



## ST. JOSEPH YOUTH ALLIANCE

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### Vision

“The lives of children and families are improved”

### Mission

Engaging community partners to improve the lives of children and families.

### Values

We believe in...

- ◆ Commitment to making a difference;
- ◆ Fiscal responsibility;
- ◆ Collaboration;
- ◆ Resource identification and development;
- ◆ Identifying community needs;
- ◆ Quality outcomes;
- ◆ Advocacy.

### Leadership Team Staff

Robin Hammond, Executive Director  
Susie Cook, HR/Financial Director  
Anita Jolly, Caring Communities Director  
Linda Midyett, Educare Director  
Kelly Tudor, Administrative Assistant  
Stefanie Linville, Administrative Assistant

**Profile:** The St. Joseph Youth Alliance is a non-profit 501c(3) corporation that has been designated by the State of Missouri to serve as a local governance partnership—the decision-making entity that partners with the State of Missouri and local community to plan, develop, finance, and monitor strategies designed to achieve the Core Results of:

- ◆ Parents working;
- ◆ Children and families safe;
- ◆ Children and families healthy;
- ◆ Children ready to enter school;
- ◆ Children succeeding in school; and
- ◆ Youth ready to enter productive adulthood.

Incorporated in 1994, the St. Joseph Youth Alliance works to promote the voice of the community. Specifically, our responsibilities include:

- ◆ Assisting the community in creating a community-wide agenda to link resources and services;
- ◆ Targeting specific community priorities to improve results for children and families;
- ◆ Assuring active involvement of diverse community partners;
- ◆ Securing, leveraging, and redirecting public and private resources to help families;
- ◆ Tracking, recording, and reporting annually on progress toward key results;
- ◆ Engaging and collaborating with others to achieve better results for children/families;
- ◆ Promoting best practices and lessons learned with others; and
- ◆ Serving as an information clearinghouse.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND GRANTS

### Caring Communities/Community Partnership – 1995 to Present

Caring Communities is an initiative that supports local decision-making surrounding the six core results mentioned previously. SJYA holds the responsibility for maximizing resources and the community's collaborative efforts toward the health and well being of its children through the administration of the Caring Communities initiative.

### **Educare of Northwest Missouri – 1997 to Present**

SJYA in collaboration with St. Joseph School District initiated the Educare Program in 1995 to improve and strengthen early childhood education by providing monthly on-site technical assistance/educational visits. This program also provides substitute care for home-based providers through respite care services, which allows providers time to attend educational trainings, family-related activities, appointments and other events without loss of income. Educare also provides respite services in partnership with the YWCA Inclusion Specialist for children with special needs. This allows children with special needs to stay in an inclusive child care setting – an opportunity that might not otherwise be afforded to the child or the family. Educare, in partnership with the school district and YWCA, also supports the “lending library”. The library/resource center is located at the YWCA, is free of charge for early childhood professionals and parents, and loans necessary tools and materials (i.e., developmental toys, books, prop boxes and equipment) that provide quality care and educational experiences for young children.

### **Early Childhood Education & Care (HB 1519) – 1999 to Present**

The Early Childhood Development, Education and Care Fund is administered by Educare through SJYA. This program offers scholarships for early childhood professionals/childcare providers to obtain their Child Development Associate degree (CDA) or continue for an Associate or Bachelors degree. The program collaborates with Missouri Western State University and Penn Valley Community College to support and promote their early childhood education programs. It provides funds for start-up and enhancement to those in childcare who want to become licensed or meet licensing requirements for their facility. HB1519 also includes the Child Care Accreditation program. Start-up & Expansion received additional funding of \$178,024, and Accreditation received one-time additional funding of \$226,085.

### **Northwest Missouri Mentoring – 1999 to Present**

Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership Worksite Component is a partnership between community agencies, local schools, Department of Social Services, and youth of Buchanan County. The goal of the program is to provide work readiness training to participating youth and assist them in gaining employment at various businesses with support of a job site mentor provided by the employer.

Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership also has a Teen Parent Component that supports the JUMP program. This program operates with additional funding from a Stay at Home Parent grant. JUMP, administered in collaboration with the YWCA, is a teen-parenting program first implemented in March 2000 to address issues of teen parent mentoring and pregnancy. JUMP works to improve the lives of expectant and parenting adolescents and their children by matching them with an adult volunteer mentor in a comprehensive program of mentoring and life-skills education; increasing knowledge of prenatal health and infant growth and development; decreasing parenting stress experienced by adolescent parents through improving their adjustment and problem-solving skills; increasing the rate of completion of high school or in obtaining a GED; and fostering the development of skills needed to join the workforce.

### **Parentlink – 2000 to 2002**

SJYA was funded by Parentlink to work with parents of adolescents. The funds were used to provide parent/child sex education classes, purchase “developmental assets” materials and to host a community conference on developmental assets.

### **Circle of Parents – 2002 to 2004**

Circle of Parents operates in partnership with our community and Prevent Child Abuse Missouri. This program promotes the development of parent-to-parent peer support groups and also includes support for grandparents raising grandchildren as well as parents with children with special needs.

### **AmeriCorps – 1996 to 1997; and 2007 to present**

The St. Joseph Youth Alliance served as the administrative and fiscal agent for the third year of this three-year community grant. This grant particularly focused on the creation of community service opportunities through support of AmeriCorps Members. The current grant works directly with youth to engage them in a variety of programs and activities that braids the concepts of asset development, service learning, and substance abuse prevention.

**Welfare Reform Initiatives – 1998 to 2002**

The St. Joseph Youth Alliance received funding from the State of Missouri to assist individuals in moving from welfare-to-work. The community worked under five different taskforces to develop plans around the following focus areas: transportation, basic needs, teen pregnancy prevention, teen parenting (JUMP), and data resource development.

**Stay Home Parent Infant Massage Program – 2001 to 2005**

Infant Massage is administered by SJYA in collaboration with Heartland Health and has continued to grow since start-up in 2002. It consists of a trained nurse, Linda Redden, demonstrating infant massage techniques to young, first time mothers. After the three-year grant ended in 2004, SJYA received another grant which incorporated this program into the JUMP program.

**Stay Home Parent JUMP Program – 2002 to Present**

JUMP, through the Stay at Home Parent Program, works specifically with parenting teens. JUMP provides a forum through home visits and educational meetings to address the importance of education, immunizations, parenting skills, early brain research, and child safety. This program also awards youth with incentives for successfully achieving goals according to care plans and the use of a certificate system.

**Faith-based Mentoring Program/Tailor Made Opportunities – 2001 to 2003**

This program, subcontracted to Inter/Serv, was previously known as “Circle of Friends” and is designed to assist families as they transition off welfare using the support of the faith-based community. Specifically, low-income women transitioning off welfare are paired with mentors from the faith community or a civic group that is committed to working with them to give them the self confidence needed to secure and sustain employment.

**America’s Promise Fellow – 2001 to 2002; and 2003 to 2005**

This grant provides funding to support the living allowance of one Promise Fellow. The primary focus of this fellow will be to promote youth service learning opportunities in the community.

**Parents as Teachers Outreach – 2001 to 2002**

One-time funding was secured in 2002 through the State of Missouri to encourage participation of at-risk, stay at home parents, in the Parents as Teachers program. These funds provide for three incentives to families that meet the Stay at Home Parent guidelines to be given on their first three Parents as Teachers home visits.

**Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) – 2003 to 2008**

The Youth Alliance was one of four applicants to receive a grant from the Children’s Trust Fund aimed at developing a comprehensive system of care for children and families at risk of child abuse and neglect. CBFPS will allow for the coordination of services to families to improve outcomes, reduce costs, and ultimately reduce underlying risk associated with child abuse and neglect.

**Title V – 2003 to 2005**

The goal of the initiative funded through Title V is to prevent status offenders from entering into the juvenile justice system. This grant was received in partnership with the Juvenile Office, and they are the fiscal agent for these funds as well. There are three specific program objectives—to reduce delinquency; to decrease the percentage of students reporting age of first use of alcohol; and to increase parental programming and promote involvement of parent/school programs that emphasize the need to increase family and school attachment. Through these funds, the Strengthening Families program is offered. This is a researched based curriculum geared toward drug and alcohol abuse prevention among youth.

**Under the Sea, A Community Sensory Room – 2003**

Under the Sea is a result of local collaboration with support from both the private and public sectors of the community. This community room is designed to meet the unique needs of children with disabilities and includes a sensory motor room, a Snoezelen room, and a therapeutic equipment lending program.

**C2000 – 2000 to 2001, 2003 to 2006**

Grant funds through C2000 provide for the gathering of data, both annual and longitudinal, to determine the greatest assets within the community, while identifying the most critical risk factors among youth. The ultimate goal is to reduce youth substance use in St. Joseph by using the Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets approach. C2000 also works with SJYA’s Youth Action Coalition to plan activities and to promote substance abuse prevention among area youth.

**AmeriCorps Planning Grant – 2004 to 2005**

This grant provides funds for the planning and development of a cyber volunteer action center. The purpose of these funds is to develop a web-based system where the citizens can go for volunteer opportunities as well as for the community to use as a tool to recruit community members for volunteer activities.

**Drug Free Communities Support Program – 2004 to 2005; and 2007 to present**

The Drug Free Communities Support Program Grant provides funding and support for the St. Joseph Drug Free Community Coalition. This coalition is working in the community to promote the importance of substance abuse prevention in our community, ultimately among our youth. Coalition goal and strategies include the implementation of the Strengthening Families Program, Media Buzz, Guiding Good Choices, and Search Institute suggested strategies in selected SJSJ schools.

**Strategic Prevention Framework/State Incentive Grant – 2006 to 2010**

The St. Joseph Youth Alliance was awarded a State Incentive Grant for a Strategic Prevention Framework Project to address underage and binge drinking. A focal point of the grant is “Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol”, a community organizing program designed to reduce adolescent access to alcohol by changing community policies and practices. The primary environmental strategy is youth asset development.

**ORGANIZATION AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS**

Society of Human Resource Managers  
Youth Volunteer Corps  
St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce

**STAFF MEMBERSHIPS/ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION**

Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC), Board Member & Staff Membership  
Mid-America AEYC, Member  
Success by 6 Partners, Board Member  
Local Interagency Coordinating Council, (LICCC) Member  
Community Information DataMart, Board Member  
Missouri Advisory Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Board Chair  
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Staff Membership  
Community Action Partnership/Head Start Advisory Council Member  
Child Care Resource & Referral/Northwest Missouri Trainer’s Network Member  
Missouri Accreditation Review Team, Leader/Member  
Circle of Hope, Policy Team Member, Cultural Linguistic Competency Committee Chair  
Sexual Assault & Family Violence Council, Member  
Respite Care Taskforce, Organizer  
Workforce Investment Board, Youth Council Board Member  
Continuum of Care, Member  
Partner in Prevention, Member  
Community Drug Council, Member  
Housing Authority, Commissioner