

The Connection Community Consultant Group 2006-2007 Completed Projects

Baltimore Medical System, Inc.

Description: Baltimore Medical System (BMS) serves over 42,000 patients in many resource-poor communities throughout Baltimore City and Baltimore County. BMS services are provided through seven primary-care centers, a specialty center, and school-based health sites. With nearly 260 employees, BMS strives to provide affordable and accessible health care to those most in need.

Project: BMS recently administered a patient satisfaction survey to their non-English-speaking patients. The Connection team compiled the results of this survey and performed an analysis of the data that BMS had collected.

Connection team: 4 JHSPH students; 1 SOM student

Irvine Nature Center

Description: Irvine Nature Center is located in the Greenspring Valley region of Baltimore County. The organization provides quality environmental education to people of all ages. This includes programs for the public, programs in Baltimore-area schools, and special events throughout the year.

Project: The Connection team worked with the Irvine Nature Center to create a generic grant template that the organization can use when working with potential funders. This project included a literature review to demonstrate that environmental education is important to children and their health.

Connection team: 2 JHSPH students; 1 SOM student; 1 SON student

Maryland Mentoring Partnership

Description: The Maryland Mentoring Partnership (MMP) seeks to increase the number of Maryland youth who participate in mentoring relationships with adults. These relationships are designed to enhance students' academic and career options, raise self-esteem, and empower youth to eventually become self-sufficient. Blueprints for Youth is a new program launched by MMP to support youth and their families, in home and at school, with life skills training and referrals.

Project: Blueprints for Youth already has a mission and vision in place. Using these materials as a starting point, the Connection team developed policies and procedures to accompany Blueprints for Youth's business plan.

Connection team: 4 JHSPH students

Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Description: Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) works to ensure that all Marylanders have access to a wide range of high quality, affordable, reproductive health care services. Through medical services, education, training, and advocacy, PPM seeks to help individuals make informed decisions about their reproductive health, family planning options, and sexuality.

Project: The Connection team researched possible funding sources that PPM could use to expand its education programming in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and the state.

Connection team: 2 JHSPH students; 1 SOM student

Shepherd's Clinic

Description: Shepherd's Clinic provides primary health care to individuals who have no health insurance and are not eligible for government-assisted health care. Patients are seen by appointment and pay an hour's wage for an office visit.

Project: Shepherd's Clinic would like to reach out to the community to recruit patients, but it does not have much funding to support this type of endeavor. The Connection team prepared a community outreach campaign, including neighborhood events and door-to-door recruitment, to encourage people without medical insurance to utilize the clinic.

Connection team: 4 JHSPH students

Students Sharing Coalition, Inc.

Description: Students Sharing provides meaningful service and civic engagement experiences to students while helping these students to become mature and knowledgeable citizens who take responsibility for their communities and are committed to social justice. Students Sharing offers experiential learning programs and curricula that allow participants, through service to others, to learn about the world.

Project: Students Sharing wants to conduct an audit of its program costs. With this in mind, the Connection team examined the organization's budget to figure out costs per program, per school, and per child. Based on a review of the budget, the Connection team made programmatic and budgetary recommendations for expanding Students Sharing's services.

Connection team: 3 JHSPH, 1 SOM, 1 SON

Tench Tilghman Elementary School's Family Support Program

Description: Tench Tilghman Elementary School offers a comprehensive and coordinated educational program for children in grades pre-K through 5th. As part of this mission, the school offers a Family Support Program. The school is located a few blocks east of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions.

Project: Tench Tilghman's Family Support Program would like to track information about the services provided in the surrounding community. The Connection team developed a database to record baseline data that will facilitate action steps and outcomes. The system will be used to track activities and will allow for the aggregation of data.

Connection team: 3 JHSPH students

Youth Opportunity Center

Description: The Youth Opportunity (YO!) Center works to help Baltimore City youth receive education and career skills training. The Center's services are available to anyone between the ages of 16 and 22 who is a Baltimore City resident. YO! services include GED classes, life skills classes, job readiness training, and youth-led community service and civic engagement activities.

Project: The Connection team developed a plan to improve recruitment of youth members for the YO! Center. This plan included improving the appearance of facilities, creating youth recruitment fliers, hosting open house and incentive programs, and developing a plan to expand services to include social and life skills activities.

Connection team: 2 JHSPH students; 1 SON student