

United Way of Westmoreland County Partner Agencies 2008 - 2011

Impact Area: Building Strong Neighborhoods and Communities

Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center, Inc.

Program: Advocacy - Self-Sufficiency

This project has successfully operated in HOPE's Allegheny County service area for five years. As a result of this project HOPE's outcomes for shelter and community participants have dramatically improved. Prior to the initiation of this project, less than 25% of participants receiving shelter services left shelter for permanency. Following implementation, that statistic has increased to nearly 90% of participants who achieve permanency as a result of the SS program. This program is designed to meet the needs of participants who have successfully completed the Crisis Intervention Advocacy program. It is designed as an intensive service-delivery system designed to create sustaining self-sufficiency and permanency for survivors of domestic violence and other homeless individuals. It is designed to address long-term needs and focuses on permanent housing, education and training, employment, budgeting, resources information and referral, and other individualized strengths-based and solutions-focused services.

American Red Cross - Armstrong Co. Chapter

Program: Disaster Service

The American Red Cross, through its network of chapters, service delivery units and national headquarter operations, provides disaster relief services to people affected by disasters 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year in Armstrong County.

Blackburn Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Program: Emergency Shelter for Battered Women & Their Children

The emergency shelter at Blackburn Center, in a confidential location in the central part of the County, is a critically important option for battered women and children who are fleeing violence in their homes. For some women and children, it is the only place they can seek physical protection from a violent family member for as long as thirty days, free of charge. Through the shelter program, Blackburn Center protects victims of domestic violence from further physical and emotional harm while providing on-going services to help re-construct their lives. The shelter also addresses the needs of children who have witnessed violence in their homes, and begins to break the generational cycle of violence.

The shelter has a capacity to serve fifteen (15) people, concurrently. The service area encompasses all of Westmoreland County, with the exception of the Alle-Kiski Valley (Westmoreland County is divided into 18 magisterial districts; Blackburn Center's shelter provides service to victims in 15 of those 18 districts).

Blackburn Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Program: Legal and Medical Advocacy

Blackburn Center has developed a comprehensive team to provide advocacy services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their significant others. The legal and medical systems can be cumbersome and frightening for a victim who is coping with a traumatic situation, compounded by the fact that s/he may have had no prior experience with these systems. The advocates accompany victims through medical and legal proceedings providing support, counseling and valuable information. In addition, the team provides effective training to professionals in both systems to improve their response to victims.

Legal Advocates provide accompaniment/support for petitioners for Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders at the Court Administrator's office in the Westmoreland County Courthouse, including temporary and permanent PFA hearings, and hearings for violations of those orders. They also provide accompaniment for victims to preliminary hearings (for sexual assault, in all 18 of the magisterial districts; for domestic violence, in 15 of the 18 magisterial districts). In addition, advocates accompany victims at trials, sentencing hearings, and law enforcement and prosecution interviews. Medical Advocates provide accompaniment at all of the

County's hospital emergency departments 24 hours a day for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who need emergency medical care, and in-person counseling to patients in all hospital departments who identify current or past abuse in their lives. Advocates also provide on-site training for personnel in these hospitals to improve their response to victims.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg

Program: Information and Referral

The Information and Referral Program at Catholic Charities offers a 15 hour/7 days per week service connecting the Westmoreland County area's residents to health and human service organizations as well as government, private and public entities that can meet their needs. The Information and Referral program is essentially a two-pronged service utilized by callers in those areas served by the United Way of Westmoreland County. The first prong might be referred to as basic 'call in center' Information and Referral. This service connects those seeking assistance in identifying resources that meet their need and/or identifying contact information for already known resources. (Ex. Individual is in need of child care – resources with geographic information, phone numbers and program eligibility {if available} is offered.) The second prong is 'comprehensive information and referral.' This service is operated by Certified Information and Referral Specialists. It is their responsibility to research and identify needs when the caller is unable to do so individually. The Comprehensive Information and Referral program also provides a safety net of emergency assistance for those persons who find themselves in dire circumstances, i.e. facing eviction, utility termination, without food, etc. Short term case management services are offered to callers to provide them with a foundation to establish some amount of self-sufficiency to move forward and past their current circumstances.

A critical piece to the funding of this program is to understand that it is the resources necessary to provide the service rather than the actual assistance that is the subject of this proposal. Monies distributed to those in need are not part of the operating budget of the agency or the program, but are raised as restricted dollars through two events held each year. While the inception of a 24/7 information and referral phone system at the county level and the institution of 2-1-1, it was anticipated that the need for Catholic Charities' services through this program may decrease. That has not been the case. The agency continues to experience similar numbers with increased needs due to the complex economic stressors of today's society.

Connect, Inc.

Program: Welcome Home Shelter

Welcome Home is an emergency homeless shelter for single women and families with children located in downtown Greensburg at 218 South Maple Ave. Annually, more than two-thirds of homeless individuals who stay at the shelter lived in the Westmoreland communities served by the United Way of Westmoreland County and an even greater number remain residents of the County after leaving the shelter. During their stay at the shelter, residents receive more than just a roof over their head. With the help of shelter staff, they receive an opportunity to begin to get their lives back in order. Staff provides intensive case management, life skills training and coordination of community referrals.

Connellsville Area Community Ministries

Program: Crisis and Food Pantry

The Crisis program includes the Food Pantry (FP). The Food Pantry is part of The Fay. Co. food distribution network limited to a geographical area within the Connellsville Area School District. The Crisis program is not limited to the same area as the food pantry. 80% of clients in the Crisis program come from the CASD. The FP provides a monthly food supplement to families by established income guidelines and in emergency situations - ex. fire victims.

The Crisis program provides a safety net for emergency situations which include but not limited to a lack of food, shelter and utility assistance.

Connellsville Area Community Ministries

Program: Partners for Life

Partners For Life primarily focus is promoting positive life skills... education, relationships, finances, vocation, and positive self worth.

The purpose and ultimate goal of Partners is to improve client's ability to provide for the house hold, to be a productive member of the community and improve self worth. Mentors provide positive feedback; assist with GED and literacy studies, educational advancement, parenting, vocational skills and financial counseling.

Financial skill is not just the ability to pay the bills; it is having the knowledge to coordinate income with expense.

The Partners program service area is Connellsville Area School District including the Fay-West Area.

HAVIN Inc. (Helping All Victims In Need)

Program: Direct Services

HAVIN is the only private non-profit agency in Armstrong County dedicated solely to providing direct services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their significant others at no cost to our service recipients. These services include: 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, individual and group counseling, medical and legal accompaniment, assistance with filing Protection From Abuse petitions, transportation, and information and referral. All services are free and confidential. We are funded, monitored, and meet the program standards of the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV), the PA Coalition Against Rape (PCAR), and the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). Our direct services are offered to all survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their significant others. We primarily serve residents of Armstrong County, but collaborate with neighboring counties to provide direct services. There are times when shelters in Westmoreland County are full, or it is determined unsafe for survivors to be physically located within their communities. HAVIN staff also accompanies survivors to preliminary hearings at Magisterial District Justice Gerheim's office in Leechburg; his jurisdiction is southern Armstrong County. HAVIN offers group and individual counseling, and we have met with the Leechburg Ministerial Association and will provide counseling at any secure location to meet the needs of the survivor, including their home church upon request. HAVIN maintains a vehicle and provides transportation from any secure location, including southern Armstrong County, for survivors of domestic and sexual violence to transport them to shelter, medical or court appointments.

Salvation Army, New Kensington Corps

Program: Emergency and Comprehensive social Services

The purpose of the Emergency & Comprehensive Social Services program is to provide the residents of New Kensington, Arnold and Burrell with emergency and comprehensive social assistance to those individuals and families who qualify. In addition, our goal is not only to meet immediate needs; it is to address the factors that are causing the needs in the clientele that we service. Part of our overall objective is to follow-up with our clients to ensure the services rendered at The Salvation Army are fostering a sense of self-sufficiency and independence. We aim for clients to break the cycle of poverty and lead better lives for themselves and their children. Reaching a broad range of human needs, The Salvation Army supplies the following:

Emergency Assistance:

Rental assistance (including providing the first month's rent when clients are in a transition situation or when eviction occurs), emergency housing (when a client and his or her children are in an abusive situation, we would set them up in a hotel), disaster assistance (such as during a house fire or flood), vouchers for food, clothing and furniture and utility assistance.

Comprehensive Social Service:

This program fills in the gap for assistance in the event a client still needs help even after they have received social security or welfare assistance or a paycheck from their job. This service offers a food pantry, fuel assistance (if a client needs to get to his or her job and requires gasoline) and assistance during the holidays (such as blankets and bedding, Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and gift cards). In addition, we offer a clothing distribution service, household appliance service and food box distribution day. Many of our clients are only one or two paychecks away from experiencing a crisis situation and require help to fill in the gaps. Overall, it is an invaluable community resource that aims to help many people.

Union Mission of Latrobe, Inc.

Program: Emergency Men's Shelter

The Union Mission of Latrobe, Inc. is a Christian organization that provides a temporary haven to men in need and assists them in building interdependent relationships. Serving men from Westmoreland County, surrounding counties, and other states, we offer more than just a place for men to rest their head; we offer refuge, hope, and opportunity to those who truly need help to begin putting their life back in order.

The supportive services that the Union Mission offers each resident are imperative in providing stability during their life changing process. Weekly, professional counseling allows men to begin to rebuild their concepts of themselves; life-skills training educates them for real-world application (i.e. balancing a checkbook, budgeting, cooking, etc.); case management provides them with stabilization needed to maintain their motivation; and the environment of the Mission allows our men to build character, morality, and bonds of friendship and family. Through these mechanisms, we are able to provide a "stepping stone" to the men of the Mission to help them reach their goals and return as productive, respectful members of the community.

Westmoreland Community Action

Program: Circles

Circles is an intentional way for people to build relationships across class and race lines to end poverty in their communities. Circles is a high impact strategy that will change the mind-set of the community so it wants to end poverty; change goals, policies, and approaches to end poverty; and empower people in poverty to help solve community problems while transitioning out of poverty themselves. A Circle is a supportive, intentional, reciprocal, befriending relationship made up of one Circle Leader who is living in poverty and two to five Circles Allies who usually are from middle class. A Circle typically meets once or twice a month to build friendships and to work on the Circle Leader's dreams, plans, and goals.

Westmoreland Community Action

Program: Mortgage Assistance Program (WHOMAP)

Over the last few years, mortgage foreclosures across the United States and in Westmoreland County have been increasing in record numbers. This has mainly been attributed to sub prime mortgages, adjustable rate mortgages, and people closing on a home without the required income needed to maintain such a home. However, unemployment and unforeseen events can also play a role. The Westmoreland Human Opportunities Mortgage Assistance Program (WHOMAP) was developed to help homeowners in Westmoreland County who have experienced an unfortunate turn of events and are temporarily unable to make their mortgage payment.

Eligible individuals would receive funds to make their mortgage payment without the burden of being obligated to repay it. Applicants must fall at or below 80 percent of the area median income in order to be eligible. If an individual's monthly mortgage payment is \$600 or less, WHOMAP will pay two month's worth of payments; if the mortgage is between \$600.01 and \$1,000 WHOMAP can assist with one month's payment. Applicants must demonstrate reasonable prospects of being able to resume normal mortgage payments after assistance is given. Applicants must complete a detailed application and show proof of their last two months pay stubs, their most recent bank statement and other relevant documents that pertain to income. Applicants also have to provide a very detailed explanation as to why they cannot make their mortgage payment and a detailed plan for resuming regular monthly mortgage payments if assistance is given. Applicants can be turned down if it is determined that this mortgage assistance will only prolong inevitable foreclosure.

Westmoreland Community Action

Program: VITA Site / EITC Initiative

Westmoreland Human Opportunities, Inc. (WHO) started the process to become a VITA Site in September 2006. VITA is a program through the Internal Revenue Service and it stands for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. The program provides free income tax return preparation for taxpayers who have limited or moderate

incomes, or are elderly or disabled. By 2004, Westmoreland County had reached a very unfortunate situation when the last of the true VITA Sites closed. This was the situation when WHO stepped up to help by establishing their own sites – in 2007 WHO opened a site in Greensburg at their main office at 226 South Maple Avenue, and in 2008 opened a site in Monessen at the Schooner Youth Center. WHO is also planning to operate a “mobile” VITA operation, for the convenience of all Westmoreland County residents.

The primary reason that Westmoreland Human Opportunities, Inc. decided to implement a VITA program was its commitment to serving the low-income residents of Westmoreland County and making sure that as many of its families as possible keep every penny of their hard-earned income tax refunds. WHO feels that the workers, not the commercial tax preparers, are entitled to it, as long as the same quality of service can be provided for free. The goal is also to keep low-income families from approaching these commercial tax preparers for Refund Anticipation Loans, especially if WHO can quickly get the tax payer’s refund to them through e-filing and direct deposit.

Westmoreland County Food Bank, Inc.

Program: Emergency Food Distribution

The core of Westmoreland County Food Bank's (WCFB) work is to acquire, store and distribute food to needy people throughout Westmoreland County through a network of member agencies comprised primarily of volunteer-run, faith-based organizations. Currently, WCFB distributes food to income-eligible people through 46 emergency food pantries, 4 soup kitchens and 33 on-site feeding programs. Approximately 40% of our food is acquired through the State Food Purchase Program grant, the Emergency Food and Shelter Program monies and commodities through The Emergency Food Assistance Program. The remaining 60% of our food is acquired from America's Second Harvest, local donations and food drives.

WCFB delivers food to our member agencies in refrigerated trucks. Then these agencies either provide on-site meals or distribute 30 lb. food boxes to income-eligible families each month; in order to meet income eligibility requirements, family income must be at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. During 2007, WCFB distributed 5.3 million pounds of food to nearly 15,000 people in 6000 families on average throughout Westmoreland County each month. These families are comprised of nearly 4000 children.

YWCA of Westmoreland County

Program: YWCA Advocacy Program

The YWCA Advocacy Program, which includes Racial Justice, Recognition of Women’s Achievements, and assistance to International Women, is aimed to fulfill our mission to empower women and eliminate racism. With a particular focus on women, but an outreach to all persons, this program provides an opportunity to enhance the lives of women and girls and to work for the elimination of racism and increased appreciation of diversity in Westmoreland County. The YWCA Advocacy program which serves all of Westmoreland County includes:

- Race Matters Roundtables, a research-based program from the Study Circles Resource Center which brings person of different racial backgrounds together to discuss our ethnic and cultural differences and similarities for better understanding. Advanced Roundtables meet for socialization across racial lines and advanced learning, as well as examining action steps that can help the community better address diversity issues.
- Convening and sustaining the Central Westmoreland Unity Coalition, a coalition registered with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, is a particular emphasis of this YWCA program. This group organizes activities around celebrating diversity in Westmoreland County
- The YWCA International Women’s Group is a support group that provides opportunities for foreign born women to integrate into American culture, learning the essential skills needed to be active participants in the community. Our English as a Second Language Classes provides these women and others the opportunity to learn English and improve their ability to work and live in Westmoreland County.

- With women's sports still receiving only 10% of the media's attention on athletics, the YWCA Advocacy program includes a women's sports recognition program that includes a recognition program for promotion of women's health and fitness. Community service activities of the student athletes are also encouraged and recognized.
- The Working Women's Closet component of the program advocates for better employment for women through providing interview appropriate clothing and clothing for the job site.

Impact Area: Helping Children and Youth Succeed

accessAbilities, Inc.

Program: Kids Klub Pre-School Program

Kids Klub is offered to any Westmoreland County child age 18 months of age to 36 months in age or older as long as the group remains developmentally appropriate for the child. Kids Klub children range from having no formal diagnosis but having a developmental delay to children being diagnosed with either a mental health and/or a mental retardation diagnosis. Typically developing siblings and/or children from the community can also attend.

Kids Klub is a staff-directed, parent-involved time where the caregiver and child are involved in a variety of fun activities in a preschool structured classroom setting. A typical day in Kids Klub contains free play, circle time, gross motor activities, arts & crafts and snack. For a child with a disability or developmental delay, as with any child, socialization opportunities create a solid foundation for growth and learning. During Kids Klub children enjoy and learn from this inclusive social contact. Early friendships teach children to share, to be kind and respectful toward others. Helping toddlers learn how to play well with others is a primary goal of Kids Klub. Children must learn to take turns, play together in pairs, and in large groups. This early playtime helps teach children the importance of co-operating with others throughout their lives regardless of abilities. Identifying and strengthening basic social skills at an early age provides children with the best opportunity for a successful educational future. After all...play is a child's work. However, parents, grandparents, caregivers and extended family members also benefit from the supportive environment that Kids Klub offers by providing the families with the opportunity to discuss common concerns and learn new and fun activities to do at home with their child. Family members receive staff support and resources regarding concerns that they may have about their own child's development. Services are provided free of charge.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Laurel Region

Program: After School Tutoring/School Based Mentoring

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Laurel Region, "to help children reach their fullest potential through mentoring relationships," is attained through unique programming options that are individualized for each child. The agency provides the supportive services necessary for youth to gain a valuable education and improve self-confidence while offering them tools to become successful in life, all through community participation in children's learning and personal growth. The agency's "After School Tutoring" School-Based Mentoring program matches a high school student volunteer "Big" with a child "Little" in a weekly one-to-one mentoring relationship that takes place at the child's elementary school during the last period of the day or immediately after school. The Big serves as a positive role model, offering friendship, support, and guidance while working with the child on homework and school-related work, with the ultimate goal of improving the child's overall academic performance. The program also serves a dual role in allowing high school students to complete required service-learning/community service projects through their participation as mentors.

There are currently three school districts and four elementary schools participating in the Big Brothers Big Sisters' After School Tutoring program in Westmoreland County - Greater Latrobe (Baggaley Elementary), Greensburg Salem (Hutchinson Elementary and Nicely Elementary), and Ligonier Valley (Laurel Valley Elementary). The Connellsville School District has welcomed the program into their elementary schools for the first time during the 2007-2008 school year, and programs are running in seven out of the eight Connellsville School District elementary schools. Funding is being requested to help support and expand all of these programs.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Laurel Region

Program: Community Based Mentoring

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Laurel Region, “to help children reach their fullest potential through mentoring relationships,” is attained through unique programming options that are individualized for each child. The agency provides the supportive services necessary for youth to gain a valuable education and improve self-confidence while offering them tools to become successful in life, all through community participation in children’s learning and personal growth. The agency’s core program, Community-Based Mentoring, matches an adult volunteer “Big” with a child “Little” in a one-to-one relationship. The Big serves as a positive role model, offering friendship, support and guidance, as well as exposure to new opportunities to help strengthen and broaden the horizons of the Little, thereby assisting he/she in becoming a productive adult in his/her community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Laurel Region

Program: Lunch Buddies. School Based Mentoring

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Laurel Region, “to help children reach their fullest potential through mentoring relationships,” is attained through unique programming options that are individualized for each child. The agency provides the supportive services necessary for youth to gain a valuable education and improve self-confidence while offering them tools to become successful in life, all through community participation in children’s learning and personal growth. The agency’s "Lunch Buddies" School-Based Mentoring program matches an adult volunteer “Big” with a child “Little” in a weekly one-to-one mentoring relationship that takes place at the child’s elementary school during the lunch period. The Big serves as a positive role model, offering friendship, support, and guidance. While the program is a more socially-focused program with data to support outcomes, outcome results also consistently show improvements in the children's grades as well.

There are currently four school districts and seven elementary schools in Westmoreland County participating in the Big Brothers Big Sisters' Lunch Buddies program - Greater Latrobe (Baggaley Elementary, Latrobe Elementary), Greensburg Salem (Hutchinson Elementary, Nicely Elementary, Metzgar Elementary), Jeannette (McKee Elementary), and Ligonier Valley (Laurel Valley Elementary). Funding is being requested to help support and expand these programs.

Blackburn Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Program: Prevention/Education in Schools

Blackburn Center’s Education Specialists will provide presentations to students and teachers about domestic/dating violence, sexual assault awareness/prevention, and cyber-bullying/bullying awareness. These programs will be presented to the students in the classroom setting; their teachers will receive additional information through scheduled in-service time. The service area encompasses all of Westmoreland County. Blackburn Center presents programs in all 17 school districts in the county, as well as private and pre-schools.

The programs will achieve the following objectives: (1) decrease the likelihood that children will be victims of abuse and interpersonal violence, including bullying; (2) increase the capacity to identify abused children, and link those children to supportive services.

Communities In Schools of Southwest PA, Inc.

Program: JAYS After School Program

It has long been said that programs don't change students, but close and caring relationships do make an impact. The JAYS Program (Joining to Achieve Youth Success) is a grassroots, community based voluntary after school academic/enrichment program that is offered at no cost to students attending the City of Jeanette McKee Middle School with proposed plans for replication of the JAYS Program at Derry Middle School if funding permits.

The JAYS Program seeks to bring about long term changes in the way students view themselves and others, school, grades, their life and career goals. Students are surrounded in a positive learning environment where they explore areas of skills and interest and develop relationships with caring adults who model good behavior and instill in the students that they are worthwhile and can be productive citizens.

Community Health Clinic, Inc.

Program: Health Wellness Promotion and Prevention of High Risk Behaviors for Children and Youth

CHC has fought long and hard to make sure health care is accessible to all in need. Currently, at CHC, sixty-six percent have no health insurance and eight-eight percent have an annual income of less than \$12,000. The service area, similar to older industrial cities, has experienced, over the last several years, major job loss, population loss, beleaguered image, lack of community pride. The economic devastation of the area has led to a burgeoning low-income population with startling poor health status indicators. The problem is compounded by the lack of comprehensive (preventative) primary health care resources. Our efforts are focused on improving and expanding access to health care and strengthen the health care safety net in Allegheny, Butler, Armstrong and Westmoreland counties. Our efforts target families, women and children, working poor, the homeless to ensure that children and families have the tools, the knowledge, and the service to remain healthy at home, in the community, and workplace. We provide health education, promotion, and prevention by a positive health messages and opportunities in communities. The need remains strong, and as the population of uninsured and underinsured grows, so do health disparities, health epidemics of childhood obesity, and high risk behaviors in our teens, such as alcohol, drug and tobacco usage along with teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

CHC would like to continue to meet the needs of our youth by providing information, services, and education via our combined partnerships with other agencies and organizations and supplying families with the tools they need to keep our kids healthy. CHC already partners with the Pennsylvania Department of Health Vaccines for Children and STD programs, CHIP, the Alcoa foundation and other community agencies and organizations to meet the needs of our youth. CHC will continue its outreach efforts at health fairs, and provision of ongoing acute and preventive services, as well as resurrecting its web site that not only provides information about services offered, but establishing educational links with healthy children and teen websites as well as information about available services through various programs and organizations that partner with CHC.

Family Services of Western PA

Program: Strengthening Families and Communities through Education and Support

The ParentWISE Program of Family Services of Western PA provides educational and support programs to parents, caregivers and those professionals that work with families in order to strengthen families and communities. By promoting Wisdom, Insight, Support and Encouragement, the ParentWISE Program works to eliminate child abuse and neglect within Westmoreland County. Parent education and support is often the missing component when abuse, neglect and violence occur in families and communities. The ParentWISE Program is available to any parent, caregiver, professional or community member that needs or requests assistance regardless of their connection to another program or service. The ParentWISE Program offers a Helpline for information/referral as well as reassurance and support. There are Parent Discussion Groups for peer support and educational workshops and series for skill and confidence development. There are community events focused on enriching and supporting families while encouraging use of community resources and services.

The ParentWISE Program offers services to any person seeking more comfort in their role as parent, caregiver, coach, educator, casemanager, religious or service youth leader or professional working with families. There are educational and supportive opportunities for those that are court-ordered, incarcerated, battling addiction or mental health issues as well as for new parents, teen parents, grandparents, foster parents and those who are step parents. Additionally, the ParentWISE Program offers education and support to caregivers faced with challenging situations such as a child with special needs, or trying to blend two families, or parenting a grandchild or relative's child. We offer support and education to those working with infants, toddlers, tweens and teens. The ParentWISE Program operates to strengthen families and communities so all children are safe and well cared for.

HAVIN Inc. (Helping All Victims In Need)

Program: Outreach Education Program

HAVIN is the only private non-profit agency in Armstrong County dedicated solely to providing direct services and prevention/education programs relating to domestic and sexual violence to all community members, including professionals, schools, churches, senior centers, medical personnel, law enforcement, clubs/organizations, and the general public of Armstrong County. UWWC funding will assist HAVIN in providing and enhancing outreach/education efforts throughout Armstrong County with a strong emphasis in southern Armstrong County area. HAVIN offers multiple volunteer opportunities to community members for assistance with maintenance and office help, community outreach, clothing bank, fundraising, and crisis intervention volunteers to cover the hotline and shelter.

Jeannette Recreation Commission

Program: Reading and Fitness for Fun

We provide playgrounds and structured activities for the children in the City of Jeannette. The proposed program consists of lunches for 7 weeks, as well as games, reading, and other such activities to promote a healthy living. Our reading program will give the children a chance to hear a story each day, and we will be providing each child with a new book each week to add to their current library. Our goal is to promote reading and help the children to realize that you cannot achieve success without being able to read. We hope to give away approximately 800 books over the summer.

Latrobe-Unity Parks & Recreation Commission

Program: Wellness and Youth Development 2

This program is designed to address several of the key outcomes of the "Helping Children & Youth Succeed" Impact Area - by providing an environment in which young people need in order to grow. Leaders, Instructors and Volunteers will conduct the program with the following key focus areas:

PROGRAM GOALS & OBJECTIVES - Serving 1100 boys & girls ages 4 to 17 - in the Greater Latrobe Area - consisting of 26 youth sport activities and our summer Playground.

1. Involvement in the activities will promote development of a positive social and self image.
2. Develop positive peer and healthy leader relationships.
3. Prevent or reduce high risk behaviors and improve wellness, and health and fitness through active participation in the program.

Peoples Library - New Kensington

Program: Keys to Learning: Summer Reading and Tutoring

For the three year funding cycle starting in 2008, Peoples Library is proposing to aide the development of our most important users, the children of the communities we serve. The library is seeking funding for our Keys to Learning: Summer Reading and Tutoring project. The Summer Reading Program with its changing yearly themes continues to present a wonderful opportunity to keep children and teens engaged and focused on reading and learning while not in school. The program continues to attract well over 350 children, who read, learn, and enjoy staying active throughout the program. The Tutoring program works to improve the skills of children in kindergarten thru sixth grade. All but two of the children who attend the Tutoring Program go to school in the New Kensington-Arnold School District.

Salvation Army, New Kensington Corps

Program: Ark of Learning

For the past twelve years, The Salvation Army New Kensington Corps Community Center and the Kiski Valley Service Center's Ark of Learning Tutor/Mentor Program has provided quality academic support services to participants in the New Kensington/Arnold, Burrell and Kiski School Districts. This program aims to match students referred by the school districts to screened and trained volunteers - particularly older volunteers and college students for one hour of one-to-one tutoring and mentoring. Each volunteer is screened through The Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters and must obtain all clearances before taking on an active role in the program. The program operates in three separate locations including The Salvation Army New Kensington Corps Community Center, the Grace Community Presbyterian Church and at The Salvation Army in Kiski. Each site provides tutoring services for grades K-7.

The program operates on a specific day each week at the three different locations from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Each participant is assigned a specific time and location and parents are required to drop off and pick up their children. Participants in the program are given the opportunity to work one-on-one with a mentor on a variety of topics including improving basic academic skills, completing homework assignments, and refining study habits with an emphasis on positive moral values and ethics. Students are assigned specific tutors/mentors based on the age of the student, the academic problem facing the student, and like interests. The overall goal of this tutoring/mentoring relationship is to improve academic performance. Currently, the Ark has grown to accommodate approximately 89 children and 89 volunteer mentors. Monthly progress reports are sent by each student's teacher and report cards are evaluated quarterly. Based on these indicators, our current success rate has can proven through increased academic performance by the students who attend. In fact, we have seen an increase in academic performance in 90% of the program's participants.

Salvation Army, New Kensington Corps

Program: Safe Harbor

The Salvation Army New Kensington Corps Community Center offers an after-school program called "Safe Harbor," which operates every Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at The Salvation Army site (located at 1101 Fifth Avenue, New Kensington). In addition, the program is offered during the summer months at the same location Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Any child aged 6 to 16, who attends the New Kensington-Arnold School District, can participate in the program. On an average we have 65 participants within the program. This program utilizes qualified volunteers who provide area children with homework assistance, recreational activities, positive role modeling, and a nutritious snack in a safe, nurturing environment. Parents recommend children to participate in this program at no cost to them.

The purpose of the "Safe Harbor" program is to promote academic success, competence, and accountability. To achieve the desired performance measures and indicators throughout the course of the program (indicated below), "Safe Harbor" addresses criteria relevant to strengthening academic achievement: from gathering student information from school, to conducting surveys, and by discussions/feedback as to the program's strengths and weaknesses. A variety of outside activities are planned (field trips) to increase exposure to the world, and our current connections with outside community resources help to define the importance of this program to the community. A strong emphasis is placed on the family unit, and all activities are developed to include parental participation, whenever possible, to encourage their involvement in their child's future.

Sewickley Township Public Library

Program: Summer Reading Program for Children and Young Adults

The Summer Reading Program at the Sewickley Twp. Public Library runs for 8 weeks in June, July & August and is open to children and young adults through age 18 living in Sewickley Twp. and surrounding communities. There are 4 age groups: Read to Me Club: through age 5; Beginning Readers Club: ages 6-8; Summer Reading Club: ages 9-12; and Teen Reading Club: ages 13-18. The Summer Reading Program consists of 3 different segments. The first segment involves the completion of reading logs. Children through age 8 will earn one raffle ticket for every 3 books someone reads to or with them. Children ages 8-18 will earn one

raffle ticket for every hour they read. Raffle tickets will be entered into drawings for incentive prizes ranging from books and movies to passes to the Zoo and Carnegie Science Center. The second segment of the program involves weekly activities at the Library, which will consist of storytimes, crafts, games, snacks and much more. And finally, the third segment will be special evening performances by professional actors and entertainers. In the past we have hosted Pittsburgh Puppetworks, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, That Guy with the Birds, and Doc Dixon the Magician, just to name a few.

Valley Points Family YMCA

Program: YMCA Child Care

The Valley Points Family YMCA operates two full day state-licensed childcare centers serving children 6 weeks through 6 years of age. The centers operate Monday through Friday from 6:30 am – 6:30 pm and are located in the heart of downtown New Kensington and in West Vandergrift. Our child care programs serve families from New Kensington, Arnold, Lower Burrell, Allegheny Township, Vandergrift and Apollo. Well-trained staffs provide safe, affordable, high quality care for parents who need to work to make their family succeed. The program has a well-balanced program tailored to the needs of the children according to their age and physical, educational, emotional, and social growth: opportunities to build a healthy self-image, a rich environment, direct experiences with people and things, and loving, caring caregivers.

The integrated curriculum includes art, science, math, language, and physical fitness to best promote the children's intellectual, physical, social, and emotional maturation. On the learning spectrum, progression and preparation of the children for success in school is very important to our staff. Ninety-five percent of the youth who were enrolled in our childcare program over the past three years have met or exceeded the criteria set for kindergarten readiness.

Valley Points Family YMCA

Program: YMCA Healthy Youth Initiative

The Valley Points Family YMCA, incorporated on January 1, 2005 as a consolidation between the New Kensington and Kiski Valley YMCAs, serves the communities of northern Westmoreland County. The majority of people served by the Valley Points Family YMCA reside within the following communities: New Kensington, Lower Burrell, Arnold, Allegheny Township, Leechburg, Apollo and Vandergrift. The YMCA Healthy Youth Initiative is a comprehensive approach to combating the nationwide epidemic and more importantly, the local issue of youth obesity, which directly leads to major health concerns such as diabetes and heart disease.

The YMCA Healthy Youth Initiative strives to address the three major contributors that lead to overweight children and youth obesity, including inactivity, lack of education and positive motivation. The Valley Points Family YMCA has been a leader in the communities we serve at providing youth sports and other positive opportunities for young people to become active and strengthen their personal assets. In recent years, our YMCA has increased the capacity we have to address the educational and motivational components necessary for promoting positive personal health initiatives for young people and their families. The combination of these two areas of focus create an array of programmatic elements that come to life through our sports instruction, non-competitive leagues, youth fitness coaching, nutritional guidance, and personal goal setting programs. As an Activate America® YMCA, we are committed to the movement of supporting and motivating individuals to acquire and maintain healthier lifestyles.

Westmoreland-Fayette Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America

Program: Scoutreach

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. It is the purpose of the Scoutreach initiative to provide dedicated resources in supporting Scouting programs to disadvantaged youth. These youth are unable to participate in Scouting due to geographic, economic or other barriers. The initiative can only succeed with the support and cooperation of organizations dedicated to the same purpose.

The program of Scoutreach combines character education, citizenship training and personal and mental fitness in a fun-filled adventure program, Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting and Venturing. Scoutreach builds character by developing confidence and self reliance through positive role models, service to the community, education and a recognition program and leadership training. Scoutreach prepares the youth to accept responsibility and to care about principles and causes beyond their own self-interest. Scoutreach emphasizes ethics and moral values to the youth of Westmoreland County.

YWCA of Westmoreland County

Program: YWCA Childcare

For the YWCA, the guiding principles for our childcare programs are high-quality, inclusive, anti-racist, anti-sexist and anti-bias care. Over two-thirds of school aged children come from a household where all adults in the household are working, and quality affordable childcare is one of the most important community resources needed by families today. The YWCA of Westmoreland County has several licensed childcare programs that provide consistency and enrichment for children in a relaxed environment that encourages individual choice making. We are committed to supporting working parents/guardians by providing safe, affordable childcare programs staffed by nurturing, competent, responsible people. We also have a specific target for daycare opportunities for girls ages 11 – 14 that emphasize community service. Children without adult supervision are at significantly greater risk of truancy from school, stress, and risk-taking behavior. The YWCA's before and after school programs and summer daycare are important services to working families. In addition to daycare opportunities, it is equally important to start younger children off with the educational advantages offered by a quality preschool experience. The YWCA Preschool program promotes kindergarten readiness skills including helping children to develop positive social skills and increased understanding of family safety. Lastly, the YWCA has begun a pilot program in the fall of 2007 in the Greensburg Salem School District to serve ninth and tenth grade girls who teachers and principal identify as being "at risk" for a number of reasons. These girls meet weekly after school with YWCA staff with monthly themes covering issues such as sexuality, community service, social etiquette, finance and budget, etc. Early program outcomes indicate that the girls involved in the program are finding the experience extremely valuable in finding their voice and as a source of problem solving on substantial family issues.

Our childcare programs serve mainly the central Westmoreland County area. Our before and after school programs serve the Greater Latrobe School District. Our Girls Pilot Project serves Greensburg Salem School District.

Impact Area: Supporting Vulnerable and Aging Populations

accessAbilities, Inc.

Program: Community Services Program for Persons with Physical Disabilities (CSPPPD)

The Community Services Program for Persons with Physical Disabilities (CSPPPD) provides specialized services to eligible Westmoreland County persons age 18 and over with a severe physical disability that is expected to continue indefinitely and results in at least three substantial functional limitations in the areas of mobility, communication, self-care, learning or capacity for independent living.

The following services: daily living support, respite care, community integration, environmental modifications, transportation, assistive technology, personal emergency response systems and specialized therapies are designed to prepare and relocate individuals, who could remain in their home and community if they had the necessary supports, out of nursing facilities and back in to their home and community. Services are also designed to support individuals that are already in their home and community and are at risk for placement into an institutional setting.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg

Program: Counseling

The Counseling Program at Catholic Charities provides a variety of psychotherapeutic services to individuals and families living in the United Way of Westmoreland County service area. These services include individual, marriage and family therapy and are provided by a licensed staff of professional therapists. Catholic Charities provides confidential counseling services which reinforce the human dignity of the person, engender hope, help people identify strengths and

resources, gain new knowledge, skills and coping strategies – expanding their possibilities for the future.

Catholic Charities believes that the burden of payment should never prohibit an individual or family from receiving services. Counseling fees are based on income and family size and some insurances are accepted. The Counseling Program at Catholic Charities provides a caring and professional response to people with a wide variety of painful or challenging circumstances, i.e., Abuse, Addictive behaviors, Anxiety, Depression, Health Issues, Grief and Loss. Catholic Charities also offers support groups in anger management for both men and women.

Center for Hearing & Deaf Services, Inc.- Westmoreland

Program: Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic

In collaboration with Family Services of Western Pennsylvania (FSWP), Center for Hearing & Deaf Services (HDS) will provide behavioral and mental health services for deaf and hard of hearing residents residing in Westmoreland and surrounding counties. All Behavioral Health therapists will be fluent in American Sign Language and skilled at eliminating communication barriers, as well as providing psychiatric help. These professionals will recognize the unique behavioral health needs of individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing. The small, specialized mental health team will respond to clients' needs through several different approaches: psychiatric evaluations, medication management, individual, family and couples' therapy, personal assistance, and casework support.

Through treatment and support, the Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic (BHOC) will encourage as much independence as possible for its' clients. Individuals with the designated problem will report increased knowledge and awareness about target behaviors and symptoms. Supportive services offered by this program will allow this population to function independently on a daily basis while continuing to live in their own homes or communities.

Center for Hearing & Deaf Services, Inc.- Westmoreland

Program: Sign Language and Interpretation Supports

Established in 1982, Center for Hearing & Deaf Services – Westmoreland (HDS-W) is located in Greensburg, Pa. with a geographical region of coverage primary to Westmoreland County with outreach service to several adjacent counties. The office offers a sign language and interpretation supports program with services designed to meet the needs of people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. HDS-W has a long history of serving persons who are culturally deaf and offers a variety of services designed to meet the communication needs of deaf and hard of hearing populations. HDS-W also provides information about deafness to the community and can assist other organizations and agencies in making their programs accessible to people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The Sign Language and Interpretation Supports Program's (SLISP) focus on communication and program accessibility offers the following services: sign language interpreting and instruction. HDS-W also offers tutoring for clients who are deaf and blind needing sign language skills training. The Vision of HDS - W's staff is to be caring professionals serving persons who are deaf and hard of hearing with excellence, dignity and trust.

Community HomeHealth Care

Program: Disease Management

Community HomeHealth Care's Disease Management Program strives to provide an effective approach to chronic illness in a standardized manner that enables patients to achieve a greater level of understanding of their particular disease process and therefore the potential for a better quality life. We know from experience and hard data that we can achieve better patient outcomes by improving our diagnostic skills, providing better treatment intervention and educating patients for long-term self management.

Advances in technology referred to as "Telehealth" create opportunities for the nursing staff to introduce new strategies, new tools, and new solutions for the most challenging, demanding, and at risk patients. Community HomeHealth Care utilizes this technology with patients that can benefit from this technology as well as face to face interventions. We primarily service Central Westmoreland County.

Family Services of Western PA

Program: Outpatient Therapy

In 2006 therapists at FSWP served 1504 individuals and provided 7280 hours of individual, family and group therapy. Individual in treatment were 61% female and 39% male. Thirteen and one half percent were children under the age of 12, 18% were between 13 and 17, 67% between 18-64 and one and one half percent were over the age of 65. These individuals were 80% Caucasians, 11% African American 3% other and 9% unknown or unspecified.

Family Services is a large community-based mental health provider with its primary clinical offices in New Kensington and Tarentum. The Outpatient Therapy department serves consumers across all the diagnostic ranges (in the DSM-IV manual) that also present with the complex problems-in-living often experienced by the poor, including issues with housing, income supports, and employment as well as the symptoms of mental illness.

The outpatient therapy department offers its services to individuals as they request. We served 631 unduplicated consumers in 2006 and 900 unduplicated consumers in 2007. With the help of their therapist, individuals choose to enter treatment, complete their goals and discharge from care. They may also decide to stay for extended periods, or discharge and return later with a different problem. Acute outpatient is designed to assess and treat persons who are experiencing cognitive, emotional, or behavioral difficulties and distress and to prevent further deterioration, decrease symptoms, and assist individuals in returning to their prior level of functioning and then to a higher level. Our service is goal-directed, solution-focused, time efficient, and uses a number of treatment frameworks, including cognitive, behavioral, family systems, psychosocial, biological, and psychodynamic.

FSWP recognizes that the existence of substance abuse and dependency patterns impact virtually all aspects of a person's life. Moreover, the majority of consumers seeking outpatient counseling services also carry a level of dual diagnosis. Our intent in service delivery is to assess and appropriately treat the co-occurrence of mental illness and substance abuse dynamics. The acronym "MISA" designates those consumers. Additionally, our evolving philosophical position is to augment traditional abstinence models of D & A treatment, with the Harm Reduction model born of mental health treatment approaches.

Individuals are "at risk" if they identify the above problems and call requesting services. They are eligible to receive services if they are 3 years old or older, and mental health diagnosis (DSM-IV, Axis 1 or 2) symptoms, and have a current Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) in a range of 40 – 70, and demonstrate the ability to profit from outpatient treatment.

Greensburg YMCA

Program: Swimming Lessons for the School Age Special Needs Individual

In Westmoreland County we offer swimming lessons to the school age special needs individuals through the school system. We presently have WIU 7 sending approximately 8 different schools during the day, plus Yough, Hempfield, and Clelian Heights all come to the YMCA for swimming during the course of the school year to prepare and hopefully participate for one main event in these special need swimmers life, the Special Olympic Pennsylvania Westmoreland County Swim Meet held at the Greensburg YMCA every spring.

Lutheran Service Society of Western PA

Program: Meals on Wheels

Lutheran Service Society Meals on Wheels provides a nutritious hot meal and a bag lunch/snack to homebound individuals who are unable to cook or shop for themselves through 8 Westmoreland County programs at Kinloch (Lower and Upper Burrell, New Kensington, Part of Plum and Creighton), Murrysville (Murrysville, Export, White Valley), Norwin (Irwin, North Irwin Boro, Larmore, Adamsburg, Circleville, Parts of N. Huntingdon, Parts of Hempfield Twp), Ridge (Stahlstown Area, South Ligonier, Ligonier Twp, Cook Twp, Part of Donegal Twp), Tri-Angle (Parts of Northern Mt. Pleasant Twp, Soughern Unity Twp), Valley

(Darlington, Laughlin Town, Ligonier, Long Bridge, Oak Grove, Waterford), Apollo (North Apollo, Apollo, Spring Church, Orchard Hills, Oklahoma Borough, North Washington) and Vandergrift.

Wesley Health Center, Inc.

Program: Wesley Health Center

This funding request is for resources to assist Wesley Health Center continue its successful education and health services, designed to improve the health of underserved populations in the community. Funding from the United Way will help Wesley Health Center achieve this goal, and support the Center as it continues to provide safety-net services to uninsured residents who are culturally and environmentally at-risk for many potentially life-threatening health problems, including their health-seeking behavior. The geographic region served is southwestern Pennsylvania, specifically parts of Fayette, Westmoreland and Somerset County within proximity of Connellsville, PA.

Westmoreland County Blind Association

Program: Work Activity Center

The Work Activity Center of the Westmoreland County Blind Association is offered to any and all eligible residents of the Westmoreland County Area. The Work Activity Center will provide therapeutic and developmental work tasks for the multi-disabled consumer. The tasks will be of a nature, so that, the consumer may develop skills and dexterity in increasingly difficult motions and tasks.

The overall goal of the WAC is to promote the development of work skills necessary for placement in a higher level of employment such as a sheltered workshop or in competitive employment.

Consumers pay will be based on a piece rate as determined by two factors, the first being a survey of the prevailing wage for the particular job and the second factor is based on an objective time and motion study of a non-disabled individual. This second factor will be calculated with an additional 15 percent. This formula will set the appropriate piece rate, which is in accordance with the regulations set forth by the Department of Labor and Industry - Wage & Hour Division.

Work Activity employees will be given the opportunity to receive individual instruction in increasingly complex work tasks.