

OUTCOMES Reports

February 2000

Compiled by Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, a Division of the Department of Human Rights
From the *Iowa Juvenile Crime Prevention Community Grant Fund 1999-2000 Report*

- City of Ankeny
- Carroll County
- City of Carter Lake
- City of Centerville
- City of Clinton
- City of Eldora
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OUTCOMES Report

February 2000

INTRODUCTION

The following Outcome Reports are derived from the *Iowa Juvenile Crime Prevention Community Grant Fund 1999-2000 Report* compiled by the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Department of Human Rights. The report includes background information on the Community Grant Fund and more detailed information on the individual community programs (community collaboration, program overview, contact information, and budget). For a copy of the report, call the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning at (515) 242-5823 or send an email to dhr.cjpp@dhr.state.ia.us.

Measuring Outcomes

As part of a 1998 amendment, CJJP was required, with the aid of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, to provide potential applicants for grant funding with information describing performance measures for the program. It also called for the establishment of a program monitoring system that required communities to report information with which to measure program performance.

There are several factors that make measuring program performance difficult. As was pointed out in *An Evaluation of Iowa's Juvenile Crime Prevention Community Grant Fund Program*, Jensen, 1996, outcome evaluations of prevention programs are typically complicated due to there often being only long-term impacts associated with a given project's goals and activities. An additional complicating factor is the extent to which the planning and resources from this program are being blended with those of other programs to support coordinated and comprehensive community initiatives. This type of program coordination clearly is desired and is being promoted across systems at local, state and federal levels. The extent to which direction and funding from this program have added to communities' abilities to coordinate their activities should perhaps be considered one of the program's strongest and most successful features. However, a by-product of such a flexible use of these funds is an increased difficulty in assessing its impact in isolation from other community initiatives and services. The difficulty in describing or isolating this program's impact from that of other community activities varies from one community to the next.

In the fall of 1998, CJJP responded to the changes in the law by first holding an informational ICN meeting for all grant recipients to inform them about the new requirement and solicit input. CJJP then recommended a basic performance measure structure, and during the spring of 1999 CJJP began the process of working with the communities at the individual project level to create program specific formats that comply with statewide performance measures. Specifically, CJJP sent out a list of potential outcome statements to the communities. The statements were organized into groups that reflected the various types of services and activities. Communities chose from provided outcome statements or develop additional outcomes to evaluate their programs. Evaluations are done using post- and/or pre-tests, which allows for quantitative results.

Despite the inherent difficulties in measuring outcomes of prevention activities, all communities receiving funding from this program have worked with CJJP to implement outcome-based reporting into their quarterly progress reports. The outcome measures often reflect the scope of the community projects. Outcomes vary from broad community juvenile crime statistics to specific program surveys that measure a child's growth in self-esteem or other protective factors. Other outcomes include decreasing arrest rates, school attendance improvements, reductions in various forms of at-risk behavior, increases in youth assets, and increases in a wide variety of positive and constructive youth and parent behaviors.

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The Ankeny Family Advocacy Project's prevention strategy focuses on the continuation of primary and secondary prevention programs that have successfully impacted risk factors in the past. AFAP programs include the Truancy Reduction Program, the Juvenile Court Liaison Program, the Ankeny Juvenile Justice Council, the Teens Against Cigarettes Program, the Community Resource Program, and the Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Prevention Training (ADAPT) Program. The AFAP Coordinator also works half-time at the Police Department to provide follow-up contacts, referral services, and crisis counseling to youth and families dealing with juvenile delinquency, youth runaway situations, and domestic violence.

The City of Ankeny, the legal applicant, contracts with Ankeny Schools to coordinate and facilitate the program. The program serves an area with about 30,000 people. The Prevention Policy Board (PPB) has been instrumental in building community awareness of the Ankeny Family Advocacy Project (AFAP) through joint prevention activities and publicity in their respective organizations. The PPB is made up of leaders from law enforcement, business, school, human services, city, and religious sectors of the community. Local cash match commitments have continued to increase with each passing year of the program.

1998-99 Outcomes

The Truancy Reduction Program has served 84 youth since 1997. There has been an 82% reduction in the truancy rate among youth participating in the program. Prior to 1997, there had been an 80% reduction in the number of delinquency referrals for official action with Juvenile Court. However, since the Liaison Officer is no longer able to perform intake services, the amount has dropped down to 45%.

The AJJC Program has served 35 youth since 1997. This means that 35 local youth were not referred to Juvenile Court for official action.

TAC evaluations reveal that 40% of youth learn "a lot more" and 60% learn "a little more" about the long- and short-term effects of tobacco after completing the program.

The Community Resource Specialist received a total of 503 referrals during the 1998 grant year. The statistics reflect more than five times as many persons receiving information, referrals, and consultation services from AFAP than in previous years.

The ADAPT Program has served 174 youth since 1997. Students who complete the ADAPT program are required to fill out a survey. The fourth quarter results of the 1999 grant year are as follows: Twenty-six students filled out the survey. Five students strongly agreed and 16 students agreed with the statement, "I am more willing to avoid using alcohol after attending the program." Thirteen students strongly agreed and 9 students agreed with the statement, "After attending this program, I am less likely to use alcohol as a way to avoid my problems." Ten students strongly agreed and 14 students agreed with the statement, "I am more aware of the consequences of using alcohol illegally after attending the program."

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February 2000  Carroll County

The Carroll County program includes programs such as the Foster Grandparent Program, Life Skills Classes, After School and Summer Programs, Fun Friends, and the Leadership Program.

Since 1994 over 36 programs have been funded, implemented, or planned through the Juvenile Justice Program or spurred from the original program. Most of these programs are still going today, whether or not they receive grant funds, because of volunteers, concerned citizens, community leaders, local organizations, businesses, teachers, and participants.

Recently members of the PPB and the hospital worked in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Governor's Alliance on Substance Abuse to become a SAFE community. The SAFE Committee works in conjunction with the PPB in preparing community surveys, as well as evaluating programs. The PPB also works closely with the Decategorization Project regarding current and future programs and future funding.

1998-99 Outcomes

The Foster Grandparent Program had ten volunteers serving twenty hours per week in five schools and one Head Start program during 1998-99. When asked if they saw an improvement in their child's school work, ninety parents said yes, four said no, and 23 parents said that they were indifferent. When asked if the program should continue, 102 parents said yes, while two parents said no.

In 1998-99, Fun Friends volunteers logged over 1020 hours. Fun Friends currently has twelve matches and eight children waiting for matches. There are a total of twelve adult volunteers. Since the 1998 grant year, the program has served forty youth. None of the youth involved with the program have committed any delinquent acts.

Manning's After School Program has grown from 35 participants to 70 participants, with an average daily attendance of 20. Questionnaires distributed to parents showed positive feedback and support for the program's continuation.

Over 120 children used the tutoring program at Coon Rapids-Bayard Schools. In a survey of teachers, 56 of the 120 students improved their grades by a lot in at least one subject, and 102 students improved their grades at least some (out of a scale of: a lot, some, a little, no improvement). Teachers at Coon Rapids-Bayard believe that some of the participants would be failing without this program.

Glidden Ralston's After School Program has approximately twelve student participants, with ten regular participants. A survey completed by parents of the ten regular participants indicates that 80% of students have their homework completed, 70% of students have more accurate homework, 50% of students have improved comprehension, 60% of students have developed a new friendship from the program that they previously did not have, and 70% of students have a better attitude towards school.

The Breda Summer Recreation Program served nearly 200 youth during the summer of 1998. The City of Templeton Summer Recreation Program served approximately 100 youth. Parents and youth have positively responded to the programs.

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February 2000  City of Carter Lake

Prevention In Action is the Carter Lake Juvenile Crime Prevention Program. Prevention In Action focuses on increasing youth involvement in pro-social activities and adult involvement in community-wide crime prevention efforts within the city of Carter Lake. Since 1994 the program has provided the youth of Carter Lake with opportunities to be positively involved in their community and has mobilized the community towards juvenile crime prevention. The major components of the Prevention In Action program are Youth Leaders, Inside Carter Lake, community education and enrichment classes, community-wide prevention activities, Peace Builders, and Citizens Patrol.

The PPB represents a collaborative effort by the following community leaders and agencies: Carter Lake Police Department, Carter Lake City Council, Carter Lake Elementary School, Optimist Club, the Mayor of Carter Lake, the Loess Hills Area Education Agency 13, Carter Lake Community Resource Center (CLCRC), Carter Lake Fire Department, the Carter Lake library, Carter Lake Senior Center, Citizens Patrol, state government, and Carter Lake youth and residents.

1998-99 Outcomes

The Carter Lake Police Department reported in 1997 that the community has experienced a 28% decrease in juvenile criminal mischief acts, a 50% decrease in runaways, and a 20% decrease in juvenile burglaries since the implementation of the program. The Police Department has reported that the community has also experienced a 44% decrease in juvenile arrests since the implementation of the program. The cost for replacing school windows due to vandalism in 1996 was \$765.50, which is a dramatic decrease from the previous years of \$4,758.34 and \$3,000 in 1994.

The Youth Leaders Program continues to grow. Over 70 youth have been trained in leadership skills since the implementation of the program in October 1995. During the 1998-1999 grant period participation in the program increased from 13 to 25 youth. Attendance at weekly meetings also increased from approximately 50% to 80%. The Youth Leaders have served over 2,200 hours of community service in the Carter Lake Community.

The creation of the Citizens Patrol in the fall of 1998 has had several positive outcomes. The level of involvement has increased throughout the last grant period. The Carter Lake Police Department has been very supportive of the patrollers and is working closely with them. This has had a positive effect on the relationship between community members and the police force and has mobilized the community to get involved in crime prevention.

The *Peace Builders* program has also grown. During the 1996-97 school year, 1,226 point cards (10 points per card) were redeemed through the incentive program. For the 1997-98 school year, 1,458 point cards were redeemed. In the fall of 1998, "Our Peace Store" was built to make the program more visible in the school. This has increased student involvement significantly. Sixth grade students are responsible for running the store and all students are able to shop in the store once per week. For the 1998-99 school year, over 4,000 point cards were redeemed. During the 1998-1999 grant period, the *Peace Builders* program was chosen from over 200 applicants to receive \$500 from a local television station.

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February 2000  City of Centerville

With its 1998-1999 grant award, the City of Centerville established a recreation department to provide more supervised activities for youth. The City of Centerville, a community with a population of 6,500, was first awarded funding for the 1998-1999 grant period. A self-defense program, basketball programs, adult and family open gym nights, a summer program, coaching clinics, and special programming were the main activities sponsored by the Recreation Department.

The planning process for the Recreation Department began when a group of community agencies came to the city council with the request of establishing a community recreation program. The City appointed Centerville's SAFE Committee to oversee the Recreation Department, which would be operated with grant and city funds. The SAFE Committee, which acts as the Prevention Policy Board for the project, originated over five years ago for the purpose of monitoring community progress. The Committee was previously instrumental in getting Centerville certified as a SAFE Community. Committee membership consists of key community leaders and agencies. The Committee has a five-year history of working cooperatively with the area DHS, Department of Natural Resources, businesses, and law enforcement. It has recently begun working closely with the Mayor's Youth Council.

1998-99 Outcomes

The self-defense program had fifteen women attend. Program evaluations were very positive, women sought additional information, and, as a result, the program is to become an annual event.

The adult and family open gym program numbers grew throughout the winter. At the end of the program, families requested that the program be lengthened next year. Eight families and 25 different adults attended open gym, which was held over 64 times.

The summer programs were nine weeks long. Total first year summer program registration was 121 youth (57 girls, 64 boys). Of the 121 youth, nineteen were at-risk girls and eleven were at-risk boys.

The basketball programs and leagues served 111 youth, three of which were at-risk. The volunteer coaches filled out evaluations at the end of the "seasons." Coaches have overwhelmingly said that they would recommend the basketball programs to others and have rated program quality as "good," "great," or "excellent."

The Recreation Department is becoming a much utilized community resource and the place to start if one doesn't know who to talk to. The Department sees this progress as evidence of growing community acceptance and support.

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The FAST program is a model of collaborative efforts. It subcontracts with seven agencies in the Clinton/Jackson county area to provide FAST team members. The Clinton Substance Abuse Council and the Clinton/Jackson County DECAT project are grant managers. FAST has been held in eight school districts that represent 16 elementary school buildings. FAST uses AmeriCorps volunteers to serve on our FAST teams. Thirty-six cycles of the FAST program have been implemented in Clinton/Jackson Counties since 1995. Five more cycles will be completed by May 2000.

The program builds bonds between the family and the school, the family and the community, between parents, between children, and it strengthens the individual family bond. The FAST program has been named a best practice by OJJP, and it fits into the five-year community plan through Comprehensive Strategy.

--Jane Marlowe, coordinator of FAST

1998-99 Outcomes


Since implementation the FAST program has served 273 at-risk families (1,110 children) in Clinton and Jackson Counties. In 1998-99, 76% of enrolled families completed the eight-week programming, which is far above the national average.

The data from the 1998-99 school year is in the process of being evaluated. In an evaluation report prepared by the Alliance for Children and Families, the 1997-1998 school year data was evaluated. The report said: Evaluation results indicate that these program cycles have achieved the desired objectives of reducing child behavior problems and improving parent-school involvement. The families also maintained strong scores on measures of family functioning. The parents' and teachers' average Revised Behavior Problem Checklist post test data showed 14% and 8% reductions respectively in their overall child behavior problem scores. The parents reported decreases on two subscales: a 16% decrease in the conduct disorder score and a 23% decrease in the attention problems score. The teachers reported decreases on three subscales: a 7% decrease in the attention problems score, a 24% decrease in the anxiety/withdrawal score, and an 18% decrease in the motor excess score. On FACES III, the parents' maintained average scores in the normal range for family adaptability and cohesion. The parent pre- and post-program results on the Social Insularity subscale of the Parenting Stress Index showed a 2% decrease in the parents' average overall rating of their feelings of parenting stress and isolation.

The Communities That Care Adventure Zone summer program is evaluated through parent evaluations completed after the program ends. Parents have ranked social skill development and personal growth as two of the program's strongest components. On a 1 to 5 scale, parents rated the program's schedule as 4.7, the sites as 4.5, the activities as 4.6, the educational impact as 4.4, the social impact as 4.4, the personal impact as 4.5, and the staff as 4.4.

Eighty-five percent (85%) of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the summer program provided opportunities for children that otherwise would not have been available; 90% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the summer program reduced family stress by providing positive activities for children; and 92% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the summer program provided valuable skills for children as well as a variety of leisure activities.

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February 2000  Eldora

The Providing Activities for Community Kids Program (PACK) and Tiger PACK were implemented to decrease delinquent activity by increasing positive leisure and recreational options through community, family and peer support. Many sports and outdoor activities are funded such as roller hockey, soccer, basketball, flag football, swimming, science center visits, canoeing, fishing, golf, track, and tennis.

Youth, parents, elected officials, school personnel, law enforcement and human service agencies were represented in prevention program planning stages in Eldora. A Community Task Force reviewed community concerns and identified strategies necessary to involve youth in positive and pro-social activities. Eldora, a city of less than 10,000 people, is the grant applicant. Match funding is provided by the City of Eldora, Eldora - New Providence Schools, Home Connection (School-Based Youth Services), corporate and individual contributors.

During the 1998-99 grant year, The PACK and Tiger PACK programs grew in many ways. The number of after school, weekend, and summer activities grew, and percentages of students per grade participating in the programs increased. Gender specific programming for girls was expanded and a curriculum was developed. Several special interest clubs were created, and a relationship was developed with local nursing homes, providing regular volunteer opportunities for program participants. Also, support for the mentoring program grew among private providers.

1998-99 Outcomes

The success of the PACK program is indicated by the number high risk students involved, the number of community youth participating, high levels of parental involvement, community volunteerism, and positive feedback from parents, youth and high school mentors. Many high school volunteers wish that PACK existed when they were younger.

During the 1998-99 grant period, 540 youth attended football, cross country, basketball, wrestling, track, soccer, golf, tennis, little league, or archery programming. Of the 540 youth, 218 were identified as at-risk. PACK had 102 adult volunteers and 45 high school age youth mentors. In 1996, 25% of the mentors were at risk youth themselves. Also this year, boys and girls fifth and sixth grade All-Star baseball teams were started to play other towns. Fourteen of the 32 All-Stars were at-risk.

Tiger PACK attendance has grown from the previous year. Through the first three quarters of the 1998-99 grant period, 74 students were participating in the K-4 program, while 25 students were participating in the 5-8 program. K-4 participation reflects 30% of students enrolled in elementary school. Furthermore, sixteen of the eighteen at-risk youth participating in Tiger PACK attend regularly.

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The Fort Dodge Delinquency Prevention Program addresses the identified risk factors through Urban Visions, Inc. and The Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center (D/SAOC). Funds allocated to Urban Visions provide programming at an after school drop in center that includes substance abuse prevention, conflict resolution training, violence prevention, GED classes, pregnancy prevention, support groups, educational enhancement opportunities, and self esteem building. The Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center receives funding for a Children's Advocate providing support groups and counseling services to children in the shelter. The groups focus on self-esteem, leadership, positive experiences, feeling of fear, and developing safety classes.

The City of Fort Dodge is the applicant for this funding. Subcontracts are made with Urban Visions and Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center (D/SAOC).

1998-99 Outcomes

The Fort Dodge Delinquency Program has made significant progress toward reduction of juvenile crime through the approaches developed under the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Grant. Participation at Urban Visions increased from 420 youth to 591 youth during the 1998-99 grant year. Behavioral changes have been evident. Ninety-six percent of first time youth have remained in school; 100% of first time youth participants have not been involved in drug activities based on Urban visions data sources. A report from the local high school indicated that referrals dropped from 22.6% in 1994-95 to 15% in 1996-97; the drop out rate for Pleasant Valley youth went from 12% to 10.3%. A significant change to the neighborhood included the recapturing of a park across the street from the center, which had been used extensively for drug and alcohol usage.

The growth and strengthening of the educational advancement component of Urban Visions is demonstrated several ways. Homework session enrollment has increased 80% since the first year. The impact of the tutoring sessions has been evident in the improved grades of the students. Twenty-five students visited Iowa State University and the University of Iowa.

Since its implementation in 1996, the Second Chance program has made a strong impact on the clients served as well as the Justice system itself. The program provides support service to young people ages 14-22 who have been involved with the Justice system. The primary goal is to provide support and referral services in order to prevent incarceration and reduce recidivism. Through collaboration with the schools, Department of Corrections, and Neighborhood Watch, the program has grown from six to twenty participants, with a waiting list of four potential clients.

The D/SAOC activities provide intervention in the cycle of violence for children whose risk of becoming abusers and of developing other dysfunctional and delinquent behavior is very high. While the outcomes to preventing domestic abuse are not measurable at this time, definite changes are evident in the protective factors such as improving individual characteristics pertaining to self esteem, positive experiences, relationship skills, and safety skills. Monitoring children in the Witnesses of Abuse Program continues as the children served by the program are tracked. Expectations are for there to be a sharp reduction in the problems of substance abuse and violent behavior in relationships.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Iowa Valley

Grant funds are used to employ a prevention specialist who provides leadership in implementing programs designed to increase developmental assets in youth while simultaneously decreasing developmental deficits and risk taking behavior. Targeted groups include juvenile delinquents, at risk youth, and females. The program includes a focus on early childhood students in an effort to prevent involvement with the juvenile justice system. Programs offered through the Project include tutoring, after school programming, recreational programming, mentoring, substance abuse education, counseling, parent training, and family case management.

The Iowa Valley Community School District project represents a collaborative effort between the Iowa Valley Community School District, area service providers, local law enforcement, and community members. The project serves a community of less than 3,000 people made up of the Iowa Valley Community School District and City of Marengo residents.

The Planning Board includes youth, parents, business representatives, educational staff, juvenile justice personnel, human service workers, substance abuse prevention staff, DECAT representation, and a church youth director. The Board for this project has been fused with the local SAFE Coalition that was established as part of the first year of grant funding.

1998-99 Outcomes

At-risk youth have been referred through the multi-disciplinary team for area services. Ten high-risk families were helped, and only one of the delinquents the team worked with was placed out of the home at the recommendation of the team. All other families remained intact. Twelve delinquent and at-risk youth received academic support and counseling. All of the students experienced an increase in the amount of homework assignments completed and turned in.

Eight students received the interpersonal skills training. Twenty-three elementary parents and educators attended the session about impulsive children. All attendees said that the course was helpful and that they would recommend it to others. Six families attended the eight-week course on reducing destructive adolescent behavior. Evaluations of the program were overwhelmingly positive. Comments included "This is great – I finally feel like there is hope for our family!", "Every parent should attend this class!", and "It was good to learn that I'm not the only parent dealing with these problems."

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Johnson County allocates prevention funds to seven subcontractors who provide direct services. School based programs provide at-risk facilitators at the junior highs and alternative high schools, maintain family resource centers at three schools, and involve the School Attendance Task Force in truancy problems. Neighborhood-based programs maintain family outreach counselors, offer parenting and skill building classes, provide youth activities and tutoring programs, and conduct neighborhood improvement projects. Agency-based programs provide pre-employment programs and entry-level jobs, maintain rural outreach and youth counselor staff, offer extended community youth center hours for adolescents, and support substance abuse counselors in the schools.

Services are provided by the different agencies based on the unique expertise of these local agencies. That expertise includes BB/BS's work with younger children and single parent households; MECCA's substance abuse work with families and communities; the Mayor's Youth Employment Program's expertise in vocational programs and youth entrepreneurial efforts; the Neighborhood Centers' neighborhood-based prevention and mobilization skills; United Action for Youth's expertise in working with teens, youth volunteers and rural outreach; YH's experience in structured programs for families and treatment programs for youth; and the school district's community approach to responding to student needs.

1998-99 Outcomes

The number of referrals to the Johnson County Juvenile Court Office increased 8% in 1998, following a 27% decline in 1997. However, the number of referrals in 1998 was still 85% of the total referrals in 1994 and 79% of the 1996 total. Since 1994, the number of referrals has decreased 15%.

In an effort to reduce truancy and dropout rates, the student advocate at the Senior High Alternative Center served 11 girls and 21 boys, including 27 involved with the Juvenile Court. Youth had an overall attendance rate was 82%. Of the 32 students, 14 progressed to the next grade, three moved, two dropped out of school, and two transferred to Kirkwood Community College. The advocate was in touch with 19 parents during the year. They worked with the advocate to make sure their children attended school and said they were grateful that they could get an almost immediate response about their children's attendance.

The student advocate worked with 30 students on probation at South East Junior High School. Attendance of probation students generally improved during the year. One student who had missed 41 days the prior year missed only 25 days during 1998-99. All 30 of the probation students reduced the number of suspensions they received. Five of the six non-probation support group attendees improved behavior and received fewer disciplinary reports. All 34 students who completed the student advocate program increased their grade point averages. Of the 34 students, four committed additional offenses during the school year. Contacts were made with 30 parents during 1998-99. Weekly contact was maintained with ten parents.

At Northwest Junior High, the student advocate worked with sixteen students. Among the students, 45% improved attendance, and only one student involved with the Juvenile Court received another charge.

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February 2000  City of Lamoni

The three southern Iowa counties served by this grant, Ringgold, Decatur and Wayne, are in an area which is not highly serviced by social programs and recreational opportunities are sparse. You may be left with a feeling of isolation and frustration as they search for ways to be productive citizens. The Juvenile Crime Prevention Community Grant has allowed GRO to strengthen the sense of community by connecting interested and caring adults with youth. By providing opportunities for family and community-wide events, the youth have developed stronger family relationships and ties to their community. A sense of pride is developed, and local media generously reports on the positive accomplishments, which affirms the youth and the adult volunteers. Community leaders, law enforcement, clergy, educators, parents, and youth work together to prevent crime through activities such as the establishment of a SAFE Community program in Lamoni. This exemplifies the way in which the grant has allowed those in this rural area to work together to reduce juvenile crime.

-- Kathy Hall, Director of Gateway Resolution Opportunities (GRO) for Iowa Mediation Service

1998-99 Outcomes

The Young Peacemakers Club membership was approximately 30 children. Through the anger management/conflict resolution classes, over 200 students were taught appropriate skills. In the last two years, 600 students have been reached through the classes. Follow-up evaluation shows a remarkable difference in student behaviors, and school staff have become energized about the project and the topics introduced.

Although there have been only thirty mediation sessions held, many individuals and even entire communities have been assisted by GRO staff and volunteers. The two-day training session for Juvenile Court Liaison Officers was successful and many of those who attended have asked GRO for additional support.

The gardening project directly served a number of people, including 30-45 children. The SADD programs invited Gateway Resolution Opportunity staff to present information. Materials from the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau were introduced and discussed. Students responded well to the interaction and were affirmed that what they are doing is important. SADD programs have increased in membership and effectiveness.

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February 2000  Linn County

The Community Corrections Improvement Association administers the grant in collaboration with the Planning Board. The subgrantees are the Youth Leadership Program, Cedar Rapids Police Department, Neighborhood Associations, Inc., All City Drum Corps, AmeriCorps, ECI Safe, Cedar Rapids Community Schools, Marion Independent Schools, Linn-Mar School District, Summer Games, Inc., Community Connections, and St. Joseph School.

FY2000 marks the consolidation of the Cedar Rapids and Linn County Crime Prevention Initiatives. Previously there were two applications from Linn County, the Cedar Rapids Initiative and the Linn County Initiative that served the Marion School Districts. The Community Corrections Improvement Association submitted for FY2000 funding one application on behalf of Linn County. Specifically, the Initiative serves the communities of Cedar Rapids, Marion, Hiawatha, rural Robins, Bowman Woods, Springville, Center Point, Central City, Mount Vernon, Lisbon, and Fairfax. Approximately 178,000 total people and 48,000 youth (48% of total) live in Linn County.

Beginning in FY2000, the Linn County Decategorization Executive Committee serves as the Planning Board for the Linn County Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative 2000. The Board is comprised of representatives from the County, the City, the Juvenile Court Office, the Department of Human Services, United Way, and the fields of health and education. Through its involvement the Board hopes to foster additional linkages between Decat and other community planning efforts such as Community Empowerment and Foresight 2020.

1998-99 Outcomes

Each past year, both grant recipients surpassed the number of youth they intended to serve, and more importantly the retention rate for program participants is above 60% for each program. To date, the combined totals of the Cedar Rapids and Linn County grants exceeds all expectations; the intended 20% increase in youth served was instead a 64% increase in FY98. For FY99 a 46% increase occurred through the end of the third quarter. In FY97, 123 people were served (Linn County did not submit a grant that year). In FY98, both grants served 338 people, and the grants served 628 unduplicated people through the third quarter of FY99. The 628 served does not include youth that were involved in large group activities, i.e., Linn-Mar hosted a school seminar and training on substance abuse prevention. If this seminar is included, the two grants served over 2,571 youth.

The Youth Leadership Program enjoys an 85% retention rate. At the end of FY99 there were 343 students participating in the program.

Twenty students enrolled in the VMS Breakfast Club increased their grade averages and their commitment to school.

Twenty youth participated in the Summer Games Program last year. This is an increase over the fourteen youth that participated the previous year. No one reoffended, and the grade averages remained at C averages or better. Those youth that have been in the program from the beginning have marked improvement in behavior, school grades, self-esteem, and responsibility.

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February 2000  Marshall County

The Marshall County Cares Project is administered by the Marshall County Youth and Violence Committee, Inc. The Marshall County Board of Supervisors is the applicant on behalf of the Committee. Current funding sources under the purview of the Youth and Violence Committee include 1) Marshalltown Cluster Decategorization, 2) Juvenile Crime Prevention Grant, 3) Drug Free Communities Support Program, 4) Collaboration/Coordination Grant, 5) Promoting Safe and Stable Families Grant, and 6) Marshall County and local donations. Other community initiatives include Healthy Marshalltown, Communities Against Drugs, A+ Drug Free Task Force, SAFE Community designation, and Innovation Zone designation. The Marshall County Youth and Violence Committee, Inc. coordinates these efforts. As a result, the Committee has evolved into a centralized, locally controlled entity, which has access to the resources and development of juvenile crime prevention, early intervention, and treatment programs.

During the 1998-99 grant year, Marshall County allocated prevention funds to several programs including the Community Y Elementary Outreach Program, the Community School Prevention Program, Supervised Visitation/Neutral Exchange, and a mini-grant program called Ideas to Action.


1998-99 Outcomes

Of the 52 youth participating in the Outreach program, zero have been referred to juvenile court services since participating. The results of a survey given to the participants in January 1999 include the following: 42% report doing better in school than before becoming involved in the program, 52% report liking school more now than before participating in the program, 85% report liking themselves after participating in the program, 66% report getting along better with others their own age now than before participating in the program, and 81% report liking their family more now than before participating in the program. Principals at the local elementary schools report seeing improvements in attendance, interaction with peers and working in collaborative groups since the students have been participating in the Outreach Program

The classroom programming for social competence promotion has made 5625 youth contacts through the third quarter of the 1998-99 grant period. The program has made 1097 adult contacts and 877 students have participated in one-on-one presentations. A significant percentage of students report increases in assets/skills which have been targeted as protective factors. The following test results show skills and percentage of students who reported skill improvement as a result of classroom sessions (as of March 31, 1999): 40% reported improvement in cooperation with others, 37% reported improvement in solving problems peacefully, 32% reported improvement in resistance to alcohol, tobacco and drugs, 45% reported improvement in setting goals, 34% reported improvement in anger management, 33% reported improvement in taking responsibility for actions, and 33% reported improvement in making good choices.

The mini-grant program was very successful during its first year. The Committee funded eight grants, which involved 222 youth and 36 adult mentors. Organizations such as The Key Club, Kiwanis, and schools partnered to do graffiti removal; West Marshall FFA renovated a nature trail; Central Iowa 4-H repaired a flowerbed in a city park; Big Brothers/Big Sisters revitalized a park; East Marshall Middle School held a senior citizen social; etc.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Mason City

The Mason City Youth Task Force has enabled various sectors of the community to identify ways to collaborate on improving existing programs and community efforts and to develop new joint initiatives that reduce duplication of services and provide a more comprehensive approach to youth issues. The assessment process inherent to this community initiative has helped provide a clearer picture of needs. The process has also highlighted important gaps in information necessary for the community to make decisions and plan effectively. Communication between education, health, human services, local government, the business and faith community, community organizations, and youth and adult citizens has increased dramatically over the past five years. The Iowa League of Cities awarded the City of Mason City their "All Star City Award" in October 1999 in recognition of the success of the Youth Task Force efforts to involve the community and impact youth issues.

-- Mary Schissel, Director of the Youth Task Force

1998-99 Outcomes

The One on One Mentoring Project made 20 mentoring matches during the 1998-99 grant year. The year end reports for the project in 1997-98 showed the following changes for students participating: ten of the twelve students referred for academic performance improved their grades and passed to the next level, all students referred for peer relationships skills received improved reports from counselors, 89% of students believed that more students should have mentors, 90% of students wanted to continue to be in the program, 100% of parents wanted their children to continue to be in the program.

The Home Safe Project served 29 youth, ages nine and over. Survey results showed that parents and students increased their ability and awareness of six areas including the ability to handle peer pressure/sibling conflicts, awareness of rules and responsibilities, ability to handle emergencies, and ability to constructively use time.

The Youth Accountability Project proceeded with good results during its first year. Only 8% of offenders re-offended. An average of 22% of all JCS cases are repeat offenders.


YTF staff surveyed 214 people at retail locations regarding its media campaign, which was conducted between October and December 1998. Of those who remembered the campaign, 76% said the campaign message helped them learn about ways they could get involved in prevention efforts.

Participation on all Youth Action Teams increased during the 1998-99 grant year. The Alternative High School Youth Action Team increased from eleven to eighteen students. A VISTA volunteer met with 21 young men at the Taft Day Treatment Center twice each month.

While Cerro Gordo County has seen a 26% decrease in teen births, Mason County has experienced a 40% decrease. YTF believes that the combination of YTF and other community resources working together has helped Mason City experience a larger decrease than the County as a whole.

Enrollment in the CLASS program was sixteen students in 1998-99. None of the students in the CLASS program gave birth to a second child. No reports to protective services were made regarding program participants. Only one participant in the program was expecting a child.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Mills, Montgomery, and Cass Counties

The primary strategy of the Truancy Reduction Project involves the employment of three Truancy Reduction and Intervention officers (TRIOs) for the ten local school districts. The TRIOs provide front-line intervention, identify the dynamics around a child's truancy, and work with the child, family, school, and community agencies to successfully return the child to the school setting. Each TRIO is assigned to the school districts in a given county, and takes assignment directly from the building principal or superintendent.

The Truancy Reduction Project serves Mills, Montgomery, and Cass Counties. The total population of the three counties is 40,893. Included in the three county area are ten school districts. Functioning as a three-county multi-interest group requires careful consideration of geographic, cultural, and special interest representation. The Planning Board for this Project is also the community Empowerment Board. An Executive Board was formed to handle management of the project on a day-to-day basis.

The TRIO/student relationships established assist the students in problem solving, setting realistic goals, time management, and resolving underlying causes for attendance problems. The TRIOs tap into a network of supportive agencies, including family therapy providers, mental health providers, DHS, public health, and school district support staff. In more severe and chronic cases of truancy, TRIOs also involve county attorneys and local law enforcement, and they have utilized the law allowing drivers license suspension for truancy.

1998-99 Outcomes

A Truancy Resolution and Intervention Officer was in place in each of the three counties by December 1998. During the 1998-99 grant year, the TRIOs served 280 students. Of the students, 86 received ongoing contact, as opposed to limited or one-time contact.

In the Red Oak School District, the TRIO is stationed in the middle school. This allows relationships to develop between the TRIO and students at a younger age. As these students advance into high school, the Truancy Officer has the advantage of an existing relationship with them. Although it is too soon to fairly attribute improvements to this approach, Red Oak Schools does report a decrease in the drop-out rate since the employment of the TRIO in their area.

Similarly, the Glenwood School District reported a decrease in dropout rate from 3.4% in 1997, to 2.3% in 1998. Villisca Schools reported a decrease in dropouts from ten students in 1997 to six students in 1998. Malvern School District only had one student dropout in 1998.

During the 1997-98 school year, one in three students contacted by a TRIO increased their school attendance and 20% showed actual increases in academic performance.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Moravia

The project emphasis is on working with students in positive settings and increasing positive contacts with parents and community members. This is implemented through supervision for intramural sports and training activities, access to weekly tutors, and supervised computer labs for youth.

The grant serves the same area as the school district: the communities of Moravia, Unionville, and Iconium. The communities have a combine population of 1,944. All residents, regardless of their age, are encouraged to be a part of this effort to improve quality of life for their youth and promote the goal of life-long learning for all students. All programs are free and available to all community youth.


Key community leaders have been supportive and willing to be directly involved in this comprehensive effort. Some of the organizations involved are the Superintendent's office, the Sheriff's office, the Moravia Athletic and Music Boosters, the Citizen's Advisory Council, and the school principals. Other school staff, teachers associations, the City Council, community organizations, and local churches have been supportive.

1998-99 Outcomes

During the 1998-99 school year, the before school weight lifting and fitness program averaged twelve participants. The supervisors saw a great deal of physical as well as mental growth from those that came on a regular basis.

The high school continued to offer after school tutoring, and the elementary school continued to provide students with increased supervision in before school activities. The "Early Birds" met 39 times with 305 student contacts (an average of 7.8 students per session). The After School Study Club met sixteen times with 100 student contacts (an average of 6.3 students per session).

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Muscatine

The first and primary program is Safe Streets. Safe Streets is a community mobilization effort that has led to the creation of twelve neighborhood groups in Muscatine. Neighborhood groups conduct a variety of activities that involve residents in all ages in positive and pro-social events such as neighborhood cleanups, block parties, potlucks, telephone calling trees, community education and neighborhood watch groups. The MuscaTEEN Center is an after school drop-in program for high-risk youth that provides tutoring, academic support and recreational activities for youth of all ages.

The City of Muscatine has entered into a 28 E Agreement with the Muscatine Mobilization Council, Inc. (MMCI) for purposes of implementing Safe Streets: Delinquency Prevention Through Community Mobilization. The MMC functions as the PPB and facilitates the planning and coordination of this and other crime prevention activities throughout Muscatine.


Board members and advisors to the MMCI serve on key community boards and committees, including the Empowerment Board, Muscatine Health Association, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council, United Way, AmeriCorps Advisory Committee, Muscatine Mediation Center, Muscatine Tool Shed, School District At-Risk Advisory Council, School Improvement Teams, etc. Several members are also involved in the Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders process.

1998-99 Outcomes

Juvenile arrests in Muscatine decreased from 35% of all arrests to 26% of all arrests in 1997-98. Juvenile arrests in the City of Muscatine declined by 21.8% between 1996 and 1997. Since the beginning of the Safe Streets Project in 1995, overall juvenile arrests have declined 3.7%.

Total referrals to juvenile court declined by 25% between 1996 and 1997. This represents a 34% reduction in felony referrals, a 40% reduction in felony crimes against persons, and a 35% reduction in simple misdemeanors. Also, the number of delinquency petitions filed has been reduced by 31% since 1995.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Newton

Newton has used prevention funding for three specific programs. A Teen Center called “ACES” in downtown Newton is used to support a Youth Activity Closet. The Closet allows families who have inadequate financial resources to check out sports and hobby equipment.

The School Resource Officer Program is a law enforcement-school collaboration. In this program, a full-time police officer from the Newton Police Department divides his time between several schools to work with high-risk youth. The goal of the program is to increase understanding and respect for law enforcement by having an officer available for prevention education, informal communication, and building positive relationships with students and their families.

With the beginning of the 1997-98 school year, the Specific Tobacco Retailer Information and Knowledge Education (STRIKE) Program was implemented to conduct random retailer compliance checks.

The City of Newton is the applicant, with the lead agencies in the activities being the Newton Community School District, the Newton Police Department and the YMCA. Youth, parents, law enforcement, school officials, service agencies, business and industry leaders, and elected officials were represented in Newton’s prevention planning process.

This Planning Board is involved with numerous other collaborations including the Drug Free Schools Committee, Chamber of Commerce Substance Abuse Prevention Committee, Newton Community School District At-Risk Committee, Jasper County Alternative Education Consortium, Jasper County Vocational Education Consortium, Jasper County Decategorization Committee, Early Childhood Committee, Economic Community Task Force, and Crisis Intervention Team. Each of these linkages has brought together representatives from business, industry, law enforcement, public schools, service providers, and parents.

1998-99 Outcomes

Juvenile arrests and court referrals reduced by 52% from 1996-97 to 1997-98. During the first three quarters of 1998-99, juvenile arrests and court referrals totaled 22, averaging 7.33 per quarter as compared to a quarterly 1996-97 average of 26 and a quarterly 1997-98 average of 13.5.

As the program began, the Student Resource Officer established an office at the Newton High School for walk-in traffic by students. Initially, students were hesitant to visit but as time evolved more and more students were comfortable to stop by and interact with the SRO on a very informal basis. During the first three quarters of the 1998-99 school year, 750 visits were recorded. This is a 46% increase over the previous school year.

In the initial 1996 STRIKE compliance check of local retailers, 61% of the retailers were compliant. Currently, the compliance rate is 92%. This reflects a 31% increase in retailer enforcement efforts since the inception of the STRIKE program.

During the 1998-99 grant year 2,010 students (duplicated) used equipment from the TUFF (Teen United for a Focused Future) Activities Closet.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Oelwein Community School District

The Success for Life Program serves the youth and families within the Oelwein Community School District. The School Based Youth Services Program Advisory Committee serves as the Planning Board for this grant project. Board members are directly involved in other community agencies and organizations including Boy Scouts, Alternative Services, Department of Health, Oelwein Community Schools, Mercy Hospital, City Government, Iowa State Extension Service, Juvenile Court System, Chamber of Commerce, Project SAFE, and Parent Share.

This project includes a detention program, an after-school program, the alternative high school, the Success Center, summer school, summer Success camp, parental involvement, and transition programs.

The Oelwein Schools, through the School Based Youth Services Program, have established working relationships with community service agencies in an effort to address the needs of students and families. Implementation of school-linked services is a complex endeavor involving the development of collaborative partnerships connecting schools, service agencies, families, and the community.

1998-99 Outcomes

There has been a significant change in the number of referrals to principals. High school principal referrals have decreased 60%, while middle school principal referrals have decreased 50%. At the high school, the principal attributes improved student behaviors to the Four Oaks program. Suspensions that result in sending students to Four Oaks dramatically decreased during the third quarter. Teachers have noted that students who return after the Four Oaks experience have an improved attitude toward school and learning. Of the 55 students referred to Four Oaks, 42 were only referred once.

Five of the seven middle school students in the After School Support program showed an increase in their grade point average. All of the students showed a decrease in absenteeism. All high school students showed an improvement in grades and satisfactory school attendance. Guidance counselors reported improved attitude in 70% of the students. Because of the elementary after school program, the district had the fewest D and F grades when compared with the grades for the last five years.






At the high school 12 students dropped out during the 1998-99 school year. The alternative school had five graduates after one year of the program. The High School Success Center served 38 students; nine improved, six maintained, and 23 did not improve. The Middle School Success Center served 36 students; fifteen improved, eleven maintained, and ten did not improve. The vocational career classes served fourteen students; four improved, one maintained, and nine did not improve.

The transition program participants made satisfactory progress. None have been to the Four Oaks for suspension. All are earning credits towards graduation and maintaining satisfactory attendance.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Polk County

Polk County Youth First played a major role in bringing together agencies serving youth from different sectors of the community who had not worked together in the past. This collaboration has been the impetus for several changes in the way our community works together as well as individuals involved in the programs funded by this initiative.

-  The community realized the need for additional Middle School programs at times when students are out of school and has expanded mentoring programs to involve schools, the faith community, and agencies.
-  The number of youth and families with limited English proficiency has increased in the community and in the programs of this prevention initiative.
-  The community has moved dollars to support specific programming that was identified as successful strategies in this initiative to address one or more of the community risk factors.
-  Young people involved in Youth First programs see themselves as positive role models for younger children, have learned the consequences of their actions, have learned basic living skills like meal preparation and child care, and have increased reading, math, and language skills.
-  Families feel more comfortable working with school officials, have identified community advocates who help them through family crisis's, have formed friendships with neighborhood families, and have easy access to youth program information.

--Corinne Lambert, Director of Polk County Youth First

1998-99 Outcomes

Boys Scout Juvenile Diversion Program: 1) 90% of families completed the prevention education support program and 2) recidivism was reduced to 6% among youth in the program.

Camp Fire program: 1) 85% of participants demonstrated positive interactions with peers and adult role models, 2) 84% demonstrated socially appropriate behavior, and 95% demonstrated increased ability to avoid negative behavior (drug use, peer pressure, etc.).

Children and Families of Iowa Tutoring Project: 80% of children improved grades or maintained grades when previously at risk of failing.

Des Moines Public Schools SUCCESS: 1) 87% of Families Learning Together participants at McKinley School demonstrated new parenting skills and 2) 80% to 100% of participants showed progress toward goals (school readiness, improved grades, school enrollment, interpersonal behaviors, and health).

Southeast Polk Central Place: 1) 90% of parents reported an increase in positive communication and decrease in violence in their homes, 2) 100% reported an increase in positive school performance and decrease in chemical use, 3) 66% reported increased school attendance, and 4) 91% reported an increase in school and community activity attendance.

Saydel School Sheriff Liaison: 1) the school reports 63% fewer fights between identified students, 2) the school reports a 23% reduction in attendance problems, and 3) the school reports a reduction of 38% in academic failure.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Pottawattamie County

The Pottawattamie County DECAT committee, the Parenting Coalition, the Area Education Association, and the Council Bluffs Mayor's Task Force on Youth were involved in the original assessment of risk factors for delinquency in Pottawattamie County. Subsequently, these offices and agencies joined forces with the juvenile court, law enforcement and social service agencies to become the Prevention Policy Board. This project serves Pottawattamie County, which is primarily an urban population; 72% of its 82,628 residents reside in Council Bluffs.

The Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors is the applicant. The PPB members are experienced in prevention or have an interest in prevention. They represent three Council Bluffs/Pottawattamie County Coalitions: Human Service Advisory Committee (HSAC), The Council Bluffs' Mayor's Committee on Youth, and the Pottawattamie County Decategorization Planning Committee. Members of each of these groups include business leaders, the County Attorney, juvenile advocates and service providers. There are cross-representations among groups to avoid duplications and to cooperatively address needs and risks.

1998-99 Outcomes

The Featherstone Crime Prevention Clinic continued to offer monthly childhood immunizations, and weekly prevention activities included nutrition classes and recreational activity groups.

Crime Prevention staff facilitated three anger management classes to about 60 youth. Forty youth and their parents participated in a reading program. Four youth and their parents participated in a four-week smoking prevention program. A total of 41 youth and four adults attended the three bicycle rodeo days held at Malmore Park, Wooded Lake Trailer Park, and Featherstone Apartments. More than fifteen youth attended a program on the environment/rain forest at the zoo. Ten children, ages 6-14, attended a self-awareness/sensitivity class. A Girl Scouts troupe formed at Featherstone so girls in the targeted area could attend. In total, sixteen workshops were attended by 130 youth.

Fourteen youth, identified by staff, were provided free pool passes and transportation once per week during the summer.

The involvement of law enforcement in the Neighborhood Watch groups has benefited both the residents in the targeted areas and the police. Law enforcement officers have come to play an active role three Neighborhood Watch groups.

The Domestic Violence Cell Phone Program is considered a tremendous success by the Council Bluffs police because the number of reoccurring incidents has been reduced. Also, the number of participants in the program grew from ten in 1997-98 to fifty in 1998-99.

The Activities Calendar was given to over forty community agencies. The agency staff inform youth of activities or give them a copy of the calendar. The quarterly newsletter was distributed to residents of the targeted areas. Several hundred newsletters were distributed per quarter.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Sac County

The major goals of the community-based after school program are to provide supervision for at-risk and latch-key youth, reduce delinquency problems with youth after school, and to prevent academic failure in school.

This project is the coordinated effort of Sac County, the Schaller/Crestland School District, and the Sac County Empowerment Committees. The Planning Board is comprised of people from many areas of the community. Members are parents, school personnel, Department of Human Services personnel, drug and alcohol prevention specialists, members of the local ministerial association, juvenile court personnel, county supervisor personnel, members of the child abuse prevention council, and employees of the public health office.

This project serves students residing in the Schaller/Crestland School District, which is comprised of the towns of Early, Nemaha, and Schaller.

Various agencies such as the Sac County Extension Office, Sac County Conservation Office, Sac County Child Abuse Prevention Council, Council Against Domestic Abuse, and the Sheriff's Department all help with programming and materials.

1998-99 Outcomes

Applications for the after school program exceeded the number of children that the program could adequately serve. Forty-one children participated in the program on a regular basis. None of the students in the program have become involved with the Juvenile Justice System, and several students who had been in chronic trouble after school in the community are now otherwise occupied. None of the students in the program have had substance-related incidents.

The after school homework assistance programs have improved overall grades for many students. Failing grades were received by 11% of fourth and fifth graders on the first semester report card, compared with 19% the previous year.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Scott County

The Positive Youth and Family Development Project is a neighborhood-based collaborative effort to increase protective factors/assets among children, families, residents and the environment so as to promote positive health and well-being, resulting in the reduction of juvenile crime in the Lincoln School Area. The residents of the Lincoln School Area, in conjunction with the elected Neighborhood Council, are implementing a community empowerment and renewal plan. A youth council has also been developed. Emphasis in the first year was upon building collaborations and neighborhood leaders. In year two, there was a groundswell of neighborhood action provided by agencies and initiated by the residents. New youth-focused groups moving into the neighborhood included Boys Scouts, 4-H, Youth Volunteer Group, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Services that are provided to the residents of the Lincoln Neighborhood are determined by the Neighborhood Council, a twelve-member elected body comprised of neighborhood residents meeting every other week.

Scott County is the applicant for this grant, with administration by the Scott County Decategorization Program. Youth, parents, juvenile court officers, human service agencies, school personnel, and elected officials were involved in the prevention planning process.

PPB member affiliations include: Hilltop Project, East Central Project, Iowa Department of Human Services, School Based Youth Services, Scott County Decategorization Planning Committees, Building Safer Communities Initiative, Council of Churches, Quad Cities Anti-Gang Task Force, Neighborhood Watch Programs, DARE, Community Oriented Policing Programs, City of Davenport's Targeted Neighborhood Program, Innovation Zone Community Planning Board, Scott County Health Vision, and community residents.

1998-99 Outcomes

The outcomes provided to date include: self-reported increases in job-related skills, improvements in reading and math, leadership development, improved school attendance, collaboration among neighborhood groups, increasing positive factors in the neighborhood, an active Youth Council, the visibility of Neighborhood Council members taking youth to church with them, and notable community church/agency support. Over fifty area agencies, business and organizations have worked/collaborated with or been introduced to the Neighborhood.

Fiscal year 1999 was the last year for the Positive Youth and Family Development Program neighborhood project. During the year, the project funded several programs, including Boys to Men, United Neighbors, parent/child development classes, adult education classes, FAST, and STAMP. The Boys to Men program completed two sessions and received positive feedback from participants and family members. The United Neighbors Eastside Center continued to be a success. Its activities focused on developing ethnic and community pride. The Center enjoyed a high rate of volunteerism. The parent/child development classes and the adult education classes were not well attended. The FAST (Family and Schools Together) Program continued to be a success according to youth and parents. Project funds were reallocated to this program. The STAMP Program was also heavily attended and received reallocated funds. The program provided youth with much needed constructive activities.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Story County

The Story County Prevention Policy Board focused its program efforts on primary and school-based prevention. Healthy Futures was designed to fill existing service gaps for young parents by providing in-home visits to high-risk teen and young adults with preschool children. The program offers in-home visits that teach parenting skills, child development, and offer concrete supportive services to young parents. The Healthy Choices Program is a school-based skills training curriculum for elementary school children. The program uses a structured curriculum to teach children social, problem solving, and drug refusal skills.

Story County has been the applicant for the prevention funding. The Prevention activities have been coordinated by Youth and Shelter Services, Inc., a community-based nonprofit agency in Ames. The prevention planning team included youth service agencies, youth, parents, juvenile court officers, law enforcement, school personnel, and elected officials.

1998-99 Outcomes


Healthy Futures participants had 270 babies in FY98. Of the Healthy Futures babies born to Story County residents in FY98, 16 were low birth weight and 28 were preterm. Of the 510 non-Healthy Futures babies born, 17 were low birth weight and 43 were preterm.

Staff from Youth and Shelter Services, Homeward, and Mid-Iowa Community Action made over 607 contacts and completed over 651 hours of direct contact to participants of Healthy Futures.

Results from the 1999 Healthy Futures Participation Evaluation Survey included the following: 58% of those who accepted a home visit received multiple visits; 86% said that the program was very helpful; and 95% said that they were definitely treated with respect and consideration. The survey also included open-ended questions about the ways in which the program was helpful and in which ways the program could be improved.

Staff also provided critical information addressing responsible decision-making to 2,870 youth in fourth through eighth grades.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Waterloo

The Village Initiative Mentoring Project served Waterloo, targeting primarily the northeast side of Waterloo, the most economically challenged section of the city. In addition, a significant number of juveniles involved with the juvenile justice system reside on the northeast side of Waterloo. The Village Initiative Mentoring Project continues to be composed of community based projects that by their very nature are uniquely suited to address the objectives and goals of the grant program. The following agencies continue to focus on their area of expertise in providing mentoring services to the targeted community: Area VII Job Training, Conestoga Council of Girl Scouts, Grout Museum, Boys and Girls Club of Waterloo, YWCA of Black Hawk County, Waterloo Recreation and Arts Commission, Village Initiative, Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

The City of Waterloo, through its city council, is the applicant for this funding. The project supports on-going efforts by subcontracting agencies to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Village Initiative Mentoring Project.

The prevention program planning process in Waterloo included juvenile court services, Village Initiative, and Blackhawk Community Leadership Development. All subcontractors are actively involved in an Ad Hoc Committee of the Decategorization Project whose focus is the development of a community plan for tutoring and mentoring juveniles. Collaborative efforts on the part of the subcontracting agencies have been widespread throughout the grant periods. The project works closely with the Waterloo Police Department, Juvenile Court Services as well as city officials, school officials and local youth serving initiatives.

1998-99 Outcomes


The outcomes of the Grout Museum Youth District Volunteer Program included 1) 20 new youth volunteers joined during the 1998-99 grant year, 2) total enrollment was 62, 3) there was 18% minority enrollment, and 4) a parent survey reported positive results.

The outcomes of the YWCA Youth for Unity Program, which is a multicultural sensitivity and awareness program, included 1) 325 youth were served in multicultural awareness programs in the schools, 2) 140 youth and adults attended a diversity conference, and 3) written comments from participants in programs indicated greater understanding of other ethnic groups and increased awareness of how unfair judgements are formed.

The outcomes of the Area VII Job Training/Educational Tutoring Program included 1) 33 high school students volunteered as tutors for elementary students in the Waterloo school district, 2) 3 of 5 volunteer tutors will enroll in college in the Fall of 1999 as declared education majors, and 3) 100% African American enrollment in the program.

The outcomes of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program included: evaluation surveys given to parents and volunteers indicated an increase in the areas of "competence" and caring for four of the five girls (one of the surveys was not returned), and 3) matches have continued beyond the required minimum time frame of one year.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Winfield /Mt. Union Schools

The Peace by Piece project has many different components. The first component is the peer mediation training at junior and senior high schools. Also, every month there is a consortium event planned and conducted by student Asset Teams, which meet weekly. During the 1998-99 grant year, after school programs were established in all four districts. After school program activities focused around team building, anger management, conflict resolution, and body mechanics. Also during the 1998-99 grant year, staff gave in-service presentations to all Waco and Winfield/Mt. Union School District staff on mediation techniques. Finally, the project works to educate the community on the asset building strategy.

1998-99 Outcomes

School boards and administration see real results of project efforts. These results include reduced inter-school vandalism, less student conflicts, more peacefully resolved conflicts, and engagement of students who often held a negative attitude toward school and who are now improving their behavior and/or quality of school work. One school developed a class, granting academic credit for student involvement as a peer mediator, peer tutor, or student leader. Two schools incorporated a mentoring component into their guidance program.

Asset Teams consist of six to ten students, most of whom have never been given a leadership opportunity. The teams meet once or twice per week with a counselor or at-risk coordinator to plan projects that promote asset building. Over 50 youth participated in the Asset Teams during the 1998-99 grant year. Survey results show that 81% of the students feel they have gained leadership experience through their involvement with the Asset Team, 81% feel they have made a positive difference in the community, 47% said their asset team has increased community awareness about the 40 Developmental Assets, 84% feel their self-esteem has increased because of involvement with an Asset Team, and 66% feel involvement with the Asset Team has helped them to feel more valued by adults in the community.

After school programs served over 65 students who participated on a weekly basis. End of the year surveys show that 77% feel they have made new friends while attending the program, 65% indicated the after school program has increased their confidence, 81% feel they have learned new skills in the after school program, 40% feel they are given leadership opportunities in the after school program, and 88% want the after school programs to continue.

Two peer mediation training sessions were conducted. Sixty-four high school students and 15 adults received training during one-day seminars. In the two schools that conduct formal mediations, 32 total mediations took place between September and April. Only two of the 32 formal mediations were not successful. In the two schools, the principals now recommend mediation and teachers incorporate it into their curriculum.

The four schools involved in the monthly consortium events have traditionally been fierce rivals in athletics, resulting in past violence and vandalism. Since the events, officials have agreed that violence and vandalism between the schools has considerably decreased. Attendance numbers to the events were low in the beginning, but significantly increased as the year progressed.

OUTCOMES Report

February 2000  Woodbury County

This program consisted of Neighborhood ACTION Teams and Social Health Teams. The teams were divided by geographic area. The Neighborhood ACTION Teams consisted of the East Team, Hoover Team, West Team, Woodrow Team, Sgt. Bluff Team, and the Family Empowerment Team. The Social Health Teams consisted of the East Side Social Health Teams, the West Side Social Health Teams, the Woodrow Social Health Teams, and the Rural Social Health Teams. In total, there were five ACTION teams and 33 Social Health Teams. The project serves Woodbury County, which includes the cities of Sioux City, Sergeant Bluff, Merville, and Correctionville. Planning Board members represent the County Board, city council, police department, sheriff's department, aging services, adult corrections, Juvenile Court Services, school district, public health, Department of Human Services, treatment providers, county attorneys, youth organizations, human rights groups, parents, AEA, United Way, and citizens.

1998-99 Outcomes

East Team

The average daily attendance of the After School Programming at East Middle School was fifty students. The School Liaison Officer and school personnel tracked the youth that participated. The majority of youth showed improvement in study skills and academic achievement. Improvement was also seen in the number of discipline referrals occurring with the youth.

Hoover Team

Night School alternative high school programming was provided throughout the year. Partnerships between the school, law enforcement, and the neighborhood team supported the program. Approximately 42 students were served each nine weeks of the second half of the school year. There were no violations of law or aggressive behavior exhibited at Night School. The homework assistance/after school program served 29 students. Twenty-four of those students met their individual goals and successfully completed the program. Referrals to the program were children who were struggling and showing signs of failing academically.

West Team

After school programming served over 235 middle school youth and had an average daily attendance of 80 children. Before the implementation of the program the school probation worker received 79 referrals (December 1997 to April 1998). After the implementation of the program, the probation worker received 41 referrals (December 1998 to May 1999). In 1993-1994, there were 3,600 discipline and attendance referrals. With after school programming and other ACTION programs coming into existence, there were only 2,812 referrals in 1997-98. During the 1998-1999 school year only 2,100 discipline and attendance referrals were made. Also, the Stop Smoking Program was held at the West Middle School and served 85 youth during the school year. Of the youth who have successfully completed the program, only 5% to 8% have had repeat citations. Briar Cliff Tutoring had 150 students, grades six to eight, receiving tutoring. There has been improvement from the children participating both academically and behaviorally.

Woodrow Team

The after school program served 250 youth. The children in the program showed improvement academically and socially. One noteworthy outcome of this program is that minority youth have the opportunity to participate in existing city leagues. Also, discipline referrals and criminal complaints are decreasing. Staff and community members note improvement in self-esteem and investment in school and neighborhood.

