

EARLY INTERVENTION & PREVENTION

2013 has been a busy year for the EIP Initiative! Community efforts, such as the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives, Marion County Systems of Care Collaborative, and the Near West Quality of Life plan development and implementation, have been the focus of EIP efforts this year to reduce the number of families in our community impacted by child abuse, neglect and delinquency.

In an effort to build the capacity of the EIP Initiative, the Marion County office of Department of Child Services provided funding to the Children's Bureau to hire an EIP Training Coordinator to focus on growing Stewards of Children, hosting Race for Resources, and developing delinquency prevention efforts. Heather Wildrick-Holman started her position November 2013.

She is eager to coordinate Stewards of Children trainings in 2014 to

continue to increase the number of adults (1,445 to date) in Marion County who are better able to protect children from sexual abuse. Please contact her at (317)891-1495, ex 607 or hwholman@childrensbureau.org to schedule your training.

We launched the "Our Kids, Our Families, Our Communities" show on the Government station TV-2. The show airs monthly and focuses on various child, youth, and family issues and resources available in our community to build protective factors to keep families healthy and whole. 2013 shows can be viewed through MCCOY's YouTube Channel.

Topics for 2014 include:

- Financial Wellness
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness
- Safe Sleeping
- Child Abuse Prevention
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Importance of Fathers
- Back to School/Out of School Activities
- Alcohol/Drug Addiction Prevention
- Crime Prevention

Board of Directors

Officers:

- Evan Thomas - Chairperson
- Cindy Muse- Vice Chairperson
- Liz Belcher - Treasurer
- Kelly Doria - Secretary

Leadership:

- Dr. A.J. Allen -Advocacy
- Steve Rake - Fund Development
- Jayna Cacioppo - Art of Youth
- Stephanie Cripe- Communications

At-Large Members:

- Babulal Banthia
- Melissa Gardner
- John Girton, Jr.
- Abraham Gonzalez (student)
- Genie Goykhberg
- Caitlin Hannon
- Eric Kilbride
- Kenneth Lacy
- Mariana Lagunas (student)
- Ivy McConnell
- Olivia Spahn
- Brandon Smith
- George Taylor
- James Todd

The Real MCCOY



Winter 2014

Volume 3, Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Every new year is filled with promise, opportunity, and optimism that the next 365 days will be better than the ones before. At MCCOY, we are thinking about all the ways that we can help our community and its youth services providers do an even better job at helping all our young people grow into positive, productive, and contributing citizens. We have some key efforts we will be focused on this year:

- Establishing the co-located services center for families and children who are at risk of entering either the child welfare or juvenile justice system
- Providing powerful training sessions that build the knowledge and skills of front-line youth workers
- Educating our policy makers about ways to keep children safe before, during, and after school
- Strengthening the summer programs that help young people learn and experience new things during their break from school



President John Brandon accepts an award in honor of his 20 significant years as MCCOY's leader.

We can't, and don't, do this work alone---positive youth development is a partnership of thousands of individuals and organizations who believe that the growth of young people is up to all of us. I hope you will join in this work, because the future of our community depends upon it.

Happy New Year!
John Brandon, President, MCCOY, Inc.

#WEREJUSTSAYIN'

MCCOY's 3rd Annual Youth Summit #WereJustSayin' was a grand success! Youth from central Indiana gathered to talk about community issues at WFYI on Saturday, November 16th. This event was facilitated by MCCOY's talented Youth Advocacy Council (YAC) and was very impactful for all who attended; even the adults! The event consisted of a keynote address from Derrin Slack, CEO of Pro[ACT] and a panel of youth development professionals representing law enforcement, education, service learning, and the faith community. The event also included break-out sessions where the youth discussed the various

aspects of poverty and violence. Many recommendations were made by the youth for coping with community issues, including the following:

- Bullying: Teachers should be trained on how to look for patterns of bullying and be held responsible for ensuring that findings are reported.
- Guns in Schools: Police officers should conceal their handguns because it is frightening for youth to even see a gun; tasers would be more acceptable.
- Mental Health of Youth: The greatest feelings of self worth comes when youth participate in clubs, student councils, and community service projects; options like this should be built into the curriculum.



Students discuss ideas on how to break the cycle of poverty and violence in the youth community.



MCCOY, Inc.
3901 N. Meridian St. Ste. 201
Indianapolis, IN. 46208



Celebrating 20 Years of Positive Youth Development!

MCCOY RELEASES BLUEPRINT FOR YOUTH: MOVING FORWARD

Blueprint for Youth: Moving Forward is a summary of findings and recommendations to create a youth friendly community in central Indiana. In three different parts, the blueprint looks at where we as a community have moved the needle for youth development, what the current issues are today that youth face, and what we can do to become a more friendly youth community. More than 300 local youth and 100 adults were surveyed.

Based on youth worker surveys and interviews the following goals from the 1994 Blueprint have been at least partially achieved in the past 20 years:

- A user-friendly information and referral system
- Full cooperation and collaboration
- Creative and sufficient activities
- Enthusiastic community support
- Regular evaluation and system improvement

Current State of Youth in Central Indiana:

Youth surveyed identified their top five challenges:

1. Going to college
2. Job opportunities
3. Family Issues
4. Drug/Alcohol
5. Peer Pressure

Adults surveyed identified the challenges that youth face as:

1. Lack of values/respect
2. Drug/alcohol abuse
3. Bullying
4. Unstable home environment
5. Peer pressure for sexual activity

In order to become a more youth friendly community we have to improve: youth safety, youth rights, youth advocacy, youth participation, and positive family life.

Youth Participation – biggest challenges were youth voice and neighborhood activities. There are 510 programs offered to youth in central Indiana; however, location and transportation are barriers.

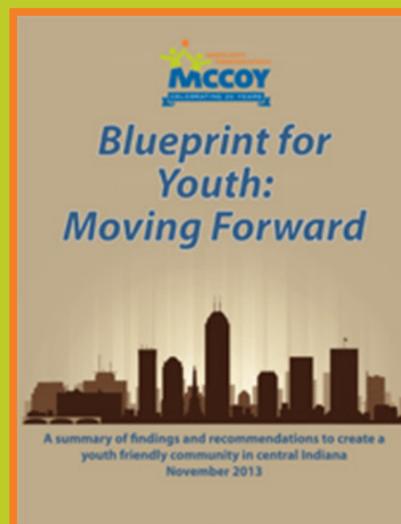
- Get out and about: take your programs to local restaurants, libraries, and schools within walking distance to highly populated youth areas
- Offer events during “off hours” – Friday evenings or Saturdays where the whole family can participate
- Incorporate youth voices into program activities
- Coordinate existing transportation resources to provide youth better access to services

Youth Safety – biggest challenges were drugs/alcohol

- Change the conversations about drugs and alcohol from the “dangers of” to “real” conversations – use strength based approaches
- Adapt trauma informed practices to prevent drug/alcohol abuse
- Encourage youth to lead a public awareness campaign against drugs/alcohol

Youth Rights – biggest challenges were college readiness and job opportunities

- Have conversations about post high school options earlier
- Prepare youth for non-academic challenges: stress, time management, social circumstances, budgeting, managing money
- Build entrepreneurial training for youth into programs
- Stress the importance of building a resume
- Present diverse college, vocational, and career options to students



Advocacy for Youth – biggest challenge was poverty and personal health & development

- Address poverty by implementing programs focused on financial literacy
- Create a social movement against poverty
- Utilize youth voice
- Summer employment
- Engage youth in food production
- Keep healthy snacks on hand
- Host regular sessions about body image, self-confidence, and sexual education
- Educate youth on healthy eating on a budget

Positive Family Life – biggest challenges were parental involvement

- Request parents to participate/volunteer with programs
- Host family nights
- Host neighborhood events
- Provide parent-to-parent mentoring
- Express to parents their value to the organizations

MCCOY hosted a community conversation about the blueprint on December 3, 2013 and hopes to have a few more this spring. The blueprint can be downloaded from MCCOY's website and we can distribute paper copies to interested individuals. For more information, contact Ceceily Brickley at Cbrickley@mccoyouth.org.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - MCCOY'S ANNIVERSARY GALA

Friday, November 8th, MCCOY celebrated 20 years of positive youth development with some of our closest friends and family. At our anniversary gala, we:

- reminisced about the work MCCOY has accomplished in the past 20 years,
- listened to Keynote Speaker Irv Katz, President & CEO of the National Human Services Assembly,
- viewed MCCOY's 20th anniversary video produced and edited by the Latino Youth Collective, and
- revealed the *Blueprint for Youth: Moving forward*, a toolkit for youth service providers to address the major barriers to

MCCOY'S FAMILY MATTERS

MCCOY threw a 90's themed birthday party and invited young people from throughout the community. The event engaged youth served by the many organizations we partner with in celebrating our 20 year milestone, and showed how much “Family Matters” here at MCCOY.

During the birthday party on Friday, December 6, 2013, MCCOY staff, board members, and over 75 kids packed the Circle City Industrial Complex. As if the abundance of food, music and dancing weren't enough, the MCCOY “Family Matters” event included a live DJ from Hot 96.3, photography by Paul Best, the Indiana State Police, and

becoming a youth friendly community.

Rich Van Wyk, WTHR Reporter, emceed the event and ensured all audience members were learning as well as having a fantastic time.

We thank our partners in the youth development field for helping to accomplish positive youth development and to help make central Indiana a place where youth can live, thrive, engaged and contribute.

Crouching Tigers Mobile Fitness and Martial Arts for Kids. There was everything from cupcake decorating to “Jeopardy”! Local law enforcement, a local artist, and karate instructors came out to talk with kids about what they do on a daily basis. Every half hour we raffled goodie bags filled with board games, hats, gloves and all of the things children love.

MCCOY's Family Matters was such a good time for both the youth and adults. It was great seeing



Emcee Rich Van Wyk talks with audience member and former MCCOY intern, Dyla Harris, about the role MCCOY has played in her life.



so many young people having so much fun! One little boy shouted mid-way through the event “this is the best birthday party ever!” With his statement, it is clear Family Matters was a success and MCCOY will move into its next 20 years of serving youth with the satisfaction of knowing it left a positive imprint on the lives of many, many young people.

Thank You to Our Generous Financial Sponsors:

