



Waukesha Youth Collaborative

Participating Organizations

- 10-34 Wisconsin
- Addiction Resource Council
- Association for the Rights of Citizens with handicaps (ARCh)
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters-Metro Milwaukee
- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee
- Carroll College
- Children's Service Society
- City of Waukesha Parks, Recreation & Forestry
- City of Waukesha Police Department
- City of Waukesha Public Library
- City of Waukesha, Office of the Mayor
- Enlight, Inc.
- Family Services of Waukesha
- Girl Scouts-Great Blue Heron Council
- Junior Achievement of Wisconsin
- La Casa de Esperanza, Inc.
- Medina Center
- Mental Health Association
- One2One Teen Center
- PARC Task Force
- Parent's Place (PPAC)
- Potawatomi Area Council, Boy Scouts of America
- ProHealth Care
- Salvation Army
- The School District of Waukesha
- The Women's Center
- United Way in Waukesha County
- UW-Extension
- UW-Waukesha
- Waukesha County Department of Health & Human Services
- Waukesha County Tobacco-Free Coalition
- Waukesha County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Waukesha Family YMCA
- WCTC
- Wisconsin Community Services
- Workforce Development Center

For more about youth activities visit: www.waukeshateens.org or call:



Established 2004

Results December 2006

Vision: Recognized community leader in coordinating and engaging youth and families with community services to build strong values for successful, responsible youth.

The Problem: The composition of the neighborhood consists of low-income and moderate-income residents who have limited resources to meet their needs. The population also includes a large concentration of children, teens and a Hispanic population. Youth problems in the area include but not limited to truancy issues, low grades, and high drop-out rates. Statistics have identified the neighborhood areas as having a high crime rate. By focusing our efforts on the youth population with high needs, we hope to invest resources, time and effort in these neighborhoods to help youth become successful and responsible young adults.

Targeted Geographic Area: Youth identified through the Waukesha Youth Collaborative who reside in the City of Waukesha including the federally designated Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas.

Major Partners sharing accountability for successful planning and implementation: City of Waukesha, Waukesha County CDBG, UW – Extension, United Way in Waukesha County and the School District of Waukesha. Waukesha County Community Foundation and Greater Milwaukee Foundation added in 2006.

Intended Results

Create an environment in which youth:

- Take advantage of existing programs and activities
- Develop social skills helping to increase ability to function in every day life
- Become self-sufficient and cope with daily stressors with parental or other adult support

Means of Accomplishment:

- A variety of after-school programs, summer activities, Safe Place activities and scholarships.
- Organizations with youth programming work actively in promoting existing services and activities to schools, parents, media and others.
- Agencies that serve youth work with other agencies in building a better understanding of each other's services as a way to establish a link for the community.

Measurements of Success / Outcomes:

Youth identified with deficiencies exhibit positive behavior towards school.

Indicators: Improved grades; Improved attitudes towards school; Reduction in truancy/tardiness

Youth identified with deficiencies develop skills to help them become responsible youth.

Indicators: Enhanced communication with peers, parents and adults; Exhibiting positive values through community involvement/leadership; Increased abilities to resolve conflict; No further illegal activities

The collaborative developed a number of outcomes along with specific indicators to demonstrate impact activities were having on youth. Results for outcomes and indicators reported on are as follows:

A Community Collaboration for our Youth – Steering Committee



- **Outcome 1**

- **Youth identified with deficiencies exhibit positive socially responsible behavior.**

- 78.6% (239 of 304) youth engaged in safe activities as an alternative to delinquent behavior

- 91% (91 of 100) youth had no reported law violations

- 100% (233) reported no use of alcohol or drugs

- **Outcome 2**

- **Youth identified with deficiencies exhibit positive behavior towards school.**

- 90.5% (153 of 169) of students deemed at-risk improved their grades through the after school program over a 5 month period

- 72.4% (207 of 286) students deemed at-risk demonstrated improved attitudes towards school through the after school program during a 5-month period

- 87.6% (169 of 193) students deemed at-risk demonstrated fewer incidents of truancy through their participation in the after school program during a 5 month period

- 90.4% (123 of 136) of students reported an increase in parental support

- **Outcome 3**

- **Youth identified with deficiencies develop skills to help them become responsible young adults.**

- 81.3% (401 of 493) of students deemed at risk enhanced their communication abilities with peers, parents and other adults.

- 88.1% (571 of 648) of students acquired positive values through community involvement

- 80.3% (613 of 763) of students deemed at risk developed leadership skills.

- 85.6% (344 of 402) of students deemed at risk developed conflict resolution abilities.

The results reported are based on a comprehensive report from a number of various community agencies partnering with the collaborative in providing different activities and strategies to improve lives.

The following section provides information highlighting the various services that were used with at-risk youth in achieving results related to the outcomes and indicators reported previously. The activities provided by these agencies/programs were the mechanisms used to help youth achieve a positive impact in their lives. Total youth participants in these programs were 392.

- **Saratoga, Blair, Central and Whittier After School Programs**

- **Central:** The after school homework club provides homework assistance and tutoring from teachers, Carroll College students, and bilingual services throughout the school year.

- **Saratoga:** Committed weekly volunteers from local high schools, colleges, the Volunteer Center, the retired senior citizen center, GE Medical Systems, UW-Milwaukee and the Harvey Phillips Alternative School together with area agencies provide a diverse range of services including academic tutoring and community education. UW-Extension provides nutrition, art, and community safety experiences.

- **Whittier:** Provide a safe place for students and to provide a solution to after-school daycare problems. The Program includes opportunities for academic help, a healthy snack, and positive leisure-time activities. The goal is to enhance student achievement, social-emotional well-being and interpersonal skills. The program serves two groups of students in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade. One portion of the program provides a focused study time, a snack, and an exploratory playtime for students and their younger siblings who do not have adequate after school care while the second part provides students with organized physical activities that engage for fun.

- **City of Waukesha Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry Program**

- The program offered a playground program for children 5 to 12 years of age in the Haertel Field/Jackson Court Neighborhood. Haertel Field was one of eight sites at which the program hosted a comprehensive summer

recreation program. The program was offered free of charge through joint funding from various sources. This year, the five-day program had 33 participants and one junior leader.

Two playground leaders worked hard to provide activities, special events, field trips that were entertaining, exciting, challenging and safe. In addition to Nutrition with the UW Extension, the library reading motivation program and having lunch with their leaders through the St. Vincent Lunch program, the children were introduced to additional new activities such as arts and hobbies, skills development and fun activities that included games, and music.

Youth Open Gym and Interaction is a safe place for youth ages 8-18 to interact on Fridays from 5:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 1:00-5:00 p.m. during the school year. YOGI has supervised activities that include basketball, football, kickball, dodge ball, volleyball, air hockey, pool, foosball, ping pong, board games and crafts. The staff also hosts special events like movie night and pizza nights for the participants. The participants must sign a “code of conduct” before attending. The “code of conduct” lists the positive behaviors that are expected of all participants in the program.

- **La Casa de Esperanza: Youth Summer Program**

The program emphasizes higher education as the key to a successful future. A majority of youth served at La Casa do not have parents with higher education backgrounds. Through College Bound Bridge and College Bound programs, youth are introduced to various careers, informed of the education needed to attain such a career, and experience college life by visiting higher education institutions. Summer Spectacular runs throughout the summer and consists of a series of motivational speakers, community service projects, field trips, and recreational activities. It is offered between other youth programs during the summer months to keep youth safe and engaged in productive activities during the summer months.

- **Waukesha County UW - Extension**

The purpose of the summer program was twofold: to provide leadership training for youth in the Waukesha NRSA districts, and to test, evaluate and improve the leadership training resources. The training approach is interactive, experiential and research-based, and includes homework assignments each week to reinforce lesson topics in meaningful ways for youth. The curriculum is a flexible toolkit that supports leadership development with youth ages 6th-12th grade and adults. The goal of the curriculum package is to provide skills through easy-to-understand, fun activities that can be used with a wide range of groups and participants. Based on a diverse array of successful leadership training resources, the curriculum organizes fundamental leadership skills into four foundational areas: understanding leadership, personal skills, communication skills and group skills. The program also allowed translation capabilities to meet the needs of the diverse population.

- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee: Camp Whitcomb Mason – Back to School Camp Out**

The Boys & Girls Clubs’ Camp Whitcomb/Mason partnered with three Waukesha elementary schools to bring 20 youth to camp for a “Back to School” themed overnight camp-out in August. Campers experienced nature and the outdoors on Camp Whitcomb/Mason’s 300 acres of forests, wetlands, and fields. Parents were also invited to Camp on three separate evenings in order to give them an opportunity to share the camping experience with their child. Low-income children and families were given a special opportunity to experience a wonderful camping/outdoors experience that they would normally not be able to afford. In addition, campers were able to say goodbye to summer and get ready for and excited about the prospect of the upcoming school year.

- **Waukesha Family YMCA**

The Waukesha Family YMCA provides Saturday Youth and Teen Nights throughout the school year. Youth and Teen Nights are offered from 7:00-10:00 p.m., and provide a social and recreational outlet for youth to interact with their peers in a safe environment. YMCA staff serve as leaders and positive role models. Youth also have an opportunity to serve as members of the Youth Leaders Club. Youth assist in planning activities and have a say in decision making for the youth and teen nights. The Leaders Club also assists with YMCA special events.

- **Wisconsin Community Services: Agree to Succeed and Kick Conflict**

The Mediation and Restorative Justice Center brings together parents, children, school social workers, teachers, administrators and a family mentor to overcome truancy and tardiness issues with school students before they become chronic and before it is necessary to involve the courts, the police and county services. Students identified by the Waukesha Schools voluntarily agree to participate in a mediation process to develop a Family Action Plan. The students and their parents meet with school faculty and staff to agree to resolve barriers to school attendance and receive support from a WCS family mentor. The mentor works with them to obtain needed community resources and assist in ongoing communication with the schools. Through mediation and family mentoring, the students improve attendance.

“Kick Conflict” in collaboration with the Medina Gym for City of Waukesha youth combines kickboxing classes and conflict resolution classes *principally for at-risk, Hispanic youth who are involved in the criminal justice system or who have demonstrated violent tendencies or a lack of control in school, the community or the family.* Youth are attracted to the martial arts portion of the program, and leave the program with new social skills. The program amplifies the positive impact and discipline of martial arts training on body and mind at the Medina Kickboxing Gym, a Hispanic-operated, non-profit gym in central Waukesha. This aspect is combined with the formal, structured education of peaceful conflict resolution skills at the WCS Mediation and Restorative Justice Center located in Waukesha.

- **Waukesha County UW – Extension: Youth in Leadership**

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