

ALIGNMENT NASHVILLE

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



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ALIGNMENT NASHVILLE
421 Great Circle Road
Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37228
www.alignmentnashville.org
PHONE 615.585.8497

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A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This annual report presents a high-level view of the efforts contributed by hundreds of people and organizations working throughout Nashville to improve the education and health of our children and the strength of our community.

Every section depicts the very substantive work that is happening in the community. Relationships and trust that have been building for several years through systematic meetings, process, and communications underpin the actions of each committee. Powerful collaborative solutions emerge when community members regularly sit side-by-side with school district personnel to identify problems. This is real collaboration – work in which organizations call on each other and assist each other in ways they have not done before – and a deeper understanding of the issues develops for everyone.

In our 2010 committee member survey, 147 respondents suggested that they are motivated to participate with Alignment Nashville because they believe collaboration will produce better outcomes for students. They also placed a strong value on the importance and benefits of networking and collaborating, and expressed their belief that involvement with Alignment Nashville will increase their organizations' ability to achieve their own mission.

Many exciting days are ahead as we continue to make progress toward achieving an excellent education and healthy future for all of our children. Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,



Sydney Rogers
Executive Director



2010 Operating Board

**Kent Fourman, Permanent General Companies
Chair of Operating Board**

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Darwin Mason	Metro Nashville Public Schools	Ellen Zinkiewicz	Nashville Career Advancement Center
Lilly Massa-McKinley	Vanderbilt University		

ABOUT ALIGNMENT NASHVILLE

Alignment Nashville is a unique and scalable framework for developing community schools. The mission is to bring community organizations and resources into alignment so that their coordinated support of Nashville's youth has a positive impact on public school success, children's health, and the success of our community as a whole.

In the past, over 175 nonprofit organizations worked in the schools and community individually, without direction or coordination. While each organization provided much-needed services, the problems facing public education and our children are far too complex for any single organization to address in isolation.

Alignment Nashville has developed processes for collaboration that align the resources of these organizations to the Metro Nashville Public Schools strategic plan and to community strategic plans, aligning the city's resources toward common goals.

AN was developed to ensure all the services children need are provided to them in an effective and efficient way that complements their education, health and well-being, as well as the goals of the public schools. Through community-wide collaboration among schools, non-profits, businesses, and the public sector, AN creates the synergy necessary for sustained improvement in public education and children's health. This collaboration provides the following advantages:

- **Greater returns on investment**—by working together toward common goals, resources are leveraged, duplication is avoided, and efficiency is greatly increased.
- **Higher-quality services**—utilizing expertise from multiple organizations guarantees a broader perspective and a wiser approach.

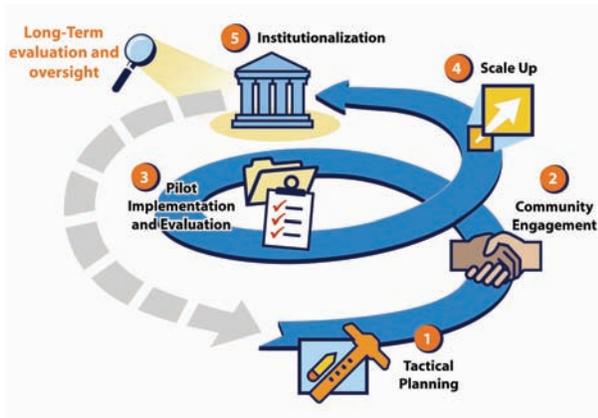
- **Enhanced capacity**—very few organizations have the capacity to have community-wide impact. A collective effort enhances the impact of each of organization, while generating a much greater overall impact.

- **Leverage of local funding**—AN programs have demonstrated they can attract large national funding, increasing the impact of the local funding that played a role in building the pilot programs.



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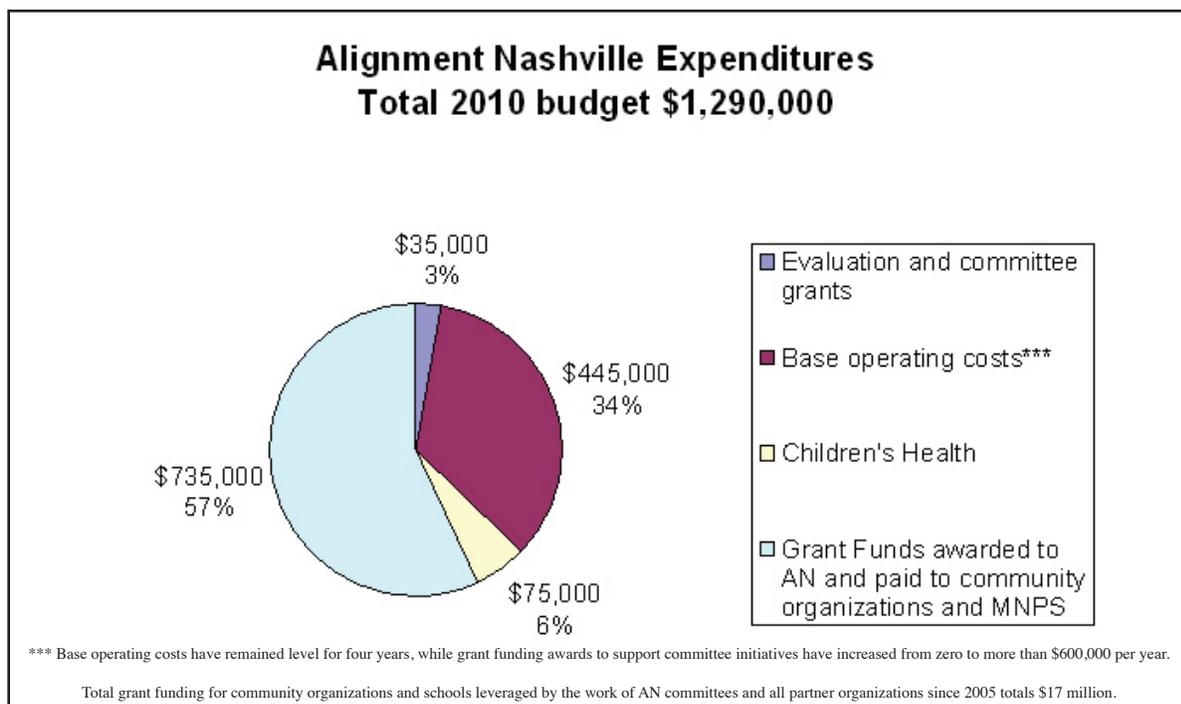
The committee process is what sets Alignment Nashville apart from other collaborative initiatives. This process, depicted below, ensures that all committee work is thoroughly planned, engages a diverse group of stakeholders, and is sufficiently evaluated before becoming institutionalized. Below is a review of each of the stages of the committee process.



1. In the tactical planning phase, committees of school district and community organization leaders develop a detailed plan for implementing a pilot project and determine the goals, vision, outcomes, and tactics.
2. Committees engage a wide range of organizations by developing an Invitation to Participate (ITP) that describes the collaborative and gives organizations an opportunity to propose ways they can align their resources to join the effort.
3. As the initial project plan is finalized and implemented, regular communication is established with participating organizations and an assessment plan is developed to ensure accountability.
4. The scale-up phase allows the committee to expand the project to a greater target audience after examining data.

Alignment Nashville is grateful to the following organizations for financial support of AN operations and committee initiatives in 2010:

- America's Promise Alliance
- AT&T
- Healthways Foundation
- HCA Foundation
- Ingram Charitable Fund, Community Foundation
- Mayor's Office and Metro Nashville Government
- Meharry Medical School and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Meharry / Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Program
- Memorial Foundation
- Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Nashville State Community College Foundation
- National Science Foundation
- State Farm Insurance
- United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
- Vanderbilt University
- Volunteer State Community College Foundation





PRE-K

Strategy

The Pre-K Committee is working to ensure that all children are ready for kindergarten by aligning resources to support optimal learning and development for children age birth to 5.

With coordination from the AN Pre-Kindergarten Committee, more and more youngsters are starting school with a shared experience of great books.

MNPS has created a list of Essential Literature that all children should hear before they begin kindergarten, and AN partner organizations such as the Nashville Public Library are using every opportunity to reach out to families.

“We had an overflow audience of 107 for our two preschool programs for African American History Month, and the main title announced in our system-wide programming booklet was *Ten Black Dots*, one of the six Essential Literature titles,” said Tori Ross, children’s librarian at the Edmondson Pike Area Library.

“The author, Donald Crews, was here to read to the children, and I created two activities for the preschoolers. The children placed small, flat black landscaping stones on large hand-drawn paper outlines of a cat, a butterfly, and a book cover titled *Ten Black Dots*, creating eyes or spots, or just a counting opportunity for parents and children to experience together,” she said. “Each child also left with 10 white sticker dots, and a sheet of purple construction paper, to see what they could do with 10 white dots. And, I showed the parents the Essential Literature bookmarks during storytime, and had one for each family to take home.”

All through the year, activities like these by many community partners are helping hundreds of families learn about the importance of early reading and how they can best prepare their children to begin school.

09-10 activities

Recognizing the importance of reading and shared experiences, the Pre-K Committee has supported the MNPS Essential Literature list since 2005. Highlights of the committee’s work include:

- More than 10,000 Essential Literature bookmarks have been distributed to parents and caregivers by community partners; these bookmarks list the six Pre-K Essential Literature titles as well as helpful tips on effective reading strategies.
- All MNPS Pre-K classrooms have one or more sets of Essential Literature books.
- Several organizations, including the Nashville Public Library, Nashville Public Television, United Way of Metropolitan Nashville, Books from Birth of Middle Tennessee, McNeilly Center for Children, and Tennessee Voices for Children have incorporated information about the Pre-K Essential Literature books and helpful reading strategies for parents and educators into their existing family literacy programming.

INDERGARTEN

In August 2010, the Pre-K Committee also supported the MNPS Pre-K inservice event, providing professional development for educators and coordinating vendor booths. According to a post-event survey, “The MNPS Pre-K inservice was a HUGE success and should be continued on a yearly basis.”

Results

Since 2005, circulation of the six Essential Literature titles at the Nashville Public Library has increased 65%. In fact, the circulation has increased every month (except one).

Next

For the coming year, the committee has decided to build on the success of the Essential Literature collaboration to meet additional early childhood needs in Nashville. Therefore, in late 2010, the committee began a tactical planning process that resulted in the following focus areas for 2011:

- **Define kindergarten readiness** – create a common, community-wide definition that is measurable and encompasses all aspects of kindergarten readiness.

- **Professional development for early childhood educators** – focus on social-emotional learning.

- **Family engagement** – encourage parents and families to be involved and serve as their child’s first and most important teacher.

- **Scale existing research-based practices and programs that are having a positive impact** – provide opportunities for sharing best practices and lessons learned among practitioners and providers in the community.

ESSENTIAL LITERATURE LIST

The Napping House by Audrey Wood

No David by David Shannon

Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews

Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown

Jamberry by Bruce Degen

Have You Seen My Cat? by Eric Carle

PRE-K COMMITTEE

- Phyllis Phillips, Co-Chair - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Flo Kidd, Co-Chair - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Mamie McKenzie, Vice Chair - Tennessee Voices for Children
- Amy Key - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Clare Terry - United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
- Colleen Thomas - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Debby Gould - United Way of Tennessee
- Elyse Adler - Nashville Public Library
- Etta Bell - Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Heather Smith - Books from Birth of Middle TN
- Ila McDermott - Martha O’ Bryan Center
- Jennifer Gamble - Prevent Blindness Tennessee
- Jennifer Holmes Roddy - Susan Gray School, Peabody College VU
- Jo Ann Scalf - Nashville Public Television
- Judy Maloney - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Kesha Moore - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Martha Ann Pilcher - Book’em
- Melba Marcrum - McNeilly Center
- Nancy Ledbetter - Nashville State Community College
- Rachel Parker - Bethlehem Centers of Nashville
- Ruth Wolery - Susan Gray School for Children
- Ryan LaSuer - NAAEYC
- Seth Scholer - Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital
- Sheryl Rogers - Books from Birth
- Susan Rollyson - Metro Action Commission, Head Start





ELEMEN

Strategy

Through its Character Education initiative, the Elementary Committee works to ensure all students have access to counseling services and community programs that teach socialization skills. The seven character traits adopted by the committee are:

It only took a small adjustment – with no change to their mission – for the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum to become part of the citywide initiative organized by the Elementary Committee of Alignment Nashville.

For five years, the committee has worked to ensure that every elementary school in Nashville has a collaborative Character Education program where home, school and the community work together to guide students to positive ideals and good habits that improve behavior, school climate and ultimately, academic performance.

Here's the response from the Hall of Fame when the committee issued an Invitation to Participate (ITP) for character education:

“In our Words & Music program, now in its 31st year, students write or co-write a song. Words & Music has a direct link to character education because it helps students express their feelings through the art of songwriting. During this process, we will emphasize to the students how they can best articulate the character traits into the story of song.”

That's a perfect example of the Alignment process, where a wide variety of organizations make a small change to accomplish a big objective that's strategically aligned to the needs of the schools and young people in Nashville. And it works: Elementary schools have improved attendance and reduced classroom disruptions and discipline referrals, and students have better attitudes about school and their behavior towards each other.

- **Respect:** Good manners, honesty, tolerant of differences, consider other people's feelings.
- **Responsibility:** Do your best, think before you act, keep trying, accept responsibility for your actions, take initiative.
- **Fairness:** Don't blame others carelessly, take turns, share, be open-minded, don't take advantage of others.
- **Caring:** Help people, be kind, show that you care, demonstrate gratitude.
- **Honesty:** Telling the truth, not lying, admitting wrong doing, being sincere.
- **Trustworthiness:** Do what's right, have courage, build a good reputation, be true to your word, don't cheat or steal.
- **Citizenship:** Cooperate, obey laws, vote, protect the environment, and be involved in the community.

ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
COMMITTEE

NTARY SCHOOL

09-10 activities

The Elementary Committee celebrated a milestone in 2010 as the first AN committee to reach the stage of “institutionalizing” an aligned strategy for MNPS, with Character Education resources in all 72 MNPS elementary schools serving more than 33,000 students. The committee also developed a Resource Guide of organizations’ programs or initiatives for use by principals, assistant principals, school counselors, media specialists, and teachers at all MNPS elementary schools.

The guide was introduced at a committee celebration for MNPS school counselors at their quarterly meeting, held at Nashville’s Junior Achievement and followed by a Community Fair in JA’s BizTown. More than 70 school counselors attended, along with the representatives from 13 community organizations.

The fair was a great opportunity for the counselors and school staff to meet face-to-face with the organizations listed in the new guide and to discuss programs that can best support their school’s Character Education efforts.

Results

As a result of the Alignment Nashville Elementary Committee’s efforts and the stro

ng support and participation of local community organizations, this coordinated approach to Character Education is now in place in every elementary school in Metro Nashville. All schools have reported excellent results, including a 40% reduction in disciplinary referrals at Tom Joy Elementary and a significant reduction in tardiness and bullying at Glenn Enhanced Option Elementary.

In addition, several MNPS elementary schools were recognized this year by the Tennessee Department of Education for their outstanding work in supporting the importance of character education. These schools are Stanford Montessori Design, Merit Award Winner; Ruby Major Elementary, Merit Award Winner; and Granbery Elementary, Special Commendation.

Next

With Character Education now implemented across the district and supported with a Resource Guide, the Elementary Committee is back into the tactical planning phase of their work. In partnership with MNPS leadership, they will map the next strategy for maximum impact in elementary schools.

PHOTO: (left) Kids On The Block of STARS Nashville meeting school counselors at the Elementary Committee community fair.

• Todd Wigginton, Chair - Metro

Nashville Public Schools • Melissa

Spradlin, Vice Chair - Book'em

• Tom Carr - CHARACTER

COUNTS! Nashville • Ted Dreier

- Children’s Kindness Network •

Judy Goetz - Nashville Public Li-

brary • Laquita Harrison - Mon-

roe Harding Project S.H.A.R.E

• Thomas Howard - Youth Life

Learning Centers • Ann Johnston

- PENCIL • Judy Maloney - Metro

Nashville Public Schools • Sheila

Montgomery - Hillsboro Church

of Christ • David Moore - Metro

Nashville Public Schools • Greg

Patterson - Metro Nashville Public

Schools • Melanie Scott - Kids

on the Block of STARS Nashville

• Brenda Steele - Metro Nashville

Public Schools

MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- Wade Jones, Chair - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Anne Henderson, Vice Chair - Frist Center for the Visual Arts
- Audrey Cothran - West End Middle School
- Beverly Goetzman - Jere Baxter Middle School
- Candy Markman - Mayor's Afterschool Initiatives
- Carol Nixon - Edvantia
- David Martin - Jere Baxter Middle School
- Dorothy Gunn - Creswell Middle School
- Greg Hutchings - West End Middle School
- Illia Moore - Project for Neighborhood Aftercare
- Jeri Hasselbring - Adventure Science Center
- Jonathon Norman - Juvenile Court
- Judy Freudenthal - Oasis Center
- Kyle Harris - Brick Church Middle School
- Lisa Beck - YMCA of Middle Tennessee
- Marcy Melvin - Centerstone
- Marsha Edwards - Martha O'Bryan Center
- Mary Walker - Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Maury Nation - Vanderbilt University
- Morlunda Brooks - YWCA Nashville
- Thomas Howard - Youth Life Learning Centers
- Troy Wade - W.A. Bass Middle School



MIDDLE SCHOOL

With all those growth spurts and hormones, the middle years of a student's academic career can be the most challenging.

Mounting research clearly shows the importance of a positive and safe school climate as a major indicator of academic success for students in the middle years. A caring, participatory and responsive school climate also fosters great attachment to school and provides an optimal foundation for social, emotional and academic learning.

The Middle School Committee has focused on creating a Culture of Kindness in middle schools for four years, especially by promoting and supporting the work funded by a \$4.2 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The multi-faceted CDC grant is part of AN's collaboration with Meharry Medical College.

In a 2006 pre-survey, about 25% of students were either neutral or unhappy while at school, while 30% identified bullying as a significant problem. Also, 32% of students reported their school was unsafe for vulnerable children, and about 8% indicated that they had skipped school because they felt unsafe.

The grant-funded AES (Aligned Enhanced Services) Coordinators at Bass, Jere Baxter, Brick Church and West End middle schools are working to change that climate by coordinating services provided by community organizations in the school and promoting collaboration between providers and school personnel in creating the culture of kindness that fosters emotional well-being.

Strategy

The Middle School Committee is working to establish school-wide positive behavior-support systems, to eliminate bullying and violence, and to help students create and maintain their own culture of kindness in the school.

09-10 Activities

In addition to continuing support for improving school climate, the Middle School Committee is assisting the Nashville After Zone Alliance (NAZA), an initiative of the Mayor's Office to provide easily accessible, no-cost, high-quality afterschool activities for middle school students. All activities must support the Five Principles of Positive Youth Development developed as a common indicator for the city.

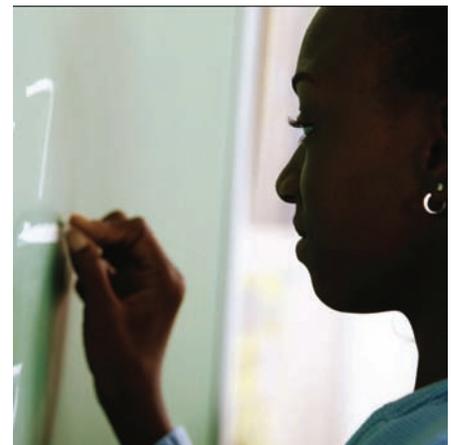
The NAZA Subcommittee issued an Invitation to Participate (ITP) seeking proposals from community organizations that can provide appealing activities to enhance the academic, social, emotional, and physical growth of middle school students. To date, 19 programs from 14 organizations have responded and were accepted through a review process of a NAZA task force. With an excellent beginning, the ITP remains open so that more groups can respond.

Results

The Alignment Enhanced Services (AES) intervention was implemented in four schools with an additional four control schools. Results found strong support for the AES intervention. Schools in which AES was implemented showed significant decreases in youth violence (self-report and school records of direct and indirect assaults) and a significant increase in attendance and academic performance compared to control schools.

Next

In early 2011, the Middle School Committee will distribute a resource guide to support the creation of a Culture of Kindness in every middle school.



OL



HIGH

Think of a school culture in medical terms: With a good vaccination, all sorts of illnesses can be avoided.

The AN Developing Community Leaders Committee (DCL) provides that “inoculation” with a leadership development class for high school juniors and seniors, some of whom were struggling academically or who were non-traditional leaders in negative activities. Through the DCL classes, these students learn leadership and interpersonal skills, respect for diversity, responsibility, team-building and communication techniques.

The DCL curriculum developed by Phi Theta Kappa is a two-year course that fuses college-level leadership development curricula with service learning. The DCL classes are offered as dual-enrollment courses in most high schools, allowing students to earn college credit upon successful completion of the class.

Since a primary outcome of the DCL program is student-led improvement in school climate, students get multiple opportunities to serve in meaningful ways with activities that are closely tied to specific learning objectives. Students are responsible for identifying community needs, planning the activity, and evaluating its impact.

The DCL class is guided by teachers who embrace the concept of student leadership and the ability of students to create positive change in their schools and communities. DCL teachers must be certified by Phi Theta Kappa to deliver the curriculum, and they also must participate in service-learning training as determined by the DCL Committee in partnership with MNPS.

Strategy

The DCL Committee is committed to developing student leaders prepared to initiate and lead activities within their schools and communities that will result in a more caring and supportive learning environment. This year the DCL Committee developed and published a resource guide for the DCL teachers that includes information about community resources and case studies of the DCL experience.

Activities/Results

The DCL program is offered in Antioch, Cane Ridge, East Paidiea, Glencliff, Hillsboro, Hillwood, Maplewood, Overton, Pearl Cohn (class is held at the McGruder Family Resource Center) and Whites Creek high schools. At those schools, 467 students are participating in DCL for 2010-11, and 14 teachers are certified as DCL instructors.

Guided by their teachers, the students perform an amazing array of service-learning projects – from trash collection in their cafeterias to assisting elderly people in their neighborhoods – to create a positive impact on school climate and community culture. Many DCL students from all the schools were involved in the recovery from the May 2010 flood by collecting donations and volunteering to help people clean homes in

SCHOOL DCL

their respective communities. DCL students from Overton High School assisted more than 100 people affected by a devastating fire in their community by collecting cash, clothes and water donations. At Maplewood, student Cherrell Lee helped organize The Village, a pilot project this year to assist pregnant and parenting teens.

Students in one of the newest DCL programs at Pearl-Cohn/McGruder created a Senior Awareness Project where they went door-to-door in North Nashville to distribute packets of information about programs for senior citizens. The packet informed seniors about Medicare assistance programs, computer classes, job opportunities and free food shops. As the students went door-to-door, they introduced themselves, told the seniors about their project, and briefly went over the information in the packet. Some of the seniors even asked if they could have another packet to share with someone else, and one lady said, "Come back anytime."

The DCL students planned the project after learning that many senior citizens do not access services because they are afraid of teenagers. They were appalled and called to action by comments similar to one senior citizen's lament that "staying home makes him feel safer and that he would rather go without something he needed versus going out and becoming a target for teens." During the project, the students broke down

those misconceptions while distributing more than 150 packets and flyers.

Next

In the coming year, the DCL Committee plans to develop:

- A series of professional development opportunities for the DCL teachers.
- More opportunities for students to interact with community organizations interested in supporting the service-learning projects.

Students learn:

- Self-awareness by recognizing their strengths, needs and values.
- Social awareness by appreciating diversity and practicing respect for others.
- Responsible decision-making, by identifying critical problems and analyzing situations.
- Self management and motivation by setting strategic goals.
- Relationship management by effective communication and conflict management.

PHOTO: (left) Overton High School Developing Community Leaders (DCL) Students doing community service to aid fire victims in their community.

• Kelly Henderson, Chair - Metro

Nashville Public Schools • Dee Gee

Lester, Vice Chair - Metro Parks

Department • Patrick Luther,

Vice Chair - Nashville CARES •

Melia Arnold - Volunteer Tennessee

• Tara Brown - Learners Edge Con-

sulting • Tasha Fletcher - Building

Bridges • Brandon Hill - Oasis

Center • Bruce Middlebrooks

- Healthways • Meghan Oliver -

Nashville State Community College

• Susan Ragsdale - YMCA/Center

for Asset Development • Tim

Stewart - Belmont University

HIGH SCHOOL
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- **Bill Rochford**, Vice Chair - Vanderbilt Medical Center
- **Aimee Wyatt** - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- **Andrea Arnold** - Convention & Visitors Bureau
- **Andy Sneed** - WASCO
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- **Kelly Noser** - Kelly Noser Consulting
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- **Kelly Dando** - TN Associated General Contractors
- **Kent Fourman** - Permanent General Companies
- **Kira Florita** - Nashville Opera
- **Marc Hill** - Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
- **Noelle Mashburn** - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- **Suzanne Warner** - PENCIL Foundation
- **Tara Myers** - Earl Swenson Architects
- **Thom Druffel** - Holiday Inn at Vanderbilt
- **Tony Majors** - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- **Zack Blair** - Nashville Chamber of Commerce



HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIES

IT was an event never before seen in Nashville when more than 300 business and community partners, educators, and school district administrators gathered in June 2010 for Nashville's first celebration of partnerships to support the Academies of Nashville.

This event commemorated the amazing progress Nashville has made towards completely redesigning its public high schools into "small learning communities" that include career/thematic academies. The event also helped recruit new Academy Partners to deepen and further cement the transformation.

"Today's announcement will forever change the way high schools in Nashville educate students," said MNPS Director of Schools Dr. Jesse Register. "This plan puts our high schools on a direct path toward our vision – to provide an excellent education for every child and become the first choice for Nashville families. I am very excited for the students who are going to be entering these academies in the fall and for years to come. The academic and 'real-life' experiences these academies will provide are beyond measure."

The event was indeed a milestone in Nashville's journey to ensure all students are ready for college and careers. Beginning in 2006 with the extraordinary vision of eight high school principals, the transformation of MNPS high schools continued through tumultuous years of changing leadership and economic uncertainty. Without a doubt, Nashville has proven that a large, urban school district can create a new vision for schools and students – thanks, in large part, to the strength and deep engagement of its community partnerships.

Strategy

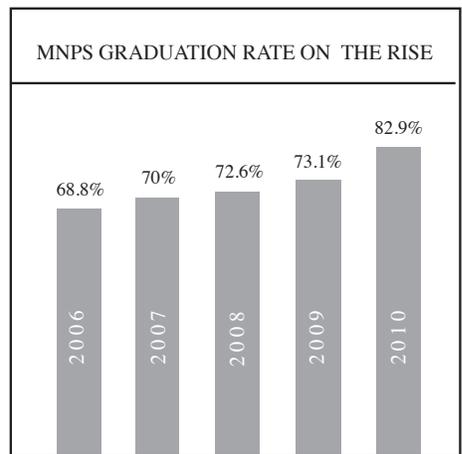
The High School Academies Committee is working to launch and improve partnerships between the school district and all community stakeholders to provide active support for all students. Through a convergence of schools and communities, the committee organizes and engages business and organization volunteers in support of the Academies of Nashville to achieve student success.

Activities and Results

Nashville and the High School Academies Committee have set a high bar for the success of schools and students. As of fall 2010, a five-year trend of improving graduation rates has set the pace for the 46 academies in 12 zoned high schools. A five-year strategic plan has been approved, and more than 100 Academy Partners have been recruited. These partnerships are managed in collaboration with PENCIL Foundation and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, both of which have full-time positions dedicated to supporting the high school partners.

Six new Partnership Councils with more than 300 business and community representatives are focused on broad, industry groups to provide a district-wide perspective and assist in ensuring partnerships are appropriate and equitable among the Academies of Nashville. The Chamber has also convened the CEO Champions – a group that includes local executives, the Mayor, and the

Director of Schools – to rally Nashville's business community in support the Academies of Nashville. In addition, PENCIL has upgraded its website, www.schoolvolunteers.org, to collect information about the community's investment of time and other resources and provide a true summary of commitment in the entire community.



Next

Now that the business engagement effort is solidly underway, the High School Academies Committee will continue to engage the community in other aspects of the Academies of Nashville, with a special emphasis on higher education and social-emotional learning.

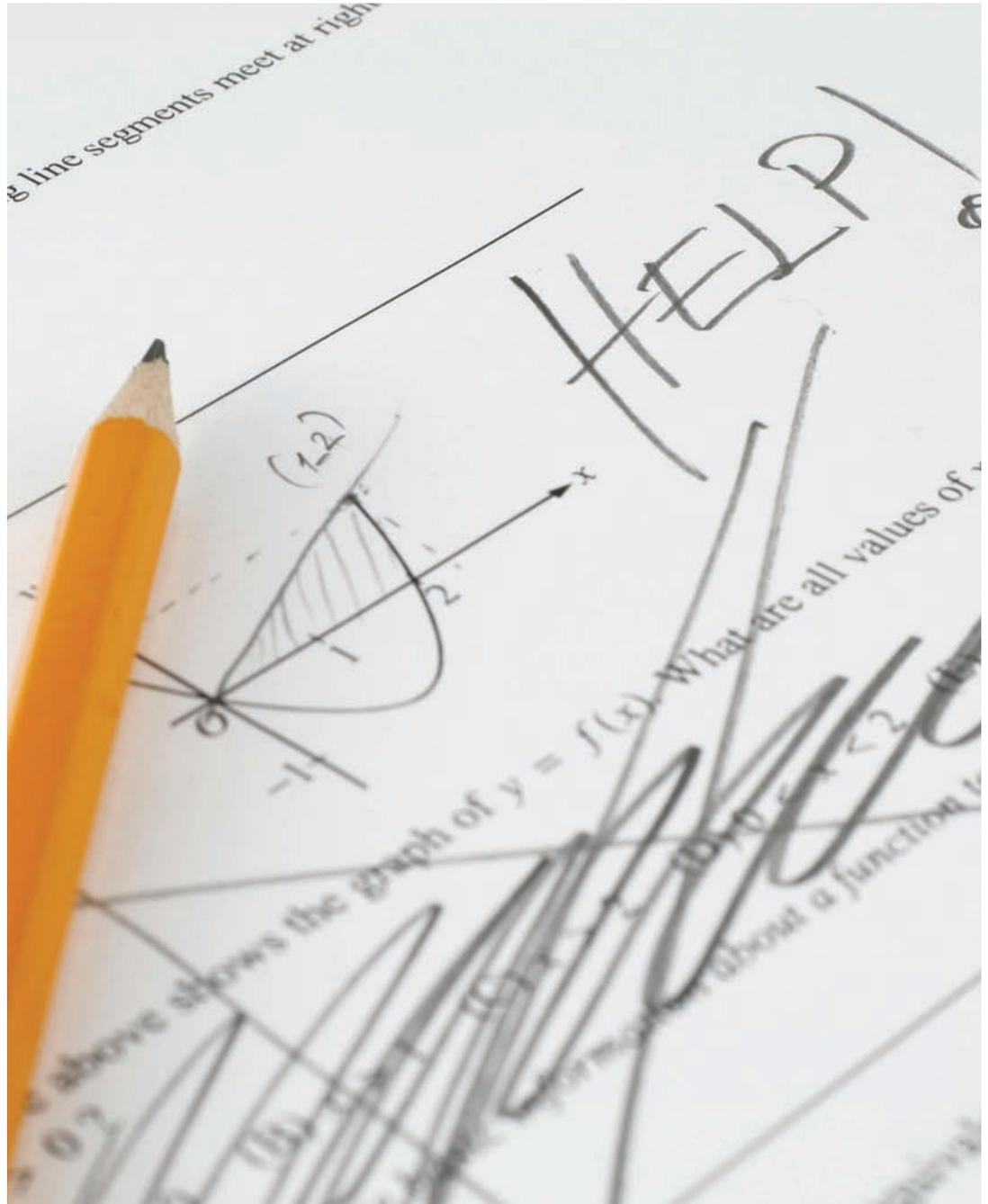
Clearly, the transformation of Nashville's high schools will continue to ensure all of Nashville's students are prepared for college and careers in the 21st century.



IES

HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS COMMITTEE

- Michelle Wilcox, Chair - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Ellen Zinkiewicz, Vice Chair - Nashville Career Advancement Center
- Jill Bates - Metro Nashville Public Schools - Diploma Plus
- Mary Bufwack - United Neighborhood Health Services
- Monica Causey - TN Voices for Children/TPIRC
- Erin Daunic - STARS Nashville
- Chae Denning - The Big Picture High School
- Cathie Dodd - Woodbine Community Center
- Chrystalyn Hall - Dept. of Childrens Services
- Laura Hansen - Office of the Mayor
- Atica J. Helms - Metro Student Attendance Center
- Kent Miller - Martha O'Bryan Center
- Judy Rye - Martha O'Bryan Center
- Per Thomas - DCS
- Mary Walker - Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Neely Williams - IMF/Peniel Initiative



HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

The classic American high school isn't the optimal setting for every American student.

The AN High School Options (HSO) Committee wants to help those students find an educational home that fits their needs and helps them achieve the high school diploma that's their ticket to later success.

Formerly titled Alternative High School Initiative, the HSO Committee is one of two AN committees that have changed their names to reflect their evolving roles in supporting Nashville students. The committee began its work in early 2009 with the expansion of one alternative high school, Big Picture High School, and the addition of another, Diploma Plus. These new schools were assisted by a grant from the Gates Foundation to the Nashville Mayor's office along with technical support from the National League of Cities.

For the 2009-10 school year, the HSO Committee collaborated with MNPS as the district began two more alternative high schools with the opening of The Academy at Opry Mills and the Academy at Old Cockrill. These new schools serve student populations who:

- Were between the ages of 17 and 21;
- Had at least 14 ½ credits;
- Dropped out during the second semester of their junior year or their senior year; or
- Were not slated to graduate on time in the 2009-2010 school year.

Strategy

The High School Options Committee is working to support the array of educational options now provided for each Nashville student, and to identify barriers and define needed services for students in alternative high school settings so that they will be successful in their academic goals.

09-10 Activities

The HSO Committee has always strived to identify the biggest barriers and struggles for students who don't thrive in a traditional school setting, and to help to break down those barriers. With more and more options now available, one of the biggest issues is helping students and families recognize their choices and understand how to apply for their preference.

This year, the committee developed a quick reference grid of school options to help students, families, counselors, teachers and principals quickly see the wide of variety of paths to a high school diploma. This grid will become the Table of Contents inside the upcoming resource guide under development for next year.

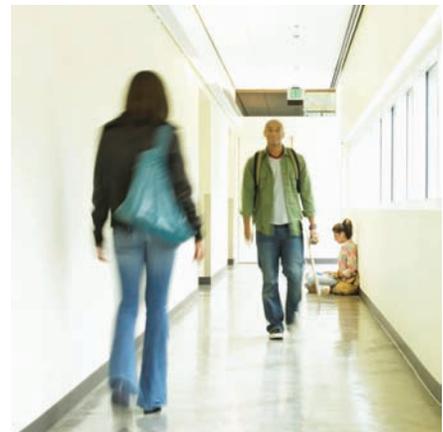
Results

This year, these alternative-option schools graduated the following number of students:

- Diploma Plus - 17
- Academy at Old Cockrill - 113
- Academy at Opry Mills - 134

Next

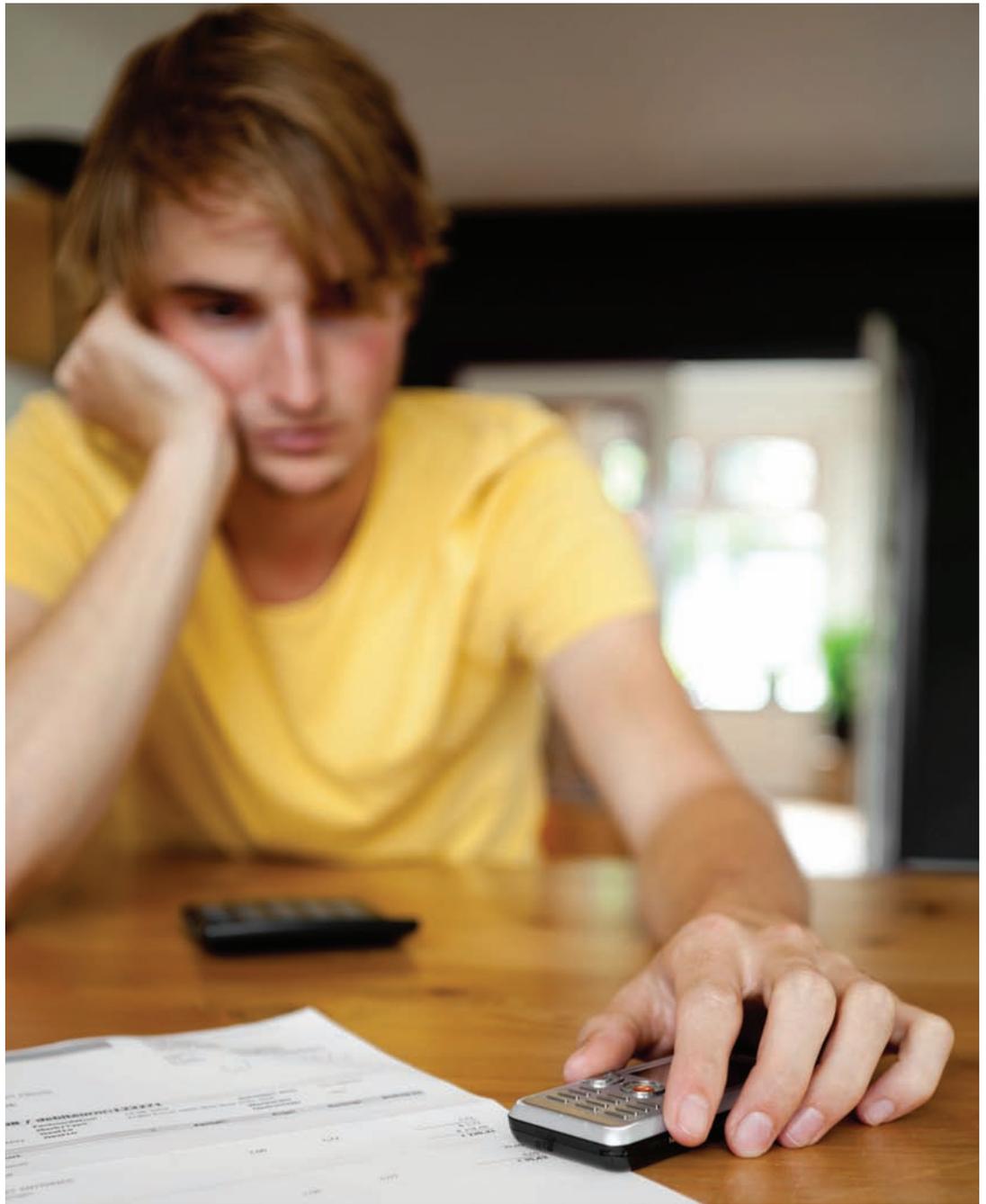
The High School Options Committee will begin investigating a new Education Reengagement Center to reach Nashville youth who have already dropped out of school.



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16-24
COMMITTEE

- Judy Rye, Chair - Martha O'Bryan Center • Karen Lefkowitz, Vice Chair - Metro Nashville Public School • Pamela Cash - Youth Connections • Marvin Cox - Metro Action Commission • Helena Farrow - Opportunities Industrialization Center • John Goins - Nashville State Community College • Debbie Grant - Goodwill Industries • Paula Gray - Nashville State Community College • JoAnn Heidenreich - Mayor's Office • Atica J. Helms - Metro Student Attendance Center (M-SAC) • Maria Lopez - Community Volunteer • Carol Martin-Osorio - Nashville State Community College • Darwin Mason - Metro Nashville Public Schools • Tim Queener - YMCA - YBuild • Pamela Sessions - YWCA of Nashville & Middle Tennessee • Bernard Werthan - Leadership Nashville • Ellen Zinkiewicz - Nashville Career Advancement Center



16-24 OUT OF SCHOOL & OUT OF WORK

If you're a young person between the ages of 16-24 who is out of school without a diploma, you probably don't have the meaningful work that will support a family and successful future.

The 16-24 Committee has continued its focus of defining and mapping all available GED classes and other educational opportunities for Nashville's young people age 16-24 who have quit traditional school and are in need of a diploma, a GED or other certifications to access future employment opportunities.

The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce issued its first Community Needs Assessment in April 2010. The Chamber's assessment found that the number of non-immigrant adults in Nashville who lack literacy skills remains significant, with an estimated 63,053 adults over age 25 without a high school education; an estimated 52,000 Nashvillians over age 16 unable to read; and an estimated 38,499 residents over age 5 speaking English "less than very well."

MNPS stopped providing GED certifications in 2009, leaving a major gap in services and opportunities in Nashville for young people to be able attain their GED certification. The 16-24 Committee has now identified 11 centers that offer a GED program.

However, most current GED providers are at full capacity and have a waiting list. And, the committee discovered that a significant number of young people are reading below the fifth-grade level – while most programs require a sixth-grade or above reading skills.

Strategy

The 16-24 Out of School, Out of Work Committee focuses on the educational and employment needs of young adults age 16-24 who have left secondary education without a diploma and are not employed. The committee is working with area GED providers to discover barriers to GED attainment and assist providers in providing quality and consistent information/education to youth.

To do this, the committee will:

- Define and map the availability of Nashville's GED/Adult Education programs.
- Create a series of professional development sessions for Nashville-area GED providers.
- Align tactics with the Mayor's 2010 Child & Youth Master Plan and also with the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce Literacy Study.

Results

The Chamber of Commerce 2010 Community Needs Assessment on Adult Literacy spotlighted the work being accomplished by the 16-24 Committee.

According to the report, "There has been some important progress made on the need for better communication among adult

education providers. Alignment Nashville...has a committee focused on the needs of young people age 16-24 who are out of school and out of work. In December, the committee compiled a document of each participating agency's enrollment, capacity and waiting list to share across the provider community."

That document shows higher-than-anticipated waiting lists at each community organization providing GED services across the city. The committee is now monitoring the capacity of the community organizations and communicating those findings on a continuous basis.

The committee will survey each of the organizations in spring 2011 to determine the number of 16-24 year olds served in 2010.

Next

The next strategy for the 16-24 Committee is to conduct a professional development workshop for all GED providers across the city. In this session, the committee defined four areas of focus: 1) life skills; 2) college access; 3) GED; and 4) career advancement.

This professional development will be offered to GED providers in February 2011.



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PATHWAYS TO
POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION
COMMITTEE

- Michelle Wilcox, Chair - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Neely Williams, Vice Chair - IMF/Pencil Initiative
- Melva Black - IMF/Pencil Initiative
- Kim Brisson - Boy Scouts of America
- Ann Cumbie - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Glenn Fleming - Daniel Payne Outreach Ministries, Inc.
- Kelly Henderson - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Mary Mangum - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Lilly Massa-McKinley - Vanderbilt Office of Active Citizenship & Service
- Erin O'Hara - Governor's Office of State Planning and Policy
- Beth O'Shea - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Meghan Oliver - Nashville State Community College
- Sharon Peters - Tennessee State University
- Laura Potter - Nashville State Community College
- Jason Seay - Tennessee Student Assistance
- Becky Sharpe - Hope Scholarship Program Administrators
- Sonya Smith-Idoye - Tennessee State University
- Carmen Sparkman - PENCIL Foundation
- Ruth Woodall - Tennessee Scholars
- David L. Wright - TN Higher Education Commission (THEC)



PATHWAYS TO POSTSECONDAR

Readiness for college and career doesn't start in high school – and the Pathways to Postsecondary Education Committee is working to get the entire community involved in making sure all students start preparing for life after high school as early as possible.

In 2009, the Pathways Committee published the Right Track magazine, which provided parents with much-needed information about afterschool programs, mentoring and tutoring resources, leadership development opportunities, resources for students with disabilities, and more.

Strategy

The Pathways Committee is working to ensure every MNPS high school graduate is prepared for, applies for and attains postsecondary education via advanced certifications or community and four-year colleges.

09-10 Activities

The Pathways Committee has produced the “Right Track” magazine, which is designed to connect parents of middle school students with community resources that can help them prepare their child for success in middle school, high school, and beyond. Right Track contains important information about afterschool programs, mentoring and tutoring, leadership development, resources for students with disabilities, and more.

Results

Organizations that are listed in the magazine (which were identified through the Invitation to Participate process) were surveyed in March 2010 about the Right Track magazine.



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Next

The Pathways Committee is now expanding its work by identifying resources that will help students prepare their own plan for life after school. The committee is also developing community initiatives that will provide all students with prep classes before they take the ACT college entrance exam.

Future Planning

The committee is currently conducting tactical planning, considering the data about the Right Track magazine as well as the new vision for MNPS high schools under its new leadership. The committee plans to address needs in ACT prep and college readiness during 2011.



REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT COMMITTEE

- Jennifer Escue, Chair - Catholic Charities
- Linda DePriest, Vice Chair - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Gerry Alteri - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Abdelghani Barre - Metropolitan Social Services of Nashville & Davidson County
- Eva Bennett - Siloam Family Health Center
- Nicole Chaput-Guizani - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Alan Coverstone - Metro Nashville Public Schools - Charter Schools
- Beth Cruz - Public Defender's Office
- Laura Delgado - Conexión Americas
- Sonnye Dixon - Hobson United Methodist Church
- Cathie Dodd - Woodbine Community Center
- Cathy Dunn - Metro Public Health
- Kathy Edson - Nashville Public Television
- Emmanuel Ehiemua - CWA-Cayce Learning Center
- Elias Feghali - The Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIIRC)
- Eulonda Ford - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Kathleen Fuchs - YMCA - Latino Achievers
- Jessie Garcia Van De Griek - Lipscomb University
- Tracy Glascoe - Vanderbilt University
- Kathy Gracey - Vanderbilt University
- Tara Lentz - Conexión Americas
- Julia Lydon - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Caroline Mariash - Vanderbilt Division of Community Psychiatry
- Meg Nugent - Nashville Adult Literacy Council
- Doris Palomino - Conexión Americas
- Shuler Pelham - Overton High School
- Gini Pupo-Walker - Glenclyff High School
- Denise Rollins - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Louisa Saratora - Catholic Charities/Tennessee Office for Refugees
- Carol Seals - YMCA
- Carol Swann - United Way
- Meryl Taylor - Centerstone
- Campbell Wingfield - Metro Nashville Public Schools - Title I Translator
- Chad Yates - World Relief



REFUGEE & IMMIGRA

New country. New language. New customs. New school – and sometimes, the first school ever attended.

Nashville continues to be a major site for the resettlement of political refugees from around the world, so at the request of MNPS, Alignment Nashville created the Refugee and Immigrant Support Services (RISS) Committee in 2010. While the diversity in our city is welcomed, it creates hurdles as schools work to maintain the academic progress required by NCLB.

After identifying the various immigrant populations, the RISS committee began to catalog the most significant barriers and needs of these refugee students. A two-pronged approach was quickly evident. First, assist in stabilizing the families with basic living needs, and then, focus on the educational needs of students.

With urgency as the byword, the RISS Committee completed its first tactical planning session in February to identify these five overarching goals: parent engagement; professional development for teachers; individual student needs; community resource map; and language supports. The RISS committee has already begun work in all of these key areas.

Strategy

Refugee and Immigrant Support Services Committee is working to help refugee and immigrant families by defining and providing the supports they need to be successful in MNPS schools, careers and community. These defined supports are also intended to help teachers, principals, guidance counselors and other school staff.

Activities and Results

In August 2010, the RISS Committee assisted MNPS by creating a professional development workshop -- the Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) Conference -- for teachers who work with children who are English Language Learners (ELL). Working with the new ELL Director, Nicole Chaput Guizani, the committee issued an ITP for community organizations that provide services to refugee and immigrant families and children. Sixteen partners responded, providing 17 workshops for teachers – at no cost -- on topics ranging from the refugee resettlement process to financial literacy and self-sufficiency. More than 200 teachers and staff participated in the conference at no cost to MNPS.

Next

The RISS Committee will continue to provide professional development for ELL teachers and is also planning a workshop on cultural competency. In addition, a sub-committee is working on a resource guide of support services to assist teachers, guidance counselors, principals, school staff as well as refugee and immigrant families. The target date for publication is February 2011.



PHOTO: (left) Dr. Jesse Register, MNPS Director of Schools, with a group of immigrant parents at a 2010 Parent University event.

(above) Dr. Jesse Register stops for a photo with one of the parents.

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CHILDCA

The first initiative of the AN Childcare Taskforce is already getting rave reviews from Ryan Jackson, a teacher at Maplewood High.

“The Village is soaring beyond belief in its first full run at Maplewood High School,” said Jackson, a program advisor. “The presenters have been encouraging and engaging. The students themselves are engaged, inspired, and motivated to come...and this is only the first semester!”

The Pre-K and Healthy Starts Committees formed the Childcare Taskforce in 2009 in response to the increasing need for high-quality, affordable childcare for parenting teens. Working with MNPS personnel, the taskforce realized that many students simply weren’t aware of the multiple resources available to help them stay in school and be successful parents.

At the same time, a parenting student in Maplewood High School’s Developing Community Leaders class (see page 8 for more information) wanted to help other parenting students as the focus of her service-learning project. She worked with the taskforce to achieve her vision as they created a pilot initiative called “The Village” at Maplewood High.

The project includes a year-long schedule of 15 high-quality presentations on topics ranging from finding high-quality childcare to applying for college. Each of the sessions occurs during one of the students’ 30-minute advisory periods and is delivered by various community agencies, at no cost to the school.

Strategy

The Childcare Taskforce is committed to increasing access to affordable, high-quality childcare for parenting students in MNPS. Their initial strategy is the creation of a pilot advisory program for teen parents at Maplewood High with a structured curriculum and opportunities for community engagement to support these students and their children.

Because it aligns existing resources and is built into the school day, The Village is a no-cost program that is sustainable. It also serves as a model for providing services to other groups of students based on their specific needs.

09-10 Activities

In summer 2010, the Childcare Taskforce issued an ITP to identify organizations that had information and resources to help these students. Each of the 13 responding organizations participated in a presentation review session, with taskforce members and students previewing each group’s presentation and suggesting modifications to avoid duplication. The presentations are currently ongoing in a student advisory period each week.

CHILDCARE TASKFORCE COMMITTEE

- Betsy Walkup, Chair - Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
- D'Yuanna Allen - Metro Nashville Public Health
- Lois Barrett-Luke - Tennessee Department of Human Services
- Pat Cole - Community Foundation
- Sonja Colquitt - Maplewood High School
- Cel Franklin - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Ryan Jackson - Maplewood High School
- Cherrell Lee - Maplewood High School Student
- Lillian Maddox-Whitehead - Metro Health Department
- Judy Maloney - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Sonya Mansfield - Maplewood High School
- Melba Marcum - McNeilly Center
- Joy Pillow-Jones - Maplewood Family Resource Center
- Sherry Raymer - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Judy Smith - Signal Centers
- Letty Steele - Nashville Career Advancement Center
- Barbara Wall - Tennessee Department of Human Services
- Erika Williams - Maplewood High School
- Ellen Zinkiewicz - Nashville Career Advancement Center

RE TASKFORCE

Results

During the pilot project, the taskforce will monitor these objectives:

- Increase number of students completing the application process for childcare certificates from the state.
- Increase student knowledge of resources available in the community (measured through a student survey).
- Increase the number of students who plan to finish high school/continue education beyond high school (student survey).
- Increase the graduation rate at Maplewood (long-term outcome).

Next

During the pilot year of The Village, which is funded in part by the Healthways Foundation, the committee is working with school personnel to develop a student guide and advisors' guide, which will be printed in summer 2011 and available as a no-cost replication model for additional schools during the 2011-2012 school year. The committee anticipates this model might also be useful for providing information and services to other student populations with specific needs.



PHOTO: (above) Cherrell Lee, student, and Sonya Mansfield, Academy Coach at Maplewood High School at the 2010 Project Blossom Conference where Cherrell spoke about her vision for The Village.



*Financial support provided by the
Healthways Foundation*



HEALTHY E

What's in a name? For the AN HEAL Committee, this year's name-change from "Healthy Practices" illustrates the committee's commitment to Creating a Culture of Wellness ... through Healthy Eating and Active Lifestyles.

The importance of HEAL is more apparent than ever. The childhood obesity statistics for the nation are staggering, with the Obesity Society estimating that one in five American children is overweight – more than double the number from 30 years ago. And, excessive weight has become a problem for younger children, including preschoolers.

Tennessee and Nashville haven't escaped the epidemic. This year, the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation named Tennessee the second-most obese state in the entire nation with an overall obesity rate of 31.6% and a child rate of 20.6%. That makes Tennessee sixth in the nation for childhood obesity.

The HEAL Committee is facing the issue head-on by developing a very promising pilot initiative based on the successful "Live It! Go for the Red, White and Blue" program at Glencliff High and Wright Middle schools.

Strategy

The HEAL Committee is working to ensure the children of Nashville are healthy by creating a culture of wellness in every school through the eight components of Coordinated School Health.

09-10 Activities

The HEAL Committee supported this year's implementation of the Live It! initiative at Glencliff High and Wright Middle schools. Among the activities, teachers included healthy lessons in their curricula, students and staff increased their physical activity by walking more, students ate more fruits and vegetables, and teachers and staff competed in a "biggest loser" weight-loss contest.

At the same time, the committee created a comprehensive, cost-effective, and sustainable pilot approach to leverage the strengths of Live It! and other community initiatives with additional resources and support to maximize the reach and effectiveness of CSH.

Results

Live It! Accomplishments for 2010 include:

- 1,020 pre-health behavior assessments collected.
- More than 30 Live It! leader meetings.
- Nearly 20 special events.
- 63 teachers/staff members lost 386.2

ATING ACTIVE LIVING

pounds in the Biggest Loser contest.

- 2,007 log-ins to the Live It! website.
- 120 online family accounts created.
- 3,164 step entries logged with 27,086,031 steps tracked.
- 6,801 Fit-It-In entries with 14,248 nutrition items tracked.

Next

The HEAL Committee has used its experience at Glenclyff and Wright to create a more sustainable, community-based, collaborative effort to improve children's health through the Coordinated School Health program.

The pilot plan is being tested throughout the 2010-2011 school year in six schools, including Glenclyff and Overton high schools, Wright and Croft middle schools, and Glenclyff and Tusculum elementary schools. After adjusting the effectiveness of the model, the plan will be replicated throughout all Nashville public schools over the next 10 years.

The strategies and goals for the plan include:

1. Bring community partners together to improve the health of MNPS students.
2. Improve the health and well-being of students, parents, faculty, and staff.
3. Create a supportive environment where students, parents, faculty and staff can easily practice healthy habits.

- At least 10 community partners will provide quality, effective, and useful resources, projects, or support aligned with schools' Health Index reports and identified CSH goals.
- Trained CSH Liaisons from the two lead organizations – YMCA and the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt – will be assigned to each pilot school to assist Healthy School Teams in completing CSH requirements, setting goals, identifying community partners, and achieving goals.
- MNPS students and staff members at pilot schools will improve self-reported health knowledge, behaviors and lifestyle choices
- Each pilot school will develop at least one opportunity to demonstrate health knowledge, behaviors, and lifestyles.
- Schools will see improvements on at least one health/wellness indicator each academic year.
- Monthly progress reports will be submitted to track achievements.

In addition, the HEAL Committee's Invitation to Participate at the beginning of the school year received 13 responses from various community organizations. The committee is in final stages of reviewing these responses and will be publishing a resource guide for the Liaisons to the Healthy School Teams as they engage additional CSH supports.

- Lisa Beck, Co-Chair - YMCA of Middle Tennessee
- Kim Harrell, Co-Chair - Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt
- Susan Lyle, Vice Chair - Metro Nashville Public Schools Coordinated School Health
- Sarah Adams - Belmont University
- Liz Aleman - Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt
- Janet Barcroft - Skyline Medical Center
- Benita Collins - Oasis Center
- Vanessa Elliott - Meharry Medical College
- Sabina Gesell - Vanderbilt University
- Stephanie Grimes-Stanley - Healthways
- Latissa Hall - Metro Public Health Department
- Dianne Killebrew - Vanderbilt University
- Angela Lyles - Oasis Center
- Margaret McFarland - Healthways
- Oscar Miller - Tennessee State University
- Mary Kate Mouser - Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt
- Ashley Peterson - University of Tennessee Extension
- Joan Randall - Vanderbilt University
- Chris Taylor - Metro Public Health Dept
- Kevin Tumminello - Healthways
- Deborah Walker - Metro-Nashville School Food Services
- Paul Widman - Metro Parks & Recreation

ADOLESCENT
SEXUAL
RESPONSIBILITY
COMMITTEE

- D'Yuanna Allen, Chair - Metro Public Health Department
- Linda DePriest, Vice Chair - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Joan Clayton-Davis - Academy for Educational Development
- Emily Coe - Healthways
- Kylene Dibble - Oasis Center
- Misty Ellis - Nashville CARES
- Jenn Garcia - Oasis Center
- James Huff - One In Teen
- Sara Kemp - You Have The Power, Inc.
- Lillian Maddox-Whitehead - Metro Public Health Department
- Kayce Matthews - Planned Parenthood of Middle Tennessee
- Elisa Norris - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Laura Pigott - Healthways
- Nickie Stanley - Sexual Assault Center
- Keshia Stricklen - UNHS - HealthCorps
- Lynnette Whitlow - Positive Prevention Alliance



Adolescent Sexual Responsibility

It's the subject that's so-o-o hard to talk about, but AN's Adolescent Sexual Responsibility (ASR) Committee has tackled this problematic issue to provide MNPS students with accurate information for sexually responsible decisions.

The committee's mission was defined by a survey of guidance counselors and school nurses at MNPS high schools, and without exception, the results of that survey indicated a need for additional preventative services in their schools.

The ASR Committee has taken that valuable feedback and reached out to community organizations to catalog supporting resources for the Lifetime Wellness curriculum, the required high school class that meets state law requirements. The community stepped up to the task and, after serious review and assessment, the committee partnered with MNPS in approving the organizations whose services matched the needs of the schools.

Strategy

The ASR Committee is working to ensure Nashville adolescents are sexually responsible with the help of district-wide, evidence-based, reproductive health resources and pregnancy prevention information.

09-10 Activities

The ASR Committee, at the request of MNPS, designed a full-day professional development workshop for High School Lifetime Wellness Sexuality Education teachers. Each of the day's activities was designed and delivered by a variety of community organizations with expert knowledge in key areas of ASR.

"We are very appreciative of the workshop and look forward to future collaborations regarding professional development for family life and sexuality education," said Dr. Tina Bozeman, MNPS coordinator of health and wellness. "The teachers and I felt this was the right group to provide the training."

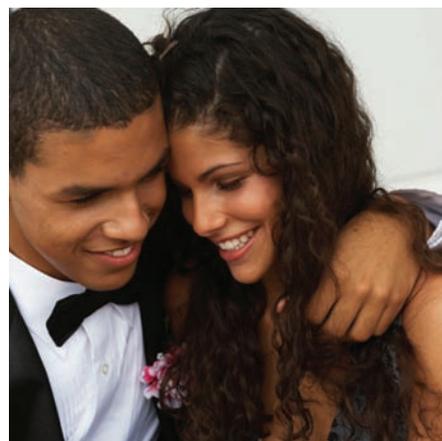
Results

The committee continues to monitor the impact of its Adolescent Sexual Responsibility Lifetime Wellness Resource Guide, published in 2009. "Approved ASR Committee organizations responded to more than 13 school requests and helped teach more than 800 students since January 2010," said D'Yuanna Allen, chair of the ASR Committee.

Next

This ASR Committee is planning to coordinate more professional development workshops for MNPS high school teachers. Rich in content and practical knowledge, these sessions will include community partner organizations at no cost to MNPS.

In addition, the committee is building on the success of its first Resource Guide, which was accepted with enthusiasm by MNPS teachers. The next version will appeal to a broader audience, including community organizations, Family Resource Centers, universities, faith-based organizations, treatment centers and other youth-serving organizations, along with MNPS schools including counselors, teachers and staff. The resources in this guide will include programs already audited and approved by MNPS for teachers to use in their classrooms.



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HEALTHY STARTS
COMMITTEE

- Kim Wyche-Etheridge, MD, Chair - Metro Public Health Department
- Cel Franklin, Vice Chair - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Rebecca Carter - United Way
- Linda Catlett - Healthways
- Emily Coe - Healthways
- Kimberly Cox - Metro Public Health Department
- Mona Fletcher - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Jennifer Gamble - Prevent Blindness Tennessee
- Cherie Hackney - Baptist Hospital
- Lillian Maddox-Whitehead - Metro Health Department
- Lateesa Posey - Affinity Health Care Associates
- Betsy Walkup - Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
- Julie Warner - Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center



HEALTHY STAR

A child who starts life healthy is more likely to succeed in school and in life – but that can't happen if young mothers don't have access to services that help them have a healthy pregnancy, stay in school, and care for their infants.

That's why the Healthy Starts Committee is creating a network of organizations that provide services for pregnant and parenting teens. These programs, collectively, should provide a myriad of services – prenatal medical care, post-partum mother/child care, academic support services, social-emotional support, and counseling services.

As the first step in developing this network, the Healthy Starts Committee issued an Invitation to Participate (ITP) to Nashville organizations to be part of a comprehensive resource guide, "Healthy Nashville, Healthy Future," for school counselors, administrators, teachers, nurses, and others working with pregnant and parenting teens. Published in 2009, the guide included a unique Pregnancy Calendar, which provides a list of important milestones during a teen's pregnancy paired with listings of community organizations that provide related support services.

As just one example of its impact, Cel Franklin, director of homebound services for MNPS, has incorporated the resource guide into her orientation and training for homebound services teachers. "Our new teachers are often overwhelmed by the needs of these students," Franklin said, "and until now, there hasn't been one place for them to access this information. 'Healthy Nashville, Healthy Future' makes it easier for them to help these students."

Strategy

The goal of the Healthy Starts Committee is to ensure that all children begin life healthy by creating a network of organizations that provide services for pregnant and parenting teens. School personnel working with pregnant and parenting teens will be supported by a resource guide of services, while the pregnant and parenting teens will have an adapted version to help them directly access services.

Activities and Results

The Healthy Starts Committee received 22 responses to their ITP for the "Healthy Nashville, Healthy Future" resource guide, with another 14 responses to an ITP for a future resource guide to coordinate resources for teen fathers.

In January, AN conducted a survey of organizations in the resource guide to determine its impact. Respondents felt that the guide was most effective in coordinating community organizations to meet the needs of MNPS schools and students, and they felt that being included in the guide increased their ability to reach their target population.

Next

The Healthy Starts Committee is in the final stages of developing an adaptation of the "Healthy Nashville, Healthy Future" resource guide for pregnant and parenting teens, with publication expected in early 2011. The committee is also in the early stages of developing a resource guide specifically for teen fathers, encouraging them to stay involved in their child's life and be a positive influence.



TS

PRIMARY CARE
COMMITTEE

• Michael Warren, MD, Chair -

Monroe Carell, Jr. Children's Hos-

pital at Vanderbilt • Reba Bryant,

Vice Chair - Metro Nashville Public

Schools • Mary Bufwack - United

Neighborhood Health Services •

Betsy Dooley - Health Assist Ten-

nessee • Kathy Gilliland - Health-

ways • Becky Green - Metro Public

Health Dept • Kyle Harris - BC-

Middle Schools • Michelle McRae

- Health Assist Tennessee • Melissa

O'Connor - Healthways • Patti

Scott - Vanderbilt School of Nurs-

ing • Clare Sullivan - Vanderbilt

Institute for Medicine & Public

Health • Kim Wyche-Etheridge,

MD - Metro Public Health Depart-

ment



PRIMARY CARE

Passport to Health: Your child's ticket to good health!

Every parent wants their child to be healthy, but not everyone knows how. That's why the AN Primary Care Committee has developed the Passport to Health, a unique collaboration between several organizations in Nashville that want to help all parents and children in Nashville live a healthy lifestyle.

Developed for students age 10-14, the Passport to Health provides parents with an explanation and resources in a variety of crucial topics, including:

- Insurance – options in Tennessee and how to access them.
- Primary care provider – why a child needs to have a doctor or other health-care provider to visit on a consistent basis, and how to find that “medical home.”
- Well-child checkup – the importance of a comprehensive, regular check-up (well-visit) every year, even if the child isn't sick and even when shots or tests aren't due.
- Immunizations – a list of vaccines or “shots” to keep students safe from serious diseases, recommended ages to receive these immunizations and where low- or no-cost immunizations are available.

The Passport to Health provides important information about other aspects of wellness, including physical activity, nutrition and drug and alcohol cessation. The booklet also includes charts where parents can record their child's health information.

Strategy

The Primary Care Committee is working to ensure all children have access to primary care and that parents have information about common barriers to good health.

09-10 Activities

The Primary Care Committee assisted MNPS and the Metro Public Health Department in their citywide outreach to ensure all parents complied with the new, seventh-grade immunization requirements for the 2010-2011 school year. As part of that collaboration, committee members staffed a booth at a fast-track immunization clinic on 7-7-10 for the 7th-grade students and provided additional information about resources in the community.

Committee members provided a workshop on the Passport to Health and adolescent health at this summer's Be A+ Parent event, sponsored by the AN Parent University Committee. More than 75 parents participated in the workshop.

Results

The Invitation to Participate in Passport to Health received more than 50 responses from community organizations. The resource guide is currently being distributed; parents and organizations will be surveyed about its impact in early 2011.

Next

The Primary Care Committee is currently conducting tactical planning for its next initiative and is exploring ways to support Coordinated School Health in conjunction with the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Committee.



E

PARENT
UNIVERSITY
COMMITTEE

- Olivia Brown, Chair - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Kathy Edson, Vice Chair - Nashville Public Television
- Mary Jo Alexander - Stand for Children
- Melva Black - IMF/Peniel Initiative
- Julee Brooks - Nashville Children's Theatre
- Monica Causey - TN Voices for Children/TPIRC
- Nicole Chaput-Guizani - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Colleen Coffey - National Mental Health Awareness Campaign
- Ruben De Pena - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Tracey Dill - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Kathy Floyd Buggs - Office of Congressman Jim Cooper
- Eulonda Ford - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Cynthia Gale - YMCA
- Kyle Harris - Brick Church Middle School
- Alvesia Hawkins - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Mary Holland - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Erica Lanier - PAC Liaison CIGNA Government Services
- Julia Lydon - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Lillian Maddox-Whitehead - Metro Public Health Department
- Mary Mangum - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Kayce Matthews - Planned Parenthood of Mid TN
- Doris Palomino - Conexión Américas
- Sherry Raymer - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Bradley Redmond - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- LaToi Spears - Bordeaux Family Resource Center
- Verda Stewart - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Carol Swann - United Way
- Jane Walling - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Neely Williams - IMF/Peniel Initiative
- Campbell Wingfield - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Christina Wood - Metro Nashville Public Schools



PARENT UNIVERSITY

Parenting doesn't come with a play-by-play manual. And even though all parents want the best for their children, every mom and dad is confronted with the moment when they wish for more information and guidance.

Nashville's Parent University is the answer for hundreds of Nashville parents and caregivers, providing multiple opportunities to learn how to help their children to be successful in MNPS schools, become engaged and involved in their child's education, and help their child to see the future beyond graduation.

The service is increasingly important as Nashville becomes more and more culturally diverse. At this year's Parent University workshops, parents newly resettled from Burma crowded into the sessions – and even brought their own interpreter – eager for information that many American-born parents take for granted.

Praise for the Parent University events is consistently outstanding, particularly for the summer workshop in late July. "This is a terrific way to jump-start getting back into the new school year," one parent wrote in a glowing evaluation.

Strategy

The Parent University Committee is working to identify and remove barriers to acquiring accurate school-related information and the necessary skills for parents/caregivers to be their child's best teacher and advocate. The committee also works with community organizations to deliver information to parents about timely topics.

09-10 Activities

The Parent University Committee used a 2009 survey to ask community partners to provide workshops focused on needs identified by parents. Dozens of groups responded, and the first "Be A + Parent" event was held during the summer of 2009 at the Avon Williams downtown campus of Tennessee State University. With free transportation to the site, almost 200 parents attended workshops on various topics while their children participated in free activities during the day.

To meet the increasing demand, smaller events were held at Nashville State Community College and Trevecca Nazarene University during spring 2010. Lipscomb University hosted the second annual summer event, with free transportation, breakfast and lunch for more than 400 parents who selected from more than 15 workshops. During the day, more than 300 children participated in an exciting literacy camp and fun activities while parents attended workshops, including:

Recognizing the Signs of Gangs presented by Centerstone – Parents learned the history of street gangs, common identifiers in the Nashville area, signs that their child may be involved in a gang, and tips to keep their kids from joining a gang.

Parents as Partners presented by Conexion Americas – Latino parents learned how to forge a working partnership with schools to ultimately improve children's academic achievement.

Making Connections with Your Child presented by Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee – Parents learned different ways to communicate with their children, and how to confront and problem-solve in effective ways.

Bullying Prevention presented by STARS and Kids On The Block – Parents learned how to discuss the issue of bullying, signs of bullying and common myths about bullies, in addition to actions to take if their child is cyber-bullied.

At-Risk Students: Safety in Neighborhoods, Schools, and Home presented by the Interdenominational Ministers' Fellowship/Peniel Initiative – Parents of middle and high students learned about safety in schools and home and its relationship to human trafficking. Many youth enter the world of human trafficking at about age 12, many as a result of running away from home.

Love, Read, Learn Literacy presented by Tennessee Voices for Children – Parents of children from pre-K to grade three learned about the five National Reading Panel Standards (phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension), strategies and techniques to reinforce the standards, and received a free literacy kit.

This is just a sample of the participating organizations and their workshops. For a complete list, see page 42.

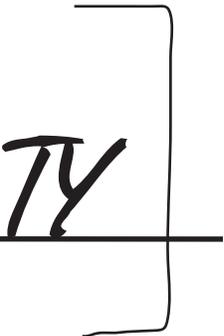
Results

With the help of community partners, Parent University has provided 97 workshops to 883 parents and 1,916 children, for a total of 2,799 family members attending the five "Be A+ Parent" events.

Next

The Parent University Committee convened for a half-day in September to develop a strategic plan for the next three years. This highly ambitious plan will serve as the roadmap for reaching more parents and making the most impact. Some of the goals from this new plan include:

- Reach 10,000+ parents per year.
- Offer trainings to parents on leadership and "train-the-trainers."
- Creation of scholarships for the children of Parent University participants.



BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH
COMMITTEE

- Denise Rollins, Chair - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Kathy Gracey, Vice Chair - Vanderbilt University
- Marcy Melvin, Vice Chair - Centerstone
- Tim Adgent - Juvenile Court
- Tony Artates - Healthways
- Rhonda Ashley-Dixon - Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital
- Shirley Berry-Yates - Vanderbilt University
- Lisa Bilton - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Reb Buxton - Lifecare Family Services
- Colleen Coffey - National Mental Health Awareness Campaign
- Beth Cruz - Public Defender's Office
- Michael Cull - Vanderbilt University
- Ann Cumbie - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Erin Daunic - STARS Nashville
- Rodger Dinwiddie - Center for Youth Issues/STARS
- Sonya Dobbs - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Andy Finch - Vanderbilt University
- Vickie Fleming - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Eulonda Ford - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Judy Freudenthal - Oasis Center
- Lorraine Greene - Metro Nashville Police Department
- Joy Guss - Bellevue Middle School
- Beth Hail - Centerstone
- Trish Hayes - Public Defender's Office
- Eric Johnson - STARS Nashville
- Susan Douglas Kelley - Vanderbilt University
- Michael Kirshner - Mental Health Cooperative, Inc.
- Rachel Krauss - TennCare Select
- Susan Lyle - Metro Nashville Public Schools Coordinated School Health
- Darwin Mason - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Debra McAdams - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Michael McSurdy - Oasis Center
- Lauren Munn - Centerstone School-Based Services
- Maury Nation - Vanderbilt University
- Kelly Noser - Metro Nashville Public Schools - Kelly Noser Consulting
- Marlene Pardue - Metro Nashville Police Department
- Gini Pupo-Walker - Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Susan Ragsdale - YMCA/Center for Asset Development
- Scott Ridgway - Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network
- Kim Roberts - Mental Health Association of Middle TN
- Joy Stewart - Parent/West End IB
- Millie Sweeney - Tennessee Voices for Children
- Per Thomas - DCS
- Angie Thompson - Metro Public Health Department
- Neely Williams - IMF/Peniel Initiative



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Knowledge is power: This old adage is especially appropriate for AN's Behavioral Health Committee, which has helped bring new information about students' social and mental-health needs to teachers and staff at MNPS schools.

Through the efforts of this committee, Nashville was awarded an 18-month grant for \$350,000 from the U.S. Department of Education. Ending in July 2010, LYNCS (Linking Youth in Nashville with Comprehensive Services), provided an MNPS staff position to coordinate efforts for social and emotional health, an external evaluator, and professional development for staff and teachers.

Comments from MNPS staff after the training sessions have been uniformly glowing, said Denise Rollins, MNPS director of social and emotional learning. "Teachers were thankful for "Mental Health and Schools," she said, "and they even asked for the session to be presented at their individual schools, and we made that happen."

Strategy

The Behavioral Health Committee works to ensure that Nashville children and youth are mentally healthy, currently through collaboration with the LYNCS grant.

Activities

MNPS has added the position of Director of Social and Emotional Learning, initially funded through the DOE grant. "Our district recognizes the value in social-emotional learning and the impact it has on the lives of our students," said Dr. Linda DePriest, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Support. "Our goal is to collaborate with families, schools, and community partners to promote children's success in school and life."

In addition, the 2010 Services Capacity Assessment gathered information about current services in schools and staffs' understanding of those services. Through this assessment, the committee completed inter-agency agreements with community organizations, identified additional community partnerships and provided professional development opportunities concerning cultural competency, access and stigma reduction.

- Review of common mental health disorders.
- Impact of disorders and stress on the human brain.
- Risk and protective factors.
- Teacher strategies for working with students experiencing emotional/behavioral challenges.

Professional Development

Mental Health and School: The LYNCS project has collaborated with several community agencies throughout the 2009-2010 year to deliver professional development aimed at helping school personnel make appropriate referrals to mental health services.

In a series of half- and full-day workshops, 717 school-level personnel and 30 parents participated during the summer of 2009 and summer 2010 to learn strategies for helping children improve conflict resolution and problem-solving skills. Topics included: common mental health disorders; impact of disorders and stress on the human brain; risk and protective factors; and teacher strategies for working with students experiencing emotional/behavioral challenges.

Surviving the Commute: A training session helped 496 MNPS bus drivers and bus monitors become more strategic in dealing with MNPS students. Topics included the importance of social-emotional learning, reasons for adolescent behavior and the appropriate time to call experts.

Understanding the Importance of Childhood Trauma: This session helped 76 behavior consultants learn to deal with students' signs of tra-

uma and signs of developing trauma. Participants also learned to develop safety plans for students who struggle with behaviors stemming from mental health issues and to understand the STARS referral process.

Measuring and Improving School Climate: Presented by Jonathon Cohen, the director of the Center for Social and Emotional Education in New York, this session for 160 MNPS staff discussed school resources to improve school climate reform. Topics included: positive expectations, norms, and community practices; school climate self-assessment; and conceptual overview of school climate and best practices.

Crisis Training and Proper Protocol and Intervention for Death/Loss in Schools for 66 MNPS mental health professionals.

Mental Health 101: This "train-the-trainer" session helped 376 school counselors, social workers and psychologists, Metro probation officers, Vanderbilt school-based therapists and Centerstone school-based therapists learn to make a 45-minute presentation for other MNPS teachers or school staff. The presentation focused on "The Other Side of the Report Card," a slide show to illustrate the social, emotional and mental health factors that can affect academics.

Support Team Policy and Process: At least 600 guidance counselors, psychologists, teachers, principals and other school staff learned the protocol and purposes of a support group for a struggling student.

Results

The second annual Network Analysis identified 75 agencies or MNPS departments as it captured the characteristics of the relationship and linkages across community agencies and schools. It also measured these linkages across three key areas of service: crisis; early recognition and referral; and promotion and prevention.

The city-wide analysis, conducted by an independent evaluator, identified affiliation with Alignment Nashville as one of the top five ways local mental and behavioral health organizations gather more information about providing services for children in Nashville.

Other key findings include:

- 51% of respondents indicated that there was a greater need for crisis intervention resources than currently available.
- 56% were "somewhat confident" in school staff recognizing and intervening in mental health emergencies.
- Over 80% believed their schools implemented efforts to communicate with families when concerns over mental health issues arose.
- Almost 70% believed there was a system in place to some or a great extent to take action on referrals for students with mental health concerns.
- Approximately 70% believe that their schools' mission reflects a focus on social and emotional development of students, that they had programs that focus on building students' strengths and resilience, and that students are given regular opportunities to highlight their talents or accomplishments.

TH



AMERI

Nashville was one of the first – and now it’s one of the best – cities carefully selected by the America’s Promise Alliance to illustrate excellence in helping children.

America’s Promise, the nation’s largest partnership organization dedicated to youth, selected Alignment Nashville in 2007 as the coordinating agency to co-host a Nashville Dropout Prevention summit, one of the first to be held across the nation. In 2008, Nashville was selected as one of 12 America’s Promise Featured Communities, again with AN as the local coordinating agency. Together, the two groups have hosted another citywide summit focused on improving the graduation rate in Nashville, and at AN’s 2010 annual Community Meeting, Caroline Brachman of America’s Promise presented Nashville with the 100 Best Communities for Youth Award, the third time the city has been honored.

Also, Nashville and AN was the first Featured Community selected to showcase our ongoing educational and health-related achievements for representatives from nine other Featured Communities. The visitors gave Nashville rave reviews for its commitment and strategies in improving the quality of life for young people.

“Nashville serves as an example to inspire and educate other communities across the nation to tackle the challenges facing their city and children, and to implement initiatives that give them the essential resources they need to succeed in life,” said Marguerite W. Kondracke, America’s Promise Alliance president and CEO. “Through its innovative and far-reaching programs, Nashville is taking bold and effective steps to help their young people graduate and lead healthy, productive lives.”

Strategy

Working with America’s Promise, AN has used a matrix of the 52 action items from our 2009 Dropout Prevention summit to develop a Collaboration Plan focusing on Youth Voice, Mentoring, School Climate, Caring Adults/Safe Places, and Policies. Each focus includes the three phases of investigative analysis, process development, and execution, with each phase expected to take two to three months for committees to complete.

Activities

AN continues to strengthen its relationship with America’s Promise. Funding from America’s Promise allowed AN to create a Collaborative Coordinator position to lead a focused conversation about America’s Promises initiatives in each of the committees. AN also received funding from America’s Promise for the Academies of Nashville celebration coordinated by the High School Academies Committee, PENCIL Foundation and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, AN’s relationship with America’s Promise allowed staff members of several partner organizations to participate in professional development activities at the spring and fall Grad Nation conferences. AN and partner organizations are assisting several Nashville students who were

CA'S PROMISE

selected as local winners of \$1,500 for a dropout prevention project in the "My Idea" competition sponsored by America's Promise and AT&T and are currently assisting a student from Glenclyff High School who won a national award of \$20,000 to complete her project.



Results

AN is surveying committee members on their perceptions of their committee's shared vision, synergy, and leadership capacity to execute the action items from the Collaboration Plan on Youth Voice, Mentoring, School Climate, Caring Adults/Safe Places, and Policies. Results from the surveys will be shared with each committee, with plans of a second survey near the end of the year. Committees will be able

to use the process to self-assess the committee's function and effectiveness and determine any necessary modifications.

AN also received rave ratings in a survey of participants after the three-day workshop for representatives of other America's Promise Featured Cities. The visitors noted that AN is successfully pulling together a variety of stakeholders around the crisis of dropout students, that AN's efforts reflect the America's Promise focus and that MNPS schools are committed to AN's strategic activities to help more young people graduate from high school.

Next

The focus of America's Promise has been integrated into the AN Collaboration Process at the tactical planning level, with each AN committee addressing the plan's five categories and the five key supports identified by America's Promise. These initiatives are ongoing.

America's Promise: The five key supports for young people

- **Caring adults** ... such as parents, teachers, mentors, coaches and neighbors.
- **Safe places** ... that offer constructive activities when young people are not in school.
- **A healthy start** ... and healthy development.
- **An effective education** ... that prepares young people for college and work.
- **Opportunities to help others** ... through service.



Art

Strategy

- Activities are chosen to connect the girls' creativity and interest in art to STEM concepts and career opportunities.
- The girls' awareness of practical STEM application is broadened by real-world scenarios in afterschool club meetings, business visits and university visits.
- Local business partnerships allow the girls to experience the relevance of the concepts they are learning.

Activities

- During the spring semester, the girls explored design and creativity using a computer-animation program called Alice. After they created character-driven stories, the girls learned to write and execute programming codes to bring their characters to life.
- The animated "short movies" were presented to their groups, and several clubs showcased their movies through special movie night events at their schools.
- SUMMER Art2STEM hosted two week-long residential summer camps at Belmont University and Girl Scouts' Camp Holloway. The camps allowed the girls to explore and expand what they had learned, participate in new STEM activities and network with other girls who share the same interests.
- The summer camp experiences included robotics at Tennessee State University, art and math at the Parthenon, couture design and technology at the Frist, forensic science with Metro Police and TBI, chemistry of cosmetics, and silk screening, rocketry and swimming.

It's an amazing revelation for dozens of girls in MNPS middle schools that "women can do so many things," ... and that some of the most exciting careers are in the non-traditional realm of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Now beginning its second year, Art2STEM is a set of afterschool clubs that provide activities to change the attitudes of 184 girls toward STEM, and to encourage them to enroll in one of the STEM career academies offered by MNPS high schools. The long-term goal of the National Science Foundation, which provides partial funding over three years, is to expand the pipeline of individuals entering STEM jobs, especially from underrepresented groups such as minorities and females.

Art2STEM provides "discovery through design," with real-world inquiry and problem-based experiences that begin with the girls' current interests – such as art – and expand into STEM. The activities take place in informal settings and are facilitated by teams of "coaches," including middle and high school teachers as well as mentors recruited from local business and colleges.



Partial Funding provided by



the National Science Foundation

2 STEM

• Each camp ended with a celebratory event that allowed girls to share their camp experiences and present their accomplishments to friends and family.

YEAR 1 ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION RATE BY SCHOOL		
SCHOOL	ENROLLED	RETENTION
Apollo	29	55.2%
Croft	31	80.6%
DuPont-Tyler	15	66.7%
Joelton	24	45.8%
Oliver	31	77.4%
Thurgood Marshall	38	60.5%
West End	16	68.8%
TOTAL	184	65.0%

Data provided by Edvantia research and evaluation consulting

Changing attitudes about STEM topics

In a survey completed by 127 middle school girls, just under half commented that they had discovered a new range of careers and that those careers were important, while one-fifth reported that Art2STEM made them realize they had the ability to choose and be successful in a STEM-related career. In addition, the girls observed that Art2STEM camp helped them understand engineering, science and math and that this increased understanding changed their stereotypes about the disciplines.

They also said they liked the wealth of hands-on activities in the clubs, and that the college visits helped to make possibility of college “real.”

Art2STEM has clubs in eight MNPS middle schools: Apollo, Bailey, Croft, DuPont-Tyler, Joelton, Oliver, Thurgood Marshall, and West End.

Next

While Art2STEM continues to build upon the interests of middle school students, the next phase of the project includes four new Art2STEM clubs at Antioch, Cane Ridge, McGavock, and Overton high schools. These clubs will continue to nurture the ninth-grade students’ interest in STEM until they select their career academies for grades 10-12.

Business engagement will continue to be an essential part of Art2STEM. Site visits already scheduled for 2010-2011 include Tennessee Tech University, Earl Swensson Associates, Deloitte, Triumph Aerostructures, Nissan, Nashville Electric Service, Street Dixon Rick Architecture, Aegis Labs, and LP Building Products.

Professional development will be provided throughout the year, for Coaches (teachers and mentors) to learn more about software programs and session plan concepts.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

- Connie Williams - PENCIL Foundation
- Carol Nixon - Edvantia
- Jeri Hasselbring - Adventure Science Center
- Ismail Fidan - Tennessee Technological University
- David McNeel - Consultant
- Aaron Butler - Edvantia
- Sandra Harris - Alignment Nashville/PENCIL Foundation
- John Hawkins - Adventure Science Center
- Sydney Rogers - Alignment Nashville

Art2STEM COACHES

- Lee Tydus - 6th Grade Language Arts Teacher
- Jodi Graham - 6th Grade Math, Science, Social Studies Teacher
- Janet McFarland - Physical Science Teacher
- Cecily Wiseman - Tennessee State University Student
- Courtney Gipson - Tennessee State University Student
- Melynda Sutton - K-8 Science and Social Studies Teacher
- Marcus Davis - K-6 Teacher
- Pam England - Deloitte
- Leslie Knapp - Deloitte
- Patrick Carr - 8th Grade Math Teacher
- Mary Kindt - Science Teacher
- John Marshall - Business Teacher
- Nicole Jimenez - Technology Coach
- Michelle Little - Mathematics Teacher
- Peter Ortner - CTE-Technology Teacher
- Marilou Pampo - Blue River I.T.
- LaKeshia Wright - Science Teacher
- Bunny Schall - 5th Grade English and Special Ed. Teacher
- Christina Carlisle - Deloitte
- Kim Chenault - Deloitte
- Emily Medlock - 8th Grade Math Teacher
- Millie Norwood - 7th Grade Math Teacher
- Frank Lane - English Teacher
- Susan Lewis - Deloitte
- Karen Wabby - Info-Systems, Inc.
- Jan Maddox - Deloitte
- Deborah Smith - 7th Grade Mathematics Teacher
- Kimberly Vaughan - 8th Grade Pre-Algebra Teacher
- Cathryn Armstrong - Mathematics Teacher
- Emily Moth - WiTT (Women in Technology Tennessee)
- Amy Flatt - 7th Grade Math Teacher
- Melinda McDonald - Robotics Club Coach
- Carol Mosow - Math and Art Teacher
- Beth Grubb - Belmont University Student
- Jessica Bruce - Deloitte
- Janet McFarland - Physical Science Teacher
- Harold Cunningham - Technology Teacher
- Lisa Bonelli - CTE Business Teacher
- Mary Lou Snyder - Science Teacher
- Tocarra Cecil - Science Teacher
- Lance Olivas - Science Teacher

PHOTO: (right) Jane Quinn, Assistant Executive Director at Children's Aid Society and Dr. Jesse Register, MNPS Director of Schools at the 2010 Community Meeting.

(opposite page) Mayor Karl Dean and 2010 Miss Tennessee Nicole Jordan with the America's Promise "100 Best" award.

Harvey Sperling, Educational Consultant, addresses the attendees at the 2010 Community Meeting.

Neely Williams, Winner of the first annual "Harvey Sperling Award for Excellence in Leadership", pictured with the award.



COMMUNITY MEETING

The combination of a timely concept, outstanding speaker, a national honor and the first-ever “Harvey Award” made the 2010 AN Community Meeting a resounding success.

The annual event celebrates the ongoing work and successes of AN committees and provides an opportunity for new organizations to join the effort. This year, leaders from Metro Nashville Public Schools, the Metro Health Department and a wide variety of community nonprofits convened to discuss their coordinated efforts and strategies to make every MNPS school a community school that involves parents and community members in a variety of activities before and after school.

The keynote topic was “Community Schools: A Strategy, Not A Program,” with a presentation by Jane Quinn, assistant executive director of The Children’s Aid Society and director of the National Training Center for Community Schools. Dr. Jesse Register, Director of Schools, followed her presentation with a panel discussion of MNPS educators about current efforts to create community schools.

The America’s Promise Alliance, which co-sponsored the meeting, presented Mayor Karl Dean with its 100 Best Communities for Youth Award, the third time Nashville has garnered the honor. The award was presented by Caroline Brachman, senior director of knowledge management for America’s Promise and Nicole Jordan, 2010 Miss Tennessee who has made high school graduation her platform for societal change. America’s Promise Alliance, based in Washington, D.C., is the nation’s largest partnership organization dedicated to youth (see page 40 for more information about the partnership between TN and America’s Promise).



The session concluded with a surprise presentation of the first annual Harvey Sperlign Award for Excellence in Leadership. Sperlign – a longtime and highly respected educator in Nashville who helped create AN – presented the award to Neely Williams, program director for the Peniel Initiative of the Interdenominational Ministers’ Fellowship and member of several AN committees.



Williams was momentarily speechless when Sperlign announced her name as winner of “The Harvey,” as the award will be fondly called. But after a standing ovation from the 200 attendees, she spoke eloquently about her passion for helping children.

“I get up every morning and I know there isn’t but one thing for me to do, and that one thing is to try to make a difference in the lives of the people I encounter,” she said. “I am so grateful, and I receive this on behalf of (everyone) who does something every day – every day – to encourage a little boy or little girl and tell them they are somebody. They do matter. They are important. They are loved.”

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Adventure Science Center
Bethlehem Centers of Nashville
Book'em
Books from Birth
CERTS Education-Representing PCI Education, Heinemann, The Academic Source, Educational Insights, Livescribe
Children's Kindness Network
Davidson County, Child Care Resource & Referral:
Strengthening Families
Literacy Program
Martha O'Bryan Center
McNeilly Center
Mental Health Cooperative-Child & Family Services
Metro Action Commission - Head Starts
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt
NAAEYC
NAAEYC/Books from Birth of Middle TN
Nashville Chamber of Commerce
Nashville Public Library
Nashville State Community College
Nashville Public Television
Our Kids Center
Prevent Blindness Tennessee
Sexual Assault Center

Susan Gray School for Children, Inc.
Tennessee Voices for Children
United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
Zaner-Bloser: Voices PreK

Book'em
Centerstone
Conexion Americas
Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum
Edvantia
Eighteenth Avenue Family Enrichment Center
Frist Center for the Visual Arts
Girls Inc. YWCA Nashville & Middle TN.
Homework Hotline

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Book'em
Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee
Character Connex / Cornerstone Church
CHARACTER COUNTS! Nashville
Children's Kindness Network
Country Music Hall of Fame
Fifty Forward-RSVP /
Friends Learning in Pairs (FLIP)
Hillsboro Church of Christ
Jr. Achievement of Middle Tennessee
Kids on the Block of STARS Nashville
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Monroe Harding Project S.H.A.R.E.
Nashville Public Library
PENCIL Foundation
Youth Life Learning Centers

Institute for Conflict Management
Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee
Juvenile Court
Kids On The Block, a program of STARS
Martha O'Bryan Center
Mayor's Afterschool Initiatives
Metro Nashville Public Schools
MNPS - Jere Baxter Middle School
MNPS - West End Middle School
MNPS - Creswell MS
MEAC -Metropolitan Educational Access Corporation
Metro Public Health Department
Middle Tennessee Council, Boy Scouts of America
Oasis Center
PENCIL Foundation
Planned Parenthood of Middle & East TN
Project for Neighborhood Aftercare
TNCEP, UT Extension Davidson County
Vanderbilt University
YMCA of Middle Tennessee artEMBRACE

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Adventure Science Center
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee

Program
Youth Life Learning Center
Youth Speaks Nashville
YWCA

Nashville Career Advancement Center
Nashville Opera
Nashville State Community College
PENCIL Foundation
Permanent General Companies
Reconciliation
Tennessee Justice Center
Tennessee State University
The Gilmore Youth Leadership Institute
TN Associated General Contractors
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
Vanderbilt Medical Center
WASCO

Nashville State Community College
Opportunities Industrialization Center
YMCA - YBuild
Youth Connections
YWCA of Nashville & Middle Tennessee

HIGH SCHOOL DCL

Adventure Science Center
Belmont University
Building Bridges
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Center for Asset Development
Frist Center for the Visual Arts
Girl Scouts of Middle TN
Healthways
Learners Edge Consulting
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Metro Parks Department
Meharry Medical College – Family and Community
Medicine
Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at
Vanderbilt
Monroe Harding
Nashville CARES
Nashville State Community College
Nashville Tools for Schools
Oasis Center
South Nashville Family Resource Center
Tennessee Voices for Children
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Coalition (TIRRC)
The Parthenon
Nashville Public Library
Volunteer Tennessee
YMCA Center for Asset Development

HS ACADEMIES

Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville
Bass Berry Sims
Convention & Visitors Bureau
Earl Swenson Architects
Homework Hotline
Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee
Kelly Noser Consulting
Maplewood High School
Mayor's Office of Children and Youth
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

Metro Student Attendance Center (M-SAC)
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Center for Youth Issues/STARS
Dept. of Childrens Services
IMF/Peniel Initiative
Martha O'Bryan Center
MDHA
Meharry Medical College
Metro Transit Authority
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Monroe Harding
Nashville Career Advancement Center
Office of the Mayor
PENCIL Foundation
STARS Nashville
Tennessee Voices for Children
The Big Picture High School
TN Voices for Children/TPIRC
United Neighborhood Health Services
Woodbine Community Center

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Metro Student Attendance Center (M-SAC)
Goodwill Industries
Leadership Nashville
Martha O'Bryan Center
Mayor's Office
Metro Action Commission
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Nashville Career Advancement Center

PATHWAYS TO POST-SECONDARY ED

Boy Scouts of America
Daniel Payne Outreach Ministries, Inc. ASK-PEP
Program
Governor's Office of State Planning and Policy
Hope Scholarship Program Administrators
IMF/ Peniel Initiative
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Nashville State Community College
PENCIL Foundation
Tennessee Scholars
Tennessee State University
Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation
TN Higher Education Commission
Tennessee State University
Vanderbilt- Office of Active Citizenship & Service

REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT

Catholic Charities of Tennessee
Center for Refugees and Immigrants of Tennessee
Centerstone
Christian Community Services, Inc.
Conexion Americas
CWA-Cayce Learning Center
Daniel Payne Outreach Ministries, ASK-PEP Program
Davidson County Public Defenders Office
Department of Teaching and Learning, Peabody
College at Vanderbilt University
Health Assist Tennessee
Lipscomb University
Metro Public Health Department
Nashville Adult Literacy
Nashville International Center for Empowerment
Nashville Public Television
Nashville State Community College
Oasis Center

Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc.
Siloam Family Health Center
Tennessee Disability Pathfinder / Vanderbilt Kennedy
Center
Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights
Coalition
Tennessee Voices for Children
TN Foreign Language Institute
United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
Vanderbilt University
Woodbine Community Center
World Relief
YMCA Latino Achievers

CHILDCARE TASK- FORCE

Books from Birth of Middle Tennessee
Metro Public Health Dept (Healthy Start and
HUGS)
MNPS Community Career Center
Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at
Vanderbilt
Nashville Career Advancement Center
Parents Reaching Out
Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee
Tennessee Justice Center
Tennessee State University, COELS
Tennessee Voices for Children, Inc.
Tied Together: an outreach of Martha O'Bryan Center

H.E.A.L.

Alive Hospice
American Heart Association
Belmont University
Belmont University Center for Service Learning
Community Food Advocates
Davidson County Sheriff's Office
Eating Disorders Coalition of Tennessee
Food Security Partners of Middle Tennessee
Gardens of Babylon
Get Fit Tennessee
HCA Healthcare
Healthways
Meharry Medical College
Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee
Metro Nashville Parks & Recreation
Metro Nashville Public Schools Coordinated School
Health
Metro Public Health Department

Metropolitan Transit Authority
Middle Tennessee State University
MNPS - Food Services
Monroe Carell, Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt
Nashville Public Television
Nashville Urban Harvest
Oasis Center
Predators Foundation
Shade Tree Clinic
Skyline Medical Center
STARS Nashville
TENnder Care
Tennessee Master Gardeners - Davidson County
Chapter
Tennessee State University
University of Tennessee Extension Office
Vanderbilt Dayani Center
Vanderbilt University
YMCA of Middle Tennessee

ADOLESCENT SEXUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Nashville Public Health
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Academy for Educational Development
Girls Inc. @ YWCA of Nashville and Middle TN
Healthways
Oasis Center
Nashville CARES
One In Ten
You Have The Power, Inc.
Metro Public Health Department
Planned Parenthood of Mid TN
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Sexual Assault Center
UNHS - HealthCorps
Positive Prevention Alliance

HEALTHY STARTS

Exchange Club Family Center
Metropolitan Nashville Board of Parks and
Recreation
Manna (Food Security Partners)
Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center
Interfaith Dental Clinic
Health Assist Tennessee
The Academy at Old Cockrill - MNPS
Metro Public Health Department

Vine Hill Community Clinic
Birthing Project USA-Nashville
(Metro Public Health Department)
Healthy Start Of Nashville
Tennessee Voices for Children, Inc.
Marie McKinney-Oates, Therapist
Doula Services
Tennessee Voices for Children
Vanderbilt Children's Hospital Primary Care Clinic
Sexual Assault Center
Hope Clinic for Women
Martha O'Bryan Center/Tied Together
Program
Books from Birth of Middle Tennessee
Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
Supplemental Nutrition Program
(Metro Public Health Department)
Nurses for Newborns of Tennessee

PRIMARY CARE

Tennessee Justice Center
AA
Bethlehem FRC
Bordeaux/Northwest FRC
Bridges to Care
Centerstone
Centennial Pediatrics, PC
Center for Trauma Therapy
Cole FRC
Community Food Advocates
Crisis Intervention Center
Cumberland Heights
Cumberland Pediatric Foundation
Davidson County Relative Caregiver Program
East Health Center
Eating Disorders Coalition of Tennessee
Edgehill FRC
Exchange Club Family Center
Fall Hamilton
Heath Assist Tennessee
Interfaith Dental Clinic
Kohl's Safety Central (Vanderbilt Children's)
Lentz Health Center
Maplewood FRC
Martha O'Bryan FRC
Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center
McGruder FRC
Mental Health Association of Middle TN
Mental Health Cooperative
Metro Health Department

Metro Public Health Dental Clinic
at the Lentz Center
Napier FRC
Nashville General Hospital at Meharry
Nashville Public Library
Northeast Salvation Army FRC
Metro Parks and Recreation
Pearl-Cohn FRC
Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee
Renfrew Center
Second Harvest
South Nashville FRC
St. Luke's FRC
TENnder CARE Outreach Program
Tennessee Justice Center
The Renfrew Center
United Neighborhood Health

PARENT UNIVERSITY

Art2STEM
Book'em
Books from Birth of Middle Tennessee's Family
Literacy Program
Bordeaux Family Resource Center
Center for Asset Development / YMCA
Centerstone
CIGNA Government Services
Conexion Americas
Congressman Jim Cooper's Office
Health Assist Tennessee
Homework Hotline
IMF/Peniel Initiative
Interdenominational Ministers' Fellowship Peniel
Initiative (IMF/PI)
Junior League - Vanderbilt Center for Parenting
Young Children
Kids Health First Pediatrics
Lipscomb University
Maplewood Comprehensive High School
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Metro Public Health Department
Metropolitan Nashville Board of Education Student
Services Department
Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools- Food Service
Department
MNPS Community Career Center
Monroe Carell, Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt
Nashville Children's Theatre

Nashville Public Library -T.O.T.A.L. (Totally Out-
standing Teen Advocates for the Library)
Nashville Public Television
Nashville State Community College
National Mental Health Awareness Campaign
NDC Consulting
Planned Parenthood of Mid Tennessee
Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee
Stand for Children
STARS and Kids On The Block
STEM Preparatory Academy
Tennessee Department of Health-Maternal & Child
Health Section
Tennessee Justice Center
Tennessee State University Nutrition Education
Program
Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation
Tennessee Voices for Children/TPIRC
The Arc of Tennessee
The Coleman Mediation Group (TCMG)
Trainings and Workshops
Trevecca Nazarene University
United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
Vanderbilt Mental Health Center
YMCA Fun Company
YMCA Latino Achievers
YMCA of Middle Tennessee

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

ASK-PEP PROGRAM
Camelot Care Centers, Inc.
Catholic Charities of Tennessee
Center for Youth Issues/STARS
Centerstone School-Based Services
Department of Children's Services
Dreams For Teens
Healthways
IMF/Peniel Initiative
Davidson County Juvenile Court
Karen Harper, LCSW
Kids on the Block of STARS Nashville
Lifecare Family Services
Meharry Medical College/Lloyd C. Elam Mental
Health Center
Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee
Mental Health Cooperative, Inc.
Metro Nashville Police Department
Metro Nashville Public Schools

Metro Public Health Department
MNPS - Kelly Noser Consulting
Nashville YFC (Youth for Christ)
National Mental Health Awareness Campaign
Oasis Center
Planned Parenthood of Middle & East TN
Public Defender's Office
Reconciliation, Inc.
Rolling Hills Hospital
Sexual Assault Center
STARS Nashville
TennCare Select
Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network
Tennessee Voices for Children
The Estuary
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital
Vanderbilt Psychiatry
Vanderbilt University
YMCA / Center for Asset Development
Youth Villages Specialized Crisis Services

AMERICA'S PROMISE

American Academy of Pediatrics
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee
Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee
Catholic Charities
Mayor's Afterschool Initiatives
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
Oasis Center
State Farm Insurance Public Affairs - Tennessee
United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
YMCA of Middle TN

ART 2 STEM

Adventure Science Center
Aegis Labs
Deloitte
Earl Swensson Associates
Edvantia
Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee
Lee Company
LP Building Products
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Nashville Electric Service
Nissan
PENCIL Foundation
Street Dixon Rick Architecture
Tennessee Technological University
The Parthenon
Triumph Aerostructures

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Carrie Thornthwaite.....Director of Educational Technology,
Lipscomb University
Charlotte Wood.....Marketing Director, TN Voices for Children
Jeff Yarbrow.....Associate, Bass, Berry, and Sims

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421 GREAT CIRCLE RD.
SUITE 100
NASHVILLE TN 37228

