Education Focus Area - Helping Children Achieve their Maximum Potential

Targeted Issues:

1) Children enter school ready to succeed
   Major Concerns:
   - Children not having access to early learning opportunities, either at home or in child care facilities.
   - Early grade reading proficiency – children reading at third grade level, in third grade.

   Possible Strategies
   - Promote reading and early literacy through the Imagination Library Program (from birth to 5 years of age), so that children will have age appropriate books in their home and parents can be more involved with their child’s learning.
   - Educate Parents about what their child should already know prior to entering Kindergarten.

   Measurable Outcomes (Some Examples)
   - Increase the number of children enrolled in the Imagination Library program
   - Tracking the reading scores of third graders with a goal of 100% reading at a third grade level in third grade. Use scores from school sponsored reading tests.

2) Productive and engaged youth
   Major Concerns:
   - Youth engaged in risky behavior
   - Drug and alcohol abuse among our youth
   - Bullying behavior among youth.

   Possible Strategies
   - Promote preventative and early intervention programs that steer youth away from risky behaviors and poor choices.
   - Support programs that engage youth in positive behavior with strong adult role models, peer programming and mentoring activities.
Measurable Outcomes (Some Examples)
- Alcohol or drug abuse reduced, and a reduction in law breaking behavior by youth. (As charted by using school based surveys and court records.)
- Area youth report decrease of bullying in their assessments or surveys.
- All area children have a positive role model/mentor in their life.

3) Equip parents with the knowledge and assistance to help their children have a positive and successful school experience.
   **Major Concerns:**
   - Parents who may seem uninterested in their children’s learning environment.
   - Parents not knowing how or where to ask for help with their children who are experiencing a negative school experience and/or exhibiting risky behavior.

   **Possible Strategies:**
   - Fund programs that communicate and teach parents how to best support their child’s learning and success in school.
   - Encourage local businesses to develop policies in the workplace that permit parents to attend education-related activities during work hours.

   Measurable Outcomes (Some Examples)
   - Children enter Kindergarten with the proper skills and knowledge to begin their schooling experience. (Use data from the schools; numbers of parents who attend the Gearing Up for Kindergarten classes)
   - Decrease of instances of children being absent from school without a legitimate reason, and less disciplinary problems in school. (Use data from the schools)

**Wellness Focus Area** - *Improving Peoples Health*

**Targeted Issue:**
**Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle**

**Major Concerns:**
- Domestic Violence, Family or elder abuse
- Substance abuse: binge drinking, alcohol, drug abuse and smoking.
- The availability and knowledge about community programs to promote and assist with behavioral, mental and developmental health wellness

**Possible Strategies:**
- Ensure that there are shelters and programs for victims of violence and homelessness due to an abusive family environment
- Promote counseling programs for adults & youth involved in substance abuse
- Support programs that address behavioral, mental and developmental health issues
Measurable Outcomes (Some Examples)

- Reduction in the number of cases of family violence
- Reduction in the number of youth involved with substance abuse (Using data from the youth surveys in the schools.)
- Meeting the demand for programs that address behavioral, mental and developmental health issues