

The Connection Community Consultant Group 2007-2008 Projects

CASA of Baltimore, Inc.

Description: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) of Baltimore serves abused and neglected children by representing them in the Baltimore City court system and advocating for their best interests in the judicial, educational, medical, and social service communities.

Project: CASA relies on grant funding, individual, and corporate donations to support its Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer program. CASA wanted to learn more about private foundations that could serve as funding sources. The Connection team identified potential funders in the private foundation community and developed a plan to help CASA pursue this type of funding in the future.

Connection team: 3 JHSPH students

The Family Tree

Description: The Family Tree is dedicated to providing families with proven solutions to prevent child abuse and neglect. Family Tree offers volunteer supported programs and services that aide and educate individuals, families, and communities. Its services focus on helping parents to develop as nurturers and leaders and providing families with the tools needed to raise their children to become healthy, productive, and competent adults.

Project: Family Tree offers a “Strengthening Families and Moving Through Anger” parenting class with a significant anger management component. Family Tree wanted to assess and revise the tools used to evaluate the class. The Connection team examined the appropriateness of the current evaluation tools and provided advice about other tools that could be used to assess the class. In addition, the Connection team developed an instrument to evaluate the presentation skills of speakers and educators.

Connection team: 2 JHSPH students; 1 SON student; 1 JHSPH alum; 1 JHSPH faculty mentor

GLBT Community Center of Baltimore & Central Maryland

Description: The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center of Baltimore & Central Maryland seeks to achieve equality, understanding, and respect for the diversity of the greater Baltimore GLBT community while also providing quality support services, facilities, and professional resources for the development and well-being of individuals and groups.

Project: The GLBT Community Center runs several targeted support groups and wanted to better understand its clients' satisfaction with these groups. The Connection team developed and implemented a service satisfaction survey for these support groups.

Connection team: 3 JHSPH students

Maryland Department of the Environment

Description: The Maryland Department of the Environment works to protect and restore the quality of Maryland's air, water, and land resources, while fostering smart growth, economic development, healthy and safe communities, and quality environmental education for the benefit of the environment, public health, and future generations.

Project: The Hartford County Department of Health, which partners with the Maryland Department of the Environment, wanted to upgrade the content of its website. The Connection team conducted a survey of health department websites to provide suggestions about the type of health information that the website should provide. In addition, the Connection team drafted some of the new and revised content that will be featured on the website.

Connection team: 1 JHSPH student; 1 SOM student

Dr. Rayner Browne Elementary School

Description: Located in East Baltimore, Dr. Rayner Browne Elementary School serves students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. The school's faculty and staff strive to increase student achievement through comprehensive academic programs. In addition, they work to improve student attendance, behavior, and parental involvement.

Project: Dr. Rayner Browne Elementary School wanted to offer its students a mini-course about the health professions as part of its Career Awareness Program. The Connection team developed and helped to implement this course. The course introduced middle school-aged students to the various career options in the health professions.

Connection team: 2 JHSPH students; 1 SOM student

Villa Maria Continuum

Description: Villa Maria Continuum provides behavioral health and special education services to families and children with special needs. Operating 26 programs in Baltimore City and its surrounding counties, Villa Maria offers residential care, special education, outpatient services, crisis intervention, and family support services.

Project: Villa Maria's Therapeutic Mentoring Program provides one-on-one mentoring for emotionally disabled children. The children in the program have limited or no family involvement. Because funding for this program will soon end, Villa Maria asked the Connection team to provide grant writing assistance to secure funds that would allow the program to continue. The materials that the Connection team created will be used by Villa Maria as a template for future grant applications.

Connection team: 2 JHSPH students; 1 SOM student