



Project Concern

Connecting people to services

Fall 2010

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RAISING FUNDS IN A SLUGGISH ECONOMY

If you have been reading the newspapers lately you will know that the latest news on the economy is optimistic. They say it is rebounding with home sales increasing and unemployment rates decreasing. The main question being, "Where is this happening - on the east and west coasts"? The Midwest has traditionally been a year to year and a half behind the coasts in trends, fashions, economy, or whatever. It seems to take longer for societal movements to reach us. While our economy has rebounded somewhat, for non-profits it is still difficult to raise funds. There are many individuals who support our programs and services through donations but when these donations are earmarked for direct service, they leave nothing for the administrative costs to operate and offer those services. Project Concern prides itself on giving back to the community and this means that often nothing is kept to cover administration. Unfortunately it *does* cost to administer funds and for the last 4 years the PC staff have operated on a "bare-bones" budget. As a staff, we have not seen salary increases in many years, we do not attend national conferences, we do not have extra money hidden in the budget and we do not have expensive or elaborate office furniture; we need to either raise funds or try to get a grant for these types of expenses. With the sluggish economy, the staff's workload and client base have greatly increased and as an agency we have absorbed the increase without adding positions. All this is done because the staff is caring and compassionate and believes in helping those in need. What this results in is an agency that needs to raise money through various means; such as the annual fundraising event, small fundraisers, donations, and an annual campaign. It is time again for the annual campaign to be conducted. You will be receiving a letter and donation card in the mail in November. Please consider PC and the outreach to those less fortunate that occurs every day through dedicated staff when deciding to give to the annual campaign. Your dollar *really does* make a difference in the lives of individuals! Thank you for your continued support. We appreciate each and every one of you - our supporters!

Nancy

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS.....

DRA AWARDS GRANT.....Through a DRA grant, PC was able to purchase a new black and white copy machine. The new machine has many capabilities: faxing, copying, making booklets, stapling, and the best news is that all can be done from each desk through the computer. PC has been operating with an ancient, rickety old machine that parts could no longer be obtained for repairs. The bottom paper holder wouldn't even hold paper anymore! So, PC is extremely thankful to the DRA for their continued support.

ROTARY SUPPORTS CHILDCARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL DEPARTMENT

The Dubuque Rotary Club granted CCR&R a grant to update "Themed" totes. The totes are actually bins of materials, activities, crafts, educational supplies, games, music, etc. all centered around a theme. Childcare providers and Centers can check the totes out for a specific period of time to use with their children. This gives the children something special to focus on and often lends them information and experience toward a holiday, season, or specific theme. PC thanks the Rotary Club!



McGraw Hill Day at PC

Once again McGraw Hill spent a day with Project Concern working on various projects throughout the community. Painting, washing windows, mowing and weeding lawns and gardens, and minor weatherization projects were part of the day. Seniors who have limited mobility and/or low income were assisted. McGraw Hill provides financial assistance to PC to purchase materials and supplies needed for the project and provides the "work team" lunch and snacks.



1789 Elm St. #B
Dubuque, IA 52001
563-588-3980
www.project-concern.org

Email:
execdirector@project-concern.org

Open: Mon-Fri.. 8:00 - 4:00

HOMELESSNESS OCCURS FOR MANY REASONS

by: Nancy Lewis

HOMELESSNESS
Prevention Begins
with Community
Involvement.

Phone 563-588-3980
to see how you can
help!

PROJECT CONCERN:

Promoting
SELF SUFFICIENCY

Providing
INFORMATION

Providing
ADVOCACY

Developing
OPPORTUNITIES

Encouraging
INVOLVEMENT

Identifying
UNMET NEEDS

On a Friday night in August around 8 pm my cell phone rang and caller ID told me something was wrong. One of my Program Directors, Jenny, was calling me and I was sure it wasn't for pleasure! She informed me of the Bluff Street fire and that the City Manager had phoned 211 to alert us to the fact that there was a fire with potentially some homeless individuals. My husband took the car to get gas as I live in Galena, and the call could mean a late night trip to Dubuque, so I prepared to leave. In the meantime, Jenny met with the Fire Chief, the City Manager and a representative from the American Red Cross. It was determined that most tenants had friends, relatives or co-workers they could stay with until further arrangements were made. The Red Cross housed the remaining individuals for up to three days which gave PC the time needed to arrange for other living quarters. New dwellings were secured by PC staff for those in need and assistance was given for rental and utility deposits. To date, the apartment building is still under reconstruction and all tenants have been successfully relocated to other apartments.

DADRC

In the area of disaster relief there is a national trend occurring that is providing relief when all other options have been exhausted. Long Term Recovery Committees at the County level have been forming and any additional monies from the federal, state or local governments are being filtered through these committees. In the Dubuque area, the Dubuque Area Disaster Recovery Committee was formed in 2008 to assist individuals who had no other options for flood recovery. In order to be eligible individuals needed to apply to FEMA and the SBA for assistance. Regardless of the FEMA determination, these two steps needed to be done. Once through the processes, individuals could apply to the DADRC for additional help with unmet needs. Back then the Committee had funding available through local donations to the United Way and the Dubuque Community Foundation and through additional state funding.

Due to the flooding of 2010, the Committee is again meeting to assess unmet needs. Individuals must have applied to FEMA and have a determination letter to apply. The Committee assesses financial needs, capital needs, and any other recovery needs. Assistance is given directly to contractors, repairmen, or retailers providing supplies. No assistance is given directly to individuals. To date there have been 163 Dubuque County FEMA applications and Project Concern has a waiting list for additional help. Once FEMA has sent a determination letter, individuals are free to apply for additional funding. Applications are available at the PC office and the Committee will be holding its first meeting in mid October. If you know of anyone affected by the flood who still has needs, please refer them to Project Concern.

PC ANNUAL FUND DRIVE TO BEGIN

Each year fall brings cooler weather, changing colors and thoughts of a warm cozy home. To many, fall brings thoughts of how to stay warm, how to avoid illness due to the cold and how to pay for rising utility costs while trying to make ends meet. Project Concern's mission is to help those in need. Through assistance, PC assists individuals in maintaining independence in society and strives to improve the lives of those the agency serves through collaboration with other social service agencies or through development of new programs and services. It is through grants, govt. funding, private donations and agency fundraisers that financially makes possible PC's efforts to fulfill its mission.

In the next month you will be receiving a letter and donation card in the mail. Please thoughtfully think about life's abundance and reach out to those in need through a donation to Project Concern. Your donation really does make a difference in the lives of individuals!

FAMILIES IN NEED FUND (FIN) TAKING
HOLIDAY FAMILY SPONSORSHIP
REGISTRATION

Each year PC arranges for families to be sponsored by businesses, families, and corporations throughout the tri-state area. Families are secured through a confidential application process and clothing sizes, needs and wants are passed onto businesses wishing to sponsor a family. Sponsors usually are asked to purchase new clothing, food, games, two toys per child, toiletries, towels, sheets and general living items. Gifts are then wrapped and placed in a box or large garbage bags and identified by numbers. Each family is given a number and that identifies them with PC. Sponsor gifts are either delivered to the PC office or PC staff arrange for pick-up with the sponsor. Families are then notified that their gifts are at the PC office and times are arranged for pick-up. No sponsor is given any names, personal or financial information other than clothing sizes. This is to ensure that the program meets all confidentiality laws.

If you know of a business, individual family or corporation that might be interested in sponsoring a family or two please contact Jenny or Sarah at the PC Office at 563-588-3980.

WELCOME!

PC WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF

Dawn DeMaio joins the staff in the position of I&R Specialist. Dawn is a 2010 graduate of Clarke College where she obtained a BA Degree in Social Work. In 2008 she received an AA degree from NICC in Human Services. Dawn grew up in Dubuque County in Sherrill, IA and has always had a passion for helping others.

Amanda Hohmann was born and raised in Dubuque and attended UD, graduating in 2009 with a degree in Psychology and Sociology and an emphasis in Criminal Justice. Amanda started working in the human services field while she was in college, which reaffirmed the direction she was taking for her career. Amanda's future plan is to continue working in human services in Dubuque and raise a family. Amanda is the Homeless Coordinator in the I&R Department.

2010-2011 PC
Exec. Committee

Sherry Leaser
Chair

Steve Hamilton
Vice Chair

Sam Deaver
Treasurer

Sue Moran
Secretary



Kids Expo • C/O Dubuque County Empowerment
2728 Asbury Road, Suite 500, Dubuque, IA
52001



What's the best way to enjoy a chilly November day? Gather the family and friends and head to the Grand River Center for some indoor fun. The sixth annual Kids Expo will be held Saturday, November 6, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Grand River Center. The event and activities are free, thanks to the generosity of local sponsors.

The Kids Expo will feature over fifty exhibitors offering information for families with children of all ages. Participants will include music programs, local camps, child care centers, preschools, health care services, social service groups, community activities, and many more. Entertainment and activities will be provided throughout the day. The Kids Expo will include a balloon artist, special character visits, martial arts and dance demonstrations, inflatable slide and bounce houses, games, and activities.

“The Kids Expo is a great way for parents to get information on various programs and services while their children are entertained and educated by the exhibitors and activities,” according to Kelly Cooper, Kids Expo Event Coordinator.

Each family also will take home a *Family Resource Guide*, which is a comprehensive reference book for resources, activities, and services available for families throughout the Dubuque County area.

The event is a collaboration of Dubuque County Empowerment and Every Child/Every Promise. Event sponsors include the *Telegraph Herald*, John Deere Dubuque Works, Prudential Financial, DuTrac Community Credit Union, Jumpin' Jane's, Alliant Energy, American Trust & Savings Bank, Dupaco Community Credit Union, Four Oaks/Parents as Teachers, Kendall Hunt, Little Folks Trading Post, Project Concern/Child Care Resource and Referral, Dubuque Area Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse along with Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, Honkamp Krueger & Company, Medical Associates Clinics, Dubuque Bank and Trust, and Tri-State Independent Physicians.

For more information on Kids Expo, go to www.empowerdubuque.org and click on the Kids Expo icon. Or call Dubuque County Empowerment at (563) 588-1620.



Pictured at left are Foster Grandparent volunteers on the day of their volunteer appreciation trip to Rock Island Circa 21 Dinner Theatre. This trip was provided a donation from the Mary Noesen (Former Foster Grandparent) Family Memorial Fund! We are very grateful to the Noesen Family!

Foster Grandparent Program



The Foster Grandparent Program currently has 35 volunteers working at 20 different community sites in the Dubuque area! Recent statistics listed below, from a 6 month period, demonstrate the progress that children have made when working with a Foster Grandparent.

In Elementary schools: Foster Grandparents worked with 216 students, teachers indicated that 98% of students had an increase in their reading skills

In Day Care Centers, Ages 0-2: Foster Grandparents worked with 41 children, teachers indicated that 100% of the children demonstrated improved ability to engage in interactive vocalization, ability to communicate through gestures and ability to safely and securely explore their environment

In Day Care Centers, Ages 3-6: Foster Grandparents worked with 23 children, teachers indicated that 100% of the children improved their manners, behavior and their focus level

In Teen Programs: Foster Grandparents worked with 36 children, teachers indicated that 100% of the youth engaged in constructive activities

In Head Start Programs: Foster Grandparent worked with 6 children, teacher indicated that 67% of the children improved their pre-reading skills

The following are statements from FGP site supervisors:

-“Our reading and math data have shown significant improvement with the extra interventions from the Foster Grandparents” (Audubon School)

-“Our Foster Grandparent boosts students’ self-confidence and self-esteem tremendously” (Lambert School-Manchester)

-“Our Foster Grandma provides such an enriching experience to our infants...our families treasure the opportunity to have a Foster Grandma work with their child” (St. Joseph the Worker Child Care Center)

**Project Concern
Phone Numbers**

Main Office:
563-5688-3980
563-588-3981
563-588-3984
Fax: 563-588-3982

**Information & Referral
Department:**

563-557-8331
563-588-3983
563-588-3215
563-588-3216
563-588-4016
1-888-516-7947

Community Service:

563-584-2219

**Childcare Resource &
Referral:**

563-557-1628
563-585-1086
1-888-296-5331

Project Concern

Connecting people to services

Project Concern (PC) is a non-profit social service agency meeting the unmet needs of individuals in Dubuque, Jackson and Delaware Counties. PC assists these individuals in maintaining independence in society and strives to improve the lives of those the agency serves. P.C. identifies and responds to unmet needs through collaboration with other social service agencies or through the development of new programs and services.

[1789 Elm St. #B - Dubuque, IA 52001](http://1789ElmSt.B-Dubuque,IA52001) - 563-588-3980 - www.project-concern.org

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Project Concern Staff:

Nancy Lewis	Executive Director
Krista Torrey	Office Manager
Tara Roddick	CCR&R Director
Cherie Kennedy	CCR&R Staff
Kacey Wiest	CCR&R Staff
Stephanie Van Groll	CCR&R Staff
Beth Staver	CSP Director
Jenny Manders	I&R Director
Dawn DeMaio	I&R Staff
Amanda Hohmann	I&R Staff
Ann Gourley	Shelter Plus Care Coord.
Sarah Berning	I&R/FGP Staff
Stacy Martin	FGP Director

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Donna Loewen	

Programs of Project Concern

Childcare Assistance Grants
 Childcare Parent Services
 Childcare Provider Training
 Childcare Respite Program
 Community Service Program
 Foster Grandparent Program
 Homeless Assistance Program
 Information & Referral (I&R) - 2-1-1 Call Center
 Information & Referral Directory of Services
 I&R - Financial Assistance and Referrals
 I&R - Information Services
 Senior Prescription Drug Assistance
 Senior Rent Reimbursement/ Tax Abatement
 Shelter Plus Care Program
 Volunteer Help-Line
 Volunteer Opportunity Center
 Volunteer Telephone Reassurance

YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Project Concern began in 1968 as a volunteer-based agency with services for the elderly. Since then programs and services have expanded to reach over 39,000 individuals in 2009. Elderly, disabled, children and men and women from thousands of families in the Tri-States have benefited from Project Concern. A main goal of the agency is to empower people to become strong, independent, and healthy members of society.

Each year Project Concern relies on the graciousness of individuals who so generously give of their time, talent and gifts. Without support, the agency would not be able to operate. Each and every decision to help the agency strengthens the programs and services to those in need.

With your help, Project Concern is making a difference!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Oct. 8-9 Iowa Conference for Foster Grandparents at Independent Blind Society

Oct. 11 Applications accepted for Christmas Families to be sponsored from referral agencies

Oct. 14 Foster Grandparent Advisory Board meeting

Oct. 16 CCR&R - A Fun Day of Learning with Bev Bos, Ntl. Speaker, by IBM / Work Life Group at NICC

Oct. 27 PC Advisory Board Meeting

Nov. 1 Applications accepted from families wanting to be sponsored for Christmas

Nov. 6 Kids Expo at Grand River Center from 10am-2pm

For more info contact the PC office at 563-588-3980.

SUPPORT PROJECT CONCERN AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Enclosed find \$ _____

All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Mail To:

**Project Concern
 1789 Elm St. #B
 Dubuque, IA 52001**