

The Connection Community Consultant Group 2009-2010 Projects

SquashWise

Description: SquashWise works with 6th-8th grade students, providing instruction in the sport of squash as well as an intensive tutoring and academic enrichment curriculum. We have secured a grant this year, and part of it involves the implementation of a nutrition education curriculum. We would love to work with a group of public health, nursing, or medical student(s) with nutrition education experience, especially among adolescents. (Estimated time commitment: Planning should take 1-2 weeks. Implementation will be part of a longer unit on nutrition and fitness that will run 5-6 weeks in length. It is up to the team and their schedule as to how long they have to implement the curriculum.)

Project: This year, Squashwise secured a grant that involved the implementation of a nutrition education curriculum. The Connection team developed an age-appropriate nutrition curriculum that could be implemented over a 6- to 8-week during the regular academic sessions that are already in place. For each module, students designed lesson plans, developed handouts, and devised a budget. After the project's conclusion, team members worked with SOURCE to recruit other students to help with the implementation of the curriculum. Their efforts are highlighted in the February 8, 2010 issue of the *JHU Gazette*: <http://gazette.jhu.edu/2010/02/08/connecting-with-baltimore-nonprofits/>

Connection team: 4 JHSPH students, 1 SON student

City Steps

Description: AIRS has developed a range of programming under the CITY STEPS banner that addresses the specific problems of transition-aged homeless youth ages 14-24. Interventions at such a critical time in life have the capacity to be transforming, and in so doing, prevent future episodes of homelessness or exposure to trauma.

Project: The Connection team put together a comprehensive list of funding sources to support programming for non-residential services (particularly Life Skills) for homeless and unstably-housed youth.

Connection team: 1 JHSPH students; 1 SON student

Students Sharing Coalition

Description: Students Sharing Coalition, Inc. (SSC) is a nonprofit organization that facilitates students breaking down stereotypes and boundaries, improving low-income communities, developing self-esteem and leadership, learning about social issues, and becoming role models and leaders for the next generation.

Project: SSC needed assistance in assessing its current programmatic strengths and weaknesses as well as a re-worked logic model to strengthen future grant applications. The Connection team reviewed evaluation overviews, current/past grant applications and other salient information to determine current strengths and weaknesses. The team also made recommendations to SSC for future evaluation efforts.

Connection team: 4 JHSPH students; 1 SOM student

The Men's Center

Description: The Men's Center provides a wide range of services to men, including parenting and life skills, rites of passage, health education, and job placement assistance.

Project: The Connection Team helped the Men's Center put together a grant application to the Abell Foundation to help implement one component of their newly-revitalized comprehensive male service package: Rites of Passage for young adults (17- 25 year olds). Deliverables included a cover letter, the letter of intent, and the proposal narrative itself.

Connection team: 6 JHSPH students

House of Ruth

Description: The House of Ruth Maryland (HRM) is one of the nation's leading domestic violence centers, helping thousands of battered women and their children find the safety and security that so many of us take for granted. HRM provides the following services: emergency shelter, transitional housing, hotel placements for men, legal aid clinic, counseling, abuser intervention programs, teen programs, and a hotline.

Project: The HRM needed assistance with literature review and research for statistics and information they could use in grant applications. Of particular interest was research pertaining to children that witness violence, effectiveness of abuser intervention programs, and general statistical information about the prevalence of domestic violence across genders, races, socioeconomic statuses, and the state of Maryland. Through the work of the Connection Team, HRM was able to benefit from comprehensive research tools available to JHU students.

Connection team: 6 JHSPH students

Incentive Mentoring Program

Description: The Incentive Mentoring Program (IMP) is a non-profit organization that provides intensive academic and social support to Baltimore City teenagers who are in immediate danger of being expelled from high-school.

Project: In order to assess the progress of their students, IMP implemented a "log system" where their volunteers would record all of their encounters with the mentees, no matter how miniscule the activity. This system worked until the time they decided to create an annual report that required quantitative data. They needed assistance in evaluating these logs for the 2008-2009 year and to see if they could acquire quantifiable data. The Connection helped IMP analyze the data in the logs and created a report with quantitative and qualitative components. The types of data included the number of hours spent for various activities and quantifiable indicators of the quality of interaction between mentee and mentor.

Connection team: 1 JHSPH student

Baltimore American Indian Center

Description: The Baltimore American Indian Center (BAIC) was organized in the late 1960s to meet the needs of Native Americans in the region and to serve as a focal point for cultural, social, and traditional tribal activities. Over the last 40 years, BAIC has operated programs that address the socio-economic, educational, health, and cultural concerns of its members.

Project: The Connection team developed a needs assessment survey to provide BAIC with information on the health status and needs of their target population. This survey will be distributed at a community event at a later date.

Connection team: 3 JHSPH students; 1 SON student

People's Community Health Centers

Description: The People's Community Health Center (PCHC) is a network of nine federally-qualified health centers in Baltimore City and County. They provide primary care services for individuals with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level and no health insurance.

Project: The Connection team developed a strategic plan for social media marketing. They assess social networking utilities and provided a comparative analysis of available media that may be used by PCHC. Working with PCHC, the team identified systems and organizations with which they had existing relationships and assessed the environment through which they could electronically interact with these organizations. The team identified social networking practices of similar health care organizations, provided recommendations regarding type, design, and goals of social networking utilization, and developed 5 social networking sites.

Connection team: 4 JHSPH students

HEBCAC

Description: Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition (HEBCAC) operates several programs servicing residents throughout East Baltimore—the Youth Opportunities Center, Dee’s Place, the East Baltimore Technology Resource Center, the Monument Main Street Program, HEBCAC’s Neighborhood Services Program (see www.hebcac.org). However, they have virtually no written information, pamphlets etc. on these programs.

Project: The Connection helped craft the language and design for brochures for HEBCAC’s outreach efforts to residents, specifically the Youth Opportunities Center (YO! Center), Dee’s Place, and the East Baltimore Technology Resource Center. These brochures / fact sheets are not only informative but help market the programs to potential clients, funders, and partners.

Connection team: 2 JHSPH students

EBDI

Description: East Baltimore Development Inc. (EBDI) is a nonprofit partnership of public and private entities that works to stabilize and revitalize Middle East Baltimore by transforming the neighborhood into a thriving, healthier and economically prosperous community for families and children.

Project: The Connection team helped to write two grants for the EBDI’s East Baltimore Community School. One grant will help support literacy initiatives at the school, while the other will help provide funding for simple school supplies.

Connection team: 3 JHSPH students; 1 SOM student