

Project Name:

## **Project Connect**

Team Members:

Stan Keepes, Margo English, Sheri Phillips

Area of Focus:

- Service Area: Petersburg.
- Passion and Expertise: Under utilized senior population and disadvantaged youth.
- Area of Interest: To insure that all generations will have their emotional and social needs addressed.

SWOT Key Findings:

- Research shows that seniors who are socially active have less incidents of depression and physical illness.
- Further studies show that youth coming from single parent families or who have a lack of adult leadership or absence of positive adult role models have increased delinquency, lower grades, and lower self esteem.
- Youth and adults with disabilities will have an improved quality of life through social interaction.

Stakeholder Analysis:

- Community change: who cares about it? Who knows about the issue? Who can do something about it?
- An elder friendly community: Address basic needs. Promotes social and civic engagement, Optimizes physical and mental health and well being. Maximizes independence.
- Generations, through its AngelWorx Volunteer Program – agreed to fund “Project Connect”.
- Pike County ARC – will support the program through referrals and staff time.
- Pike Central Middle School and Petersburg Elementary School – agreed to participate.

SMART Statement:

Through a collaborative effort of the stakeholder agencies, we will identify the participants for this program and begin promoting and accepting referrals from the youth, disabled and senior populations.

Project Name:

**The Voice of Southwest Indiana**

Team Members:

Mark Funkhouser, Lisa Kieffner, Kim Otilie, Steve Schaefer, Susan Sublet

Area of Focus:

- Area of Interest: To create a web-based advocacy tool that citizen/organizations could use to identify, communicate, and interact with elected officials for the betterment of their community or cause.
- Domain: the region of southwest Indiana, including Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Dubois, Pike Gibson, Knox, Daviess and Martin County.
- Passion: Building one voice through a better educated citizenry with the potential to influence and help them realize their vision for a stronger community.

SWOT Key Findings:

- There is a need for a strong political voice of influence in Southwest Indiana as a resource to increase community awareness regarding economic, government and community issues.
- We want to help build cohesion and collaboration between and among counties in Southwest Indiana.
- To create a better educated citizenry by encouraging civic involvement.
- To bring new resources and funding to Southwest Indiana.
- There are going to be turf issues in regard to funding, etc. between the public and private sector, as well as each local venue that we hope to reduce through this program.

Stakeholder Analysis:

Elected officials – neutral

Citizens/voters – moderately supportive

Business community – moderately supportive

Non-Profit organizations – strongly supportive

Educational institutions – strongly supportive

Media – neutral

SMART Statement:

To create and maintain an effective, informational resource for regional advocacy that allows individuals and organizations to interact and communicate with their elected officials.

Project Name:

**Connect Young Professionals to Southern Indiana**

Team Members:

John Collins, Barbara Dicken, Stephanie Terry

Area of Focus:

- Young professionals (28 - 38 years old)
- Creating an environment where young professionals want to stay
- Professional development

SWOT Key Findings:

- There is a great need in our area to increase economic development.
- The future of economic development in the region depends on our retention of young professionals.
- It is vitally important to southwestern Indiana to retain the intellectual capital that is inherent within this group of citizens.
- There are many opportunities including five universities and a rapidly growing region.
- Some weaknesses are out of our control such as aging workforce and non-competitive salaries.
- Very few threats with the exception of our proximity to major cities.

Stakeholder Analysis:

- Major corporations - supportive
- Small business owners - possibly oppose
- Universities - supportive
- Government officials - publicly supportive
- Seasoned professionals - possibly oppose
- Young professional organizations - supportive
- Chambers and visitors bureaus – supportive
- Young professionals want to live where there are other young professionals. – Response: A focus on retaining young professionals will lead to attracting more young professionals.
- Supportive stakeholders outnumber the opposition and there is no organized or intentional opposition to this effort. – Response: We need to utilize the strength of stakeholders such as universities, corporations and government officials.

SMART Statement:

A regional task force will be established by December 31, 2007 to develop and implement strategies that foster an environment to empower young professionals through a diversity of leisure and career opportunities.

Project Name:

**SMART Youth Fitness and Nutrition**

Team Members:

Glenna Bower, Ph.D., Debbie Grace, Vicki Nelson, Vic Chamness

Area of Focus:

- Obesity Epidemic
- Screen Time
- Dietary Intakes
- A health and physical activity program developed to fight the obesity epidemic among youth in the EVSC.

SWOT Key Findings:

- Our students need to be better educated on the proper way to eat and the importance of physical activity in relation to learning.
- Studies have proven how exercise impacts brain fitness by promoting the growth of new brain cells to replace the ones that die off naturally as we age.
- We have research based data supporting the importance of physical activity and nutrition in preventing health problems, improving cognitive abilities, and decreasing emotional problems among youth.
- We have the opportunity to make a difference improving the health and well-being of the youth within our community.

Stakeholder Analysis:

- Producers, Actors, Educators, PTA, Parents, Community Outreach.
- Provides an inexpensive set of fitness procedures to implement the program for free.
- Provides good nutrition and promotes cognitive abilities.
- Provides parents education and awareness on how physical fitness and nutrition can increase overall well-being of children.

SMART Statement:

During the fall of 2007, we will present to Vanderburgh middle school a DVD set that will be used to promote and instruct brain-based physical fitness and nutrition activities that will be easy to implement.

Project Name:

**Pride and Tastes of Indiana**

Connecting Agriculture and Consumers

Team Members:

Debby Beavin, Rosanna Clayton, Linda Negro, Maria Restrepo

Area of Focus:

- Providing promotional venue for agricultural products
- Agri-tourism
- Growing agri-tainment
- Culinary kitchens
- Enterprise and business excellerator
- Working with at-risk kids
- Product development and distribution
- Embracing slow food movement

SWOT Key Findings:

- Need in our geographic region to fill a niche by local, homegrown branding
- Avenues needed to connect producers with consumers.
- Market volatility creates a need for producer diversification.
- Full team passion and commitment.
- Proven success in other areas of the country have created strong federal, state and local support.

Stakeholder Analysis:

- Key Findings:
  - Bits and pieces of the project are being attempted by other groups.
  - Consumers and producers are supportive and seeking this type of network development.
  - Networks are so successful in other areas they can easily be repeated.
- Responses:
  - Restaurants/manufacturers are receptive.
  - Producers are eager.
  - Government groups, agencies and coalitions are in discussion and very positive.

SMART Statement:

Develop a database of agriculture growers, food manufacturers and users (individuals, restaurants and groceries) by working with a variety of agriculture resources in Indiana so they can connect via the internet and in other ways.

Project Name:

## **Regional Youth Leadership**

Team Members:

Theresa Criss-Hartwig, Sue Habig, Terry Seitz

Area of Focus:

- Our passion: Community and economic development
- Our area of interest: The region of Perry, Spencer, Crawford, Dubois, Pike and Orange counties.
- Our expertise: Economic and community development, tourism and workforce development.

SWOT Key Findings:

- Our areas have been blessed by the presence of strong entrepreneurs whose ideas grew into viable companies with regional, national and even international ties.
- We tend to see only city limits and county lines instead of the region as a whole.
- We have powerful regional economic development assets.
- Our manufacturing-driven economy does not support the processes to develop entrepreneurial skills within our youth and lack of industrial diversification may prevent their return after college.

Stakeholder Analysis:

- Collaboration among these stakeholders must take place in order for change to occur:
  - Youth
  - Elected officials
  - Education leaders
  - Economic development leaders
  - Financial resources
  - Business leaders

SMART Statement:

By the summer of 2008, develop a youth leadership program for upper level or college-bound students that will:

- Develop their entrepreneurial skills.
- Educate them about our region.
- Provide a foundation of leadership.
- Equip them for returning to, and profoundly influencing, our region in the future.

Project Name:

**Regional Hispanic Community Survey**

Team Members:

Tara Grace-Ruiz, Rachel Greene, David Hitchcock

Area of Focus:

- Regional Focus: Nine county area (Vanderburgh, Posey, Warrick, Gibson, Spencer, Dubois, Pike, Knox and Daviess).
- Hispanic Community:
  - Understand the characteristics of the local Hispanic Community.
  - Define the needs of the Hispanic Community.
  - Determine the true population numbers.

SWOT Key Findings:

- National and regional data indicates the overwhelming need for addressing the concerns of the growing Latino community.
- Our personal connections with the community enable us to build long term networks.
- The benefits of this study will be to enhance the notion of a better integrated community.

Stakeholder Analysis:

- We will need to take advantage of a wide variety of stakeholders to develop and implement a survey of social, cultural and economic traits.
  - These range from county and local governments to advocacy groups, health providers, school corporations, colleges and universities.

SMART Statement:

Develop a coherent profile of the Latino characteristics with the objective of aiding that community in the process toward full integration into the mainstream.

- 6 – 12 month time frame.
- Develop a broadly based profile of the Latino community.