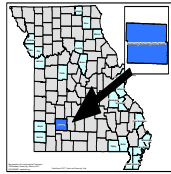


# Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Inc.

Established: 1995



Caring Communities Investment



Local Inv	12%
In-Kind	33%
Participant Fee	
Other, State, Fed	48%
Caring Comm	7%

## FY08 Result Achievement: Homeless Outreach and Education

September 2008

### Community Profile:

Community Partnership of the Ozarks is located in the City of Springfield, chosen for the third year in a row as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth. Although the city's population currently stands at 151,823, its economic impact influences 27 counties and over 936,000 individuals. While the City of Springfield and Greene County serve as the geographic base of our service area, our programming efforts reach 20 other counties in Southwest Missouri.

Community Partnership is governed by a 29-member Board of Directors, which is comprised of representatives from local government, the faith and education community, local businesses, civic organizations, the media, and other non-profit organizations. We also have the Ozarks Fighting Back Board, which governs our alcohol, drug and tobacco prevention services, and a talented and committed staff of 37.

Future plans for our Partnership include continued focus on diversification of funding; promoting America's Five Promises; and continuing to build and expand our collaborative efforts to leverage additional resources for our community.

### Major Collaborative Accomplishment:

Unemployment, foreclosures and rising fuel costs resulting from a lasting economic downturn have forced many in our community to seek supportive services to survive and have pushed many more into homelessness.

The Partnership facilitates the local Continuum of Care, a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandated network for locales receiving McKinney-Vento Act funding. Made up of shelter and housing stakeholders, businesses, government leaders and the homeless, this group worked to develop a 10 year plan to end homelessness in Greene, Christian and Webster Counties.

The foundation for the 10-year plan is a point-in-time census of the homeless population (both sheltered and unsheltered) in the tri-county area. Because of our reliable data collection methods, our Continuum was chosen to contribute data to HUD's Annual Housing Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress.

Biannual count efforts of both the sheltered and unsheltered homeless have become a model for other communities across Missouri, including the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness and the Missouri Housing Development Commission, responsible for collecting the same information for 104 counties across the state. This year, Community Partnership staff and Missouri State University representatives have been invited to present our achievements at two conferences:

- International Association for Research: Service Learning and Community Engagement
- Missouri Association for Social Welfare: Economic Injustice--The Increasing Divide and Rising Economic Insecurities

**Homeless:** Increasing numbers of homeless are coming into the Springfield/Greene, Christian and Webster County areas for shelter and housing support. In 2006, the total sheltered count was 490 compared with this year's count of 688 - a 28% increase in services provided to individuals and families. For the *unsheltered* homeless, we are seeing increasing numbers due in part to the sophistication of the data collection method as well as decreasing availability of supported housing. As a member of the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness, our Continuum has contributed this and other data to the upcoming *State of Missouri's Homeless Report*.

Collaboration is at the heart of the Continuum's success. During the *2008 Winter and Summer Counts of Unsheltered Homeless*, the Continuum of Care raised over \$15,000 in goods and services for the coordination of this day long event and utilized the time of 75 community volunteers.

**Housing and Hope:** The City of Springfield has been a long-time partner in our efforts to address homelessness. Seeing a need to decentralize homeless services from an area recovering from blight, the City contributed \$200,000 to develop a new housing project that will create **14 units of supported housing** through Burrell Behavioral Health.

An additional outgrowth of these efforts to reach out to the homeless –both sheltered and unsheltered – has culminated in a new partnership with **Convoy of Hope**. In the spring of 2009, Community Partnership and other agencies will team up with Convoy to provide a one-stop resource center that will provide vital services specifically for the homeless on-site at Ozarks Technical Community College.

### Collaborative Partners:

Collaborative partners are indeed the most critical element of a successful Continuum of Care. This year, key partners included:

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| City of Springfield                      | Convoy of Hope            |
| National Alliance on Mental Illness      | The Kitchen, Inc.         |
| Burrell Behavioral Health                | Missouri State University |
| Housing Authority of Springfield         |                           |
| Missouri Association for Social Welfare  |                           |
| Governor's Committee to End Homelessness |                           |

