

Washington County Wellness Initiative

Washington County

2009

Coalition Priorities:

1. Mental Health
2. Transportation (Poverty & Access to Health Care)
3. Adult Preventative Care
4. Child/Adolescent Preventative Care
5. Access to Health Care

About Us...

The mission of the Washington County Transportation Coalition, under the direction of the Washington County Wellness Initiative, is to address the transportation needs of Washington County to improve economic development and enhance quality of life. A transportation survey was administered to over 1,170 individuals in Washington County between August 2006 and March 2007 which revealed that transportation is a significant problem in the community. Additional surveys also revealed the gaps in transportation throughout the counties surrounding Bartlesville. The BRUW conducted focus groups which outlined barriers facing the community with transportation coming in number one across the board. According to the Angelo Economics Report published in February 2006, "Transit is good for economic development. It provides low-cost travel opportunities to many lower-income households, thereby providing businesses access to a larger labor pool and residents' access to economic opportunity. Additionally, transit makes it easier for residents to access entertainment options, healthcare, and educational institutions, contributing to the communities overall economy." Results from the survey will be utilized in assisting key stakeholders in showing the need for a transit system for Washington County, including long term goals for expanding to rural areas, downtown trolleys and connection routes to and from Tulsa.

About three years ago the Poverty Alleviation Coalition was formed with representatives from agencies, churches and organizations in Bartlesville who are interested in helping the poor in our community. As a result and with support from the Washington County Anti Drug Network and the Bartlesville Regional United Way, *Move the Mountain* came to Bartlesville. This initiative is going to have a significant impact in helping families move toward self-sufficiency and the betterment of the entire community. Fifty percent of the children under five years old live in poverty. Over thirty percent of the population is below the Federal Poverty Level. A family of one parent and two children requires an annual income of \$30,385 (\$14.61 per hour) to be self-sufficient. The average single female headed household earns an annual income of \$17,636. Move The Mountain's early results in over fifty communities show that for every dollar (\$1.00) spent on the program: Two dollars (\$2.00) in welfare and food stamp subsidies was returned to the state. Four dollars (\$4.00) was returned to the community as new earned income. Lives are changed. Children in Poverty will repeat the pattern of their families unless they and their parents are shown the possibilities and taught how to be self-sufficient. The cycle can be broken.

Completing a marathon is extremely difficult to do. The distance is 26.2 miles and most people would have to train long and hard in order to run that distance. The Family YMCA of Bartlesville with OJA started offering a program entitled "Run the Streets." The slogan is "26.2 – It's Within You." A running/mentoring program which seeks to help youth focus on and achieve their goals – regardless of how lofty or distant they may seem – "Run the Streets" is about teaching youngsters that if they set goals, train, and follow through, they can achieve those goals.

Partners:

Washington Co. Health Dept.
Bartlesville United Way
Bartlesville Literacy
Chamber of Commerce
Washington Co. DHS
Family Care Services
Youth & Family Services
Delaware Tribe
Bartlesville Public Schools
OSU Prevention Services
Mutual Club
ConocoPhillips
Casa Hispana Hispanic
Outreach Center
KKI Technologies
Cherokee Nation Behavioral
Health
Mary Martha Outreach

Office of Juvenile Affairs
Dewey Public Schools
Oklahoma Wesleyan
University
Tri-County Technology
Salvation Army
Success By Six
Board of Health
Bartlesville Family YMCA
Red Dirt Peddlers
Green Country Independent
Living Resources
Eldercare
City Ride
TCTC
Workforce Oklahoma
County Commissioners
Bartlesville Even Start
Systems of Care
Cherokee Nation

Key Activities:

- Safe Routes to School
- Diabetes Management Program
- Poverty Simulation
- Family Life Symposium
- Corporate Wellness
- Body Healthy
- Auto Repair Project
- Mental Health Workshops
- Youth Leadership
- ◆ School Based Services
- ◆ Systems of Care
- ◆ Washington County Suicide Prevention Project



Significant Outcomes:

- ◆ Access to Healthcare strategic plan
- ◆ Run the Streets Program
- ◆ Move the Mountain –Poverty Alleviation