United Against Violence

An Overview of Community-Based Initiatives
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The Steering Committee would like to express their heartfelt thanks to the many individuals and groups throughout CHI that work daily to prevent violence in our communities.

Together—*United Against Violence*—we are making a difference.

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INTRODUCTION

CHI’s Violence Prevention Community-Based Initiatives

In 2008, Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) launched United Against Violence, a comprehensive national campaign to prevent the epidemic of violence. Recognizing violence as an issue of public health helps in the understanding that violence is both contagious and preventable. This recognition serves to remind health professionals that, as with any issue of public health, a complex strategy is needed to thoroughly address this issue. CHI addresses prevention using multiple approaches, including public policy advocacy, socially responsible investing, education and awareness and community-based initiatives. This resource is dedicated to the community-based initiatives active in CHI communities across the nation.

Violence prevention is an organizational strategic priority for CHI, and all CHI markets have been challenged to reduce violence impacting the health of their community. In fact, one of CHI’s strategic destination metrics calls for community-defined, sustainable violence reduction, with all markets meeting their reduction goals by 2020.

Community-defined initiatives require stakeholders – including organizations, individuals, governmental figures, law enforcement, health care, etc. – to identify and prioritize a specific type of violence impacting their community. Community identification invites ownership and viable solutions, involving networks that can effectively address an issue using multiple strategies that are sustainable for the long term. The initiatives featured in this book vary as to where they are in the process of identification, program design and implementation, but ultimately all programs will lay out a strategy and identify a baseline and a goal for reduction. Many of the initiatives in later stages highlight the promise in prevention, as many have not only reached their reduction goals...they have exceeded them!
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* Hot Springs, Arkansas has an initiative in development.
COLORADO

Colorado Springs
Fremont County
Pueblo

Initiatives in development:
Summit County and Westminster
Penrose-St. Francis Youth Violence Prevention (YVP) Initiative, Colorado Springs, CO

Focus: Youth Violence

Based on a combination of research, science, community-specific data, and the lived experiences of youth in southeast Colorado Springs, the YVP initiative goals aim to decrease youth violence through the creation of safe public spaces, opportunities for youth leadership, development of trusted relationships between youth and law enforcement, and support for the growth of the Southeast Springs Soccer Initiative (SeSSI) with the addition of a part-time director. The goal is to reduce arrests by 10% of violent juvenile offenders in southeast Colorado Springs and reduce arrests of juvenile offenders by 15% surrounding four high-crime parks.

Highlights: • SeSSI expanded from two to four high-crime parks, increasing youth involvement from 300 to 1,200 in 2015. • Effects of trauma trainings were completed with community members and are mandatory for law enforcement (LE) officers (through the Academy). • LE distributed over 100 soccer balls, bags, and backpacks to the southeast Springs community, and an LE officer is assigned to play soccer with youth during practices. • There has been a 10% decrease in juvenile arrests around all four high-crime parks. • Incarcerated youth have enthusiastically participated in slam poetry classes. • The YVP coordinators were invited to present nationally at the 2016 Urban Soccer Symposium.

How: Trust is built between at-risk youth and law enforcement through soccer, training on the neurobiology of trauma and by providing law enforcement with alternative engagement tools (soccer balls, stuffed animals, and backpacks). A culture of non-violence and at-risk youth leadership opportunities is fostered through facilitation of a youth-led council, slam poetry classes, and contests and performance opportunities for youth at the Zebulon Pike Detention Center. Programs and infrastructure maintenance at four high-crime parks support the creation of safe spaces. Compassion for at-risk youth and families is nurtured through community, state and national NEAR (Neurobiology, Epigenetics, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and Resilience) trainings.
St. Thomas More Hospital and the Fremont Violence Prevention Coalition (FVP), Fremont County, Colorado

**Focus: Child Abuse and Neglect**

The Fremont Violence Prevention Coalition (FVP) is focused on reducing child abuse and neglect through the enhancement of the evidence-based home visitation curriculum called Parents as Teachers. This curriculum is offered by a partner agency called Starpoint and has the ability to influence two generations. Goals are to decrease the number of child abuse and neglect cases accepted for investigation by the Fremont Department of Human Services (DHS) by 20% by June 2018; and to decrease the number of cases founded for abuse or neglect by Fremont DHS by 15% by June 2018. Fremont County will maximize public awareness campaigns for the prevention of child abuse and neglect in concert with Colorado State efforts.

**Highlights:** Fremont has three certified master Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) trainers. This is a phenomenal step toward increasing the ability to reach community members about the value in creating a trauma-informed community. Two trainings have already been conducted and three more are scheduled. Training participants complete an evaluation to determine what they learned and how this information might be utilized moving forward. All evaluations are reviewed by the Colorado ACEs collaboration coordinator.

**How:** Implementation of a Fremont County-wide “Pinwheels for Prevention of Child Abuse Campaign” is in the works. This is a campaign spearheaded by the State of Colorado. The FVP Coalition partnered with St. Thomas More Hospital, the Early Childhood Council and the Fremont Department of Human Services to coordinate and amplify the reach of this campaign for April—Child Abuse Prevention Month. For the first time, the Child Abuse Prevention Campaign will have a prominent place at St. Thomas More’s Annual Health Fair, which serves over 600 people. Partner agencies have volunteered to help spread the word that ACEs trainings are available for any size audience.
St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center and the Pueblo Violence Prevention Coalition (PVP), Pueblo, Colorado

Focus: Family Violence - Child Abuse and Neglect

The Pueblo Violence Prevention Coalition (PVP) is focused on reducing family violence in the Sangre de Cristo Apartments. Sangre de Cristo is a low-income housing complex owned by the Pueblo Housing Authority and built in the 1970s. A culture of pervasive, intergenerational family violence runs rampant. Sangre de Cristo has 212 units with 324 children. The majority of these children are under the age of six. The PVP Coalition goals are to decrease the number of child abuse and neglect reports filed by police officers by 15% and to decrease the number of Department of Social Services opened and founded cases by 20% by 2018.

Highlights: 62 residents provided baseline feedback on their safety concerns at Sangre de Cristo, via a survey: 34 residents did not feel safe letting their children play outside. Other top concerns were domestic disputes/family disturbances, bullying (by both adults and children) and drugs.

How: The first step in decreasing the violence in this community is to build trust between the residents living at Sangre de Cristo and members of the PVP Coalition: specifically, creating an atmosphere where residents can openly communicate with housing, police, and other community resources. To accomplish this, a small but engaged resident group was formed. This group meets weekly for coffee. Residents brainstorm, discuss ideas and decide what projects they would like to do. Their initial project is to collect toys to be distributed for Christmas 2016. The PVP Coalition will provide support for these efforts. Over the past four months, one or more residents have been participating in the monthly PVP Coalition meeting in addition to attending the smaller weekly meetings.

A community breakfast is in the works for the spring. Residents decided that community resources, with an emphasis on parenting resources and activities for children, will be a part of the spring breakfast event.
IOWA

Des Moines
Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines, Iowa

Focus: Youth Relationship Violence

Mercy Medical Center partnered with Chrysalis Foundation After School Programs to increase resiliency factors and knowledge skills of girls ages 12-18 about healthy relationships, thereby reducing violence in dating relationships.

Highlights: The program, called Girl Power, is based upon the Peaceful Pathways curriculum, which has been identified as a best practices program by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of Youth Violence. Specifically, the program helps young women build resiliency skills through promotion of: leadership skills, reinforcement of positive behaviors, knowledge of safe and appropriate dating behaviors and mentoring opportunities. One of the Girl Power peer mentors was recognized with the 2015 Polk County Resiliency Award for her leadership and example of perseverance, despite obstacles in her life. The post-program survey reflects that 93% of the participants answered positively that “I have control over the things that happen to me.”

How: The coalition identified through focus groups that a key to achieving success in reinforcing positive behaviors was through peer mentors. Peer mentors are recruited from high school sites based upon recommendations of school staff and girls who have previously attended Chrysalis After-School Programs. Each mentor signs a contract and attends required training. Peer mentors are assigned in pairs to each of the school sites. HerStory is an annual event which showcased various Girl Power activities and provided an opportunity for participants to share their learnings with parents and other adult role models. PhotoVoice has also been used to portray the challenges faced by the youth.
St. Catherine Hospital, Finney County Health Coalition, Garden City, Kansas

Focus: Family Violence

The coalition goal is to prevent and reduce family violence in identified neighborhoods. By 2020, the number of battery and domestic violence cases will be reduced by 3% each year for a total reduction of 20%.

Highlights: Over the last year there has been much improvement in the focus neighborhood. A 2014 report highlighted an increase in domestic violence events, but the intensification was most likely due to an increase in awareness. The data from 2015 shows that, within almost all of the measures, there are great improvements from last year and individuals are reporting a significant positive change from the baseline. Acceptance of violence in the focus neighborhood continues to be reduced, while the feeling of safety has increased. There are significant positive changes in the Burmese population, which had not improved as much as the general population in 2014.

How: By implementing programs like the Summer Learning Program, Neighborhood Learning Center Adult Education classes, Garden City Police Department Trust Building Events, Community Health Worker Program and the Neighborhood Wellness Series, the needs of the focus neighborhood continue to be met. The latest Violence Prevention survey suggests that this initiative is effective in addressing current and potential needs of the neighborhood, and therefore making a difference in the community.
KENTUCKY

Bardstown  Martin
Berea        Mount Sterling
Lexington    Nazareth
London       Shelbyville
Louisville
KentuckyOne Health Flaget Memorial Hospital, Violence Prevention Community Coalition of Nelson County, Bardstown, Kentucky

**Focus:** Youth Violence (bullying, sexual assault, dating violence)

Flaget Memorial Hospital has begun year one of a three-year violence prevention initiative by working with School Leadership Teams from Nelson County High School, Bardstown City High School, and Bethlehem Academy to identify and train 17% of students in the Green Dot strategy. The goal is to reduce the number of students who report being verbally threatened at school, the number of students who report unwanted sexual advances and/or sexual assaults, and the number of youth referred to courts or disciplined at school for acts of aggressive behavior by 15% by 2018.

**Highlights:** Monthly reporting has recently begun to capture qualitative and quantitative measures of school and community awareness strategies, and Green Dot student feedback. To date, several community awareness campaigns and student reports of the usage of the strategy have been documented. The initial rounds of identification and training have taken place with approximately 300 students, and ongoing training schedules have been negotiated and approved. Further, the baseline metrics from the Kentucky Incentive for Prevention (KIP) Survey for individual types of violence have been captured, but the outcomes measures will not be obtained until the end of the grant cycle.

**How:** The Green Dot initiative uses the power of peer influence to inspire, motivate, and train students and community members to be active bystanders through education and practice skills. School and community awareness campaigns have included art projects, participation in Safe Schools Week, local newspaper and radio coverage, posters, parent/teacher conferences and giveaways. Green Dot training for school staff and students are currently underway, and Green Dot Clubs have been established to encourage and facilitate the usage of practice skills in proactive and reactive contexts within each school.
KentuckyOne Health, Berea , Berea, Kentucky

Focus: Bullying (High School Youth)

Saint Joseph Berea has joined with the two local high schools, Madison Southern and Berea Community, with the goal of reducing all forms of power-based personal violence. Green Dot Etcetera is a partner organization, bringing a research-based curriculum and training to the schools to help create a culture that communicates that violence is not OK and will not be tolerated. The goals of this violence prevention initiative are to reduce the percentage of students who say that they have been affected by bullying, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault at school. By June 2018, the initiative intends to reduce the total number of students affected by power-based personal violence at both schools by 15% overall.

Highlights: The initiative is still in the first year of the grant and still in the process of laying some groundwork, but the possibilities look very promising. Training has been done with all teachers at both schools and there has been incredible buy-in, with many great ideas for tailoring the initiative to meet the needs of the individual schools. Teachers have also begun creating their own norms inside the classrooms to help promote the desired culture for the schools. The 50 students who have gone through the full six-hour training course have taken it upon themselves to be leaders in the school for this work and are already using their new skills to intervene in questionable situations.

How: An evidence-based program called Green Dot is being used to address the need for violence prevention in Berea. Green Dot is built on the premise that in order to measurably reduce power-based personal violence, a cultural shift is necessary. Training is occurring for 15% of the student population at each school in the first year, as a catalyst for the cultural shift. By the end of the grant, the goal is to have the schools integrating the Green Dot program into their curricula and everyday processes. This will create the cultural shift to nonviolence, and will equip students with skills to safely intervene in violent/potentially violent situations. Green Dot culture will be promoted at athletic events, community meetings, churches, and other venues throughout Berea.
KentuckyOne Health Saint Joseph Hospital/Saint Joseph East and the Winburn Community, Lexington, Kentucky

Focus: Youth Violence

Saint Joseph Hospital, Saint Joseph East and the Winburn Community Coalition approach youth violence prevention by focusing on youth development and welfare (elementary and middle school students). Specifically, the focus will be on reducing negative behavior events and violent events in the school setting, achieving a 15% reduction by summer 2018. The Behavior by Event school baseline data as well as the Kentucky Incentives for Prevention (KIP) survey (relating to violent behavior in middle schools) are used for baseline measures.

Highlights and How: The Winburn neighborhood, a racially diverse and economically challenged community is the focus area. By providing children with opportunities for academic, social-emotional (behavioral), and recreational learning, the community will divert youth from inappropriate and potentially violent situations.

Winburn Community Achievers (WCA), an after-school tutoring, mentoring, and enrichment activities program for students from kindergarten through middle school, is held four days a week during the school year. A University of Kentucky student serves as site coordinator along with volunteer tutors/mentors from the hospitals, the University of Kentucky (UK) and the broader community. In the 2015-16 school year, the program moved toward a 1:1 relationship between students and mentors to further enhance students’ sense of someone caring about them personally, as well as their success in school and life.

Winburn Kids on the Move (WKOTM) is a summer camp for children in kindergarten through middle school. In addition to reading, math and computer labs, enrichment activities included art, music and martial arts. The Living Arts & Science Center provided sessions on space and physics; UK Extension provided interactive food and nutrition sessions; and Lexington United Building Community Cooperative provided training on conflict resolution and team building. In summer 2015—the fourth camp—52 children were recruited, and the camp moved to the middle school, enhancing resources and adding school staff.
KentuckyOne Health St. Joseph Hospital and the Laurel County Violence Prevention Initiative Coalition, London, Kentucky

**Focus:** Infant and Child Abuse (ages 0-4)

The Nurturing Children Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) continues to reflect KentuckyOne’s ongoing commitment to underserved communities, having a significant positive impact by raising education and awareness of child safety. The project has increased collaboration with community partners and leaders who helped to identify infant/child abuse as an issue disproportionally impacting a highly vulnerable population in county and state comparisons. Rates of infant head trauma (i.e., Shaken Baby Syndrome) resulting in death and disability are among the highest in the nation, impacted by inordinate rates of substance abuse, which further compound the rates of child abuse. The coalition’s goal is to achieve a 15% reduction in the reported and substantiated number of abuse cases for infants and children (age 0-4) by 2016; and by 2020, to achieve a 25% reduction in this category.

**Highlights:** Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) training was administered to the two local middle school programs that offer certification in babysitting; 22 students completed this training. SBS training was provided to 12 daycare sites that had no prior knowledge or experience with this program. Of the 148 daycare workers who were trained, pre-test scores on knowledge of the issues were an average of 65%; post-test scores revealed 90-98%. SBS training was also provided to a local grandparents support group. The London Nurturing Children VPI has also incorporated an educational program offered to new mothers.

**How:** London is using a proactive, upstream approach to the initiative, focusing on ways to influence parents before critical issues arise. SBS education has been provided to children, health workers and in-home providers. Additionally, the initiative has raised public awareness through continued collaboration with the local newspapers by publishing monthly articles on issues and educational awareness for child abuse. The Nurturing Children initiative works with local partners and the school system to provide education and support to pregnant teens. Staff is now trained and ready to implement Nurturing Parenting curriculum in the local jail as well as offer these services on the OB floor of the local hospital. Ongoing efforts include fostering public and community education and awareness through partnerships with agencies supporting events dedicated to child abuse awareness.
KentuckyOne Health & PACT in Action, Louisville, Kentucky

Focus: Teen Dating Violence

PACT in Action, an initiative of KentuckyOne Health and the Center for Women and Families, is working to increase youth safety by reducing the incidence of teen dating violence in the neighborhoods in the 40210 zip code of Louisville. The goal is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence involving adults and youth by 10% by the year 2020.

Highlights: Over the past three years, PACT in Action has interacted with over 600 youth in and around the 40210 zip code. Over 100 individual service providers have been trained to recognize and respond to teen dating violence. PACT in Action youth were actively involved in the passing of a Kentucky state law that broadened the criteria for those who can seek protective orders if they have been a victim of intimate partner violence.

How: Using the Spectrum of Prevention, PACT in Action seeks to equip youth with the knowledge and skills necessary to support and lead efforts to reduce teen dating violence. Youth are trained in teen dating violence prevention, conflict resolution and community engagement. The Youth Advisory Board has the responsibility for developing programs to address teen dating violence in their community, creating and implementing public awareness campaigns, and identifying and advocating for policy change as it relates to their community and teen dating violence. PACT in Action has trained service providers in the neighborhoods to recognize and respond to teen dating violence and has provided youth groups in and around 40210 with an education toolkit to implement their own programming. The PACT in Action Youth Advisory Board also conducted environment assessments in three major neighborhoods and are advocating for policy changes contributing to violence prevention based on those results.
**KentuckyOne Health, St. Joseph Hospital, Martin, Kentucky**

**Focus: Bullying (school-age)**

Saint Joseph Martin partnered with Mountain Comprehensive Care to bring the evidence-based Green Dot program to the four public high schools in Floyd County. The goals include reducing incidences of physical threat and attack, unwanted sexual advances or sexual assault, and verbal threats; equipping youth with skills/knowledge to identify and prevent aggressive acts (bullying, fighting); and educating and engaging the community to make civility a social norm.

The specific long-term goals for reduction are:

- Reduce the number of students who report being physically threatened, attacked or hurt at school by 5% by June 30, 2018.
- Decrease the number of students who report being verbally threatened at school in the past year by 5% by June 30, 2018.
- Reduce the number of students who report that someone “made unwanted sexual advances or attempted to sexually assault them at school” by 5% by June 30, 2018.
- Decrease the number of youth referred to the court (or disciplined by the school) for acts of aggressive behavior by 5% by June 30, 2018.

**Highlights:** Work began with the schools in the fall of 2015, and the program facilitator has received support to begin bystander training. Students have been very receptive about Green Dot and are discussing what Green Dots look like in their school.

**How:** Presentations (Green Dot Overview Speeches) have already been conducted at two high schools, and are scheduled and/or occurring at additional two high schools. Every student enrolled in Floyd County High Schools will receive the overview speech explaining Green Dot. During this presentation the students learn strategies and ways to help themselves and others when they see violence happening. Presentations have also been conducted at a few events, including Parent Night. Once the overview speeches have been completed, bystander training will be scheduled. This will be a six-hour, more in-depth training.
Focus: Bullying (school-age)

The Montgomery County Violence Prevention Grant Project seeks to address the serious issue of bullying within the schools of Montgomery County. In a recent survey, 14.1% of students reported being bullied on campus. The main goal of the initiative is to reduce the number of students reporting having been bullied on campus by 15% by May 2018. The project will engage the school district and numerous community partners, including the faith community, law enforcement and social service agencies, to create a culture of acceptance and civility in the Montgomery County School District. The framework is in place for the grant’s goals to be achieved or surpassed.

Highlights: In February, 37 students at Montgomery County High School completed Safe School Ambassadors training. Ambassadors are trained to be upstanders rather than bystanders when bullying situations occur. These students will continue to meet with adult mentors through the duration of their participation in the program. McNabb Middle School will train another 40 students in April 2016. In addition, grant staff recently convened a community coalition meeting in an effort to maintain the collaborative nature of the program.

How: Many bullying reduction measures focus heavily on policy and rules change, but the Montgomery County project has chosen to approach the problem differently by implementing the Safe School Ambassadors program. This evidence-based program empowers students to create behavioral norms within their respective schools, which lends a sense of ownership that simple rule changes do not offer. Adults in a school district create rules and consequences, but the students create the behavioral norms in daily school life, and the Safe School Ambassadors program trains students in bullying intervention skills that will aid in creating a culture of acceptance and civility within the schools of Montgomery County.
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCN) and the Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF) of Nelson County, Nazareth, Kentucky

Focus: Human Trafficking

HTTF of Nelson County began with the vision of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, who recognized human trafficking as a significant and growing problem in their region and state. With one overarching goal—educating the community and raising awareness—HTTF began with three objectives: build collaboration with community stakeholders, develop a large-scale regional public education event in partnership with KentuckyOne Health, and train professionals likely to deal with cases of human trafficking in victim identification and appropriate response. The ultimate goal is to increase focus that will lead to victim recognition, enhanced victim services and resources, and prosecution of perpetrators.

Highlights and How: The momentum of this initiative has been extraordinary and after only two years of grant funding, HTTF is completely self-sustaining, requiring no more funding from CHI. In the first two years, the HTTF coalition conducted more than 15 major training events for professionals and dozens more community education events, including a conference that featured a guest speaker who is a survivor of human trafficking. The community and professional training, in concert with a visible and active task force, cultivated state-wide recognition and the attention of government agencies. The activism from the coalition ultimately became a force in the passage of KY House Bill 3 in 2013—a bill recognized at the time as one of the most comprehensive pieces of anti-human trafficking legislation in the U.S. The coalition continues today, building on the solid foundation that began with the vision of SCN.
KentuckyOne Health Jewish Hospital Shelbyville, Shelby County Community Coalition, Shelbyville, Kentucky

Focus: Youth Violence (bullying)

Jewish Hospital Shelbyville has partnered with Shelby County Public Schools to implement the Green Dot violence prevention strategy at the high school level. The two high schools in Shelby County have around 2,400 total students, and 17.5% of those students reported being bullied in the past year. A goal was set to reduce that rate by 5% per year for three years, or by 15% by June 30, 2018.

Highlights: The quantitative results of the prevention efforts are yet to be measured. However, with several community education and awareness events and hundreds of students trained, a solid foundation has been set in the first year of grant funding.

How: In the first few months of the initiative, the project coordinator and several school faculty members were trained to implement the Green Dot high school strategy. An overview of the Green Dot strategy was provided to the faculty of each of the two high schools, and a poster was hung in every classroom to establish awareness and visibility for the program. Surveys were conducted among the students to identify influence leaders in the school, and those students were invited to attend Green Dot bystander training. The first two training sessions were hosted in November 2015. In addition, the Green Dot curriculum was implemented in the ninth grade health classes. In all, over 400 students have been through the Green Dot bystander training curriculum. In addition to this, an overview of the Green Dot program was presented to several community organizations, and the initiative had a presence at various community events throughout the year.
MINNESOTA

Baudette

Breckenridge

Little Falls (Franciscan Sisters)

Little Falls (CHI St. Gabriel’s Health)

Park Rapids
CHI LakeWood Health Center, Baudette, MN

Focus: Family Violence

CHI LakeWood Health continues to partner with local agencies to research the connection of drug and alcohol abuse to violence in our community. Efforts focus on encouraging community members to engage, communicate and support one another. Members of CHI LakeWood Health participate in events geared towards bringing young families together, and the organization provides resources to the local social service agency and the Lake of the Woods Prevention Coalition. Both groups work and meet regularly on child protection, adult protection and educating youth in the community about underage drinking. Confirmed cases of violence are tracked to help show the impact of our community’s work.

Highlights and How: The Lake of the Woods Prevention Coalition empowers youth through a student club, and the use of social and commercial media to raise awareness about underage drinking. Families are supported through early childhood events, and public health offers home visits to provide parenting education and support to new families. Meetings that focus on child protection and adult protection also help to keep area professionals connected, engaged and aware of the needs of our community.
CHI St. Francis Health, Violence Prevention Task Force, Breckenridge, Minnesota)

Focus: Child Abuse and/or Neglect

CHI St. Francis Health and the Violence Prevention Task Force are working to reduce the incidence of child abuse/neglect in Richland County, ND, and Wilkin County, MN, by 15% by 2017. Reduction efforts include a universal family visitation program for families who give birth to new babies in the two counties, as well as a parent mentoring program that matches inexperienced parents with mentors who have a proven track record of utilizing good parenting skills.

Highlights: During the first six months of this year, the family visitation coordinator has had a 98% acceptance rate for parents who are willing to have her visit with them and share information. Both county social service agencies often refer parents to the program whether or not the child was born at St. Francis. The parent mentoring program has made three matches since October.

How: The family visitation coordinator conducts an initial in-hospital visit to introduce the program, followed by at-home visits to determine if the family has any needs. The family visitation coordinator has established a working relationship with the early childhood resources in our community. Therefore, when a need is identified, the coordinator can make a referral to the appropriate resource. She often accompanies the parent(s) to ease their concerns and apprehensions. The second phase of the program is parent mentoring. When a parent is identified who does not have adequate resources to assist them within their own family, an experienced parent is selected to accompany them and to help them build their parenting skills. The parent mentoring coordinator recruits the mentors and provides basic orientation and training in the program before any matches are made. Area agencies, ministerial resources, and the family visitation program are referral sources for the mentees. Both the mentee and the mentor have to agree to the match before it is made. Often, this involves a year-long commitment that can be renewed annually.
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Little Falls, Minnesota

Focus: Youth Violence Prevention, Anti-Bullying and Unsafe Youth Behavior

The URock Against Violence program is working to reduce the incidence of youth crime, bullying, substance use and other unsafe youth behavior in Morrison County, MN. Reduction efforts include a variety of services centered around music and the St. Francis Music Center in Little Falls. Youth are nurtured through an extracurricular music program (URock) to increase resilience and build healthy behaviors.

Highlights: With youth rates of alcohol use/abuse higher than the state averages, and parental involvement below state averages, the URock program goal is to increase after school participation in music by 20%. Over 60 youth are involved in extracurricular healthy activities. Seven youth performance groups provide for community-wide performance opportunities.

How: Through high-quality music instruction and band coaching for teens, URock Against Violence provides a positive, productive after school activity for teens and families that might otherwise lack access to musical opportunities in this rural setting. It also provides an extracurricular opportunity for youth not involved in more traditional after school offerings (e.g., sports). The teens remain committed because they are engaged in musical styles and opportunities that are personally meaningful.

A summer music camp promotes violence prevention through media literacy and critical analysis of the use of violence, alcohol and sexuality in song lyrics and other media messages, and youth have opportunities to advance learning through practical problem solving skills with their bands/peers.

Once a month, live music events provide a safe, positive environment for youth and their families as an alternative to unsafe/unhealthy behaviors. Local mental health service providers access URock as a resource to supplement existing treatment plans for youth candidates; parents participate in activities and the success of their children; and kids benefit by growing as young musicians and healthy, confident individuals.
CHI St. Gabriel’s Health/St. Gabriel’s Hospital, Violence Prevention Council of Morrison County, Little Falls, Minnesota

Focus: Partner Violence (Domestic Violence) and Bullying

By June 30, 2017, the number of domestic assaults in Morrison County will be reduced by 10%; Orders for Protection issued in Morrison County will be reduced by 5%; and the number of violations of Orders for Protection will be reduced by 10%. Prevention strategies are used to: a) strengthen individual skills, b) provide community education, c) educate providers, d) foster coalitions, e) change organizational practices, and f) influence public policy and legislation. This initiative has been active since 2009, and has met original goals.

Highlights: In the first three years, there has been significant progress on meeting measures of reducing domestic assaults, Orders for Protection issued and violations of Orders for Protection. The success led to recognition of the Violence Prevention Council as the Rural Health Team of the Year in Minnesota in 2012. Domestic assaults went from 62 charges in the baseline year (2009) to 40 in 2010. While there has been a gradual climb in rates since 2010, there is an overall 15% decrease in violent domestic events since the initiative began—a decrease that still exceeds our initial goals.

How: Multiple strategies have been employed, including a variety of special events and partnerships, education and awareness strategies to reduce partner violence and, more recently, bullying, which was added to our goals in 2014. Partnerships have been forged with area schools to promote violence prevention awareness, including holding dramatic presentations like The Yellow Dress and Remote Control for high school students throughout the county. Kindness Retreats have been conducted at all elementary schools in the county to increase resiliency factors related to bullying and forms of violence. The local semi-pro hockey team and area high school football and volleyball programs have collaborated to draw attention to the issue of domestic violence and teen dating violence. Many small and large group presentations have been made to students and providers on violence issues such as Adverse Childhood Experiences, building resiliency in youth, and domestic violence warning signs and interventions.
**CHI St. Joseph’s Health, Park Rapids, Minnesota**

**Focus: Relational Aggression through Bullying**

“Bullying is a huge problem within our world,” says Dana Kocka, an educator in the Park Rapids After-School Program facilitated by CHI St. Joseph’s Health and the community coalition. Statistics show that bullying occurs throughout all stages of life, but people often think of bullying only with regard to the adolescent years. Kocka facilitates the violence prevention goal of not only preventing bullying from happening, but also providing skills to communicate, cope, and make better decisions for the most at-risk students in fifth and sixth grades at Century Middle School in Park Rapids. By the year 2017, bullying will be reduced among fifth grade students by 20%.

**Highlights:** At the beginning of the violence prevention programming, the 2007 Minnesota Student Survey for Hubbard County Schools documented that 56% of sixth grade students reported that they had been teased or excluded at school, being bullied “every day to once or twice a week.” In 2013, the Minnesota Student Survey asked the same question of fifth grade students, and 42.5% reported they had been teased or excluded at school, being bullied every day to once or twice a week.

**How:** All three Hubbard County schools have implemented the Second Step program, a research-based middle school curriculum, which teaches empathy, communication, emotion management, and problem solving. This past year, Kocka engaged Community Blueprint to bring a PhotoVoice initiative to the students. PhotoVoice engaged the students to tell their anti-bullying story through photography. The students were trained to use photography to document their struggles and successes of their community in facing this social issue. Kocka notes, “It is important to help our youth realize they can make a difference.”
NEBRASKA

Grand Island
Kearney
Nebraska City
Omaha (CHI Health)
Omaha (Sisters of Mercy Midwest)

Initiative in development: Lincoln
CHI Health St. Francis, Grand Island, Nebraska

Focus: Youth Violence Prevention

CHI Health St. Francis has partnered with Grand Island Public Schools, the Grand Island Police Department and the Hall County Community Collaborative to reduce gang-related violence and recruitment of youth ages 12-14. Each year the evidence-based program provides after-school activities for about 60 middle school students to increase resiliency factors and increase conflict behavior and other interpersonal skills. During the first three years of the program, 74.5% of 196 youths completed the curriculum.

Highlights: Juvenile arrests for youth have declined 36.6% from 857 per 1,000 people in 2011 to 543 in 2014. Among youth that successfully complete SANKOFA each year, 80% are able to stay in school, maintain passing grades, improve attendance and stay out of legal and school trouble. SANKOFA is an African word that means to look backward (to roots and heritage) in order to move forward. Though developed for African American youth, the program has been successful in all cultures, including the 57.3% minority population in the Grand Island Public School system.

How: Each semester, two trained facilitators work with 10-12 students at three middle schools to address conflict, violence and decision-making. The program uses interactive discussions, video clips, modeling, behavioral rehearsal, talking circles, experiential exercises and games and peer-directed learning toward the development of situational awareness, connectedness, improved conduct, commitment, and skill sets to cope with peer pressure. In addition, the Grand Island Police Gang Task Force uses data-based methodology to track gangs and provides school resource officers in all three middle schools and the high school.
CHI Health Good Samaritan and Buffalo County Community Partners, Buffalo County, Nebraska

**Focus:** Youth Violence Prevention

CHI Health Good Samaritan and Buffalo County Community Partners are working “upstream” to help youth in the identified service area reach their goals of becoming successful and happy adults. Progress is being measured using survey results reflecting the number of youth involved in a physical fight and the number of youth who experience cyberbullying. The goal is to achieve a 20% reduction in the reported incidence of these behaviors by 2020.

**Highlights:** In one year, the initiative achieved a 3% decline among girls and a 2% decline among boys in reports of being involved in physical fights, and a 2.8% decline in reports of cyberbullying.

**How:** The community coalition is using a multifaceted strategy that addresses youth violence at every age in order to achieve long-term positive change. Second Step social/emotional learning curriculum is being implemented among public schools and community-based child development centers. The Friends Program, a peer mentoring program in which older students help young students build positive connections in their schools and communities is being implemented and expanded. Through trauma-informed care training, school administrators and teachers are being coached to learn to go “beyond consequences” to help students learn behaviors that will help them to become happier and more successful.

A PhotoVoice project helped middle- and high school-aged students learn to creatively and constructively express and share their ideas and better connect with adults and the community. The Picturing Peace project communicates the violence prevention message to the larger community and helps adults to share their vision of a community without violence.

Picture from Youth PhotoVoice Project
Caption: “We don’t notice the beauty because we’re too busy trying to create it.”
**chi health st. mary’s and the otoe county community coalition, nebraska city, nebraska**

**focus: youth violence**

In addressing youth violence, CHI Health St. Mary’s and its community coalition are focusing on reducing reports of bullying, assault and “attacking to harm.” The identified population is youth ages 10—17 years, and the coalition has set a 2020 goal to reduce the identified areas of violence by 20% in Otoe County. By 2014, their goal was to achieve a 10% reduction, which would have been a solid demonstration of the efficacy of their efforts. Instead, they have surpassed not only their 2014 goal, but their 2020 goal as well.

**highlights:** In four years, reports of physical aggression or “attacking to harm” were reduced by 63%. Juvenile arrests for assault decreased by 51%, and incidences of school violence decreased by 74%. Extracurricular activity participation increased by 51%, and engaged community leadership increased from a baseline of 37 to 550 community leaders, and 8,700 households.

**how:** with an extensive group of stakeholders, the community first embarked on a community-wide violence prevention campaign focusing on 10 key messages. Using community awareness events, yard signs, wrist bands, teacher notepads, notecards, school banners and billboards, the coalition saturated the community with powerful messages, including “Anger is normal; Violence is not.” In addition, the Second Step curriculum has been implemented in four school districts, and efforts to increase extracurricular participation have resulted in the development of new clubs, mentoring opportunities, intramural basketball, X-Box tournaments, and arts and crafts events.
CHI Health, the Women’s Center for Advancement (WCA) and Creighton University (CU), Omaha, Nebraska

Focus: Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault

The community violence prevention initiative focuses on prevention in higher education. A 2012 survey of Creighton students found that 15.78% of students experienced partner violence, and 8.55% experienced sexual assault while attending the university. By 2020, the goal is to reduce self-reported incidents of sexual assault and intimate partner violence (power-based personal violence) by 20% as compared to baseline.

Highlights: Since the start of the 2015 fall semester, violence prevention messages have reached a total of 2,575 students—approximately half of CU’s undergraduate student population. In addition, 186 students and 68 staff have become certified Green Dot active bystanders during this year. This adds to the 417 students trained in the previous three years of grant implementation.

How: Project partners work to implement the evidence-based Green Dot program on Creighton’s campus. The Green Dot program teaches active bystander skills that give individuals the tools to safely intervene in potential acts of violence. Participants can become certified active bystanders by participating in the full, four-hour bystander training. Green Dot also encourages the use of social marketing messages, such as promoting Green Dot at campus events, spreading Green Dot messages on social media, and other awareness campaigns. These efforts help to raise awareness of intimate partner violence and sexual assault, and engage the campus community in a conversation about violence prevention.
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community, Omaha, Nebraska

Focus: Human Trafficking

The Sisters of Mercy will address human trafficking through education and awareness building; encouraging active involvement in advocacy, especially legislative advocacy at the state and federal level; supporting and encouraging those providing direct service to victims and survivors; and reducing demand by actions taken through education and advocacy. The initiative will also work to develop a corporate statement on human trafficking that will be presented to the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas membership for approval and implementation.

Highlights and How: Information has been sent for inclusion in parish bulletins that contained an offer to present; collaborated (planning/presentation) on a day-long workshop for a free health clinic; ongoing engagement in email campaigns that provide education, seek advocacy on legislative alerts, and provide notice of important meetings/events; met with two groups of Mercy Associates; presented in parishes and to her faith groups; and continue contributions for the U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking’s (USCSAHT) educational resource work group.

Participation in a day-long event at the Missouri State Capitol directed at legislators and/or their staff was also an excellent networking opportunity; contributing to the next issue of the Missouri Catholic Conference of Bishops quarterly newsletter; continue to participate in the USCSAHT’s legislative advocacy group; track federal and state legislation; and participated in two lobby days “to the Hill” in Washington, D.C.

Met with the Tri-State Coalition in Dubuque, IA (women religious—communities in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin), two non-profits serving victims, and with new staff person from Diocesan Human Rights Office; assisted two organizations in producing printed materials; responded to various individuals requesting information/assistance (including connecting with local stakeholders); participating with collaborators from Mercy (Medical Center) in Joplin, MO, to plan a major forum; interviewed by WXAV (at St. Xavier University, Chicago); collaborating with Alliance for Life in developing a day-long, state-wide educational session that will meet in Jefferson City, MO.
NORTH DAKOTA

Carrington

Devils Lake

Dickinson

Lisbon

Oakes

Valley City

Williston
Focus: Intimate Partner Violence

North Dakota’s Violence Prevention Program works toward preventing intimate partner violence by building community and organizational capacity and by educating potential victims. The program hopes to achieve a sizeable reduction in domestic violence-related incidents in communities served. Specifically, 2020 goals include:

- A 25% reduction in domestic dispute incidents in Carrington, ND.
- A 20% reduction in domestic violence-related assaults in Devils Lake, ND.
- A 20% reduction in domestic violence-related assaults in Dickinson, ND.
- A 30% reduction in domestic dispute police calls in Lisbon, ND.
- A 25% reduction in domestic dispute police calls in Oakes, ND.
- A 20% reduction in domestic violence-related assaults in Valley City, ND.
- A 20% reduction in domestic violence-related assaults in Williston, ND.

Highlights:

North Dakota’s Violence Prevention Program is working toward thwarting intimate partner violence (IPV) using a dynamic approach. By addressing IPV on an individual and systemic level, the program hopes to create a dramatic reduction in the occurrence of intimate partner violence in communities across the state.

First, the program focuses on building community and organizational capacity by enhancing referral networks and increasing awareness of IPV, but also by teaching local community outreach leaders how to train professionals, in many fields, to incorporate IPV prevention...
Highlights (cont.):

efforts into their existing work. Community outreach leaders are trained annually and, in-turn, offer trainings geared toward professionals in their communities throughout the year.

Second, North Dakota’s Violence Prevention Program educates individuals throughout the community on intimate partner violence prevention. This occurs by training local facilitators in Within My Reach, an evidence-based curriculum that promotes developing healthy relationships and decision-making skills. In turn, local Within My Reach facilitators use this scholastic material to teach useful skills that enhance relationships and mitigate instances of violence to individuals in their communities throughout the year.

How:

Fulfilling the program’s first goal of increasing the impact of intimate partner violence prevention work by building community and organizational capacity will be achieved using a variety of activities. The program held its first annual IPV Summit in March of 2016. This event gathered violence prevention coordinators, local violence prevention coalition members, service providers, facilitators and interested parties to learn about and address the issue.

In conjunction with the IPV Summit, the program will be hosting a Train the Trainer workshop that will teach local community outreach leaders how to educate professionals. These newly educated individuals will be offering community outreach workshops starting in the spring of 2016. Local community outreach training will focus on expanding IPV knowledge, prevention techniques, screening tools and referral procedures. Training content was developed in partnership with the North Dakota Council on Abused Women’s Services and Futures Without Violence.

The program’s second goal of increasing the impact of IPV prevention work by teaching potential victims will be achieved by establishing a system of evidence-based education. In April 2016, the program hosted its first Train the Trainer event to teach local facilitators how to educate at-risk populations. The resulting Within My Reach workshops will be available in each community, tailored for each audience. This healthy relationship programming is designed for adults who are either single or in relationships and is applicable across genders, ages and socio-economic spectrums. The curriculum is comprised of 15 units, each requiring one hour of teaching time. Units can be taught a la carte or can be all-encompassing.
OHIO

Columbus

Dayton
Dominican Sisters of Peace and the Franklin County Coalition, Columbus, Ohio

Focus: Multiple Areas of Violence in an Identified Immigrant Community

The Dominican Sisters of Peace and their community coalition work to address a pervasive problem with violence in a trailer park community housing approximately 250 families. Of the families in this community, 90% have experienced some form of violence; 70% have experienced gun violence or gang activity; 80% have experienced domestic violence and bullying, including youth-to-youth bullying as well as adult family-to-family bullying. For each area of violence, the coalition set lofty goals for reduction and has successfully met, exceeded or is on track to meet each goal – all within three years of working in and with the community.

Highlights: 80% of the trailer park residents report a reduction in experienced violence, including gang activity and gun violence. Violence against women and children has been reduced by 15%; youth bullying by 72%; and 80% of adults report reduced family-to-family bullying.

How: Recognizing that root causes revolved around individual and community low self-esteem and feelings of disempowerment, the coalition focuses on positive activities to build leadership skills, increase health and wellness, provide for a safe physical environment, and empower residents to become individual, family and community advocates. Through meetings and workshops focusing on multiple topics, including positive police-community relationships and immigration rights, residents have been emboldened to reclaim their community from the negative influences of gang activity and to build positive social constructs that support the long-term health of their community.
Good Samaritan Behavioral Health and the United Against Violence of Greater Dayton Coalition (UAVGD), Dayton, Ohio

Focus: Neighborhood Violence

United Against Violence of Greater Dayton (UAVGD) has taken a comprehensive approach to addressing multiple areas of violence, recognizing that focusing across the continuum is essential to the overall health and well-being of the community. Through the formation of various councils, UAVGD is able to work with schools, families, individuals and local organizations to implement prevention strategies that are unique to each group, while being collectively meaningful to the creation of a culture of neighborhood nonviolence. Stakeholders include 80 organizations and individuals, working toward the goal of a 10% reduction in violent crimes in designated neighborhoods over three years.

Highlights: Of the four neighborhoods identified, UAVGD exceeded the reduction goal of 10% (over three years) for violent crimes (including murder, robbery and aggravated assault) in three neighborhoods and nearly met the goal in the fourth. Violent crimes were reduced in Harrison Township by 21%; in Trotwood by 9%; in North Riverdale by 33%; and in Westwood by 21%.

How: With a strong youth focus, UAVGD looks toward long-term prevention by emphasizing early intervention for this vulnerable population. A few of the youth-focused activities include the implementation of evidence-based curricula (Second Step) in Dayton schools, and active dialogue to promote positive youth-police relationships. Both initiatives build positive social-emotional skills, serving to change the community culture for the next generation. In addition, classes, workshops, events, mailings, signage, billboards and printed materials educate the greater community about multiple issues of violence and raise awareness around prevention.
“We want to bring awareness to our community about child abuse, bullying and substance abuse. It affects us every day and we want our towns to be full of healthy and happy people of all ages.”  - Up2UsNow Youth, Roseburg, OR

OREGON

Roseburg

Initiative in development: Pendleton
Mercy Foundation and the Douglas County Community Coalition, Roseburg, Oregon

Focus: Child Abuse and Neglect

Mercy Foundation uses a comprehensive approach to prevent child abuse and neglect, focusing on education and support across the socio-ecological spectrum. Involving youth, parents/caregivers, schools, health professionals and community members, the coalition is comprised of more than 30 individual and organization members, providing for a rich base of expertise and engagement. The coalition tracks confirmed and suspected cases of child abuse. Its goal is to reduce confirmed cases 5% by 2015, and to reduce suspected cases that are ultimately confirmed 5% by 2015.

Highlights: Since the initiative began in 2010, confirmed and suspected cases of child abuse have been reduced by 32%. Confirmed cases have reduced by 24%. Specific reductions in abuse include: mental health/emotional by 100%; neglect by 42%; physical by 36%; sexual by 65%; and threat of harm by 43%.

How: Mercy Foundation and the community coalition work directly with youth, bringing violence prevention education and healthy relationship classes to local schools. Additionally, they support a youth media project that empowers youth to act as advocates for their peers using the tools of social and commercial media. Families are supported through parental skill-building classes and home health education for families with newborns (including Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness). An interagency information exchange for service providers has been implemented, facilitating crucial communication that can aid in preventing abuse before it escalates.
SOUTH DAKOTA

Watertown
Benedictine Sisters of Mother of God Monastery, Watertown, South Dakota

**Focus: Sex Trafficking**

The Watertown Initiative to Prevent Sex Trafficking (WIPST) and their coalition of stakeholders work to build a healthier community through sex trafficking prevention. A multi-level framework guides the overarching goal to educate the community on how to recognize sex trafficking and report it to the appropriate authorities. The focus includes reaching individuals, community groups, and service providers, as well as organizations including hotels, dairy farms, and truck stops. Networking and collaboration-building play a large role, in addition to partnering with legislators to strengthen South Dakota laws on human trafficking. The initiative goals include: 80% of individuals and 95% of providers know the signs and can report trafficking after a WIPST training; 90% of coalition members attend quarterly meetings; legislative collaboration results in strengthened anti-trafficking laws; and one community group presentation scheduled, per month.

**Highlights and How:** WIPST has achieved success on its objectives in the first six months of funding. As part of a communications plan to raise individual awareness, over 700 wallet cards were distributed to 26 locations during the hunting season to alert hunters to the signs of trafficking and provide the national hotline number—a novel effort. Also, a partnership with Truckers Against Trafficking resulted in WIPST distributing over 300 prevention resources to three area truck stops. A strong community coalition was formed with 12 key organizations and representatives from local, state, and federal political bodies to foster networks and collaboration. The initiative now funds an anti-trafficking billboard which increases awareness on a major Highway in South Dakota. Collaboration with our district’s state senator will result in a package of anti-trafficking bills introduced in the 2016 South Dakota legislative session. WIPST has disseminated information to over 400 individuals through nine presentations to students and community groups and hosted a sex trafficking survivor who shared her story at a large community event in April 2016.
TENNESSEE

Chattanooga
United Against Violence in Hamilton County

CHI Memorial Chattanooga, Tennessee

Focus: Teen Dating Violence

The goal is to achieve a 3% reduction in teen dating violence by 2015 and a 5% reduction by 2017 in responses to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) question indicating abuse for participating students in three selected Hamilton County Schools.

Highlights: As measured by post-surveys conducted in May 2015, the initiative has achieved a 4.36% reduction in the focus group thus far.

How: The Teen Dating Violence on-line curriculum was created for our project by the University of Tennessee Chattanooga Criminal Justice Department. Through this partnership, a student on-line curriculum has been implemented in three high schools. Since 2015, teens can also access the curriculum at their youth/family development center and at one of the area’s largest inner city churches.

A local criminal justice judge was recruited as the Community Champion for this initiative and is speaking with students at all active sites about her personal experience with dating violence. A dating violence survivor has also been recruited to assist at the school level. To further expand the curriculum, this young survivor has just completed lesson plans for use in rural areas where computer access challenges the program’s implementation. This step-by-step information is highly user-friendly, which facilitates sharing with the greater community. A staff on-line curriculum has also been designed and will be shared with all sites this winter.

The national NoMore brand has become a focal point for each site’s social media and marketing campaigns, and it is also showing up on t-shirts, posters, signs and other forms of promotional materials. Limitations on the use of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, are common within the guidelines of each site, but other forms of advertising (as detailed above) are prominent. School and student projects are also evolving as our teen advisory boards at each site lead by example and enthusiasm. Plans are now being solidified for full adoption of the program by all active sites at the conclusion of this grant project, which is scheduled for June 2017.
TEXAS

The Woodlands

Initiatives in development: Houston and Sugarland
Focus: Teen Dating Violence

The Violence Prevention Team is utilizing a comprehensive approach to prevent teen dating violence, focusing on education and support across the socio-ecological spectrum. Involving students, parents/caregivers, schools, health professionals and community members, the prevention team is comprised of more than 30 individual and organizational members, providing for a rich base of expertise and engagement.

The Violence Prevention Team goal is to reduce teen dating violence by 5% in College Park High School and Caney Creek High School, and to impact social norms that prevent youth, parents, teachers, and school administrations from discussing dating violence. This will be done through active dialogue and resource sharing throughout the community.

Highlights: Teen dating violence is occurring at epidemic rates and The Woodlands, a suburb in North Houston, is no exception. A 2013 survey conducted by the Texas Council on Family Violence reported that 75% of Texas youth (ages 16-24) personally experienced or knew someone who had experienced dating violence. Moreover, one in three students in The Woodlands area report experiencing dating violence. Of those students, 60% did not ask for help/assistance from parents, teachers, school administration or school and community resources. Consequences of unhealthy, abusive, or violent relationships can be severe and can include: depression/anxiety, engaging in unhealthy behaviors (tobacco, alcohol and drug use), antisocial behaviors, suicidal ideation and elevated risk for victimization later in life.

How: Through increasing and enhancing the dialogue, the initiative will begin the foundational steps of prevention. Starting the Conversation, the initiative’s first event, was held in February 2016 for students, parents/caregivers and community members. The event allowed community members, parents and teens to participate in interactive seminars to help build skills for talking about healthy relationships in the classroom as well as in the family. Seminars included an overview of Teen Dating Violence, Tips for Talking to Teens about Dating/Relationships, and Skill Building for Healthier Communication with Teens. The event concluded with a Community Resource Fair with giveaways and community information.
WASHINGTON

Tacoma
CHI Franciscan Health and the Federal Way, Key Peninsula and Des Moines Community Coalitions, Tacoma, Washington

Focus: Youth Violence Prevention

The CHI Franciscan Health Youth Violence Prevention Initiative works to prevent youth violence in three communities, including Federal Way, Key Peninsula, and most recently Des Moines (WA). The Initiative focuses on reducing school suspensions and expulsions for risky and violent behaviors, viewing this measurement as a primary indicator of a greater problem.

Highlights: Expulsions and suspensions in Federal Way Public Schools decreased by 28% in two years, surpassing the reduction goal of 15% in five years. Federal Way middle schools saw a 23% decrease in expulsions and suspensions. The Peninsula School District saw a 74% reduction over four years in expulsions and suspensions (specifically for violence, fighting, and drugs/alcohol abuse), far exceeding their 20% reduction goal.

How: Through actions that involve youth, parents, mentors, schools and community groups, they approach violence prevention using multiple media that support unique, community-driven solutions. To provide positive and active opportunities in safe spaces, they have created community gardens, built soccer fields and developed after-school clubs. In addition, they have implemented evidence-informed programs in the schools, including Second Step for social-emotional development, and the Girls Circle program to aid girls in transitioning from middle to high school. The initiative also helped launch the district-wide “Every Day Counts” campaign in Federal Way, benefiting the schools, the community and the youth in the promotion of school attendance.
United Against Violence,

CHI is preventing violence in 45 communities across the nation... and we are only just beginning!
United Against Violence

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