COMMUNITY CARING COUNCIL

Annual Progress Report FY2015
Agenda

Welcome / Introductions

Remarks

William Dent, Missouri Community Partnerships//Family & Community Trust
Kathy Swan, Missouri House of Representatives, District 147
Donna Lichtenegger, Missouri House of Representatives, District 146

Kasten Award

Horizon Award

Community Partnership Award

Installation of Council President and President-Elect

26th Annual Conference
The KASTEN AWARD is the highest honor given to any council member. It is named for former Missouri State Representative Mary Kasten who founded the Community Caring Council. This award is given to an individual who exemplifies the strength and commitment to the community as stated in the Caring Council’s goals and ideals, and whose work is recognized as a “building block” of support for the council through active membership or extensive work on council sponsored activities.

Past Recipients Include:
1993 Barb Stribling
1994 Jim Davis
1995 Lori Hayden
1996 Shelba Branscum
1997 Charlotte Craig
1998 Tonya Fambro
1999 Paul Schniedermeyer
2000 Frances Gould
2001 Mary Gosche
2002 Jo Boyer
2003 Kevin Sexton
2004 Shirley Ramsey
2005 Ellie Knight, Aging Committee
2006 Tom Davisson, Kay Azuma
2007 Jeff Brune, Cape Transit Authority
2008 Denise Lincoln
2009 Dr. Janet Ruopp & Dr. Patrick Ruopp
2010 Kathy Sweeney
2011 C. James Maginel
2012 Nancy Jernigan
2013 Project Homeless Connect
2014 Janice Jones
2015 EPIC Pals
The Council

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FY2015

Board of Directors

FOUNDER
Mary C. Kasten

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tom Davisson

COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Rachel Miller, Saint Francis Medical Center

BOARD MEMBERS
Chair: Michael Parker, Southeast Missouri State University
Treasurer: Nancy Jernigan, United Way of Southeast Missouri
Secretary: Janice Jones, Success by 6
Rhett Hendrickson, Hendrickson Business Advisors
Cheryl Klueppel, Chateau Girardeau
Gladys Mosley, Neighborhood Representative
Dan Johnson, Pastor, Evangelical United Church of Christ
Gerald Hart, Division of Youth Services
Joshua Carter, First State Community Bank
Joy Rubi, Neighborhood Representative

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

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

Monthly Meetings
(Networking / Featured Speaker)
3rd Friday of every month (except March, April, May)
7:30 – 8:30 A.M.
Kasten Community Development Center
937 Broadway, Suite 102 (Lower Level)
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
Funding Sources

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

Emergency Solutions Grant – Rapid Re-Housing

HUD – Permanent Supportive Housing Program

Local Fundraising/Donations

Missouri Department of Social Services
- Community Partnership
- DYS Community Mentors Grant
- Missouri Mentoring Partnership

Missouri Family Support Division – HB 1519 (Educare)

Sprig of Hope – Housing Assistance

United Way of Southeast Missouri
- Community Case Management Services
- Successful Parenting
- THRIVE Initiative
Community Caring Council

From the Director

This past year has brought many changes to the Council family and programs. A third very successful Project Homeless Connect occurred in October. It seems like we get more participation, and more participants, every year. As has been our plan, the Safe House for Women will be the lead agency for this year's event. Council staff are excited about being able to participate as service providers for the first time.

With the help of an outside grant writer, and the creativity of our own case management staff, the Council is very fortunate to have received three grants from the Missouri Housing Development Commission for Rental Assistance, Housing First Program, and Operations funding. Rental assistance is just that — helping folks with their rent payments if they meet income and other qualifications. Housing First is aimed at homeless prevention and will provide shelter only. Case managers will work with these families to assess the individual needs. Operations funding is only available for salaries, which frees up Council resources to enhance additional services.

For the first time in many years, we have experienced staff changes. Roy Jones retired as Housing Coordinator in February. Natalie Sandoval left to join the faculty in the Department of Social Work at Southeast Missouri State University. We will continue to be involved with Natalie since she will be managing the field practicum placements for seniors, and we always benefit from having a great experience with these students.

Oral Health Medicaid for Adults has been a topic of many discussion with the legislators this year. We encourage everyone to support these ideas as they move through the process.

We are looking for a greatly increased number of folks coming to us for assistance in the next several months. We are trying some adjustments to our staffing patterns to see if we can manage the increased numbers and be successful in meeting folks' needs.

We are truly dedicated to improving our community and providing for those who need assistance. It is always a pleasure for me to witness the level of empathy our staff show to people who seek out our help. It is a great crew to work with.

Tom Davisson
Executive Director
Statement of Purpose
Guided by the mission of the Community Caring Council of Cape Girardeau County, this committee shall inter-link agencies and professionals to better serve older adults within the county.

Program Activities
Monthly meetings were held on the second Wednesday of each month (October - 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 was held in Oct 2014 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

The Monthly Senior Calendar continued to be published and distributed throughout Cape Girardeau 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 in Cape Girardeau County.

Program Outcomes
Topics presented at meetings included Elder Mental Health Counseling, Community Plan Update, Fraud and Scams, Senior Housing, Substance Abuse/Addictions among Seniors, and Alzheimer's Association Update.

Average monthly attendance = 12

Annual Retreat was held at Capetown Clubhouse on October 15, 2014 with 10 in attendance. Program for 2014-15 was planned.

Approximately 1500 Senior Resource Cards were distributed.

Approximately 250 copies of Senior Calendar are provided each month to clients by service providers.

Senior Safety Committee provided assistance to three individuals for safety bars, valued at $165. Senior Safety Committee collaborated with Love INC, who provided volunteers for installation of the safety bars.

Collaborating Partners
AARP, Aging Matters, Alzheimer’s Association, APPLE, Around the Clock Alarms, Broadway Prescription Shop, Cape County Health Department, Cape County Senior Citizens’ Tax Board, Cape Police Department, Cape Senior Center, Capetown Assisted and Independent Living by Americare, Catholic Charities, Chaffee Nursing Center, Comfort Care, Community Counseling Center, Cross Trails Medical Center, Crown Hospice, Hoover Center, Jackson Ministerial Alliance, Jackson Senior Center, Legacy Hospice, Life Care Centers, Love INC, Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, Med Plus Home Health Care, MO Department of Health & Senior Services, Pyramid Tri-County Hospice, Regional Arthritis Center at Saint Francis Medical Center, RSVP/VIC, Saint Francis Medical Center, SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence, SEMO State University, The Lutheran Home, University of MO Extension, 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. Six new members were added during the past year.

Thanks to Cape County Public Health Center for hosting our meetings for over nine years!
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
-Triaged "walk-ins" according to needs and available resources
-Assessed families/individuals for strengths, resources, abilities, support systems, and resources being used in addition to multiple needs
-Established ongoing relationships with several clients needing an official Community Case Manager to navigate community resources
-Processed referrals from other service providers and self-referrals

Program Outcomes
Approximately 1,019 phone calls and 98 walk-in clients assessed and processed.
Approximately 143 individuals and families assisted with household items from the Community Closet.

Collaborating Partners
Cape County Public Health Center, Cape Girardeau Transportation Authority, Catholic Charities of Southeast Missouri, SADI, Community Counseling Center, Cross Trails Medical Center, East Missouri Action Agency, Family Counseling Center, First Call for Help, Gibson Recovery Center, LOVE INC, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Mending Hearts, Safe House for Women, Salvation Army, Southeast Missouri State University, St. Vincent de Paul, Birthright, Building Blocks, United Way of Southeast Missouri

Noteworthy
Through collaboration with the Local Missouri Reentry Steering Team, the need for funding for basic employment needs (birth certificates, state identification cards, transportation, etc.) of ex-offenders was recognized. After several discussions, it was decided that the Reentry Steering Team would host a fundraiser.

The first annual "BIKERS for REENTRY" fundraiser was held on August 23, 2014 at Lawless Harley Davidson in Scott City. Despite the extreme August heat, it was a successful event raising $3000. These funds were given to the Community Caring Council for unmet needs of ex-offenders. Since October 2014, over $900 has been spent to assist 5 individuals with birth certificates, identification cards, GED tests, shoes for work, disposable phone card and one rental deposit.

The second Annual "BIKERS for REENTRY" fundraiser is being planned for October 3, 2015 at the same location. In addition, other fundraiser opportunities are being explored. The plan is to create a sustainable fund for assistance for this vulnerable population.

Barriers
Lack of necessary funding to meet client needs: rent, utility, & water assistance are the biggest requests with no funding available.
Community Coordinator

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

Additionally, the implementation and oversight for several Council programs and grants is the Community Coordinator’s responsibility. The Community Coordinator further serves as a liaison between the Council and the community in the interest of avoiding duplication of services and increasing access to available resources and 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.
- Facilitated the Senior Lunch and Learn Program.
- 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
Seven Priority Issue Committees remained 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 provided two meeting rooms which are available to the community for meetings and trainings. During the past year, the Center was used for 177 meetings. Of the total usage, 100 (56%) were for Council meetings/events and 77 (44%) were for community meetings/events.

Seven Council meetings were held with an average of 17 in attendance. In addition, our Annual Breakfast in April 2014 had 60 in attendance and our Annual Open House in December 2014 had 57 in attendance.

The Community Caring Council was represented as a member of the following: Cape County Health’s Mobilizing for Action Committee, Domestic Violence Community Response Task Force, ECHO Community Liaison Council, EPIC Coalition, Family Transition Team, Healthy Communities Coalition, Jackson Chamber of Commerce/Non-Profit Alliance, Missouri Children’s Division - Family Support Teams and Continuous Quality Improvement, Teen Pregnancy Responsibility Network, and United Way’s Collective Impact Committee and Community Impact Committee.

Collaborating Partners
Approximately 188 representatives from community organizations and agencies serve as members of our Priority Issue Councils and Committees (some duplication across committee rosters).

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

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

Note:
The overall accomplishments of the Priority Issue Councils continue to be significant. See individual reports for detailed information.
Community Housing Assistance

Statement of Purpose
The Council's Housing Assistance Programs strive to help residents of Cape Girardeau County obtain housing that is affordable, accessible, safe, and decent.

Program Activities
- After 11 years of service to the Council and our community, Natalie Sandoval and Roy Jones have left the Council and are pursuing other endeavors. Jaime Ludwig is serving as the new Housing Coordinator and Lindsay Chapman as the new Housing Case Manager.

- The Housing Needs Committee held ten monthly meetings. The Housing Needs Committee provided local agencies and community members a forum to share housing information and continued support efforts to improve housing in the Cape area. Discussions always included updates from HUD Supportive Housing grants, Emergency Solutions Grant, Missouri Housing Trust Fund (MHTF) grant and member agencies.

- Point in Time counts conducted annually in January indicated an increase in the number of homeless in Cape Girardeau County. The Housing Needs Committee continued to provide key leadership in helping our region report numbers to the state.

- The HUD Supportive Housing Program (SHP) grant supported a Housing Case Manager and a Housing Coordinator. The current grant serves 27 individuals and families who have been identified as homeless and disabled by HUD standards. Current annual funding for the program is $201,385.00. We have also been approved for Fiscal Year 2015 in the amount of $204,449.00. These 2015 funds will begin in September 2015.

- Approval of grant funding in the amount of $260,250.00 from Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) will provide housing services to meet housing needs of Cape Girardeau County's most vulnerable and at risk of homelessness.

- The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and facilitated by Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC). Program funding was approved for $46,400.00 for fiscal year 2015.

Program Outcomes
- ESG-Rapid Re-Housing funds assisted in the transition from "literally homeless" individuals and families by transitioning from their homeless status into a housing unit. These funds helped nine households transition from homelessness to stably housed over the duration of 12 months. Four families will transition into the new grant cycle due to the lack of appropriate resources to maintain housing. The remaining families have either obtained employment, disability income, or left the program before completion.

- The HUD-SHP grant provided housing and case management for a maximum of 27 units, which included 38 adults and 21 children. Over the course of the eleventh operating year, our agency has continued to serve participants from all of the special needs categories. Over ten 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 16 households in the program for four years and seven households remaining housed for eight years. That is 85% of households remaining housed for over four years. Clients are assisted in gaining more financial stability by filing for disability and connecting to vocational rehabilitation programs for employment and other mainstream benefits. This has allowed participants to contribute towards their rent, allowing them to feel a sense of responsibility over their lives.

Collaborating Partners
- The Housing Needs Committee, composed of over 40 individuals from various community agencies that support our grants, continued to provide ideas to improve efforts to fulfill our purpose.

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

- Emergency shelters continued at Revival Center in Jackson, Cape's New Beginning Church and The Amen Center in Delta. They are working very hard to service homeless families and individuals by providing shelter. The church community has also been a vital partner in financing hotel stays for homeless persons. All of these shelters helped 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.
Community Housing Assistance

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By Jaime Ludwig

- All of housing grants: ESG, HUD-SHP and MHDC funding have all become increasingly more competitive. The risk of reduced funding and no funding at all are becoming a true challenge and a reality.

**Noteworthy**

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is a one-day, one-stop shop to deliver real services to people experiencing real homelessness in our community. The event was held for the third time on October 3, 2014. Planning for the event took much less time as the committee was able to retain over 15 community agencies to assist in the planning. Planning meetings were held at least monthly. Fifteen community agencies each dedicated over nine hours in planning alone. The committee also included five sub-committees: Logistics, Donations, Services, Kids Zone and Volunteers. Through the work of these committees, PHC had 94 volunteers, raised $10,535 in cash from local community sponsors and had 60 service providers offering assistance that day.

PHC served 340 people (239 adults + 101 children). Some highlights of what participants received: Clothing Vouchers for 98 households, Birth Certificates for 68 adults, Photo Identification for 10 adults, and Food and Hygiene Kits for all.

The Project Homeless Connect Committee will be led by the Safe House for Women in 2015. We are very grateful for their commitment to keep such a great event going in our community. The Community Caring Council will continue to work on the committee and provide support for the Safe House as they take the lead. The next event will be held on October 2, 2015.
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 low income parents. Cape Educare has the following three grants: Educare and two grants for Home Visitation. The counties served are Cape Girardeau, Scott, Perry, Bollinger, Stoddard, and Mississippi.

Program Activities
Educare offered 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 were also offered throughout the year. Educare provides training and technical assistance to providers receiving subsidized childcare through Division of Social Services. This would include unlicensed registered providers and licensed exempt programs. Quarterly provider support groups were offered throughout the year in the counties served. Educare also offered an Emotional Beginnings Curriculum Class once a year. This curriculum focuses on working with infants and toddlers.

Educare had both the non-competitive Home Visitation Grant (Cape), and the competitive Home Visitation Grant (SE Region serving Bollinger, Perry, Scott, Mississippi, Cape & Stoddard) for this fiscal year. These grants are called the P.E.P. Programs (Positive Educational Parenting) and serve families with children, birth up to age three. In P.E.P., families received home visits, group meetings, and toy incentives. Families networked with each other and referrals were made as needed to other agencies. Families must meet income guidelines to participate in P.E.P.

In collaboration with Cape Girardeau Public Schools, Parents as Teachers (PAT), was offered for families residing in the Cape School District. Educare also maintained its Resource Room that contains books, videos, toys and other materials for child care providers and parents to check out.

Program Outcomes
The following were outcomes for FY 15 (the first two quarters):
- There were 12 child care providers in Educare’s CDA Class.
- Educare had 15 providers who completed the Emotional Beginnings Curriculum Class this fall.
- Educare offered 101 on-site technical assistance/trainings with registered providers in four counties.
- Educare offered monthly support groups for registered providers and licensed providers.
- Educare staff conducted 207 PAT visits since the beginning of the school year.
- 174 families 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 Community Caring Council. CDA Classes are funded through United Way/Success by Six.

Barriers
The target population for Educare regarding Registered Providers is challenging to serve due to the fact that they are not mandated to participate in these programs to receive child care subsidy payments. To overcome this barrier, Educare staff uses an incentive program and builds valuable rapport with the providers to maintain a monthly caseload.

Noteworthy
We have reached and exceeded the goals that we have set for the Educare grant this fiscal year.
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 continued to provide prevention materials on a weekly basis to approximately 200 youth who receive assistance from the food bank backpack program. Materials included literature, information about safe disposal opportunities, and school and hygiene supplies with prevention messaging.

The EPIC Advocacy Committee continued to host quarterly Breakthrough Breakfast events for local service providers. These events featured speakers who discussed issues relevant to substance abuse prevention. The Breakthrough Breakfasts remained popular with participation growing as well as increasing support in the form of sponsorships from numerous community organizations.

This was the fifth year that EPIC has partnered with a group of university students from the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation on a prevention campaign. Students this year have developed the “Steer Sober” project, a harm reduction campaign designed to increase college students’ knowledge of safe alternatives to drinking and driving. T-shirts and pledge cards featuring the student-designed logo were passed out at Southeast Missouri State University’s Health and Wellness Fair and students continue to disseminate this information to their peers.

EPIC worked with local police and the Drug Enforcement Administration to host two Prescription Drug Take Back events. These events allowed community members to safely and legally dispose of unwanted medications. EPIC also worked on a public education initiative to increase awareness and provide education on safe and effective drug return, including continued media on local drop boxes and take back events, information on securing medications in your home, and talking to teens about medication abuse.

EPIC’s Advocacy Committee established the EPIC Schools Project to encourage local schools to employ extraordinary youth substance abuse prevention efforts. Area schools demonstrating such efforts are given banners and window clings identifying their school as an “EPIC School” that supports community efforts to reduce youth substance abuse. Qualifying schools are also recognized in local media for their efforts. Jackson Middle School was awarded the inaugural designation in December 2014.

EPIC PALS relies on the human-animal bond to create caring and confident kids. The program pairs the Mutt-licies Curriculum with a structured dog training component to build assets in local young people while working to get shelter dogs adopted. EPIC has been offering the PALS program for over a year now, serving youth in the Missouri Division of Youth Services ECHO and Girardot Center programs.

Program Outcomes
In September 2014, 40 adult and youth EPIC volunteers interacted with over 2000 youth and adults who visited our booth at the SEMO District Fair.

At the April and September 2014 Prescription Drug Take Back Events, a combined 145 community members safely and legally disposed over 1,000 pounds of unwanted prescription medications.

Over 1,800 letters from the Cape Girardeau County Prosecuting Attorney’s office detailing the consequences of underage drinking were sent to parents of high school juniors and seniors in Cape Girardeau County and were mailed out immediately prior to proms and graduations in Apr 2014. EPIC’s annual “A Day at the Park” served approximately 200 youth and adult community members in Jun 2014.

Two Breakthrough Breakfasts were held with an average of 50 people attending each of these events.

EPIC PALS held five graduations with 24 youth and the dogs they have worked with have graduated from the program. Most of the dogs in the program have been dogs from local shelters and to date, all of those dogs have been adopted with the exception of one.

Collaborating Partners
Bethel Assembly of God Church, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club, Busch’s Pet Products, Cape Arts Council, Cape Christian School, Cape County Health Department, Cape County Juvenile Office, Cape County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, Cape County Sheriff’s Department, Cape Girardeau Parks and Rec Department, Cape Police Department, Cape Safe Communities, Cape Public Schools, Cash Book Journal, Charter Communications, Community Caring Council, Cup ‘N’ Cork, Delta Public Schools, Drug Court, Drury Southwest Signs, Family Counseling Center, Fort Law Firm, Gibson Recovery Center, Isle of Capri Casino, Jackson Police Department, Jackson Public Schools,
KBSI-TV, KFVS-TV, KRCU Radio, Mississippi River Radio, Missouri Army National Guard, Missouri Children’s Division, Missouri Division of Probation and Parole, Missouri Division of Youth Services, Missouri Foundation for Health, Missouri Mentoring Partnership, Missouri Running Company, New Vision Counseling, Notre Dame High School, Oak Ridge Public Schools, Safe House for Women, Shawnee Community Center, Southeast Drug Free Communities Coalition, Southeast Food Bank, Southeast Missourian Jr., Southeast Missourian, Southeast Regional Support Center, Southeast Missouri State University, THRIVE, TRH Accounting, United Way of SEMO-LIFE Initiative, Withers Broadcasting, interested youth and adults

Barriers
Youth participation in EPIC remains limited.

An additional barrier is our difficulty obtaining school participation in the Search Institutes’ Attitudes and Behaviors Survey. Results from this survey allow EPIC to report on our core measures to our primary funder, Drug Free Communities and to assist us in developing appropriate drug abuse prevention strategies for the community.

Noteworthy
EPIC is in the fifth and final year of a Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant. Organizations may apply for the DFC grant for two cycles and EPIC has submitted the application for our second cycle. In an effort to develop a sustainable coalition, EPIC’s Resource Committee has developed two successful fundraisers in the past year. The first annual “Off the Wall” art auction raised over $5,000 last June and the second event is being planned now. In January, EPIC hosted the first annual EPIC Glow Run on New Year’s Eve. This allowed us to provide an alternative activity for youth and adults in the community on a holiday often known for excessive alcohol consumption while also raising over $800 for the Coalition. We anticipate both of these events will continue growing in popularity and will allow EPIC to promote creative and healthy behaviors in the community while becoming more financially self-supporting.

EPIC PALS has graduated five groups of teenagers and dogs since its inception last year. Survey and anecdotal data from youth participants and agency staff are all very positive so far. Additionally, we have been able to find homes for almost all of the dogs completing the program and Toby, a canine EPIC PALS graduate, was recently invited to attend the Missouri Foundation for Health’s “A Day at the Capitol” to represent the EPIC Pals program. Toby and two EPIC staff members traveled to Jefferson City and talked with numerous state legislators about the program. Funding for this program from the Missouri Foundation for Health and the Missouri Division of Youth Services, has allowed EPIC to dedicate one staff member to this program for 3/4 time and to hire Jami Obermann as a 3/4 time DFC project coordinator under the DFC grant. EPIC will continue offering EPIC Pals to selected youth from the Girardot Center and will be offering a modified version of the program to youth at ECHO Community Resource Center.
Family Transition Team

Statement of Purpose
The Family Transition Team is an inter-agency staffing team that processes 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 and education

- Ongoing search for funding to assist populations that have unmet needs

Program Outcomes
- Received and processed 72 referrals from March 2014 to February 2015, an increase of almost 30 cases from last fiscal year.

- Raised approximately $1500 at Garage Sale fundraiser in May 2014.

- Solicited over $700 in donations through gift cards and donations to the Community Closet.

- Submitted grants for transportation assistance, childcare assistance, and senior assistance in Cape Girardeau County.

- Family Transition Team members attended case management workshops and other informational meetings to stay aware of resources and community issues.

Collaborating Partners
Birthright, Cape County Senior Citizens’ Fund Board, Cape Girardeau Public Schools, Centenary Methodist Church, Cross Trails Medical Center, Educare, First Call for Help, First Presbyterian Church, Jim Watkins, Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, Missouri Children’s Division, Missouri Division of Youth Services, Missouri Mentoring Partnership, Missouri Re-entry Steering Team, Southeast HEALTH Building Blocks, Southeast Missouri State University – Residence Life, United Way of Southeast Missouri, Success By Six

Barriers
Funding is limited and can only assist so many families. Additional funding, especially flexible funding, would allow the team to assist more people in need.

Noteworthy
A single male was referred to the Community Caring Council by friends. Upon introduction to the agency, he was living in a shelter without proper identification. After receiving proper identification from the Family Transition Team, the client was able to seek other social services and sign up for state benefits. After a year of case management services provided by the Council, this client is stably housed in the Supportive Housing Program provided by Community Caring Council.
Statement of Purpose
The Missouri Mentoring Partnership (MMP) assists in preparing youth for personal success in employment, education, healthy lifestyles and self-sufficiency.

Program Description
The MMP provided asset-based life skills education that covers social skills, household management, education, employment skills, and self-care. Along with the life skills education, MMP provided creative activities to broaden the youth's creativity. These activities included games, physical activities, and crafts. MMP provided a series of classes that are typically eight weeks long and meet twice a week for 90 minutes each time. MMP is open to anyone under the age of 25 years old who is willing to commit to the classes.

Program Activities
- Series of 16 sessions of life skills classes that included a lesson and fun activities on:
  - teambuilding
  - money management
  - self-esteem
  - health topics
  - social skills
  - goal setting
  - employment
  - household management
  - cooking
- Building Strong Families
- Bi-annual fundraiser yard sales

Program Outcomes
From April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015:
- 2 series of MMP classes completed & 1 series in progress at Salvation Army
  - 41 total sessions completed
- 10 youth participated in series 1 of MMP classes.
- 13 youth participated in series 2 of MMP classes.
- 5 youth participating in series 3 of MMP classes.
- 3 youth have had 100% attendance during at least one series completed.
- Attended 2 series of Building Strong Families
- Worked with 46 Division of Youth Services youth at Girardot Center
- Participated in Community Activities including
  - Messy Morning
  - THRIVE Trivia Night

Collaborating Partners
Referrals: Salvation Army, Missouri Division of Youth Services, Safe House for Women, Positive Educational Parenting (P.E.P.) Club

Key donors (money or in-kind) and volunteers:
Red Star Baptist Church, community individuals, individual consignors of Little Lambs Children's Sale, Missouri Division of Youth Services, Burger King, Southeast Missouri State University, Southeast HEALTH Building Blocks, Missouri Department of Social Services

Community Involvement
- THRIVE Initiative and Training Sub-Committee
- EPIC Coalition, Youth/Faith Based, Resource and Outreach Sub-Committees
- Girardot Center for Youth & Families Community Liaison Council
- ECHO Community Resource Center Community Liaison Council
- Parent and Community Education Committee
- Success By 6
- Case Manager Meetings
- Family Transition Team
- Project Homeless Connect
- Building Strong Families
- Bollinger County Caring Council
- Bollinger County Children & Youth Issues Coalition

Barriers
As a program working with youth, we are always looking for additional referrals and referral sources to help the program grow. We also look for locations to hold the classes.

Noteworthy
We also have a MMP series scheduled to start April 15 with the youth at New Madrid Bend Division of Youth Services facility.
Statement of Purpose
The Oral Health Program implements dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications to aid in the prevention of cavities for pre-school and school-aged children in collaboration with the Missouri Oral Health Program through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Dotty Gholson, 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
Seven dentists, eight hygienists, 21 assistants, and one pre-dental student 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 health were provided.

Program Outcomes
57 community volunteers (37 dental professionals and 20 volunteers) assisted with the school and daycare dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications.

12 Schools
— 5113 students were screened (K-12 grades)
— 3688 students received fluoride varnish (Some children have received two fluoride varnish applications.)

16 Daycares
— 452 children (ages 2-5) were screened
— 323 children received fluoride varnish (Most children have received two fluoride varnish applications.)

Of total youth screened (5565)
— 4011 (72%) received at least one fluoride varnish application
— 398 youth (7%) needed early dental treatment
— 85 youth (2%) needed immediate (urgent) dental treatment

Collaborating Partners
Missouri Oral Health Program, Drs. Janet & Pat Ruopp & Staff, Dr. Terry Spence & Staff, Dr. Danna Cotner & Staff, Dr. Garrett Sparks & Staff,

Dr. Nathan McGuire & Staff, Dr. Byron Aden & Staff, Dr. Patty Merkley & Staff

Schools: Cape Central Junior & Middle Schools, Cape Christian, Delta Public, Immaculate Conception, Jackson Public, Nell Holcomb Public, Notre Dame, Oak Ridge Public, Scott City Public, St. Mary's, St. Paul Lutheran, St. Vincent de Paul

Daycares: A Small World (Cape & Jackson), Christian School for Young Years, Community Day, Curious Kids, Early Childhood Center @ South Elementary, Just Kids (3), Kids Korner, Little Hoppers, Lynwood Footprints, Oak Ridge Early Childhood, Parents Day Out @ Centenary, University Child Enrichment, Watch Me Grow

Barriers
The weather played havoc with the second varnish applications for two school districts. Cape Elementary schools decided to work with the Big Smiles Program from St. Louis and declined our screenings. Thus, our numbers were reduced.

Noteworthy
The 5th Annual Sensational Smiles Fundraiser to benefit oral health treatment services for local youth was held on March 29, 2014 at The Concourse. Approximately 100 people attended and $5500 was raised.

The cooperation from local dental providers has been very impressive.

The Oral Health Coalition of Southeast Missouri, chaired by Dr. Janet Ruopp, continued to be an active group focused on quality dental care for youth in our community.

At the Project Homeless Connect event in October, the SHOW Mobile Van was available and a local dentist was able to provide free dental treatment on site.

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

Dental Hygienist Bev Whitmore was recognized by the Jackson Chamber of Commerce as a 2014 Community Volunteer for helping with the dental screenings.
Statement of Purpose
The purpose of this program aligns with the mission of the Community Caring Council to "... provide a continuum of resources to help empower individuals and families meet life's challenges."

The program serves Senior Ladies, known as the Golden Angels, ages 60 and over, living in Cape Girardeau County.

Program Activities
- Weekly "Lunch and Learn" meetings were held at House of Hope, 1000 South Ranney Street in Cape Girardeau.
- Members actively participated in the planning of the activities.
- The meetings consisted of a program (educational presentations, health screenings, BINGO and other games) followed by a Pot Luck Lunch.
- Field trips were offered and participation in other community events was arranged.

Program Outcomes
A total of 33 meetings were held from Apr 2014 – Mar 2015.

Number of participating senior ladies = 21
Average meeting attendance = 12

Educational Presentations included:
- Prescription Drug Take Back Events
- Disaster Preparation
- Drug Interaction
- Matter of Balance Exercise Class (8 sessions)
- Public Safety (Cape Police Chief Blair)
- Living with Alzheimer's
- Hospice Information
- Adaptive Technology
- Advance Directives
- Blood Pressure Screenings

Field Trips included:
- Dogwood Azalea Festival in Charleston, MO
- SALT Senior Celebration at the Eagles
- Cape Senior Center for meals
- SALT Christmas Party
- Lunch and Bowling at West Park Lanes
- United Way events

Other activities/programs included:
- Making fleece blankets for homebound seniors
- Making homemade detergent and hand soap
- Several craft projects
- Sharing lunch with House of Hope staff and Cape County Senior Tax Board members
- Annie's Christmas Celebration

Collaborating Partners
Cape Girardeau County Senior Citizens Services Fund Board, House of Hope

Barriers
Connecting with other seniors in our community who could benefit from this program

Noteworthy
This program supported the senior members in remaining active, independent and responsible individuals, exposing them to available resources through educational presentations, field trips and other activities. It added to their joy of living through friendships and the knowledge that there is a support system that can be accessed in need.

Funding for this program has been provided by the Cape Girardeau County Senior Citizens Services Fund Board for over eight years.
Show Me Healthy Women (SMHW)

Statement of Purpose
The purpose of Show Me Healthy Women (SMHW) 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 breast and cervical cancer early detection services for low-income women through provider clinics across the state.

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, the Pink Up Luncheon Committee, and the Heart to Heart Luncheon
- Displays at the Wellness Fair at SEMO State university and SALT’s Senior Celebration

Program Outcomes
There were 38 people that received information and brochures about the SMHW program.

There were over 843 people that attended the meetings and/or community events.

Collaborating Partners
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

FOUR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: Cape Girardeau County, Knox-Schuyler County, Randolph County, Washington County

Noteworthy
A CPR class will be given by the Cape Girardeau Fire Department on May 1 at the Cape Public Library for area service providers.
Successful Parenting

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

Program Activities
Building Strong Families Curriculum
- Evangelical United Church of Christ, Cape Girardeau
  Mar/Apr 2014
- University of MO Extension, Jackson
  Oct/Nov 2014
- Lutheran Family & Children’s Services, Cape Girardeau
  Apr/May 2014

Love & Logic Curriculum
- Educare, Cape Girardeau
  Apr/May 2014

"We Care About YOUth" Conference
- April 25-26, 2014
- Planning for May 1-2, 2015

Program Outcomes
BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES
Evangelical United Church of Christ, Cape
- 5 sessions in Mar-Apr: 20 adults and eight youth (ages 0-12)
- Family Strengths, Managing Stress, Kids and Self Esteem, Positive Discipline, Food & Fitness
University of MO Extension, Jackson
- 5 sessions in Oct-Nov: 23 adults and 10 youth (ages 0-12)
- Family Strengths, Kids and Self Esteem, Positive Discipline, Food & Fitness, Managing Stress
Lutheran Family & Children’s Services
- 5 sessions in Jun-Jul – 8 adults

LOVE & LOGIC’s TWO RULES
Educare
- 4 sessions in Apr-May: 30 adults and 25 youth
- Simple, Practical Skills, Immediate Techniques, Neutralize Arguing

Collaborating Partners
Community Caring Council, Court Appointed Special Advocates, 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 MO State University Social Work Interns, United Way of SEMO - LIFE and Success by 6, University of Missouri Extension

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

Noteworthy
United Way of SEMO continues to fund the Successful Parenting Program.

When asked what specific changes were made after attending Building Strong Families, participants responded:

"I’m careful about what I say when I get frustrated."

"The time we spend together (as a family) has gotten less stressful and more fun.”
Statement of Purpose
Facilitate community-wide awareness and use of 40 Developmental Assets Initiative to increase number of positive assets in youth.

Program Activities
- Provided asset information and educational opportunities for various sectors in the community.
- Maintained a resource library of more than 200 asset-based materials.
- Facilitated student advisory committee meetings at Jackson High School (JHS), Jackson Jr High (JJHS), and Jackson Middle School (JMS).
- Facilitated weekly group discussions and activities at ECHO Community Resource Center and with two groups at the Girardot Center for Youth and Families.
- Facilitated quarterly activities with two groups at New Madrid Bend Youth Center.
- Provided continuing support of Division of Youth Services (DYS) staff and student use of the Developmental Assets and resource materials in the Southeast Region.
- Provided continuing support of Asset Building Champions (ABC) parent reading program at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School for elementary classrooms.

Program Outcomes
- Asset Coordinator and initiative members have provided one asset based conference and three asset presentations. THRIVE had a booth or information at six community events. An estimated 1200 people received asset information during these events.
- Worked with members of student advisory committees and school sponsors at JMS (6 students) JJHS (9 students), JHS (8 students), Girardot Center (46 students), and ECHO (25 students) to infuse assets into the school and facility environments.
- Worked with students and staff at New Madrid Bend Youth Center (74 students) to build Developmental Assets on their campus on a quarterly basis.
- Provided asset information and support during five annual DYS events in the Southeast Region for approximately 175 additional DYS youth and their staff members.
- News feature in the Southeast Missourian Jr, which was reaching more than 2000 students in Cape Girardeau County, until May 2014 when publication stopped.
- Distributed a monthly e-newsletter called Activating Assets to roughly 265 people per month, and provided information via our Cape County THRIVE and Parent THRIVE Facebook pages.

Collaborating Partners
Cape Public Library, Cape Girardeau Public Schools, EPIC (Early Prevention Impacts Community), Jackson R2 Schools, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, MERS Goodwill, MO Division of Youth Services, MO Mentoring Partnership, Safe House for Women, Southeast HEALTH Building Blocks, Southeast Missouri State University, United Way/LIFE Initiative, University of MO Extension, parents and youth from the community.

Community Involvement
Asset Coordinator:
ECHO Community Resource Center Community Liaison Council, Chair
EPIC, Board Vice President, Advocacy Committee Member, Community Outreach / Youth Committee Member
Girardot Center Community Liaison Council, Chair
Messy Morning Planning Committee (2014) Parent and Community Education Committee, Chair

Youth Specialist:
ECHO Community Resource Center Community Liaison Council, Treasurer
EPIC, Coalition Co-Chair Elect, Resource Committee Member, Community Outreach / Youth Committee Member
Jr Achievement Facilitator
Messy Morning Planning Committee member (2015) Parent and Community Education Committee, Member
Project Homeless Connect, Volunteer Trainer, Website Coordinator, Donation Tracker Success by 6, Member
Barriers
Participation from other area schools

Noteworthy
THRIVE continues to work with Hendrickson Business Advisors on a marketing plan.

We are currently planning two trainings for DYS staff and youth in the Southeast Region featuring nationally-known speaker Phi Chalmers, "America's leading authority on juvenile homicide", on May 27-28, 2015. This program will also be repeated for the Community Caring Council's annual conference on May 29, 2015.
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COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Cape County Transit continued to be the main provider of public transportation in Cape Girardeau County – 195,288 riders from Jan-Dec 2014 in 38 vehicles.

Cape County Transit’s Fixed Route Bus System continued to have three buses operating within the Cape Girardeau city limits (two 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.

Cape County Transit’s Fixed Route Bus System operated from 6am-6pm Monday- Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturday. There was a bus available at each bus stop every 30 minutes during hours of operation for the south route on Monday - Friday and every 60 minutes on Saturday. For the north route, a bus was available every 60 minutes during hours of operation Monday – Saturday.

Cape County Transit’s Taxi Demand Response transportation was available 24/6.5 Monday-Sunday. Service stopped at 2pm on Sundays and resumed at 5am on Mondays. One-way rates within the county varied from $6.00 – $15.50 depending on mileage.

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

Cape County Transit’s Complementary Para-Transit Service Plan provided transportation services to eligible persons living within ¾ mile of the bus route who 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 stopped 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 offered job access/commuter van services to the Perryville area with four trips daily 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 for Disability Independence (SADI) continued its transportation services for their clients. Cost is $4.00 (one-way) within the cities of Cape, Jackson and Scott City, and Chaffee. Cost is $6.00 (one-way) from Cape to Jackson and $8.00 (one-way) from Cape to Chaffee, and $10 (one-way) from Jackson to Chaffee. Hours of operation are 7am – 5pm Monday - Friday.

SADI is also providing a Shopping Shuttle in Cape city on Wednesdays and in Cape city and Jackson on Fridays for $4.00 (round trip). Call SADI at 651-6464 for specific details.

BARRIERS
Keeping the cost of public transportation affordable for consumers while costs continue to increase is a challenge.

PRIORIT ISSUE COUNCIL
Transportation

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Tom Mogelnicki

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Cape County Transit, Cape Girardeau County, City of Cape Girardeau, City of Jackson, Federal Transit Administration, Missouri Department of Transportation

FUNDING SOURCES
Federal Transit Administration, Missouri Department of Transportation, Aging Matters, Cape Girardeau County Board for Developmental Disabilities, Cape Girardeau County Commission, Cape Girardeau County Senior Citizens Service Fund, City of Cape Girardeau, and City of Jackson

NOTEWORTHY
Cape County Transit ridership (bus and taxi) has increased 11% from 175,716 riders in 2013 to 195,288 riders in 2013.

Approximate number of Cape County Transit bus riders increased 32% from 44,164 in 2013 to 58,311 in 2014.

Overall average number of trips per month has increased by 44% since 2012.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

4/1/15
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PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Medical Care: Mental Health

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Ryan Essex

NO MEETINGS HELD - EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE ONLY

COLLABORATING PARTNERS
Aging Matters, Bootheel Counseling Center, 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, MO Division of Health & Senior Services, MO Family Support Division, New Vision Counseling, Safe House for Women, Sikeston Regional Office, Southeast HEALTH, Southeast Missouri State University

FUNDING SOURCES
None at the current time

NOTEWORTHY
Members of the Coalition participated in the Putting Kids First Initiative. The petition drive for signatures to place the issue on the ballot was successful. Unfortunately, Cape Girardeau County voters did not approve the ballot issue in August 2014. Funds realized from this tax initiative could be spent on mental health services for youth, ages 0-18. Another attempt to bring this issue before Cape County voters will be made in the future.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Over 900 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Resource Cards were distributed; also available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org.

Email correspondence continued to serve as a platform for sharing and networking among coalition members.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Plans made by United Way's LIFE Initiative to bring together staff from Cape and Jackson School Districts and members of the Mental Health Coalition did not come to fruition during this past year due to change in personnel with a period of no United Way staff on board.

A meeting to re-organize the Mental Health Coalition is being planned for April 2015. One possible focus is identifying and serving homeless youth in Cape Girardeau County. Another is to assist local school districts in addressing mental health issues among students.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Youth Mental Health First Aid Training is now being offered by Mary Gosche, University of MO Extension, and Judy Johnson, Community Counseling Center. It is an eight-hour training. Those two facilitators and Stacy Taylor, Community Caring Council, are able to provide the Adult Mental Health First Aid Training, also an eight-hour session.

Community Counseling Center assumed operation of Cottonwood Treatment Center as of January 3, 2015. The facility includes a 16-bed psychiatric rehabilitation inpatient residential treatment center. The facility was previously operated by Missouri Department of Mental Health.

Community Counseling Center and MO Children's Division are working to establish a System of Care for Cape Girardeau County. Several meetings with various agency providers have been held. The formal application will soon be submitted to MO Department of Mental Health for approval.

BARRIERS
Increasing access to those in need of treatment
Reducing the stigma of mental illness and treatment
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PRIORITY ISSUE COUNCIL
Medical Care: Oral Health

COMMUNITY PLAN CHAIR
Dr. Janet Ruopp

MEETINGS HELD 6

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 7

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

FUNDING SOURCES
Community Caring Council, Missouri Oral Health Preventive Services, Enterprise Foundation, local fundraising

NOTEWORTHY
Over 5500 youth in Cape Girardeau County/Scott City received FREE dental screenings during the 2014-2015 school year.

A total of 57 community volunteers, including 37 dental professionals and 20 volunteers, assisted with the school and daycare dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications.

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Training for oral health screenings and fluoride varnish applications was provided online to approximately four new volunteers.

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

Approximately 100 Oral Health Coalition brochures were distributed.

Dental Screenings in Cape Girardeau County/Scott City served 5113 youth in 12 schools and 452 youth in 16 preschools/daycares, for a total of 5565 youth. That is an overall decrease of 9.6% due to non-participation of Cape Elementary Schools during the 2014-2015 school year.

398 (7%) youth needed early dental treatment and 85 (2%) youth needed urgent treatment. This reflects a 2% decrease in need for early treatment and no change in need for urgent treatment as compared to 2013-2014 school year.

Fluoride varnish applications were provided to 3688 school-aged youth and 323 preschool-aged youth for a total of 4011 youth (an overall decrease of 2% from 2013-2014). Of all youth screened, 72% received fluoride varnish applications.

Dental Treatment Scholarship Program provided approximately $2800 for treatment for 7 individuals this past year.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Dental Health Displays/Education: Healthpoint Fitness Wellness Fair, GrandFamily Conference, Senior Information Day, RSVP Volunteer Fair and SEMO Case Managers’ Quarterly Meeting.

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

The 5th Annual Sensational Smiles Social was held on Mar 29, 2014 at The Concourse to raise funds for our Dental Treatment Scholarship Program and to recognize all who helped with the dental screenings/fluoride varnish applications. Profit of $5500 was realized for the Scholarship Program.

The 6th Annual Sensational Smiles Social was held on Mar 28, 2015 at The Concourse. Profit is not yet known.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Dental Hygienist Bev Whitmore received the Jackson Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Award in May 2014 for her work with dental screening and fluoride varnishing events throughout Cape Girardeau County.

Local dental providers served 141 individuals at Project Homeless Connect event on Oct 3, 2014. The Show Mobile was available at the event and Dr. Garrett Sparks provided 13 dental extractions. Value of all dental services was estimated to be $6430.

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

Student Advisory Groups (with 40 Developmental Asset focus) continued at Jackson Middle, Jr. High and High Schools, ECHO Community Resource Center and Girardot Center. A total of 168 students participated this past year, a 29% increase from the previous year.

Year five of the five-year Drug-Free Communities grant began Sep 30, 2014. Year two of the MO Foundation for Health funding for the EPIC PALS program began in Nov 2014. PALS was also supported with a small grant from the MO Department of Mental Health. Funding from the MO Division of Youth Services allowed an existing staff member (.75 FTE) to be dedicated to PALS and an additional staff member (.75 FTE) for the Coalition.

Collaboration with the Cape City Police Department, Jackson Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration resulted in Drug Take Back events in Apr and Sep 2014. Permanent Drop Boxes were maintained at Cape and Jackson Police Departments. Over 1000 pounds of medications were collected.

Alcohol compliance checks continued with Cape Girardeau City Police Department, Jackson Police Department, and Cape Girardeau County Sheriff.

Jackson Middle School staff continued to facilitate the All Stars prevention-based program and over 350 students participated during the 2014-2015 school year.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
A team of university students developed the “#89percent Binge Drinking Prevention” project. The campus was saturated with social media, t-shirts, brochure, posters, and educational presentations to raise awareness and hopefully decrease binge drinking among students. Surveys reported that 88% of the student body was aware of the campaign, but binge drinking among the students increased during the project’s timeline.

Five 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 2014 regarding consequences of youth alcohol and drug use. Breakthrough Breakfast Workshops were offered in Aug and Oct 2014 on Marijuana. Average attendance was 50. These two workshops were hosted by SEMO State University – Office of Addictions through the Nursing Department.
- Community Outreach – Group planned and implemented a presence and activities at Messy Morning (Apr 2014), Cape Parks & Rec Day, Sal Army Back to School Fair (Jul 2014), SEMO District Fair (Sep 2014), Halloween Hoopla (Oct 2014) and Fall Festival (Nov 2014).
- Youth/Faith-Based – Youth Day at the Park was held at Washington Park in Jun 2014 with over 200 youth and adults in attendance. Planning for family educational events is in process. Note: Community Outreach and Youth/Faith Based Committees merged into one committee in early 2015.
- Media – Group planned for Coalition participation in the Jackson Christmas Parade with eight dogs and ten humans to promote the PALS Program.
- Resource – The first annual “Off the Wall” fundraiser in Jun 2014 netted over $5000, The first annual EPIC Glow Run on New Year’s Eve 2015 proved to be a fun event for older youth and adults, and netted $800.

Two sessions of Mutt-i-grees Training was offered to Coalition members, school staff and the community-at-large in Aug 2014. The curriculum teaches youth social and emotional skills while highlighting the unique characteristics and needs of dogs awaiting adoption at a shelter. This is the curriculum used in the PALS Program.
NOTEWORTHY
At EPIC’s Annual Meeting in Dec 2014, the inaugural “EPIC Schools Award” was given to Jackson Middle School for their extraordinary efforts toward the prevention of substance abuse. The Annual Jim Maginel Award was given to Robyn Snodgrass for her sustained and creative Coalition work.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS continued
EPIC PALS Program has graduated 24 youth and dogs since Nov 2013. Foster families were found for all of the participating dogs so that they could be removed from the shelters, and 23 of these dogs have found permanent homes.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
All Cape County Schools again allowed the mailing of a letter to the parents of 1800 high school juniors and seniors from the office of the Prosecuting Attorney regarding the legal consequences of underage drinking in Apr 2014. Envelopes were provided by the Prosecuting Attorney and postage was donated by Coalition member agencies.

Both Jackson Police Department and Cape City Police Department continued to house the Permanent Drug Drop Boxes at their offices for year-round disposal of prescription and over-the-counter drugs.

BARRIERS
Sustained DFC funding is dependent on local in-kind match. Additional and diverse funding sources are needed for long-term sustainability.

Youth participation in EPIC remains limited.

It has been difficult to obtain local school participation in Search Institute’s Attitudes and Behaviors Survey. Results from this survey provide core measure data that is needed to sustain our Drug Free Communities grant.
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COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Housing Needs Committee continued to meet monthly with representatives from approximately 23 community entities.

HUD Supportive Housing Grant continued to serve 27 clients annually through Community Caring Council and 17 clients through Family Counseling Center. To qualify, one household member must be homeless and disabled.

Approximately 850 Housing Resource Cards were distributed; also available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org.

No Rental Deposit Assistance was provided to the Community Caring Council by MO Housing Trust Fund during the past year. Through Sprig of Hope funding, about 80 persons were assisted with rental deposits and other housing needs.

Homeless Awareness Week was observed in Nov 2014 with a display at Cape West Cine.

Habitat for Humanity completed three homes in 2014, two in Cape Girardeau and one in Perryville.

Emergency/transitional shelters that are operational at this time: AMEN Center in Delta (60 beds house men, women and children), New Beginnings in Cape Girardeau (able to house nine men and eight women; no children allowed) and the Revival Center in Jackson. In addition, hotel stays are provided by Salvation Army and other area churches.

Point in Time counts for Cape Girardeau County:
- Jan 2014: 10 unsheltered persons and 201 sheltered persons
- Jul 2014: State is no longer requiring the Summer Count.
- Jan 2015: 21 unsheltered persons: sheltered count not yet available

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Cape Girardeau City has two ordinances relevant to housing: Residential Rental Licensing (landlords must register their rental properties) and Property Maintenance Requirements (properties must be maintained).

Emergency Solutions Grant for 2014 assisted nine households with Rapid Re-housing and 17 households with Homelessness Prevention. The grant also funded shelter upgrades at the Safe House for Women and street outreach assistance for 27 individuals.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Section 8 Housing list was opened for a brief period in Feb 2015.

Gibson Recovery Center continued to operate Vision House with 16 beds for women in substance abuse treatment. There is a waiting list. Mending Hearts continued to provide residential treatment for women in recovery.

Midwest Ministry Care Center (through Lynwood Baptist Church) opened Ruth House in May 2014. This was the former Oxford House for women. The facility can serve up to seven women in recovery.

A monthly calendar highlighting Free Meals and Food Pantry sites is being prepared by Kelly Bryant of Connection Point Church.

BARRIERS
Significant needs remain for emergency and transitional housing units for our homeless population. Existing shelters are operating on limited budgets.

Safe and affordable permanent housing is not always available for low-income residents.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

4/1/15
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COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Senior Calendar was prepared monthly. Approximately 250 copies were provided each month to seniors by service providers; also available online at www.communitycaringcouncil.org.

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

Monthly Aging Committee meetings were held for networking and presentations: Elder Mental Health Counseling, Community Plan Update, Fraud & Scams, Senior Housing, Substance Abuse/Addictions among Seniors, and Alzheimer's Association Update.

Senior Safety Committee provided assistance to three individuals, valued at $165.00. Thanks to Love INC for providing volunteers for installation.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Aging Committee’s Annual Retreat was held in Oct 2014 with 10 in attendance. Outcomes were reviewed and meeting presentations for 2014-2015 were planned. The breakfast was hosted by Capetown Assisted & Independent Living by Americare.

The SALT Council (Seniors and Lawmen Together) sponsored their annual Senior Celebration on Sep 25, 2014 with 147 seniors, 22 vendors, 18 SALT members and 13 law enforcement officers. The annual Christmas Party was held on Dec 4, 2014 with 171 seniors, 18 SALT members and nine Law Enforcement Officers.

Gerontology Conference 2014 “Aging Successfully: Choices that Count” was held on Nov 6, 2014 at Isle Casino. Keynote speaker was Dr. John Morley from St. Louis University and six other sessions were offered. Attendance was 168.

Lutheran Family & Children’s Services offers two weekly Memory Groups with 30 participants.

Cross Trails Medical Center hosts a Diabetes Support Group with 15 participants.

Community Caring Council received two grants from Cape County Senior Tax Board that serve persons, ages 60 and over, residing in Cape Girardeau County:
- $2200 to provide financial assistance for unmet needs and
- $5000 to facilitate the Golden Angels Lunch and Learn program.

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri continued to offer funding for senior home repair for homeowners, ages 60 and over, residing in Cape Girardeau County. They are also trying to identify seniors who might be eligible for food stamps.

“Don’t Gamble With Your Health” Program took place in Mar and Apr 2014. This is an annual six-week health challenge sponsored by Saint Francis Medical Center, Fitness Plus, Aging Matters, University of Missouri Extension, Cross Trials Medical Center and Regional Arthritis Center. A total of 69 individuals participated during the six-week program.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Christmas for the Elderly has been ongoing for over 29 years. Sponsored by SE Missouri newspaper, Cape Jaycees, Cape County Public Health Center and MO Division of Senior Services, funds raised are used to purchase Christmas gifts for seniors in need. Leftover funds are used for other unmet needs throughout the year.

BARRIERS
Communicating with seniors regarding changes in Medicare coverage. Connecting isolated seniors with available resources.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

4/1/15
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COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Family Fun and Learning Activities calendar was emailed to 114 individuals monthly. Approximately 65 paper copies were distributed monthly.

Successful Parenting training calendar was emailed to 114 individuals monthly. Approximately 50 paper copies were distributed monthly.

Community Resources Cards in English and Spanish continued to be distributed to agencies and individuals. 1400 (English version) and 500 (Spanish version) cards were distributed in the last 12 months. The card was revised and reprinted in Nov 2014. Thanks to Ameren Missouri for providing funds for the printing costs.

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

Building Strong Families – two 5-week sessions were implemented by Community Caring Council and University of Missouri Extension through United Way of SEMO funding (Mar and Oct 2014). The two sessions served 43 adults and 18 youth (youth curriculum offered). Childcare was provided.

Love & Logic’s Two Rules – a 4-week session was implemented by Educare (Apr/May 2014) and served 30 adults and 25 youth.

Building Strong Families – a 5-week session was implemented by Lutheran Family and Children’s Services In Jun-Jul 2014. A total of eight parents attended and six parents completed the class.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
Previously trained Building Strong Families facilitators (16) helped to implement the two sessions of Building Strong Families at no cost to the program. In addition, six university interns also helped with implementation.

The fifth annual “We Care About YOUth” conference was held on Apr 25-26, 2014. A total of 69 foster parents, childcare providers and service providers attended, with 19 in attendance on Friday and 50 in attendance on Saturday. The sixth annual conference will be held on May 1-2, 2015.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
United Way of Southeast Missouri Success by 6 provided the following:
- Born Learning monthly events continued at Cape Public Library and Riverside Regional Library during the school year.
- Messy Morning was held at the Show Me Center on Apr 5, 2014. Over 1500 youth attended, with approximately 27 vendors offering activities and information. This year’s event is scheduled for Apr 25, 2015.
- Kindergarten Jump Start was held at Cape Public Library (two 4-week sessions) for parents with children entering kindergarten in the fall.
- “Childhood Trauma” workshop was presented to early childhood providers on Mar 17, 2015 by Patsy Clark from MO Department of Mental Health.

Community Caring Council’s THRIVE Initiative started a monthly Parent Support Group for parents who have youth involved with MO Division of Family Services.

MO Mentoring Partnership is provided Life Skills classes to youth at ECHO Community Resource Center, Girardot Center, and The Salvation Army. Classes at New Madrid Bend Youth Facility will start in Apr 2015.

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

Submitted by: Kay Azuma

4/1/15
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2015

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Quarterly Case Managers' Meetings were planned and implemented. In addition to topic presentations, time for individual case reviews and networking was allowed. Average attendance was 19 individuals.
- May 6, 2014 – Poverty 101; 15 attended
- Aug 13, 2014 – Employment Resources; 18 attended
- Nov 12, 2014 – EMAA Utility Assistance & Changes with Family Support Division; 21 attended
- Feb 4, 2015 – Cross Trails Medical Center Healthcare Options; 22 attended

Committee continued to meet monthly to provide regular updates of community resources.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
United Way of SEMO’s “Opportunity Community” Initiative continued. There are currently about 21 Neighbor-Navigator active matches. Each neighbor is matched with a navigator who will assist their neighbor in reaching self-sufficiency. Several members of the Financial Stability Partnership served as super-navigators or navigators.

Model of “Intentional Collaboration” is still under development. The idea is to have a variety of agencies committed to wrapping around each client’s specific needs.

Presentation of client cases by committee members continued. Six client cases were reviewed. Solutions were suggested by those present, and 50% of the case managers have reported success from the suggested solutions.

United Way of SEMO continues to implement several Poverty 101 seminars.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Salvation Army will be offering “Pathway of Hope” this spring. This program “provides targeted services to families striving to break free of intergenerational poverty”.

Free tax preparation is again available at multiple locations in Cape and Jackson areas.

Three sessions of “Cooking Matters” for families receiving Food Stamps was sponsored by the Graces Council of the United Way of SEMO. There were 14 participants. Plans are to repeat these classes in the future.

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

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

Increased need for assistance and less assistance available

Start-up funding and sustainable funding for a “One Stop Shop”

Submitted by: Kay Azuma
COMMUNITY PLAN
Annual Progress Report FY2015

COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIES COMPLETED
Three asset training sessions were presented to Division of Youth Services (DYS) staff. One asset-based conference was attended by DYS youth and staff, as well as community youth and adults. THRIVE sponsored a booth with asset information at six community events. A total of 1200 people were served with all of these events.

THRIVE sponsored active student advisory groups at Jackson High (eight youth), Jackson Jr. High (nine youth), Jackson Middle (six youth), DYS ECHO Program (25 youth) and DYS Girardot Center (46 youth). These groups met once or twice monthly for an asset lesson and corresponding activity. Quarterly asset programs were offered at New Madrid Bend Youth Center (74 youth). The total number of youth served is 168, an increase of 29% from last year.

The THRIVE website at www.capecountythrive.org is being reconstructed. The FACEBOOK page is https://www.facebook.com/groups/44135796989/.

A monthly e-newsletter — "Activating Assets" — was sent to 265 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 was tracked at 246,831 messages for FY2014.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD PLAN PROGRESS
THRIVE hosted “FINDING our SPARK!”, the Community Caring Council’s Annual Conference, in Jun 2014 at Crossroads Church in Jackson. Over 280 DYS staff and youth attended, as well as other community youth and adults. Featured was the internationally known Drum Café with their Boomwacker Show. Other speakers included Dean Morris Jenkins and Tameka Kyles from SEMO State University. Attendees left knowing more about identifying and nurturing “sparks” (interests) in youth.

An IPAD Raffle was held in Nov/Dec 2014 and over $500 was raised. Our first annual TRIVIA Night was held in Feb 2015 and netted just over $1300. About $4200 is still needed to complete the marketing plan developed for use by Hendrickson Business Advisors. As soon as more funding is secured, a community survey will be developed for Cape County adults.

Each Student Advisory Group remained active and engaged in asset building.

Conversations are progressing with Cape Central High School Parent Liaison to add some type of asset-building activities with that student body.

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
THRIVE partnered with EPIC/United Way-LIFE/Missouri Mentoring Partnership and Community Caring Council/Big Brothers Big Sisters to provide activities at Messy Morning in Apr 2014, EPIC’s Youth Day at the Park in Jun 2014 and Cape Parks & Rec Day in July 2014.

BARRIERS
There is still a significant lack of community knowledge regarding the 40 Developmental Assets.

Additional funding is needed in order to complete our marketing plan. Then the committee can move forward with positive and effective community messaging regarding the 40 Developmental Assets.

Submitted by: Kay Azuma
Community Caring Council – Cape Girardeau
Established: 1995

FY14 Result Achievement: Children Ready to Enter Productive Adulthood
December 2014

Community Profile: The Community Caring Council is located at 937 Broadway in Cape Girardeau, MO. Most of our efforts are directed to residents residing in the county of Cape Girardeau (population 77,320). Some of our programs also serve the surrounding counties of Scott, Bollinger and Perry. Our Partnership is governed by a 13-member board. A majority vote among a quorum (at least seven) is required for board decisions. The Council consists of eight full time staff and one part time staff: Executive Director, Community Coordinator, Housing Coordinator, Housing Case Manager, Community Case Manager, Office Manager, Asset Coordinator (.5), THRIVE Specialist (.5) and Health Coordinator (.75). MO Mentoring Partnership’s staff include Director (.5) and Youth Specialists (1.5).

As one of the Council’s eight Priority Issue Councils, the Youth Development Committee has been instrumental in guiding the THRIVE Community Initiative – TEACH, HOPE, REACH, INVOLVE, VALUE and ENCOURAGE (youth). Using Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Asset framework, the initiative has impacted our youth and our community over the past nine years. THRIVE is dedicated to promoting positive youth development throughout Cape County by building relationships, skills, and values. Research shows a positive relationship between higher assets, greater academic achievement, and lower risky behaviors. This initiative encourages all community sectors (teachers, neighbors, employers, relatives, etc.) to build intentional and meaningful relationships with youth. Our goal is to increase the number of assets of youth through interaction with meaningful adults and positive peers in their homes, schools, neighborhoods, youth programs and churches.

FY13 Major Collaborative Accomplishments:
THRIVE continues to maintain a close relationship with the Division of Youth Services in the Southeast Region. We currently employ three part-time community mentors through a contract with DYS. Two of the mentors work at local DYS facilities to provide life skills training and on-site mentoring for the youth, while the other assists DYS Service Coordinators in meeting the needs of youth and their families.

THRIVE staff members meet with residential and community-based youth on a weekly basis for simple, fun activities and lessons based on the 40 assets.

These lessons help youth apply the concepts to their own choices and situations. The assets align very closely with the DYS Beliefs and Philosophies, which allows our activities to enhance what the youth are already learning from DYS. We also have monthly game nights and dinners, as well as special holiday events for the youth. THRIVE staff members also provide training and resource materials for DYS staff in the region as needed or requested.

In June, we hosted the “Finding our Spark” Conference in Jackson, MO. All of the DYS youth and staff in the Southeast Region were invited to attend. The Drum Café flew in from New York to lead us in group music with boom whackers and wooden frogs. Tameka Kyles and Dr. Morris Jenkins, the Dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Southeast Missouri State University, encouraged participants to figure out what their “spark” is and to nurture and develop it. Lawson Calhoun of MO Baptist Children’s Home led a break out session for adults. The youth created spark videos for their groups and competed in team relays. Another training opportunity, on a very different topic, is being planned for May 2015.

Noteworthy: This past fall, one of the Community Mentors and the Asset Coordinator started a support group for parents of DYS youth. The group meets once a month at ECHO Community Resource Center. Participation has grown slowly and steadily. To date, the parents have gotten to know each other, learned about resources in our area, and done holiday craft projects. Several members have expressed how much they appreciated the ability to talk through their feelings and the impact that having a child in DYS custody has on their family, without fear of judgment from others.

Also, quarterly game nights with dinner for the youth have begun at the New Madrid Bend Youth Center facility.

List of Partners: Cape Public Library, EPIC (Early Prevention Impacts Community), Jackson R2 Schools, Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, MO Division of Youth Services, MO Mentoring Partnership, Safe House for Women, Southeast Health/Building Blocks, Southeast MO State University, St Vincent de Paul School, United Way/LIFE Initiative, University of MO Extension, parents and youth from the community.
Professionals share success stories with teens at conference

Thursday, June 5, 2014
By Ruth Campbell ~ Southeast Missourian

Coming of age in the late 1960s and early '70s in Detroit, Morris Jenkins, now dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Southeast Missouri State University, saw a lot of social upheaval with the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

At the same time, Jenkins wanted to be lead singer of The Temptations, something he still aspires to. But his life has taken many turns from serving in the Army and Marines to becoming a lawyer and professor.

Jenkins shared his story with about 285 people -- mostly kids ranging from 12 to 18 from a 28-county area of Southeast Missouri -- at Wednesday's 25th annual Community Caring Conference. Held at CrossRoads Church in Jackson, the event's theme was "Finding Our Spark," aimed at helping kids find and pursue their passion.

He went through many incarnations from the military and becoming a lawyer -- he wanted to be the black Perry Mason -- to his current position at Southeast.

"My passion was really in higher ed," Jenkins said.

He offered five pieces of advice to attendees:

* Work hard and play hard, but don't abuse your body. At one point, he said, he had a problem with alcohol.

* Always take time for yourself. Sometimes, Jenkins said, "we forget to meditate" and take care of ourselves. He likes fishing to relax.

* Always be a learner. "Keep your mind open because you learn things from everybody," he said. Jenkins has four grandchildren and learns from them every day. He said he also learns from people like those in the audience.

* Always keep the faith. "Keep your eyes on the prize. Do things daily to better yourself," Jenkins said. He cited a line from the song "Greatest Love of All," which says learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all.
* Follow your passion, always. "Do not focus on making money. It never works. People who are successful -- they focus on their passion."

He also told youngsters to keep pushing and always have backup plans. "Never let anyone doubt you. You're going to have your haters," Jenkins said. "... As you venture off and do whatever you're going to do, keep those five things in mind."

Tameka Kyles, college access coordinator for Southeast, serves as a liaison between the university, local high schools, and students and their families. As Kyles shared her story, she wanted youngsters to write their own and draw their spark from it.

One of her favorite quotes is from former boxing champion Muhammad Ali: "Champions aren't made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them, a desire, a dream, a vision. They have to have the skill and the will, but the will must be stronger than the skill."

"That's kind of been my philosophy since college," Kyles said, adding she takes that with her on the basketball court, to classrooms, the workforce and her volunteer work.

A Cleveland native, Kyles was born with club feet and a heart murmur. Quiet and typically into her books, Kyles was called a nerd and the teacher's pet, but turned those disadvantages into advantages. Kyles was in the National Honor Society, ran track and played basketball.

As a teenager, the tall, skinny 6-footer had the name "Stringbean," which she didn't like at first. She even got teased about her huge smile, called "beaver teeth" and "Kool-Aid smile."

Today it's her signature and helps break barriers for the youths she serves.

She attended Eastern Michigan University initially on a track scholarship, but she worked on her basketball skills and wound up being good enough to earn a hoops scholarship as a walk-on. Kyles first came to Cape Girardeau about 10 years ago as assistant women's basketball coach at Southeast, worked for various not-for-profit groups and went back to Southeast for her master's degree.

Kyles went through a list, based on the word sparks -- story, passion, attitude, relationships, knowledge and success:

* Your attitude represents you.
* Relationships -- draft the team you want around you, made up of people who are positive and productive.

* Knowledge, she said, is key to success and education is a lifetime investment. Your car may go out of style, but your certification and degrees don't. She encouraged the children to be successful in whatever they did whether it was a career, further education, the military or a job.

* Success. Your spark will lead to success. "You have to know your season. When you educate yourself in any form or fashion, that will stay with you."

"Identify your spark and keep it ignited. Remember, there's a process to the progress," Kyles said.

Chase Lee, Haley Miller and Maddy Ward were inspired and encouraged by the conference.

"I think they have a good message to give us. They tell us about their life experiences, then they let us ask them questions," 16-year-old Lee said. He added Jenkins' presentation made him want to be successful and tell his story, as well.

Miller, 13, wants to be a lawyer, like Jenkins, and anytime she feels down, she'll reflect on what he said.

"I thought it was a really good learning experience about how you can go through so much in life and you can still have your spark, even though it's been dampened. ... You can do pretty much whatever you want in life. It's just amazing how many obstacles you do go through, and how many times ... you do mess up, but you can still have the ability to pick up from it.

"It kind of ... gives you a different perspective, and I really like how Mr. Jenkins spoke to us today because it made me look at life in a totally different way. It made my perspective change completely because he went through so many things and did so many careers, but somehow he wound up here with us. It's kind of like a blessing having someone you can relate to in so many ways. They've done everything that you've done, but they made something amazing [of] themselves."

The program, sponsored by the Community Caring Council, THRIVE, Missouri Division of Youth Services and Missouri Mentoring Partnership, also included a performance by Drum Cafe, an interactive team-building, conferencing and corporate events company, videos by the kids showing what their spark is, and team-building activities.
The focus of the Youth Development Committee, THRIVE stands for Teach, Hope, Reach, Involve, Value and Encourage youths to be the best they can be, according to the Community Caring Council website.

rcampbell@semissourian.com

388-3639

Pertinent address: 4400 E. Jackson Blvd., Jackson

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Local advocates: Homeless might be out of mind because they're out of sight

Thursday, August 21, 2014
By Savanna Maue ~ Southeast Missourian

One of the biggest misconceptions local homeless advocates battle is this: Just because homeless people are not always seen in public doesn't mean they don't exist.

The latest figures from the Missouri Housing Development Commission show this past winter, Cape Girardeau County had 159 sheltered homeless people, nine unsheltered and one who was "doubled up" -- meaning a person does not have a home and is staying temporarily with friends or family.

These numbers decreased from the last survey in summer 2013, when 151 people were sheltered, 26 unsheltered and seven doubled up.

Scott County had 86 homeless people last winter, between the sheltered, unsheltered and doubled up; Perry County had six sheltered individuals; and Bollinger County reported none.

One of the reasons the numbers could be decreasing is because of the variety of resources being offered.

Natalie Sandoval, a housing case manager for the Community Caring Council in Cape Girardeau who has been in the area for more than a decade, said the grant she works from is able to fund 27 housing units, unlike her co-worker Jaime Ludwig, a community case manager, who helps people by the number and not the household.

"The grant that I work under works to serve individuals and/or families where at least one adult member of the household is disabled," Sandoval said. "But the disability can be really broad. It doesn't mean that they're getting a check. Most people, when they think disability, they think that [someone is] getting some sort of benefit. That's not a requirement, so I deal a lot with people who have chronic addiction issues, [are] chronically mentally ill, [have] HIV/AIDS, [are] developmentally different and have some sort of physical difference as well."

Sandoval finds landlords to house people permanently, while Ludwig can only offer shelter for a two-year period.
"[I work with the] emergency solutions grant, and ... the goal is to house those who are meeting that HUD definition of 'literally homeless,' but I don't have to focus on that disability component, so that does open the door to more folks," Ludwig said.

Homeless definition

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development definition of "literally homeless" is when people stay in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, abandoned buildings, an emergency shelter or a transitional shelter, after having been on the street or in an emergency shelter previously.

Sandoval said she uses that definition when evaluating people and deciding what the next step for them should be.

Ludwig is housing 10 adults and 10 children in six homes, with the possibility of one more person. With her emergency solutions grant, funds were cut significantly over the past year.

"Last year we got about $250,000; $130,000 of that was directly toward us and our program. We only got $48,000 this year," Ludwig said. "So I was housing 30-something households, and then I had to pretty much wipe out 60 to 70 percent."

Both social workers say community resources now are some of their strongest assets. The Community Caring Council works closely with the United Way of Southeast Missouri, which provides different supplies, funding and volunteers to help with the CCC's needs.

After finding shelter for someone who is homeless, there's a whole other range of problems to assess, from employment to food to transportation and clothing.

Organizations such as The Salvation Army, First Call for Help and SEMO Food Bank supply many of these resources.

Missy Rice, chief administrative and programs officer at the food bank, said the organization serves one homeless shelter in Cape Girardeau County -- the Amen Center in Delta.

The Amen Shelter is by far the largest shelter in the area and houses 58 people, but its capacity is 95, said founder Danny Hollowell.

Since Jan. 1, Rice said the food bank has supplied the shelter with 7,591 pounds of free food from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
The idea of a shelter in Cape Girardeau is fraught with mixed emotions. Hollowell, who has operated Amen Center since 2011, said he believes Cape Girardeau isn't the right place for a shelter. He says it's too close to the problems people with drug and alcohol abuse issues are trying to escape.

The Amen Center is 21 miles from town, and once people are situated there, "we introduce them to the Lord and let Him work in their life," Hollowell said. "That's our main goal."

Rice said she feels differently about the situation.

"Just because you don't see someone walking down the road with a shopping cart, you think, 'Oh, there's no homeless people here,' because that's how you see it in the movies. But there is a problem."

No particular area appears to be a homeless hot spot, she said. Others agreed.

No shelter in Cape

Sandoval said the lack of a shelter in Cape Girardeau is because people don't want to live near one.

"It has been a highly political issue in this community since I moved here," Sandoval said. "There's also the mentality that if you build it, they will come. ... Yes, we need a shelter, but then when you say, 'Oh, well, there's a nice lot behind your neighborhood -- but then they respond, 'Oh, not in my backyard.' It's that mentality."

Others want to find a solution, but perhaps not in the form of a shelter.

"So you have people who want to help, but not like that, and then 'if you build it they will come,' but my response to that is they're already here, so let's service them," she said. "And will you start to get more people who emerge? Sure, because there's never been an opportunity for them to get help before. So when you provide [for] that gap, people are going to say, 'I don't want to stay with my cousin anymore. I'm willing to take the risk to go to a shelter,' which is not an easy decision to make."

Sandoval said there have been attempts at a shelter before, but with resources already stretched thin, the project has yet to succeed.

Other smaller homeless centers in the area include the New Beginnings Church of Deliverance on William Street, run by Pastor Dorothy Wilson and her husband,
Bishop Carey Wilson. The other option is the Revival Center in Jackson, which opened in 2001.

The United Way also is planning a mobile unit to assist the homeless in the form of a "one-stop shop."

"We are focusing on three core areas," said Melissa Stickel, director of community development at United Way. "One of them is income support -- so are [people] eligible for food stamps, Medicaid, that sort of thing? And ... the second one is education and workforce, so getting them on the track to finish their GED, go on to technical school, help them find employment, whatever that looks like for that individual. And the third section is financial education, so when they do get money, do they know how to handle that money?"

On Oct. 3, the third annual Project Homeless Connect will begin at the Osage Centre in Cape Girardeau. The event is meant to help the homeless and financially unstable with a variety of resources. Rice said the food bank has been involved in the past and is looking forward to participating again.

"As a community we have services, but it's still hard -- it's never enough. That's the reality that I think people don't see," Sandoval said.

smaue@semisourian.com

388-3644
Programs help ex-convicts try to re-enter society

Sunday, March 1, 2015
By Katherine Webster ~ Southeast Missourian

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each year in Missouri, about 20,000 felons are released, having served their time. But they face roadblocks in re-entering society, particularly the workforce.

"Raise your hand if you don't have anyone in your family -- or any friends or if you're not impacted in any way -- by someone who has been to prison or been convicted of a felony."

Brian Gray said he begins many of his presentations this way when speaking to community groups.

Gray is supervising U.S. probation officer in Cape Girardeau and spends much of his time trying to help people being released from prison re-enter society.

In Cape Girardeau, Scott, Perry and Bollinger counties, 24 inmates were released from federal prisons in 2014, and 73 people are on federal supervision in those counties, Gray said. Each year in Missouri, about 20,000 inmates are released back into their communities, according to the Missouri Department of Corrections.

A report from the Missouri Department of Corrections on the supervised offender population for fiscal year 2014 says 24,600 people on probation or parole in Missouri were unemployed June 30. That number is down from fiscal 2013's report, which found 26,563 people on probation or parole were unemployed as of June 30, 2013.

"The reality is everyone knows someone or has someone in their family, and so it kind of hits home," Gray said. "It kind of makes people realize, 'Maybe we shouldn't shun these people. They're part of our community and part of our families."

Gray also rides a motorcycle, which he admits probably has something to do with the concept for Bikers for Re-Entry, an annual event that raises money to help get former inmates back on their feet.

Several years ago, the Community Caring Council, a provider for re-entry and other social services in the area, lost a grant. In brainstorming about how to fulfill that need, the local Missouri Re-Entry Process group, the idea for Bikers for Re-Entry was born.

"And ironically we were able to raise the same amount of money as the grant that they had lost, about $3,000," Gray said.
The scavenger-hunt style event in August sent bikers through the Southeast Missouri counties served by the Community Caring Council -- Cape Girardeau, Perry and Bollinger -- to collect photos at historic sites such as Bollinger Mill, the Massey House in Marble Hill and the veterans memorial in Perryville.

"Given our population, we didn't want to go to tavern to tavern to tavern, which is what poker runs a lot of times do," Gray said. "So we made a decision that we were going to just stay on the positive side."

The event, which drew about 40 riders, ended at Lawless Harley-Davidson in Scott City, one of the event's sponsors. No alcoholic beverages were served, only donated refreshments of soda and water.

Since the funds raised were first extended in November, the Community Caring Council has been able to help about 20 people being released from prison get birth certificates, personal identification and HiSET testing, a high school equivalency test alternative to the GED test.

'Don't Look Back'

The concept of maintaining freedom means a lot to artist Melvin Stuckey.

"That's the main thing," Stuckey said. So when Gray asked Stuckey whether he was interested in creating a piece of original artwork for the Bikers for Re-Entry event, Stuckey jumped at the chance.

The resulting painting was titled "Don't Look Back" and depicts a man on a motorcycle driving away from a prison. Stuckey donated half the proceeds to the Community Caring Council to help people with re-entry. Sales of prints before, during and after the Bikers for Re-Entry event raised hundreds of dollars for the cause.

Stuckey, of St. Louis, is no stranger to the criminal justice system. He was convicted on drug charges in 1993 and sentenced to 18 years. While serving time in the Memphis Federal Correctional Institute, he was reminded of his interest in art that came to him in middle school.

Stuckey eventually was transferred to the prison in Greenville, Illinois, where he met a Colombian man who painted portraits in pastel. He and the man worked out a deal -- he would help Stuckey with portraits if Stuckey would be his personal trainer -- another interest of Stuckey's from his younger days.

Stuckey saw art as a new beginning. The biography on his website, melvinstuckey.weebly.com, says he painted every day, initially using art for recreation.

In 2005, he received his first portrait commission.
In 2008, he was discharged early from prison on "good time" credit. According to famm.org, federal prisoners can earn up to 54 days off their sentences each year for following prison rules and behaving well.

Within two weeks of his release, Stuckey was commissioned to do a mural for a St. Louis body shop. The task might have been daunting for some -- Stuckey said he had never used acrylic paints before or painted such a large piece. But he jumped right in, using scaffolding to work on the 80-by-40-foot creation.

Stuckey was certified as a personal trainer through a California company in 2009, intending to train as a means of earning money while working toward his goal of being able to do art full time, and completed supervised release July 23, 2013, with no infractions.

But he's had trouble being hired at a gym, being told he didn't have the right body type or that his certification wasn't properly accredited. He was hired at a gym in Clayton, Missouri, but was let go "for no reason," he said. Others tried to convince him to move to California, where they said he would have better opportunities. He also considered a move to Cape Girardeau, but decided he didn't want to leave St. Louis, where his mother has terminal cancer.

But Stuckey isn't bitter about not finding a training job. Instead, he looks at it as a blessing.

"God has blessed me with a talent, and I'm able to really focus on it, you know? I could've got so soaked up into the training world I wouldn't have had time to really paint."

Gaining experience

In Stuckey's opinion, inmates should be able to use the experience they gain doing jobs for Unicor -- a program in federal prisons that provides jobs, training and development for inmates -- to help them find work after they get out of jail.

"Guys in there are working eight-hour jobs, and they're used to doing stuff in assembly lines," he said, adding they should be able to put that experience on job applications at companies such as General Motors. "They'd make a lot more money."

But, Stuckey said, they often can't find work because prospective employers concentrate on the fact they've been to prison.

In the meantime, Stuckey is doing what he can to help and staying positive. He is working on a special project for the probation office, but didn't have any details to divulge yet.

The next Bikers for Re-Entry ride is Oct. 3. For more information on the ride, visit bikers4reentry.webs.com.

kwebster@semissourian.com

388-3646
Pertinent address:

2100 E Outer Rd, Scott City, MO 63780
St. Louis, MO

About the Missouri Re-Entry Process

In 2002, Missouri became the first state chosen as a demonstration site for the Missouri Re-Entry Process, originally called the Transition from Prison to Community Model. The model is intended to promote state and local collaboration and improve the transition for offenders leaving prison and returning to their communities.

The state-level MRP Steering Team includes state representatives from the departments of Corrections, Mental Health, Economic Development, Public Safety, Transportation, Health and Senior Services, Elementary and Secondary Education, Revenue and Social Services, and the Office of the State Court Administrator. Community representatives are in law enforcement, members of the faith-based community, crime victims or and service/treatment providers.

The local Missouri Re-Entry Process group meets at least quarterly at various partner locations.

Source: doc.mo.gov/OD/DD/MRP.php

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