



Making Change

March/April
2007

Community Building Celebration 2007



More than 65 citizens attended the Community Building Celebration presented by ABC on Thursday, March 22nd. It was truly a time of celebration and recognition for the organizations, individuals and groups who have partnered with ABC to improve the lives of all residents of Adams County in the past year.

The evening featured Dr. Dennis Embry, Ph. D., CEO/president of PAXIS Institute in Tucson, Arizona. Dr. Embry spoke on community collaboration and making change in community. His presentation focused on "Simple Gifts™" - simple, proven, evidence-based practices that are both practical and powerful. They don't cost a lot of money to do, yet they can reduce risks and improve developmental assets for all ages.

Dr. Embry energized and encouraged the audience to strengthen and participate in community involvement by taking small steps that will lead to big changes. One example of small initiatives are encouragement/ "job well-done" notes presented to residents for positive reinforcement. Dr. Embry stressed the importance of accomplishing these initiatives and how they will act as a catalyst for bigger and better initiatives to come, calling them "early wins".

Also featured at the Community Building Celebration were ten area organizations recognized by ABC as "Community Builders" for their efforts to improve the quality of life in Adams County. Organizations, and their efforts, receiving Community Builder awards were:

- Access Health Adams County - Identifying and implementing programs to provide increased access to services for the uninsured and underinsured population.

- Adams County Substance Abuse Coalition - Conducting prevention programs to reduce the number of youth that use alcohol and tobacco.
- All Our Kids Network - Increasing awareness, understanding, and sensitivity to poverty.
- Coalition for a Smoke-free Quincy - Pursuing the elimination of second-hand smoke in restaurants & workplaces to ensure healthier work environments.
- Friends of the Trails - Supporting the development of bike and walking trails.
- Quincy Community Garden - Improving nutrition by providing the opportunity for residents to grow their own fruits and vegetables.
- The Sammy Fund - Providing youth the opportunity to participate in positive activities.
- University of Illinois Extension Youth Development 4-H Program - Offering experiential learning programs for positive youth development.
- United Way of Adams County, Inc. - Engaging and energizing the whole community in the concern of academic success.
- West Central Child Care Connection - Assisting low-income, working parents with payment of child care.

Community Building Day was co-sponsored by: Adams County Substance Abuse Coalition, Adams/Pike Regional Office of Education, Great River Economic Development Foundation, City of Quincy Human Rights Commission, and ROPES Prevention Services.



For more information on how you can get involved in the Alliance for Building Community go to:
www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org

ABC is funded by the Marion Gardner Jackson Charitable Trust



April 15-21 is National Volunteer Week. Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who give of their time & talents.



4-H Program Newest Partner

University of Illinois Youth Development 4-H Program

Indicators Adopted: Average number of developmental assets reported by youth; Percentage of youth reporting spending three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations; Percentage of youth who report volunteering in the last 12 months.

The University of Illinois Extension Youth Development 4-H Program offers experiential learning programs for youth ages 5-18 that center around the 8 Elements of Positive Youth Development:

1. A Positive Relationship with a Caring Adult
2. A Welcoming/Inclusive Environment
3. A Physically and Psychologically Safe Environment
4. An Appropriately Structured Environment
5. Opportunities to Achieve Competency/Master
6. Opportunities for Self-determination
7. Opportunities to Value and Practice Service to Others
8. Active Participation in the Future

For more information on 4-H, call LeAnn Million at the University of Illinois Extension, 217-223-8380.

**Alliance for Building Community
c/o University of Illinois Extension
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Quincy, IL 62301**

Logic Model Training

ABC will hold a Logic Model Training on Thursday, June 14th at the Oakley-Lindsay Civic Center.

A Logic Model is a visual map for your effort/initiative. It makes an explicit statement about what activities will bring about change and what results you expect to see. A Logic Model provides a guide for activities and funding.

More information will be included in the next issue of *Making Change*. You may also check the ABC website for information on this training, as well as other trainings and events.



Updates & Reminders

A Logic Model Support Group meets the second Friday of each month at the Center for Effective Nonprofits, 10:00am-12:00pm. The Support Group is available to anyone who has participated in a Logic Model Training.

Anyone interested in learning more about ABC and what we do, please contact Laura at 223-8380 or lhyde@uiuc.edu.

Adopted Indicators Update

This area will be used to give updates on adopted indicators and the projects/initiatives addressing them. If you would like to have your project updates included, please send the information to Laura (lhyde@uiuc.edu) and she will include it in upcoming newsletters.

(Reminder: *Making Change* is a bi-monthly newsletter. If you have information you would like to include, please make sure it is submitted in a timely manner.)

Access Health Adams County—The Community Service Link, a Web-based tool to provide a “no-wrong-door” system for those seeking assistance at health and social service agencies, is currently being implemented on a pilot basis. If you would like to become a participating partner in the Community Service Link, you may contact Cathy Meckes at meckes@sbcglobal.net.

Friends of the Trails—Planning and construction continue on the Dogwood Trail. The most recent addition to the trail along RJ Peters Driver, from Gardner Expressway to 8th Street, is nearing completion.

Quincy Community Garden—The Community Garden is ready for spring with all 14 plots reserved. We are accepting names for a waiting list. To have your name added to this list, please call University of Illinois Extension at 217-223-8380.

