

## ***Community Health Visioning Task Forces***

**Community members are encouraged to join an HCC Task Force! We welcome your involvement. Please contact 645-3136 for more information on how you can make a difference.**

In the last two years (2006 – 2008), significant progress has been made in addressing the four community health priorities identified in 2006. Task Force work is a collaborative effort. While many people have been involved to date, we recognize the above and beyond efforts of:

Doreen DesRoches, Community Concepts Head Start, Star Barden, Community Concepts Transportation, Barb Gaudin, Western Maine Transportation Services, Charlie Woodcock, Franklin Health Access, Diana White, Franklin Health Access, Kim Gooch, Tri-County Mental Health Services, Gary Perlson, MSAD 58, Doug Dunlap, UMF and Wilton Congregational Church, Ray Therrien, MSAD 9 Adult Education, Alyce Cavanaugh, MSAD 9, Tanya Swain, Western Mountains Alliance, Trish Flint, MSAD 9, Irene Goff, Franklin County Children's Task Force, Kawika Thomspson, University of Maine System, Alecia Pineo, Jay Community, Lisa Laflin, United Way of the Tri-Valley Area, Sandy Richard, Healthy Community Coalition, Eileen Liddy, Healthy Community Coalition.

A few highlights of Task Force work and broader community efforts include:

### **Improving nutrition**

- *Initiatives to promote local food were launched by Western Mountains Alliance and the Healthy Community Coalition*
- *Franklin Health Access actively worked to support diabetics, including offering a series of workshops that included nutrition education*
- *Local schools promoted healthy eating through School Health Coordinator activities such as a Healthy Bodies/Healthy Minds after school program, the Now You're Cooking Challenge, and tours of Hannaford Supermarkets where students learned about exotic fruits and the Guiding Stars program*
- *The Hope Harvest Community Garden in Farmington distributed thousands of pounds of fresh produce to nine area food pantries*
- *With the support of students from Foster Regional Technology Center, the Nutrition Task Force helped restore the greenhouse and gardens at Cascade Brook in order to grow fresh produce to integrate into the school lunch program*

### **Improving economic stability**

- *The Franklin County Community College Network continued to expand its offerings in Greater Franklin County, offering affordable, accessible educational opportunities to area residents*
- *The Maine Development Foundation recognized Greater Franklin Development Corporation for its dedication to sustainable economic growth, with the Champions of Economic Development award*
- *A number of new businesses opened in the area, including Poland Springs and Notify MD*
- *The Berry family launched a 10-year, \$150 million expansion plan for Saddleback Mountain*

- *Richard Batt, Franklin Community Health Network President, announced that The Federal Communications Commission dedicated \$3.6 million for the construction of a regional broadband telehealth network under the Rural Health Care Pilot Program*

### **Expanding physical activity**

- *Trails have been mapped throughout the region and are being promoted through interactive maps on the Community Connector website*
- *The Head Start program has incorporated low-impact physical activity into all its sites through an evidenced-based program called I Am Moving, I Am Learning*
- *Students have been involved in getting outdoors and identifying our region's recreational assets through workshops sponsored by the Center for Community GIS in Farmington*

### **Helping people gain access to health care**

- *Franklin Community Health Network filled all open physician positions*
- *Complementary therapies, including reiki, massage, yoga, and chiropractic thrive in the region*
- *Franklin Health Access initiated the Franklin Health Access Rx Program. This program, which helps Greater Franklin County residents access free or low cost prescription medication, has saved residents over \$500,000 to date.*
- *With the support of the Maine Community Foundation, Access to Health Care Task Force members provided 150 kits to realtors, beauticians, town clerks, and many others throughout the region. The kits were designed to connect community members to resources to help with transportation, paying for medications or, accessing a medical provider.*

**In addition to the four task forces above, two historic Visioning task forces continue to meet.**

#### **Breast Advisory Team (Breast Health Resources)**

Monthly meetings focus on breast care outreach and treatment issues. This group seeks to decrease the breast cancer mortality rate in Franklin County through increased mammography rates and early detection, improved patient satisfaction and a decreased time from screening to intervention.

#### **Peace In Our Families**

##### Peace in Our Families

Read the report(opens in a new window)

Peace in Our Families: A community-wide effort involving representatives from multiple organizations in Franklin County to end domestic violence. Peace in Our Families goals are to:

- Reduce the incidence and severity of domestic violence, sexual assault and other forms of interpersonal violence. (Interpersonal violence includes verbal, physical, emotional, sexual or animal abuse.)

- To change cultural beliefs and behaviors about violence in all its forms and its impact on the individuals in the community.
- Mobilize all current and potential resources promoting healthy relationships.
- [Greater Franklin County Domestic Violence Audit and Action Steps](#)(opens in a new window)

***There is no substitute for the simple power of believing in ourselves as a community.***