthly meetings. The Housing Needs Committee provides local agencies and community members to share housing information and continue support 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.

Point in Time counts which are conducted in July and January indicated an increase in the number of homeless in Cape Girardeau County. The Housing Needs Committee continues to provide key leadership in helping our region report numbers to the state.

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 2012-2013 to assist with deposits and senior housing repairs for those who qualify. For 2013-2014, $120,000 will be received.

Program Outcomes
The MHTF grant served over 175 family units consisting of more than 359 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, which included 34 adults and 20 children. Over the course of the eighth 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, the average length of stay in the program is three years with 14 households in the program for 4 years and 7 households remaining housed for 7 years. That is 77% of households remaining housed for over 4 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, 78% 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.

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

Emergency shelters continue at Revival Center in Jackson, Cape’s New Beginning Church and The Amen Center. They are working very hard to service homeless families and individuals by providing shelter. The Sprig of Hope Board continues to work towards providing emergency shelter by providing mini grants to local agencies. All of these shelters help to service the growing numbers of homeless in our community that find their way to the Council.

Barriers
Progress has been made in emergency and transitional housing resources, but a significant need remains. Existing shelters are operating on limited budgets and the
community needs to assist in gathering statistics on the homeless population that they are working hard to serve.

Increase in rental costs and decrease in the number of rental units presents a challenge to persons seeking affordable housing. All of our housing efforts need increased funding to meet the increased need for housing assistance.

**Noteworthy**

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is a one-day, one-stop shop to deliver real services to people experiencing real homelessness in our community. Planning for the event, which took place on October 5, 2012, started in February of 2012 and included over 15 community agencies. Planning meetings were held at least monthly. Fifteen community agencies each dedicated over 20 hours in planning alone. The committee also included 5 subcommittees: Logistics, Donations, Services, Kids Zone and Volunteers. Through the work of these committees, PHC had over 230 volunteers, raised $10,050 in cash from local community sponsors and had 60 service providers offering assistance that day.

With the tremendous amount of community partnership and collaboration, we were able to host a very successful inaugural event. On October 5, 2012, the Cape Girardeau Project Homeless Connect event opened its doors to those in need in our community.

We served 95 households equaling 284 people. Some highlights of what participants received: Family Photos for 51 adults and 5 children, Clothing Vouchers for 211 adults and 81 children, Haircuts for 65 adults and 5 children, Birth Certificates for 59 adults, Photo Identification for 8 adults, and Food and Hygiene Kits for all. Some of the greatest need came with the number of participants that needed various health care services: 41 adults received blood glucose/ cholesterol screenings, 10 adults received flu shots, 28 adults received HIV screenings, 20 adults received STD screenings and 76 adults received dental treatment. The dollar value of these services alone was over $15,000. Total in kind amount calculated for this project exceeded $50,000.

The Project Homeless Connect Committee has already scheduled our second event which will take place at the Osage Community Centre on October 4, 2013!
Missouri Mentoring Partnership
Written by Nikki Wolfe

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. The Youth Specialist conducts 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.

Program Outcomes
From April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013:
- 19 moms and dads, who fit MMP’s state requirements, have received services.
  o 14 of them have completed high school or received their GED.

Missouri Division of Youth Services has received parenting services from MMP.
- 11 youth receiving Missouri Division of Youth Services have also received services from MMP.
- MMP is hesitant to enroll DYS youth because of their transient nature.

Collaborating Partners
Referrals: past and present mentors and participants; Southeast HEALTH Building Blocks; Positive Educational Parenting (P.E.P) Club; Missouri Department of Social Services; Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center - Women Infants, & Children (WIC) program; Bollinger County Health Center, Cape Public Schools; Jackson Public Schools, Woodland Public School, Parents As Teachers, Missouri Division of Youth Services

Key donors (money or in-kind) and volunteers: Zonta Club; 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, MERS/Goodwill

Barriers
Our primary barrier is the age limitation that has been set by state. Currently the enrollment guidelines are for youth under 21 years old and pregnant or parenting a child under the age of two. Once a youth is enrolled, they can continue to participate in the program until they turn 22 years old or their child turns 3 years old, whichever happens first. Frequently we have participants that reach 22 years old and have to be exited and youth that are over 22 years old that wish to participate but are ineligible.

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

Housing is a concern, as parents struggle to find an affordable, safe place to live that provides adequate room for their families and is close to school or work. This causes them to frequently move which results in the difficulty of keeping up with the youth.

Noteworthy
100% of current participants are either enrolled in school, working or participating in an approved program for stay at home parents.

We are currently working on a new state proposal for Missouri Mentoring Partnership that will evolve the program into a broader demographic and expand the focus from just parenting to include youth that want to build more assets.
Educare
Written by Amy Loomis-McDonald

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 three grants: Educare, and Home Visitation (two grants). 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. 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 child care 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 the Emotional Beginnings Curriculum class annually. This curriculum focuses on working with infants and toddlers.

Educare has both the noncompetitive Home Visitation grant (Cape), and competitive Home Visitation grant (Bollinger, Perry, Scott, Mississippi, Cape and Stoddard). 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 FY13 (the first two quarters):

• 132 families have participated in the P.E.P./Home Visitation program.

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

Statement of Purpose
The Family Transition Team is an inter-agency 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 identification
- Ongoing search for funding to assist populations that have unmet needs

Program Outcomes
- 52 referrals were received and processed from April 2012 to March 2013.
- Raised approximately $1000 at Garage Sale fundraiser in May 2012.
- Solicited approximately $500 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.

Noteworthy
A referral was sent to the Team from a social work practicum student regarding a 25 year old single mother currently residing in residential substance abuse treatment. The mother was exiting into a housing program with her child but lacked appropriate daycare arrangements for her 3 year old child. The client was newly employed but was looking at having to let the job go if she was unable to find affordable daycare. The social work practicum student solicited the Team and advocated for daycare funding for the mother. The Team agreed to assist the mother with one month of assistance for daycare. The student and mother continued to work together for the following month to ensure that the mother was able to get child to daycare, and herself to work, all while recovering from substance abuse addiction.

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, SE HEALTH Building Blocks, Southeast Missouri State University, United Way of Southeast Missouri, Success By 6

Barriers
Family Transition Team funding is limited and can only assist so many families. Additional funding sources for flexible funding would allow the team to assist more people in need.
Show Me Healthy Women (SMHW) & WISEWOMAN

Written by Dorothy Gholson

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 to area events to promote the program.
- Participation in the Pink Moon Run for Breast Cancer in October, the Pink Ribbon Luncheon Committee, and the Heart to Heart Luncheon.
- Displays at the Wellness Fair at SEMO, Senior Celebration and a talk for the Senior Ladies.

Program Outcomes
Program goal is to reach 200 women by the end of June 2013. There were 90 people that received brochures about the SMHW program. There were over 1500 people that attended the meetings or events where program information was shared.

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

PROVIDERS: Bernie Medical Clinic in Bernie, Stoddard County Health Center in Bloomfield, Women's Care Center in Sikeston, Family Medicine Southeast in Sikeston, Benton Medical Clinic in Benton, Bollinger County Health Center in Marble Hill, Cross Trails Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, Marble Hill, and Advance, East Missouri Action Agency in Cape Girardeau and Perryville.

Noteworthy
A Walking Program will hopefully be started in May.
Successful Parenting
Written by Kay Azuma

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
Building Strong Families Curriculum
- University of MO Extension, Jackson - Oct/Nov 2012
- Evangelical United Church of Christ, Cape - Mat/Apr 2013

Love & Logic Training
- Educare and Community Caring Council - Apr/May 2012

Family Wellness Curriculum
- Lutheran Family and Children's Services - Jul/Aug 2012

We Care About YOUth Conference - planning for Apr 2013

Program Outcomes
BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES
University of MO Extension, Jackson
- 5 sessions in Oct-Nov: 14 parents and 7 youth (ages 0-12)
- Family Strengths, Food & Fitness, Money Matters, Kids and Self Esteem, Managing Stress

Evangelical United Church of Christ, Cape
- 5 sessions in Mar-Apr: 23 parents and 9 youth (ages 0-9)
- Family Strengths, Positive Discipline, Managing Stress, Reading as a Family, Kids and Self Esteem

LOVE & LOGIC TRAINING
Educare and Community Caring Council
- 4 sessions in Apr/May 2012: 20 parents and 15 youth (ages 0-5)

FAMILY WELLNESS
Lutheran Family and Children's Services
- 6 sessions in Jul-Aug: 3 adults

Collaborating Partners
Community Caring Council, Educare, Evangelical United Church of Christ, Jackson Schools, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Missouri Children's Division, Missouri Mentoring Partnership, Safe House for Women, Southeast Missouri 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 continues to fund the Successful Parenting Program.

Comments from participants:

"We spend individual time with each child if only just five minutes. We focus on eating as many meals as a family seated at the family table."

"This program helped remind each of us that each person is part of the whole family. Each member brings special traits and strengths that need reinforcement and encouragement."
EPIC (Early Prevention Impacts Community)
Written 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
EPIC continues to provide drug and alcohol free activities for local youth. Last year EPIC had an outdoor event at Washington Park where we provided food and fun activities for over 200 youth and adult community members. A similar event is being planned for this summer. EPIC partners with various community organizations to provide activities for youth at a wide variety of community events.

EPIC is partnering with the Senior Health Promotions Students at Southeast Missouri State University for the "It's All in Your Hands - Prevent Prescription Drug Abuse Project". This project aims to raise awareness of prescription drug abuse and the need to dispose of medicines safely.

EPIC continues to partner with local law-enforcement on compliance checks and Prescription Drug Take Back events. EPIC has purchased two Permanent Prescription Drug Drop Boxes. One of the Permanent Prescription Drug Drop Boxes is located at the Cape Police Department and the other is located at the Jackson Police Department.

EPIC has joined a regional steering committee to work to prevent the use of heroin and other opiates and to reduce the occurrences of overdoses.

EPIC partnered with the Cape County THRIVE Initiative to complete the Search Institute's Attitudes and Behaviors survey in Dec 2012. Local 11th and 12th grade students completed this survey which is designed to measure how many of the 40 Developmental Assets they have as well as any 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 2012 a new commercial was filmed based on input from local youth and local youth are again providing feedback to the Coalition about potential ways to increase the effectiveness of this media campaign.

EPIC continues to collaborate with sponsors of backpack programs in Cape and in Jackson schools to provide prevention information and materials with the “Rise Above” message on them to local youth.

Program Outcomes
819.8 total pounds of prescription medications were collected from 265 community members at the Prescription Drug Take Back Events last spring and fall.

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.

Over 70 people attended an educational event hosted by the Advocacy Committee to raise awareness about synthetic drugs at Jackson Middle School on October 11, 2012.

Regional Development Funds supported a continued Coalition presence at the SEMO District Fair in September 2012. More than 70 adult and youth community members volunteered to help at the fair and we interacted with over 500 youth and adult community members, and raised a record $1001.

Approximately 70 posters were submitted by youth between the ages of 9 and 12 for our 2nd annual poster contest. The theme of this year's contest was "How do you 'Rise Above' Prescription Drug Abuse?"?

Collaborating Partners
Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club, Cape County Health Department, Cape Christian School, 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, Community Caring Council, Delta Schools, Drug Court, Druy Southwest Signs, Family Counseling Center, Gibson Recovery Center, Jackson Schools, KFVS-TV, KRCU Radio, Mississippi River Radio, Missouri Division of Youth Services, Missouri Mentoring Partnership, New Vision Counseling, Notre Dame High School, Oak Ridge Schools, Perry County Community Task Force, Pop's Pizza, Shawnee Community Center, Southeast Drug Free Communities Coalition, Southeast Foodbank, Southeast Missourian Jr., Southeast Missourian, Southeast Regional Support Center, Southeast Missouri State University, THRIVE, United Way of SEMO

Barriers
Youth participation in EPIC remains very limited.
Noteworthy
The Coalition name was changed this year from the Southeast Missouri Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition to EPIC (Early Prevention Impacts Community). EPIC has a new logo to go with the new name and a branding campaign is well under way. EPIC was awarded a mini grant from the Missouri Department of Mental Health to assist in the branding campaign.

Both Jackson and Cape City Police Departments committed to housing Permanent Prescription Drug Drop Boxes at their stations.

The Advocacy Committee was awarded the 2nd annual Jim Maginel Award.

We are in the third year of our Drug Free Communities grant and our second year of our Missouri Foundation for Health Basic Support grant.
Aging Committee
Written by Kay Asuma

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. This committee oversees the implementation of the Independent Living section of the Community Plan.

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.
- The Annual Breakfast Retreat, hosted by Capetown Assisted and Independent Living by Americare, was held in Aug 2013 to review outcomes and plan for the coming year.
- The Senior Resource cards continued to be available for distribution and online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org
- Monthly Senior Calendar continued to be published and distributed throughout Cape County as well as online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org
- Senior Safety Committee continued to implement the “Durable Medical Equipment Program” to provide selected medical equipment to disabled and senior individuals in need. Assistance with pest control through DeProw Services was implemented during this past year for seniors and disabled individuals.

Program Outcomes
Topics presented at meetings included Community Plan Update, Cape County Senior Tax Board, Samaritan Regional Clinic, Medicare Open Enrollment, Legislative Issues (Wayne Wallingford), Jackson Ministerial Alliance, Capetown Assisted Living by Americare, Medicaid Update by MO Family Support Division, and Around the Clock Alarms.

Average monthly attendance = 16

Annual Retreat was hosted by Capetown Assisted Living by Americare on Aug 15, 2012 with 21 in attendance. Program for 2012-2013 was planned.

Senior Resource Card was revised and reprinted in March 2013. Printing cost was covered by Cape Girardeau County Senior Services Tax Board. Approximately 1700 Senior Resource Cards were distributed.

Approximately 200 copies of Senior Calendar were provided to clientele at 11 sites each month.
Senior Safety Committee - Durable medical equipment (valued at $300) was provided to three individuals. Assistance with Pest Control is now available, although a client’s co-pay is required.

Collaborating Partners
AARP, Alzheimer’s Association, American Red Cross, APPLE, Around the Clock Alarms, 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, Laiben Insurance, Life Care Center, Love INC, Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, MO Department of Health & Senior Services, Pyramid Tri-County Hospice, 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 six years!
In The News

Cape police to increase underage drinking enforcement
Friday, September 21, 2012
Southeast Missourian

EDITOR'S NOTE: The number of on-campus violations has been corrected.

Local law enforcement agencies will be working to spoil the party if those imbibing are underage. They also will be stepping up their presence at area bars to try to spot those under the age of 21 who used fake identifications to have an alcoholic drink illegally.

The Cape Girardeau Police Department announced Thursday that four agencies will be working together to increase enforcement of alcohol-related offenses as it relates to offenders who are still too young to drink.

The department will have its officers conducting so-called saturation patrols and walk-throughs of bars, said acting police chief Roger Fields. The department will also continue conducting its alcohol compliance checks, in which officers visit businesses to ensure employees are not selling alcohol to those below Missouri's legal drinking age.

Assisting agencies include the Cape Girardeau County Sheriff's Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Southeast Missouri State University's Department of Public Safety.

"I think we have an implied obligation as law enforcement officers to reduce these issues," Fields said Thursday afternoon. "It's really nothing new. We've enforced alcohol laws all along. We're just putting extra effort into it and working to raise awareness. Our goal is to reduce alcohol-related issues in young people's lives before they create real problems later on."

The Cape Girardeau department, quoting data provided by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, notes that the age limit for alcohol consumption is based on research that shows that younger people react differently to alcohol. Teens, for example, get intoxicated twice as fast as adults and have more trouble knowing when to say when.

Those who begin drinking in their teens are not only at a greater risk for developing alcoholism later on, they are also at greater risk for health problems.

While those in high school are certainly not impervious to the temptations of drink, most studies show that more serious attempts start on college campuses. Doug Richards, the director of Southeast's university police department, said that in 2011 there was a slight uptick of liquor law violations reported. He could not provide data for last year, but police flagged 15 violations in 2010 -- nine on campus and six in the dormitories.

Students are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages on university premises or at university-sponsored events, Richards said.
The university department will be providing manpower to do the walk-throughs at local bars and to pay unexpected visits to private parties to make sure the law is being followed, he said.

While underage drinking can lead to legal trouble, those in the medical field say that drinking can affect one's health as well. Emily Scheper, a 20-year registered nurse who works in Southeast Hospital's emergency room, said that, on a regular basis, they treat underage patients who are suffering from symptoms of having too much. While Scheper isn't sure that the numbers have grown, she said that it happens too often considering the danger.

"It is difficult to see," she said. "It kind of breaks your heart."

The compliance checks are being paid for by the Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition from a recent $125,000 grant the agency received. Shelly Wood, the agency's project coordinator, said that drug abuse of all types is a problem among those under 21.

"It's important to catch at an early age because, if it isn't, it can lead to long-term and even permanent consequences," Wood said.

The U.S. Surgeon General reports that about 5,000 of those under the legal drinking age die as a result -- from crashes, homicides and suicides. Teens that drink are also at risk for a long list of other injuries and potential lifelong alcohol abuse. Reducing underage drinking can reduce that risk, Wood said.

"We're really glad to see that the police are working on this issue," she said. "It retains one of the greatest problems in our community. It's good to know they consider it a priority."

Wood said it is important to mention, however, that studies show a majority of those below drinking age do abstain.

"While it's important to address the problem of underage drinking, it's also good to focus on the positive," Wood said.

smoyers@semissourian.com, 388-3642
Pertinent address: 40 S. Sprigg St., Cape Girardeau, MO
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High turnout at Cape Girardeau event that connects needy with services
Sunday, October 7, 2012
By Keith Lewis - Southeast Missourian

It was a day of "yes" in Cape Girardeau when service providers and volunteers gathered Friday for a first-of-its-kind event to help homeless and low-income individuals and families.

Called Project Homeless Connect, the event was held at the Osage Centre and attracted nearly 250 people who sought to take advantage of the many services being offered by area providers, ranging from medical and dental screenings to legal consultation and help with Social Security benefits.

Natalie Sandoval, a social worker at Cape Girardeau's Community Caring Council and one of the lead organizers of the event, said that it was a great day in Cape Girardeau.

"We believe in our community and what we can do to help others," she told an audience of providers and volunteers. "I want to thank everybody for all of their hard work in putting this together because today is when people will be told, yes, they can receive the help they need."

Cape Girardeau Mayor Harry Rediger told the audience that on any given day, between 20 and 40 people in Cape Girardeau are without a permanent home, a number that included entire families.

"This is just one day to care for others," Rediger said, "but we'll continue the fight to end homelessness in our community."

Rediger added that the project was a hand up and not a handout.

"My desire is to help people help themselves," he said. "The people who are here today want to help themselves or they wouldn't be here."

Project Homeless Connect was initiated in Missouri four years ago with previous service-providing events in Branson, Columbia and Sedalia. The concept was to organize, for one day, a one-stop shop of services for people who need them most. This year, Cape Girardeau County was selected by the Missouri Governor's Committee to End Homelessness to host the event.

Sandoval said that when people with limited resources try to receive services, it becomes frustrating for them to be told, no, they can't receive a particular service, especially after they have dealt with agency after agency before being turned down. With the Osage Centre's gymnasium and conference rooms filled with more than 70 service providers to aid participants and more than 100 volunteers to direct them, the process became easier for those in search of assistance.

"I'm grateful that there's only one place where I need to go to ask questions and not have to run around," said a female participant who chose not to divulge her name or hometown. "It takes a lot of gas money to look into things nowadays."
Another participant, an older man from Cape Girardeau who gave his name as Joe, said he was there to inquire about veterans benefits. "I don't know why, but you just can't do things over the phone anymore," he said. "Coming here may take care of some problems I have."

The service providers seemed to understand why they were there.

"Volunteering to the extent I can to give legal advice and refer people to representation makes me glad to be here," said Mercedes Fort of the Fort Law Firm of Cape Girardeau. "I know that a lot of disadvantaged people are hesitant to inquire about their legal rights because it can be costly in many cases. This way they find out upfront how much they can expect to pay and how long it will take."

Denise Wimp, director of First Call for Help in Cape Girardeau, said her organization mirrors the goal of Project Homeless Connect.

"We're an information and referral program," Wimp said. "People come and tell us what they need by way of assistance, which can include anything from disability issues, special-needs children and getting the homeless connected with shelters and employment services. Having all of the providers here today makes it incredibly easier to do our job. We may only have to direct a person 100 feet instead of telling them they have to go across town."

Another provider gave a sobering reason for being at the Osage Centre.

"We shelter women from abusive relationships," said Michelle Scherer of the Safe House for Women in Cape Girardeau. "In a lot of situations, a woman escapes an abusive marriage or relationship only to find they have nothing to fall back on. They soon become homeless, sometimes with a child to care for. We want them to know that we're here to help them."

Some are hoping for a second Project Homeless Connect in Cape Girardeau next year.

"We want to see Cape Girardeau make the project their own, and we hope today has shown that an event of this magnitude can be successfully administered," said Jenni Miller of the Missouri Housing Development Commission, a subcommittee of the Missouri Governor's Committee to End Homelessness. "The project is dependent upon financial donations and the goodwill of the providers, but I believe Cape can take it from here. The people here have shown that they have a big heart."

klewis@semissourian.com 388-3635
Pertinent address: 1625 N. Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, MO
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Teens for Jeans: Jackson students encourage classmates and community to support clothing drive
Sunday, January 27, 2013, seMissourian.com
By Samantha Rinchart - Southeast Missourian

Jackson schools are raising awareness about the prevalence of homelessness in their annual "Jeans for Teens" drive.

From Jan. 16 to Feb. 6, students can bring in their gently used jeans as donations to homeless shelters across the country. Partners with retailer Aéropostale, which runs a nationwide "Teens for Jeans" campaign every year, students can receive discounts on their next purchase for meeting donation goals.

The student group THRIVE -- Teach, Hope, Reach, Involve, Value, Encourage -- a not-for-profit organization within Jackson middle, junior and high schools that sponsors projects to benefit the schools and the community, also helps organize the drive every year.

Dr. Beth Emmendorfer, associate superintendent of the Jackson School District, said THRIVE focuses on the "40 developmental assets" that help students learn responsible and healthy habits.

With assets that include caring, responsibility and service to others, Emmendorfer said hosting the annual drive helps students put these ideas into actions.

"Students in THRIVE work really hard to develop these assets and support each other," said Emmendorfer. "And with this drive, they’re not only helping each other reach donation goals, they’re learning compassion as well."

Kayla Larry is a student at Jackson Middle School and a member of THRIVE. She said they try to make the drive "fun" for students. Because students want to participate, Larry believes the drive is more successful.
"Classes have their own competitions to see who can donate more jeans," said Larry. "They set goals and whoever gets the highest wins a party when the drive's over."

While Larry said it is important to make the drive fun for students, she has not lost sight of the true goal. Giving to those in need is a great cause that Larry said she "feels good about" and personally enjoys.

"You never know, these jeans could be going to kids in surrounding areas," said Larry. "It's not just kids who live far away that need them."

Emmendorfer agrees that giving back and raising awareness should remain top priorities for "Teens for Jeans." She says that sometimes it is easy, especially in a small community like Jackson, to forget about large societal problems.

"It's critical for students to do these types of service projects," said Emmendorfer. "It raises awareness not only among the students, but the entire community, that problems such as homelessness really do exist."

Both Emmendorfer and Larry said they expect another successful drive. This year, they have extended the drive to Jackson elementary schools and have already seen encouraging numbers, according to Emmendorfer.

Laura Baugh, student service specialist at Jackson Junior High and THRIVE sponsor, expects they will see an impressive turnout this year.

"We raised nearly 3,200 pair last year," said Baugh. "We hope to at least double that number."

Larry says that although the students have worked hard to contribute to the drive, the drive could be advertised more within the community. She believes pushing community awareness could be the key to reaching donation goals.

"By advertising and making the community more aware, we could get more donations," said Larry.

Open donation boxes for "Teens for Jeans" can be found in front of every Jackson elementary school. Emmendorfer said anyone is allowed to drop off gently used jeans at these boxes any time until Feb. 6.

"I think having the open donation boxes will really help," said Emmendorfer. "Now, anyone in the community is welcome to come and contribute to our cause."

At the end of the drive, students will count and collect the donations before dropping them off at Aéropostale to be distributed to homeless shelters.
Golden Angels
THE CROSSROAD March 2013

This group of Senior Ladies, now known as the “Golden Angels”, began meeting over 10 years ago at the Cape Area Family Resource Center in south Cape Girardeau. When the Resource Center closed in May 2011, facilitation of the group was transferred to the Community Caring Council, under the direction of Community Coordinator Kay Azuma. House of Hope, an outreach mission of Cape First Church in the former May Greene School building, graciously provides a home for the ladies to gather. There are 18 ladies who meet weekly September through May. The meetings begin with an educational presentation, a craft project, physical or mental exercises or games, followed by an old-fashioned pot-luck lunch and lots of good conversation.

The ladies have just completed an 8-week session of “Matter of Balance”, an exercise curriculum presented by Mary Gosche, University of Missouri Extension. Beginning in late February, the ladies will be helping United Way’s LIFE Initiative by making polar fleece blankets for children placed in foster homes in our community.

Special activities of the group include trips to Cape Senior Center for special events, participation at Martin Luther King Activities, an annual field trip to Charleston, MO for the Azalea Dogwood Festival, and occasionally “eating out” at a local restaurant.

The goals of the Community Caring Council for the Golden Angels are to provide (1) a safe and welcoming environment for these individuals to come together, (2) education and support on relevant senior issues, and (3) a venue for the group to develop lasting friendships and support systems.

In addition to support from the Community Caring Council and House of Hope, group activities are supported by fundraisers, donations and the Cape Girardeau County Senior Citizens’ Tax Board.
One Day. One Stop. One Community.

Project Homeless Connect Outcomes
Cape Girardeau/Cape Girardeau County
October 5, 2012

Event Overview

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is an event taking place in communities all over the country. PHC brings social service providers together from the community to connect homeless individuals and families with the services they need in one place, on one day.

The Missouri Governor’s Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) assists a new Missouri community each year with planning and implementing an event. The GCEH formed a sub-committee in January 2012 to begin planning a PHC event in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The Project Homeless Connect Committee partnered with the Community Caring Council and other social service providers in Cape Girardeau to organize and implement the event.

On October 5, 2012, the Project Homeless Connect Cape Girardeau/Cape Girardeau County event provided 2,172 services to 202 documented homeless households in attendance. Services included: access to social security, health screenings, health care services, dental screenings and services, mental health screenings, legal advice, employment counseling and guidance, housing/shelter resources, haircuts, clothing, photo identification cards, birth certificates, and much more. Participants also received lunch, groceries, and hygiene kits.

The following data was collected from service providers and participants at the PHC event. The unknown category was used for this report to represent any answers left blank by participants.

Service Provider Feedback

Many of the service providers in attendance at the event were on or had assisted the Project Homeless Connect Committee in some form. Other providers were recruited by the Services Sub-committee.

When asked to provide feedback, many providers responded that they had a positive experience. All service providers indicated that they would participate in future PHC events. When asked what they enjoyed about the day, one provider said, “To be able to quickly meet the clients’ needs, and referring them to other agencies under one roof.” Another provider said that they enjoyed “Seeing smiling faces because of the help that individuals received.” Many providers enjoyed the connections they were able to make with other agencies and individuals in the community. The overwhelming response from providers was that they enjoyed making a difference, and PHC was a positive atmosphere for assisting those in need.
Participant Snapshot

Participants: Total Documented Households: 202
               Total Documented Participants: 356, Adults: 239, Children: 101, Unknown: 16

Gender: 55% Female, 42% Male, 3% Unknown

Age: Adults: Mean: 39.88 Median: 36 Mode: 31 Range: 74
     Children: Mean: 7.39 Median: 6 Mode: 1 Range: 16

Race/Ethnicity: Black: 30% White: 63%
                American Indian/Alaskan Native: 0% Asian: 0%
                Bi-racial: 1% Unknown: 6%

Current Living Situation: Length of Homelessness: Times Homeless in the Last Year:
                          Car: 2 More than One Year: 23 1-3 Times: 93
                          Shelter: 25 Less than One Year: 81 4 or More Times: 7
                          Campground/Street: 9 Unknown: 98
                          Doubled-up: 18 Unknown: 102
                          Other: 103
                          Unknown: 42

Factors Contributing to Homelessness:
There are many factors that contribute to homelessness. The following were identified by three or more
participants as factors that contributed to their current homeless situation: abuse, disability, income, job loss and
unemployment.

Participant Comments:
The following comments were made by participants during exit interviews: “I truly appreciate all you have
offered,” “Everyone was so nice and polite, thank you and God bless each and every one of you,” “I got a nice
haircut, thank you.” Many participants commented on how appreciative they were for the services provided that
day.

In addition, participants said they were able to access services at PHC that have been difficult for them to access
in the past.

For information on future Cape Girardeau/Cape Girardeau County PHC events please visit:
http://www.phccapegirardeau.org/

Gender, age and race were calculated by individual participants.
Current living situation, length of homelessness and times homeless in the last year were calculated by household.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency/Service</th>
<th># Adults Served</th>
<th># Children Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe House for Women (referrals to shelter) and Amen Center (intake/interviews for shelter)</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Habitat For Humanity (program information and appointments)</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>First Call For Help/United Way 211</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>FSD-Income Maintenance (applications for assistance and info)</td>
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<td>Southeast Missouri Food Bank (application for food stamps)</td>
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<td>Family Support Division (child support/paternity assistance/info)</td>
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<td>Fort Law Firm and Jennifer Boom, Attorney (free legal advice and referrals)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Caring Council (rental deposits applications &amp; laundry vouchers)</td>
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<td>Vet Registration</td>
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<td>SE MO Area Agency on Aging</td>
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<td>Missouri Veterans Commission (applications &amp; counseling about benefits)</td>
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<td>Cape Public Library (signed individuals up for cards)</td>
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<td>SADI</td>
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<td>Cape Girardeau Public Library (completed job searches and free resume printing)</td>
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<td>Job Corps (information and referrals)</td>
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<td>US Probation</td>
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<td>Vocational Rehabilitation</td>
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<td>MERS Goodwill (referrals and assistance with applications)</td>
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<td>WIB/MO Career Center (conducted job searches &amp; referred to trainings)</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metro Business College (chair massages)</td>
<td>69</td>
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<td>Eclips School of Cosmetology &amp; Barbering (haircuts)</td>
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<td>The Salvation Army (free clothing and clothing vouchers)</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>81</td>
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<td>Regional Eyecare Center, Inc.-Scott McDougald, O.D. (infant eye exams)</td>
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<td>Brown &amp; Willen Audiology</td>
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<td>Beginning Concepts, LLC (speech screenings for children)</td>
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<td>MO First Steps</td>
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<td>Birthright of Cape Girardeau (information on services)</td>
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<td>Missouri Mentoring Partnership (informational resources)</td>
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<td>Lutheran Family &amp; Children's Services</td>
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<td>Building Blocks/NFP</td>
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<td>Catholic Charities of Southern MO</td>
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<td>Alcoholics Anonymous</td>
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<td>Gibson Recovery Center (substance abuse screenings and information)</td>
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<td>Community Counseling Center (information and referrals)</td>
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<td>Special Design Health Care (hepatitis C screenings)</td>
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<td>Metro Business College (health checks)</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>Brost &amp; Strohmeyer Family Eye Care, P.C. (vision screenings and referrals)</td>
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<td>Skewton Regional Center (information and referrals)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Garrett S. Sparks, DDS, Dr. Ruepp, DDS, Dr. Cotner and Dr. Schoolman (dental screenings and services)</td>
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<td>Crosstrails Medical Center (screenings, exams and health education)</td>
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<td>Cape Girardeau Co. Public Health (Tdap and Flu immunizations)</td>
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<td>Butler County Public Health (HIV and STD testing)</td>
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<td>Family Photos (free 5x7 photo printout)</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>Lunch (free lunch provided)</td>
<td>177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kid's Zone (activities and entertainment for children at event)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identification (free photo identification cards)</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Girardeau County Public Health (free birth certificates)</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Security Administration (obtained printouts and replacement cards)</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free bag of groceries for each household</td>
<td>202</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free bag of hygiene items for each household</td>
<td>202</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>