

2009 UNITED WAY COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

Last year, 43 programs from nonprofit agencies that serve Knox County were part of our Community Investment process. This Community Impact Report summarizes some of their accomplishments.

Alcohol and Drug Freedom Center's Project Worth Program (\$2,000): More than half of the women completing the program were abstinent and in recovery from substance abuse; eight drug free babies were born to program participants; two participants began taking college courses.

Alcohol and Drug Freedom Center's Tobacco Awareness Program (\$2,500): Presented "Word of Mouth", a four-session, best practice tobacco prevention program to 71 eighth graders in Fredericktown and East Knox Schools; students reported increased knowledge of the risks of tobacco, and a strong commitment to never use tobacco.

Alcohol and Drug Freedom Center's Safe and Drug-Free Knox County Program (\$3,000): Students reported increased knowledge in drug awareness, resistance skills, goal setting, decision-making, and self-awareness.

American Red Cross of Knox County's Disaster Services Program (\$20,000): Provided 95 individuals with food and shelter and 62 nights in hotels; 810 firefighters received mass care.

American Red Cross of Knox County's Community Services Program (\$10,000): 19 families received burial assistance; 47 gas vouchers enabled 94 trips to out-of-town medical appointments; volunteer drivers were provided for 52 medical trips; 51 students participated in babysitting classes and received free or reduced CPR scholarships.

American Red Cross of Knox County's Blood Services Program (\$12,000): 4,480 units of blood were collected at 162 blood drives.

Arthritis Foundation's Exercise Programs (\$11,500): 130 aquatic program participants completed 7,800 units of service, while 45 Tai Chi participants completed 880 units of exercise.

Arthritis Foundation's Public Education Program (\$3,500): 340 people were served for a total of 930 units of service.

Boy Scouts of America, Muskingum Valley Council's Cub Scouts Program (\$12,700): 100% of survey participants reported a sense of accomplishment due to the Cub Scout Program and 96% said their son participated in an activity that made their son feel successful.

Boy Scouts of America, Muskingum Valley Council's Boy Scout Program (\$6,792): 56% of survey participants reported that their son has utilized his leadership skills and had a leadership role outside of the scouting program; 75% have participated in a new activity directly due to scouting.

Boy Scouts of America, Muskingum Valley Council's Co-Educational Programs (\$900): 94% of participants surveyed learned a new skill and 86% have participated in a leadership role directly due to the program.

Centerburg Senior Services Enrichment Program (\$6,000): 65 senior citizens participated in the annual Senior Fun Day outing, while 75 attended the annual holiday breakfast program; 1,480 meals were provided throughout the year; 104 home visits were made to 72 different seniors.

The Children's Connection's Community Matches Program (\$18,000): 40 children participated in activities and maintained a relationship with an adult mentor in 2009.

The Children's Connection's Lunch Buddies Program (\$6,500): 6 children were matched in this program during the first quarter of the 2009 school year; on prior school year post-tests, teachers reported that 40% of students showed basic improvement and 60% showed significant improvement in classroom behavior.

Compassionate Friends' Support Group and Outreach for Bereaved Parents (\$1,725): More than 150 new family members were assisted in dealing with the grief of losing a child; 230 area residents received a quarterly newsletter.

Equine Assisted Therapy's Rider Scholarship Program (\$2,000): Rider scholarships were provided through United Way.

Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Outdoor Program (\$2,000): 14 troops, two outside groups, eight service unit meetings, seven trainings, four council committee meetings, and five outdoor program events utilized Knox County's Camp Cornish facility; over 85% of girls consistently reported that when given the opportunity to explore the outdoors, they experience an increased appreciation and respect for the natural world, increased physical activity, and development in their confidence, skills and ability for outdoor survival.

Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council Financial Literacy Program (\$4,000): 457 girls participated in opportunities aimed at increasing their financial knowledge including distinguishing whether a purchase is a need or a want, budgeting, saving and spending wisely; following October's "Where Did My Money Go?" program, 80% of girls had a better understanding of the value of money, 90% felt confident that they can make wise spending choices, 70% have a better understanding of how to budget their money, and 80% understand how credit works.

Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council Traditional Troops Program (\$12,000): 302 girls were served in traditional troops and nearly 75 local community service projects were completed; events included the Zink the Zebra diversity program and the In School Scouting Lunch Bunch program in Fredericktown and Danville.

Hospice of Knox County's School Based Grief Intervention Program (\$4,250): 165 students received individual counseling, participated in support groups and/or received resources to help children and teens understand death and grief; student feedback indicated an increased understanding of death and grief as a result of their participation.

Hospice of Knox County's Love Light Patient Assistance Program (\$5,000): Last year, 206 patients were touched by Hospice services, one of which had no payer source and thirteen that needed assistance with co-pays and deductibles; through this program, Hospice families needing help with utilities, medical transportation, and other home related expenses received assistance.

Interchurch Social Services Hot Meals Program (\$6,000): Meat and paper products were purchased for area providers of the Hot Meals program so that partnering churches could better address increased attendance rates.

Interchurch Social Services Food Pantry Vouchers Program (\$12,000): More than 1,700 United Way grocery vouchers were distributed to 1,088 Knox County families enabling them to purchase dairy products and fresh produce from local grocers as a way to increase calcium, vitamin D and other nutrients that help keep their family healthy; in total, 2,926 children and 2,255 adults were served by this program.

Kno-Ho-Co-Ashland Community Action Commission's Cervical Cancer Screening Program (\$3,000): 2009 client health services included 455 pap exams, 572 breast exams, 347 STD screenings, 13 HIV tests, 23 colposcopy exams, and 195 pregnancy tests; the number of uninsured/underinsured clients increased by 7.7% over prior year.

Kno-Ho-Co-Ashland Community Action Commission's Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) (\$3,000): 129 RSVP members donated 19,212 hours to assist 13 nonprofit agencies.

Knox County 4-H Center's 4-H Program (\$8,500): 340 meetings were held in the Knox County 4-H Center in 2009; 57 groups or programs utilized the facility for meetings, clinics, updates and trainings.

Knox County Head Start's Federal Head Start Program (\$36,000): There was a 42% average in mean score for children assessed in 19 developmental categories of the Head Start Child outcomes framework, up from 30% the prior year; New Hope Early Education Center, Danville and Fredericktown Centers received the Step Up To Quality Star Ratings; over 300 children were transported to classes and field trips, exceeding 85,000 miles; the rate of children's follow-up dental care increased to 76.6% up from 55.3% the prior year; a total of 84,523 nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks were served to children.

Knox County Head Start's Infant and Toddler Quality Child Care Outreach (\$17,890): 62 infants and toddlers received child care services at the Gambier Child Care Center or the New Hope Early Education Center (NHEEC), with 55% of them qualifying for the child care subsidy at 200% of the federal poverty guideline or below; Step Up to Quality Ratings were given to both Gambier and NHEEC.

Knox County Head Start's Reading is Fundamental Family of Readers Program (\$3,520): 1,890 books were distributed to 830 children and families in Knox County; a 42.4% increase in average mean scores in vocabulary, phonological awareness, book knowledge and appreciation, and literacy was reported for children in Head Start.

Knox County Head Start's Conscious Parenting and Infant/Toddler Parent Trainings (\$11,790): 95 parents attended United Way sponsored trainings; 100% of parents reported improvement in at least 3 of 7 parental abilities and skills; 284 units of Conscious Parenting training and 41 units of Infant/Toddler Parenting Training were made available.

Mental Health America, Knox County's Parent Enrichment and Community Outreach Program (\$17,750): 2,724 Parentalk newsletters and Born Learning information were mailed to families; a divorce recovery support group was developed in 2009; sponsored a Conscious Discipline class that served 12 families; participated in Senior Resource Day sharing literature on how to be "mind healthy" as age increases.

Moundbuilders Guidance Center's Mental Health, Schools and Families Working Together Program (\$53,670): 528 student contacts were made in East Knox and Danville Elementary Schools by the Student Support Specialist; 173 parent consultations occurred along with 248 teacher/staff consultations; 83 group sessions were held addressing topics like divorce and making friends; 47 classroom sessions were held to teach character education and social skills from evidence-based curriculum.

Moundbuilders Guidance Center's Family Assessment and Intervention Program (\$50,000): The majority of the children and families (12 of 19) who completed the program in 2009 have shown significant improvement in outcome measurements, including parent self-ratings on feelings of competence, isolation, attachment, health, role restriction, depression, spousal relationship, and life stress.

New Directions: Domestic Abuse Shelter's Shelter Services Program (\$9,000): 9 women and 13 children were sheltered in 2009 for a total of 577 family nights; four of those families established violence-free homes.

New Directions: Domestic Abuse Shelter's Rape Crisis Services (\$13,862): 38 sexual assault survivors were served on the hotline and 29 received face-to-face services.

New Directions: Domestic Abuse Shelter's Court Advocacy Program (\$10,138): 55 women received legal advocacy services; during 2009 there were 156 domestic violence charges which resulted in 50 guilty verdicts, 26 were reduced and 45 were dismissed; 199 women went to New Directions for non-residential services, including 114 who attended support groups and 69 who attended educational classes.

Pathways of Central Ohio's 2-1-1 Crisis/Hotline and Information Center (\$14,950): a 9% increase in overall calls was reported, while a 92% increase in information and referral calls was experienced; a free on-line resource directory was launched.

The Salvation Army, Centerburg Service Unit's Financial Assistance Program (\$3,800): Provided funding for speech therapy and corrective shoes for children in addition to continuing to provide families with assistance with rent, utilities, prescriptions and transportation to medical appointments.

The Salvation Army of Mount Vernon's Financial Assistance Program (\$30,000): 13,128 nights of lodging were provided; 1,029 food boxes were provided valued at approximately \$72,000.

The Salvation Army of Mount Vernon's Harbor Café and Family Center (\$35,000): 33,863 people visited The Harbor in 2009; the Café served more than 8,100 meals and provided 1,774 free meals to those who could not afford to make a donation; Harbor volunteers provided 3,370 hours of service.

Sanctuary Community Action's Women's Preventive Health Program (\$2,000): 28 women received financial assistance for 6 pap tests and 22 mammograms.

The Station Break's Homemaker Assistance Program (\$1,000): 40 senior citizens benefited from house cleaning assistance last year through United Way's investment.

YMCA of Mount Vernon's Individual and Family Scholarship Program (\$30,000): 228 individuals and families were able to utilize the YMCA facilities; 169 of them participated in YMCA programs.