

Jefferson County

Delinquency Prevention Council

2008 Annual Report



“Children are the world's most valuable resource and
its best hope for the future”

~John Fitzgerald Kennedy

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The Delinquency Prevention Council, of Opportunities, Inc. envisions that all children, youth and families grow and prosper because a positive and healthy environment is provided through collaborative efforts of individuals, organizations and institutions in Jefferson County communities.

Dear Citizens of Jefferson County:

This report highlights the efforts of the Delinquency Prevention Council during 2008 and the impact those efforts have had on the youth and families of Jefferson County. Additionally, this report previews new programming for 2009. Some of the major accomplishments for 2008 include the Gang Summit, Suicide Prevention Summit, Watertown Teen Court, Panther Court and the Adolescent Brain Development Series.

Thank you to the members of the Council who volunteer their time, talents, and resources to make the work of the Council possible. We also thank Opportunities, Inc., and Jefferson County Department of Human Services for funding many of our programs and for their continued support of our efforts and mission. Finally, thank you to those individuals and organizations that have worked with the Council and its programs. Your efforts have improved the quality of life for Jefferson County's youth and families.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Tempelis
Chairperson

Gail Roberts
Vice Chair

Melinda Moe
Secretary

Monica Wagner
Director

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Teen Court

Now and Then

The Jefferson County Teen Court program began in 1998, holding 13 trials in its first year. Since that time, Teen Court has continued to grow each year, and in total has held 552 youth trials. In 2008, the Teen Court site offerings also expanded to meet the needs of all of our county-wide participants, by holding monthly court proceedings in Watertown, in addition to the Jefferson and Whitewater sites that were already in place.

Value Beyond The Dollar

The value of Teen Court is measured by more than just a dollar savings. While it is important to acknowledge that a 2005 cost-benefit analysis concluded that the teen court program resulted in a net present value to Jefferson County of at least \$75,400 annually, it is also important to note the qualitative value. When obtaining feedback from families on the impact Teen Court had on their lives, one mother stated *“My daughter went through the program and since then she’s been very responsible for her actions. I’m not naïve enough to think she’ll never do anything wrong again – she is a teen after all – but being in the teen court program taught her a lesson she won’t soon forget.”* Another mother commented, *“I personally loved the program and think my daughter got a lot out of it also. She really enjoyed being on the jury to listen to the other cases. I think that was a great experience for her to hear what is going on with other kids.”* Not only does the Teen Court experience impact the youth involved, but the entire family system, as well as the greater community.

Success Through Numbers

In 2008, we received 38 referrals for Teen Court. Six of those 38 referrals were closed before being set for trial for reasons such as family relocation or student disinterest, leaving 32 cases set for trial. Eleven of those 32 cases are still open in 2009, leaving 21 cases closed in 2008. Nineteen of the 21 cases set for trial closed successfully, resulting in a 90.5% success rate.

A New Approach

As the result of grant funding provided by the Department of Corrections, the Teen Court program was given the opportunity to expand its services to repeat offenders and felony level offenders (when applicable and allowed by court policy) in 2008. Additionally, this funding allowed Teen Court to expand to a school-based program, and in partnership with Riverside Middle School in Watertown, the first school-based trial was held in November 2008.

In 2009 there are plans to expand the school-based Teen Court program into a high school setting, as well as recruit more volunteer judges for the community based program. One of the volunteer judges stated, *“For me it’s a win-win situation, and all I can hope is that by being a Teen Court judge I have helped these young adults see that there are people in the community that care about them.”*

The Teen Court Difference

Here is what one teen court participant had to say about how the program affected her:

“Teen Court is a great way to help teenagers learn from their mistakes. It gave me a fair second chance to change and better myself.”

Service to Community

Now and Then

The Restorative Justice Program of Jefferson County has been providing service-to-community supervision to youth since 1997. Since that time, 1690 youth have been referred to this program and 25,457.5 hours of service-to-community have been performed in Jefferson County. 1,166 youth have completed their orders successfully, resulting in a 69% successful completion rate since 1997. We currently offer 15 different regularly scheduled supervised service-to-community sites for youth to attend across the county, with 11 sites per week on average.

Value Beyond the Dollar

An evaluation was provided to all service-to-community locations to assess their satisfaction with the work completed by the youth and the impact this program has on the lives of others in the community. Of the 15 site surveys, 12 returned the completed evaluation forms. On a scale of 1-5, one being least satisfied and five being most satisfied, the evaluation average level of satisfaction was 4.17. Some comments made by the sites representative included:

- “We really value what you’re doing for kids”
- “It’s very good for our facility”
- “The groups that come in work really well with the tasks they have”
- “This is a very nice service that our residents truly benefit from”
- “Would love to work with you again next year”

Success Through Numbers

In 2008, the 110 youth of Jefferson County who were referred completed 959.5 hours of service-to-community. These youth performed service-to-community throughout Jefferson County, where youth engaged in recreational activities with the residents of assisted living facilities, tutored elementary age children at the Boys and Girls Club, and helped at various community activities in places like the Health and Wellness Center of Watertown. This year, many new sites were adopted to increase the accessibility for the youth to complete their court ordered service-to-community. These sites include Bread and Roses, where youth assist with a community meal for those in need, Headstart, where youth clean and sanitize the classrooms, and an additional Boys and Girls Club location. In addition to these added sites, the Restorative Justice Program offered special daytime sites during the summer months. These included Jellystone Park, Adult Day Services of Opportunities, Inc, and a park clean up in the city of Watertown.

A New Approach

In 2009, we hope to integrate more service learning opportunities for the youth in our programs. By allowing youth an opportunity to be involved in projects that reach outside of themselves, they develop a sense of community and appreciation for others. We plan to continue to offer a diverse range of service-to-community choices in an effort to help youth complete their obligations successfully and in a timely manor.

Restitution

Now and Then

Restitution monitoring has been in place in Jefferson County for the last twelve years. There are currently two full time Restorative Justice Specialists that assist youth in completing their court ordered requirements. These Restorative Justice Specialists provide the youth with local resources, support and guidance in order to successfully complete what is required of them. Over the last twelve years, 568 of the 851 youth referred have successfully completed their court ordered commitments, resulting in a success rate of 67%. Over that time period \$222,305 dollars has been collected in restitution.

Value beyond the Dollar

An evaluation was completed by victims who were paid back in full during 2008. Twenty-nine surveys were distributed and 11 evaluations were completed and returned. Of those 11 returned evaluations, all of the victims reported feeling satisfied with the process. The only concern expressed was dissatisfaction with the time it took to receive their payments, which is often a result of the length of the court order, not of the payment process.

Success through Numbers

Continued collaboration between the Restorative Justice Program, Jefferson County Department of Human Services, and Jefferson County District Attorneys offices, contributed to the successful collection of \$13,905.11 dollars in restitution. This money was collected and repaid to the victims of crimes, in order to compensate for monetary damages caused by the juvenile.

A New Approach

In 2009, we would like to see an increase in restitution payments. The Restorative Justice program will continue its collaboration with the District Attorney's office and Human Services in an effort to increase the percentage of successfully paid restitution debts. The Restorative Justice Program will continue to involve the families and juvenile in the approach to paying off their restitution debt by setting up payment plans at the dispositional hearings. In 2009, the goal is to increase the involvement of the families, in an effort to encourage additional payments. Finally, the Restorative Justice Program will continue to increase the number of personal contacts that each staff has with the youth in an effort to ensure more payments.

Restitution Pay Off

This is what victims had to say about the restitution process as a whole in a December 2008 evaluation:

"I am glad there is a system to try to teach responsibility to those who don't seem to have yet picked up on the idea."

"I am pleased to be paid. I thought I was never going to see the money. I hope the individual learned from this."

Victim Offender Conferencing

Now and Then

The Victim Offender Conferencing (VOC) program has been in implementation in Jefferson County since 1997. Victim offender conferencing requires a very specific eligibility process for participation. Eligibility criteria are multi-faceted, with four main tenants. First, VOC is a voluntary program for both the youth offender and the victim. Secondly, both parties must want to participate in the mediation process. Third, the appropriateness of the case must be assessed by the coordinator, based upon the pre-conference individual meetings. Finally, the offender needs to take responsibility for the crime. With all of these elements determining whether the conference will be held, approximately 1/3 of all referrals become eligible to participate in VOC. All in all, since it's inception in 1997, we have held 58 Victim Offender Conferences.

Value Beyond the Dollar

The Victim Offender Conferencing (VOC) program not only benefits the victim, but this process is also restorative for the youth offender and the community as a whole. The victim benefits from the mediation by being provided a chance to express their feelings about the event at hand, thus allowing the victim a voice. The youth benefits from the mediation by being provided an opportunity to understand and make amends for the damage caused to the victim and/or the community at large. Finally, the community benefits from the mediation by repairing the harm done to the relationships affected, by promoting non-violent forms of conflict management and, potentially, preventing the juvenile from offending again.

Success Through Numbers

In 2008, the Restorative Justice Program received seven referrals and found three of those cases to be eligible for conferencing, based upon the criteria. Two of the three conferences used a volunteer victim. Of the four non-conferences, two of the referrals were closed due to extenuating circumstances (example: family relocation) and the other two referrals had an uninterested victim.

A New Approach

In 2009, the Restorative Justice Program will continue to recruit volunteer victims and encourage uninterested victims to write an impact statement. Using these adult volunteers will potentially increase the number of mediations held by allowing the victim to write an impact statement, as opposed to attending the conference in person. In addition, The Restorative Justice Program will continue to collaborate with the Department of Human Services and the Teen Court Program to increase the amount of appropriate referrals.

Educational Programs

First Offender Program

The First Offender Program (FOP) is an 8-10 hour educational program for first time and minor repeat offenders, instilling an understanding of the impact of criminal behavior and juvenile laws and rights. This program combines three core educational components to best fit the needs of its participants. The first component is the “Keepin’ it R.E.A.L” curriculum which stresses the importance of personal beliefs and values, decision making, and communication and conflict. The second component is a curriculum called “Project TND”, which focuses on stress, stereotyping, and self-control. The third component of the First Offender Program is the inclusion of restorative justice principles. The youth also participate in a jail tour and presentation by one of the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department deputies. In 2008, 19 youth were referred to the First Offender Program. Of the 19 youth referred, 15 of them successfully completed the class with a success rate of 78.9%.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse (ATODA) Awareness Program

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse Awareness curriculum was first offered by the Restorative Justice Program in 2007 and utilizes the PRIME For Life curriculum. PRIME For Life is an alcohol and drug program for people of all ages. It is designed to gently but powerfully challenge common beliefs and attitudes that directly contribute to high-risk alcohol and drug use. The program goals are to reduce the risk for health problems and impairment problems by increasing abstinence, delaying initial use and decreasing high-risk choices. The youth also participate in a jail tour and presentation by one of the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department deputies. In 2008, 18 youth were referred to this educational program, with two carryovers from 2007. Of these 20 possible participants, 6 were withdrawn from the class before commencement for a variety of circumstances, leaving 14 possible participants. Of these 14 participants, 5 cases are still open on 2009, leaving 9 youth enrolled in the ATODA class in 2008. Eight of the 9 youth enrolled completed this program successfully. This is an 88.9 % completion rate.

Anger Management

Using the *Skills for Managing Anger* curriculum, the class focuses on violence prevention and helps participants build skills to develop the self-control needed to effectively manage anger. Topics include defining personal power, recognizing anger signals, identifying hot buttons, discovering getting out strategies, and developing a plan to apply their anger management skills. The curriculum combines the impact of interactive discussion and role-playing through a video-based approach. The youth also participate in a jail tour and presentation by one of the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department deputies. In 2008, 16 youth were referred to the Anger Management Program. Of the 16 youth referred, two were withdrawn by their case managers before the class began and two are currently on the waiting list to take the next class, leaving 12 youth who participated in the class in 2008. Of these 12 referrals, 10 of them successfully completed the class, with a success rate of 83%.

Employability Skills Training

Employability Skills Training is a newly offered educational class for 2008. In partnership with the Alternative Learning Center in Watertown, it was determined that there was a need to offer an employability skills class, in an effort to assist students in meeting the HSED guidelines. Since its inception in October of 2008, 14 youth were referred to the Employability Skills Training. Two class sessions and 18 individual meetings were held with students. Two students successful acquired employment after completing the training. Using curriculum adapted by *Pathways to Success: Nebraska Work Readiness Curriculum* and *Poway Unified School District; Student Employment Competencies Curriculum*, the training offers direction on applications, interviewing, appearance, and job survival.

Fort Atkinson Probation Program

Since, 2005, the Fort Atkinson School District has collaborated with the Restorative Justice Program to provide services to youth who commit alcohol and drug related offense on school grounds. By providing this alternative to expulsion, youth are given a chance to make amends for their actions and learn about the dangers of drug and alcohol use. The youth referred are required to complete up to 30 hours of service-to-community and participate in the ATODA Awareness class. The sanctions are given, in addition to other stipulations delegated by the school district, in an effort to promote substance abuse cessation and encourage youth to get help for any substance abuse issues.

Since 2005, the Restorative Justice Program has had 36 youth referred to this program for community service completion and 22 youth referred for ATODA Awareness class completion, for a total of 39 youth served (not all youth receive both sanctions).

In 2008, there were six youth referred to the Fort Atkinson Probation Program. There is one student currently participating in the ATODA class to finish his obligations in 2009 and one student was removed from the program due to relocation. Of the remaining four youth, three completed the program successfully, providing a success rate of 75% in 2008.

This partnership has been valuable to the community at large, the student and the school district. The community benefits from this program by encouraging the youth to take responsibility for their actions, by requiring the teen to give back to others through service-to-community and by providing an ATODA awareness class, this collaboration is demonstrating a community stance that does not support drug or alcohol abuse. The youth benefits from this program by having a second chance to make things right and by learning about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, the teen becomes a stronger person with a greater respect for their education, community and others around them. Additionally, the school district benefits from this program by having the opportunity to foster this learning through a local community agency.

"We have found that utilizing public service in guiding youth to behave more responsibly also gives them a boost in their esteem. Young people feel good when they do something that helps others and that makes them good kids."

~Dr. James Fitzpatrick, Superintendent, Fort Atkinson School District

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Mentoring Program

MENTORING PROGRAM TESTIMONIAL

"The mentoring program has been a great experience for my mentee and me. We have been together for just over a year now. It has been a bumpy road to say the least, but we have really become family, she is like a little sister. She has become more self confident and trustworthy. She is working really hard to correct her decisions from the past. She is doing better in school and making better friend choices. We spend a lot more than just the required hour per week together, eating out, going to the movies, etc.. She is even helping me coach basketball at the local middle school. I have become more in tune with the teenage mind and spirit working with my mentee and it has helped me become a better teacher to my middle school students as well. My family has welcomed her with open arms, my Mom even asks about her on a regular basis. She is invited to all of our family holiday events, even birthday parties! Her relationships at home are getting better with her Mom and sister as well. Even when things get heated at home, instead of running off, she calls me and a lot of times I can get her calmed down and able to talk. This has been a wonderful experience and I thank JUMP for the opportunity to bring us together!"

- Diana Barber, Mentor

The Juvenile Mentoring Program, also known as JUMP, continues to make an active commitment to match at-risk youth with positive role models throughout Jefferson County. Beginning in 2002, JUMP was funded by a grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice. The program is currently supported by the Delinquency Prevention Council of Opportunities, Inc. and coordinated by the Restorative Justice Team.

In 2008, ten youth participated in the mentoring program, spending quality time with a safe adult in the community. In 2008 the JUMP program held two mentoring events, in an effort to provide free and fun activities for the mentors and youth which included a bowling event and a summer picnic.

Not only is the program beneficial from the Mentor and Mentee's standpoint, but parents see the difference, too. One parent commented, *"I think this is a good match. My daughter is able to call her mentor when ever she is upset. I would highly recommend this program"*.

A waiting list has now been established for adults and youth who show an interest in being involved in the program. Active recruitment for mentors and youth is ongoing.

In 2009, the JUMP program will continue to aggressively recruit mentors for the youth on our waiting list. Additionally, the JUMP program will continue to pursue mentors through staff presentations at local service organizations meetings, letters to municipalities and university organizations. Finally, the program will continue to spread awareness about the JUMP program through service projects and media coverage to encourage adult participation.

Drug Free Communities Support Program

The Delinquency Prevention Council received forth-year funding for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant. This \$98,000 grant provided Jefferson County the opportunity to continue the juvenile substance abuse prevention programs currently in place and allowed the coalition to provide new opportunities to youth and the community, in an effort to promote safe and drug free lifestyles.

There were a number of seminars and presentations for community members during 2008, coordinated by Restorative Justice Staff. These events included:

- Town Hall Meeting on underage drinking
- Internet Predator presentation for service providers and parents
- Adolescent Brain Development Series
- Parent Gang Presentations
- Suicide Prevention Summit
- Tobacco Education Presentations for 5th & 6th graders by Dr. Victor DeNoble

Other 2008 DFC sponsored projects that the Restorative Justice Program staff facilitated included:

- County-wide parent focus groups, gathering adult perceptions on alcohol use amongst teens, to assist in a county wide adult social norms campaign
- A social norms poster campaign in the schools in support of Red Ribbon Week
- The start of a school based teen court program
- The Social Norms campaign continued in Lake Mills and Palmyra High schools. Posters promoting the number of youth who DO NOT use drugs and alcohol were hung throughout Lake Mills and Palmyra high schools

Ongoing projects supported by the Drug-Free Communities Support Program include:

- The Juvenile Mentoring Program
- The ATODA, Anger Management and First Offender Educational Courses
- Teen Court
- Children's Fair
- Search Institute Surveys



Childhood Obesity Prevention

In 2007, DPC received a generous grant in the amount of \$45,040 from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health to fund a project focusing on Childhood Obesity in Jefferson County. According to the Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) 2005 report, Jefferson County youth obesity mirrors the current trends of national and state levels. Jefferson County children ages 2-4 are more likely to be overweight and at risk for becoming overweight than other children in Wisconsin. Data also shows that childhood obesity sets youth on a path toward adult obesity. About 60% of toddlers and preschoolers who are overweight or obese during their preschool years will be overweight at age twelve. Jefferson County citizens have identified childhood obesity as a priority issue the county needs to address. In a 2006 Community Assessment conducted for Headstart by the University of Wisconsin-Extension, Jefferson County identified rising childhood obesity rates as the primary physical health concern facing Jefferson County Head Start families. This project will advance the State Health Plan *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010* because it will decrease childhood obesity by educating children and families about healthy food choices and family activities, showing them how to make those choices. Therefore, childhood and adult obesity will decrease and families will be making healthier lifestyle choices, thereby decreasing the onset of serious health issues.

In collaboration, Jefferson County Head Start and the DPC selected a curriculum that would best meet the needs of the children and parents, focusing on physical activity and proper nutrition habits. The committee decided on a best-practices curriculum titled *I am Moving, I am Learning*, whose goals are to increase the quantity of time spent in moderate to vigorous physical activity, improve the quality of structured movement experiences, and improve healthy nutrition choices for children every day.

Through the use of Family Fun Nights and Fatherhood Initiative Activities, the Jefferson County Head Start programs have positively affected 246 children and their families by increasing adult education, promoting activity where physical movement and parents are involved such as dances and races, and increased the positive relationships between fathers and their children. These strategies, along with the supplementary materials available at each event, assist in creating a new trend to help families become more aware of healthy choices and improving their lives through inexpensive and beneficial activities. By promoting healthier lifestyle choices, healthier families are created, therefore developing healthy Jefferson County youth.

This project continued through June of 2008. Baseline BMI's were collected in August of 2007 and in March of 2008 secondary measures were taken to track the progress of this initiative. 349 students from four Head Start facilities in Jefferson County and two facilities in Kenosha County were weighed and measured. Results indicated that the program was successful in decreasing the BMI in over 1/4th of children involved in the program. In June of 2008, a best practice manual was created as a tool for promoting health and wellness objectives in other early childhood education centers.

Children's Care and Share Fair

The Children's Share and Care Fair started in 2001 and each year has been more successful than the previous year. The Fair is an opportunity for parents and families to discover the early childhood and community resources available to them throughout the county. Everyone should have knowledge of the different services, businesses, and agencies within their community to assist them with their needs. Children and parents alike have enjoyable experiences learning about those resources while experiencing face painting, a petting zoo, arts and crafts, hand washing experiments, and more! This annual event is funded through donations from local business such as The Velveteen Rabbit, Target and Wal-Mart.

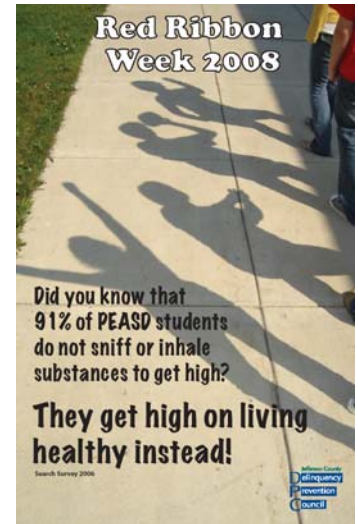
In 2008, the Fair was held at Fort Atkinson High School on March 29th from 9am-12pm. With a wonderful attendance rate, there were over 175 children between birth and age 11, who received a gift bag filled with coloring books, resources for parents and a healthy snack. Based on a survey, approximately 99 parents attended the Fair with their children and 100% of them indicated they would attend next year.

In 2009, the seventh annual Children's Share and Care Fair is due to continue its positive tradition. The 2009 Children's Fair will be held at Fort Atkinson High School on April 4 from 9 am-12 noon. In 2009, we plan to incorporate a broad array of services focusing on more bilingual services and businesses.



Red Ribbon Week

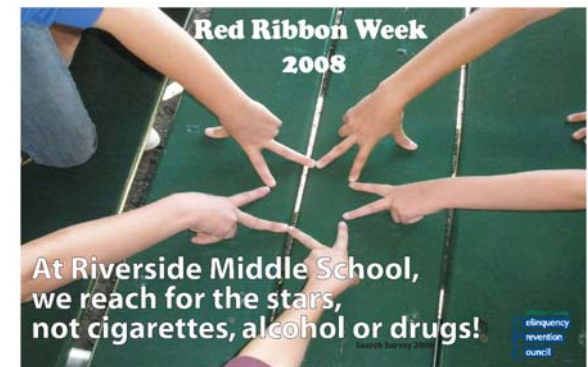
Red Ribbon Week began after the kidnapping, torture and brutal murder of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in 1985. Agent Camarena had been working undercover in Guadalajara, Mexico for over four years. His efforts led to a tip that resulted in the discovery of a multimillion dollar narcotics manufacturing operation in Chihuahua, Mexico. The successful eradication of this and other drug production operations angered leaders of several drug cartels who sought revenge. As a result, they murdered key informants and then, on February 7, 1985, they kidnapped Agent Camarena and his pilot, Captain Alfredo Zavala-Avelar (taken separately on the same day). In Agent Camarena's home town, Calexico, CA, the public outpouring of support turned in to an organized community response in which citizens wore red ribbons. They became a voice for prevention in order to reduce the demand for illegal drugs and illegal use of legal drugs in America. The following year the California State PTA adopted the Red Ribbon Campaign. Then, in 1988, Red Ribbon Week was recognized nationally with President Ronald and First Lady Nancy Reagan serving as the Honorary Chairs.



Today, the Red Ribbon Celebration brings millions of people together to raise awareness regarding the need for alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence prevention, early intervention, and treatment services. It is the largest, most visible prevention awareness campaign observed annually in the United States. The Red Ribbon Celebration is not a prevention or early intervention program. Red Ribbon Week will not - nor is it intended to - fix the drug problem in America. There is no single approach to prevention that can eliminate a problem so complex. It is an awareness campaign observed annually the last full week in October. We regard Red Ribbon Week as the kick off to a year of prevention in all communities. The best Red Ribbon Celebration efforts highlight and support continuing prevention, early intervention and treatment programs and services occurring on and off campus throughout the year.

In 2008, the Delinquency Prevention Council, along with three school districts in the county launched a Red Ribbon Week Social Norms Campaign. Each of the three participating school districts worked with their students to create a social norms poster using the most recent Search Institute data to bring awareness to the false perceptions that exist amongst middle and high school students surrounding alcohol, tobacco and drug use. The posters were printed, distributed and displayed for the entire month of October, promoting the positive message captured in each project.

The social norms campaign was very successful and warmly welcomed by the student body. In 2009 we intend to implement a similar project, incorporating more school districts.



Town Hall Meeting

Compliments of a SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) mini grant, the Delinquency Prevention Council hosted a Jefferson County Town Hall Meeting entitled, *Underage Drinking: A Community Concern*. This community forum took place at Johnson Creek Elementary School in the commons room from 6-8:30pm on April 1, 2008. There was a short presentation on Underage Drinking, provided by Carol Garuz, the associate director of the Addiction Resource Council in Waukesha, followed by a facilitated community discussion about the concerns and issues surrounding underage drinking. Other topics covered included the needs of the community and the action steps to be taken to address those needs. Following the forum, a discussion board was created to continue the conversations regarding underage drinking in our county (<http://groups.google.com/group/JCunderagedrinkingprevention>). The participants had the opportunity to work together to empower Jefferson County to take a stand against the issue of underage drinking.

Panther Court

2008 initiated an exciting new partnership between the Watertown Unified School District and Opportunities, Inc. with the start of “Panther Court” at Riverside Middle School. Panther Court is a school based teen court used as an alternative discipline option that links students, teachers and parents. In Panther Court, Riverside Middle School students fulfill the roles of prosecutor, defense lawyer, bailiff, and jurors. This program has been labeled by the school as an early intervention program that provides an opportunity for selected juvenile offenders to be questioned, judged and sentenced by a jury of their peers.

Riverside Middle School identified the types of offenses that are referred to the Panther Court program. Acceptable offenses include, but are not limited to, persistent disobedience, persistent disruptive behavior, failure to follow a reasonable request, persistent lateness/truancy, alcohol possession/consumption, tobacco possession/consumption, fighting, or vandalism.

A counselor at Riverside Middle School had the following statement regarding the program,

“The Panther Court program has given us another useful tool in the discipline model for the school. It teaches problem solving skills of how to learn from mistakes and how to fix mistakes to the defendant and to all the students on the jury. This is much more helpful than just suspension or detention because it restores the student back in the community. Students on the jury stated that it feels good to participate in their school discipline program. The teachers are recognizing that the restorative justice model is an effective model for discipline for middle school students.”

The partnership between Opportunities, Inc. and Riverside Middle School for Panther Court is a perfect fit. Opportunities, Inc. brings experience running Teen Court effectively and efficiently. Riverside Middle School administratively through Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Zibell brings an openness to try new ideas that will help students grow into good citizens. We would hope that other school districts will pick up on this program and its value to their school communities.”

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Internet Predator Education for Parents

In cooperation with the Fort Atkinson School District, the Delinquency Prevention Council hosted Eric Szatkowski to speak to Jefferson County families regarding the dangers of the internet on April 30, 2008 at Fort Atkinson High School. Eric is a Special Agent with the Wisconsin Department of Justice/ Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) since 1991. He's currently assigned to the State's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in Milwaukee. Eric's law enforcement experience also includes murder-for-hire, cold-case homicides, death investigations, anti-government groups, fugitives, and narcotics enforcement. Since 1999, Eric has become one of the nation's leading officers in apprehending sexual predators of children who use the Internet to seduce or exploit children. He has been responsible for the arrest of over 150 men from Wisconsin and around the nation, most of whom traveled various distances to have sex with what they believed to be an underage boy or girl. Eric's arrests also include those who sexually assault children, distribute, possess, and/or manufacture child pornography, and expose children to harmful materials.

Eric's dynamic presentation on Internet crimes against children, entitled "The Dark Side of the Internet", has been seen by more than 140,000 people in Wisconsin and the U.S. He has been interviewed on national television about Internet predators on both the Tyra Banks Show in Los Angeles, and CNN Tonight with Connie Chung in New York City, and has been interviewed by countless newspapers, radio and television stations.

His presentations inspired the drafting and passage of new legislation in Wisconsin in 2006, Assembly Bill 942. This law significantly increased the levels of felonies for online child exploitation, increased maximum prison penalties, and implemented presumptive minimum prison terms for online predators. Eric has also testified in court as an expert in the online sexual exploitation of children, and has provided assistance to dozens of law enforcement agencies in this area of police work.

In Our Own Backyard: Gangs of Jefferson County

The Gang Committee expanded their efforts by hosting parent presentations at local high schools featuring gang specialist George Chavez and Officer Lester Moore of the Madison Police Department. On September 23, 2008, two presentations were hosted at the Watertown High School, one for English speaking families and one for Spanish speaking families. On September 29, 2008 a parent presentation was also held at Lake Mills High School. Topics included, general information about gangs, clues that your child may be gang involved, prevention and intervention for families with gang involved youth, and helpful resources for parents. Due to the success of these presentations, other school districts have asked the gang committee to host presentations at their schools. In April of 2009, presentations will be hosted at Palmyra and Fort Atkinson schools, with hopefully two more school districts in the fall of 2009. It is the intention of the Delinquency Prevention Council to host a presentation in every school district in the county by the fall of 2011.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Gang Summit: A Jefferson County Perspective

In the fall of 2006, a Gang Seminar was held in Jefferson County. This seminar was very successful and due to popular demand, a second seminar was held on March 11, 2008. This conference targeted the ever changing gang warning signs, markings and tags, in addition to addressing the direct gangs that are infiltrating Jefferson County. This all day summit included speakers who specialize in gang activity and a panel of legal and municipal professionals. The speakers included gang specialists, George Chavez and Lester Moore; local gang experts, Kathy Selck and Ole Olson; Dr. James Freiburger addressed the socio-emotional process behind gang involvement and Ryan Ruggles, assistant principal at Watertown High School spoke to the school response to gang involvement. Participants were given the opportunity to address a panel of Jefferson County professional with any questions or concerns about gang involvement. The panel included Chief Tim Roets, Sheriff Paul Milbrath, Honorable Judge William Hue, Assistant District Attorney Peter Tempelis, and from the Department of Human Services Delinquency Team, Melinda Moe. To help participants identify gang signs and symbols, several artifacts were available for viewing. This summit was well received with approximately 60 community members in attendance.

Adolescent Brain Development Series

This year, The Delinquency Prevention Council hosted a four part series entitled “Understanding the Millennium Employee”, presented by Mary-Adele Revoy of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. This four part series focused on adolescent development began with the basics, breaking down the differences between the baby brain, teen brain, and the differences between women’s and men’s brains. The second part of the series discussed the environmental influences on the developing brain, such as alcohol and drugs, trauma, stress, nutrition, and current technology trends. The third part titled “They Forgot to Bring Their Brains to Work” helped to understand the adolescent brain and why they behave the way they do at work. Mary Adele talked about the limbic system and laziness, and also their different moral development and work ethics. The fourth piece of the series brought in a special guest speaker, Mary Ratz from the Department of Corrections, Division of Juvenile Corrections, to discuss the different education and employment skills offered in the state system, along with an overview of the state juvenile justice system.

The series consistently received a satisfaction rate of 90%-100%. When surveying the people in attendance regarding their thoughts about the presentations value, 100% of them indicated they felt it was worth their time. This series was an opportunity for employers, temporary employment agencies, parents and service providers to discover important information and how it relates to adolescents 13-25 and employees of the millennium generation.

Suicide Prevention Summit

On October 8, 2008 the Delinquency Prevention Council in partnership with the Jefferson County Health Department hosted a county-wide Suicide Prevention Summit. The goal of the Suicide Prevention Summit was to educate parents and service providers on suicide prevention, general suicide facts and intervention techniques for lay people.

The Summit boasted 56 service providers and parents. The day long summit consisted of three presentations, in an effort to provide the attendees with a comprehensive perspective on suicide prevention. The first presentation was conducted by Kathryn Keller, a licensed professional counselor who spoke about general information relating to suicide from the mental health perspective. The second presentation was facilitated by HOPES (Helping Others Prevent and Educate about Suicide) Co-founder Patricia Derer. This portion of the summit focused on a specific intervention strategy known as QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer), which is a technique for lay persons to assess for suicide risk. The final portion of the summit was a panel discussion. The panel consisted of a parent of a child who attempted suicide, a mental health professional, a Human Service specialist, a suicide attempt survivor, DPI representative, and a HOPES staff member. The panel gave parents and service providers an opportunity to pose questions specific to their needs.

This summit was made possible by the Garret Lee Smith grant program. The Delinquency Prevention Council was able to provide this seminar free to the community, thanks to the support of Mental Health America.

The following were statements made by summit participants regarding their satisfaction with the 2008 Suicide Prevention Summit:

*“Thank you for this opportunity to hear from professionals,
parents and others about this very important issue!”*

*“A lot of valuable information on preventative assistance,
follow up care and current statistics.”*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

100 Best Communities for Young People

Jefferson County was recognized as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by Americas Promise Alliance in 2008.. The *100 Best* competition recognizes the 100 outstanding communities across America—large and small, rural and urban—that are the best places for young people to live and grow up. More than 300 communities in all 50 states applied for the honor this year. The 100 winning communities span 37 states. In Wisconsin, Appleton/Fox Cities, Crawford County, Green Bay Area, Jefferson County and the city of Waukesha were named a few of the *100 Best* community because of the community’s commitment to tackling the challenges facing its young people.

Monica Wagner, of the Delinquency Prevention Council traveled to Washington, D.C. in January to accept this nomination on behalf of Jefferson County. Additionally, a recognition event was held in the Spring of 2008 at Opportunities, Inc., honoring the hard work and dedication of the Jefferson County youth focused organizations.

A state wide recognition event in honor of the five Wisconsin Communities who were winners of the 2008’s 100 Best Communities for Young People competition, nationwide was coordinated by the Delinquency Prevention Council. This event took place at 11:00am on June 25th, 2008 in the Assembly Parlor at the State Capital. Lt. Governor Lawton spoke on behalf of the State, recognizing these communities for their local efforts and state-wide efforts to boast Wisconsin’s dedication to youth. The event was led by Louis Oppor of the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth, and each winning community gave a short presentation on their youth focused initiatives.

Jefferson County was selected because of the counties reputable level of collaborative efforts focused on positive youth development and delinquency prevention efforts. Other community collaborations include, but are not limited to the ATODA Partnership, which facilitates county-wide alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse education for young people, Dialogue for Student Success, which promotes community connectedness, information sharing and mobilization of the community for the betterment of youth, 3CUD, which promotes environmental strategies to provide kids with drug-free celebrations and the Delinquency Prevention Council which facilitates adult and teen focus groups, substance abuse education classes, and a social norms campaign.

All communities that completed entries in the *100 Best* competition were required to submit detailed information to the Alliance on existing community programs and initiatives that help deliver the Five Promises—resources identified by America’s Promise as being critical to the development of healthy, successful children: caring adults; safe places; healthy start; effective education; and opportunities to help others; to their young people. Applicants were also asked to describe how different sectors of their community come together to deliver the Five Promises and specific efforts and programs developed to ensure that their young people graduate from high school prepared for college and/or the workforce.



NEW FOR 2009

Drug Free Communities Support Program

The Delinquency Prevention Council will apply for a fifth year of Drug Free Communities Support in 2009. This funding will continue to support great programs such as Teen Court, ATODA education and prevention efforts, as well as new efforts. With the data collected at the Town Hall Meeting and Parent Focus Groups in 2008, the Parents Who Host, Lose the Most campaign will be launched in the fall. Additionally, a public service announcement, billboard and student directory for parents will be implemented. The Drug Free Communities Support Program will continue to support Red Ribbon Week, enhance current programming, provide community presentations and promote a safe and drug free community for Jefferson County.

Parents Who Host, Lose the Most Campaign

Many well-meaning parents think that it is enough to take away car keys at their teen's parties so the teens can't drink and drive. Parents provide the alcohol or allow alcohol to be consumed based on the false belief that it's a rite of passage, especially at prom and graduation parties. The "Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't Be a Party to Teenage Drinking" public awareness campaign was developed by Drug-Free Action Alliance in 2000 to educate parents about the health and safety risks of serving alcohol at teen parties and to increase awareness of and compliance with the Ohio Underage Drinking Laws. This fall, the Delinquency Prevention Council will launch a county wide campaign, educating parents about the dangers of hosting underage drinking parties.

Second Annual Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking

In conjunction with the Parents Who Host, Lose the Most Campaign, the Delinquency Prevention Council will be hosting the second Jefferson County Town Hall Meeting to kick off the campaign in the fall. It is the intent of the Delinquency Prevention Council to provide parents strategies to prevent underage drinking and alternatives to hosting. Details for this event have yet to be determined.

PRIME For Life Curriculum

PRIME For Life is an alcohol and drug program for people of all ages and will be the primary curriculum for the Restorative Justice Program's ATODA Education courses in 2009. It is designed to gently but powerfully challenge common beliefs and attitudes that directly contribute to high-risk alcohol and drug use. The program goals are to reduce the risk for health problems and impairment problems by increasing abstinence, delaying initial use and decreasing high risk use. Using a persuasion-based approach, instructors use a variety of delivery methods, including interactive presentation and small group discussion. Participants use work books throughout the course to complete a number of individual and group activities. Material is presented using a DVD platform with animation, full-motion video clips, and audio clips to enhance the learning experience. The carefully selected, research-based information also provides the credibility needed to promote change.

Internet Predator Prevention Presentation for Youth

On March 12, 2009, Eric Szatkowski will be returning to Jefferson County to fulfill the second step of our Internet Safety initiative. In a presentation entitled "The Real World of Internet Predators, Perverts, and their Prey", Eric will be providing county 7-12th graders with important information that will be key to keeping them safe when using the internet. This presentation shares much of the same information as The Dark Side of the Internet, but in a way that is appropriate for middle and high school students. Young people will learn from real case examples how to avoid being victimized online, and what they can do if something happens. They will also be shown how the dangers they learned about as children are just as important today when they use the Internet, as they become young adults. Most important, students will learn the risks of making themselves available to predators on the Internet, including advice on social networking sites like My Space and Facebook, and online gaming sites such as X-Box Live.

Victor DeNoble Presentation

In cooperation with the ATODA Partnership, DPC will have the pleasure of presenting Dr. DeNoble, who was a driving force in the Wisconsin Tobacco Settlement in 1994 to the youth of Jefferson County again this spring. On May 4th and 5th, 2009, area 5th and 6th graders will hear the turbulent tales of DeNoble's work with tobacco giant Phillip Morris, who was recruited in the 1980's to develop a heart safe cigarette that would have the same addicting effects of nicotine. DeNoble speaks of his top-secret laboratory on the third floor of the Phillip Morris building where he did brain experiments on rats, a capuchin monkey and a 63-year-old former smoker, and discovered that nicotine changes brain chemistry. Dr. DeNoble speaks to thousands of middle school and college students every year, sharing his message about the dangers of cigarettes and how his research changed the tobacco industry forever, and we are very fortunate to welcome him back to Jefferson County!

MANAGING PUBLIC FUNDS RESPONSIBLY

To date, the Delinquency Prevention Council of Jefferson County has brought **\$1,582,664.00** into Jefferson County for its youth and family development programs since 1998, via federal, state and private grants. This year alone, through a combination of grants provided by The Drug Free Communities Support Grant, Obesity Prevention grant, Garret Lee Smith grant and SAMHSA Town Hall Meeting grant, **\$130,338.58** was obtained to for youth focused projects.

Since the inception of the Delinquency Prevention Council, the community has grown in a positive direction.

- 1) **Community Education has increased.** DPC has hosted over 18 service provider and community informational events since 2003, which assist in keeping our county well educated on youth-related issues.
- 2) **Developmental Assets have increased.** According to the Search Survey results from 1997-2006, youth reported a steady increase in developmental assets over time. In 1997, 29% of youth reported having 21-40 developmental assets, compared to 36% in 2006, for a 7 % increase in developmental assets reported by Jefferson County youth.
- 3) **Juvenile Delinquency has drastically decreased.** Over time the number of police referrals for juvenile offenses has steadily decreased. According to the Department Human Services, there has been a 39.2% decrease in the number of juvenile offenses since 1996, going from 1062 referrals to 646 in 2007!

These facts indicate that the county has prospered greatly since the inception of DPC. With the support of the community at large, the participation of local professionals in DPC related activities and with the financial support of future public funding, DPC will continue to benefit the lives of young people across Jefferson County.

OUR PARTNERS

Big Brothers and Big Sisters
Community Action Coalition
Workforce Development Board
People Against Domestic Abuse
Head Start
Local Senior Citizens Centers
Chambers of Commerce
Municipal Courts
UW-Extension
UW-Whitewater
Local Media
Citizens
United Way
Local Mental Health Agencies
Boys and Girls Club
Religious Community

Opportunities, Inc
Jefferson County School Districts
Local Law Enforcement Agencies
Jefferson County Circuit Court
District Attorney's Office
Public Defenders Office
Department of Human Services
Public Health Department
Elected Officials
Private Industry
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse
Partnership Council
Inter-agency Collaboration Committee
Family Impact Seminar
Reducing Recidivism Coalition
Charter Communications