



Making Change

Winter 2006

Organizations Partner with ABC to work on Action Areas

Three Adams organizations have adopted an Action Area. These groups are working with ABC to make Adams County a better place to live and work.

The Sammy Fund

Action Area: Youth Participate in Activities
Goal: Community Infrastructure supports health and economic well-being.

In August of 05, the Sammy Fund officially adopted an Action Area to improve the lives of youth throughout our community. The Sammy Fund pledged to donate funds so that area youth with limited opportunities can participate in childrens activities.

The Sammy Fund is a group that raises donations for the Samantha Otte Youth Opportunity Fund. The organization provides youth access to worthwhile activities in our community by opening doors to participation for children whose opportunities are limited. For more information on the Sammy Fund, please visit:

<http://www.thesammyfund.com>

Friends of the Trails

Action Area: Green space/trails
Goal: Community Infrastructure supports health and economic well-being

Friends of the Trails announced in August of 05 that they adopted an Action Area to increase the miles of trails

throughout the community. Friends of the Trails is a group of concerned citizens who work to develop bike and walking trails in Adams County including the Dogwood Trail throughout Quincy. For more information on Friends of the Trails, please visit:

<http://www.friendsofthetrails.org>

Healthcare Access Planning Committee

Action Area: Residents have access to health and social services

Goals: Percentage of adults without health insurance, Percentage of population who did not access health care services due to cost in the last year, Measure of access to mental health services

This committee has been working on access to healthcare issues for the uninsured and underinsured population of Adams County since 1991. During this time a variety of initiatives have been implemented including the Blessing Hospital Community Outreach Clinic, Adams County Health Department Dental Clinic, and MedAssist program of Catholic Charities. The committee continues to assess the evolving health care access needs and plan strategically to identify and implement programs to provide increased access to services for the uninsured and underinsured population of Adams County. For more information on healthcare access read the report at <http://www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org/extras/pdf/Access%20Final%20Report.pdf>



ABC Acquires Office Space and Redesigns Website

In the past few months, the Alliance for Building Community underwent great change, and is now prepared to further work with the community. ABC moved into its office space in November of 05. The office is located on the first floor of the Renewal Center at 1444 Maine Street in Quincy. ABC is very grateful to Tom Leahy and the Quincy Public School System for partnering with us to provide this space.

ABC also redesigned its website in November so it contains more useful information for the community. The new website contains

information about ABC and how one can get involved. There is also a list of ABC events, as well as photos and newspaper articles from past events. Most importantly, the Community Wellness Report is posted in a downloadable form so that residents have data available while making community-policy decisions.

ABC's website is located at:

www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org and is hosted by Spaceman X Media Production in Quincy.



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

www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org

Making Change

Do you want to help make life better in Adams County?



Advisory Committee on Board

A group of individuals who support the mission of the Alliance for Building Community (ABC) agreed to serve on the advisory committee. The group meets on a regular basis to provide guidance and information as ABC moves forward. The committee includes: Marcia Hardin, Mike Hilfrink, Tom Leahy, Shirley Longlett, Cathy Meckes, Jim Mentesti, Sue Osier, Chuck Scholz, and Mayor John Spring.

"We are excited to have this group of individuals who represent Adams County to help us determine the future of the Alliance," stated Carrie Edgar, University of Illinois Extension Unit Leader and ABC Steering Committee member. "ABC grew to a point that we needed more community input, and these people stepped forward to volunteer their time and knowl-

edge. We are extremely grateful and excited about having them work with us."

In addition to serving in an advisory capacity, the committee will also serve as representatives in the community, presenting information on ABC and its efforts. ABC is developing a presentation for community groups so that the community can better understand the Alliance and how they can participate. ABC hopes to begin these presentations in February or March of 2006.

If you would like more information about the ABC advisory committee or to schedule a presentation for your group, please contact Anne at

afortbes@allianceforbuildingcommunity.org

Community Planning Expert Advises ABC

On November 20th, the ABC Partners held a conference call with Tyler Norris, a nationally known community planning expert. Norris was the keynote speaker for ABC's 2005 Community Building Day, and he continues to support and guide Adams County ABC.

During his visit last year, Norris spoke about the importance of a unified community vision and encouraged our community to continue building upon the work that has been done in identifying outcomes and indicators to measure our community's health.

During a recent telephone conference update, Norris continued to validate the efforts of the Alliance for Building Community and the many volunteers that have contributed to the initiative. He emphasized the importance of hosting dialogue around the identified issues and working to find a "home" for the issues with an existing community group or committee. He also suggested creating an infrastructure to address issues that are not being addressed by a formalized group.

In turn, ABC continues to gather information about what other organizations are addressing, and seeking ways in which Alliance goals and actions areas can be at the top of their community agenda.

"Mr. Norris brings a lifetime of experience in community action, and we are happy that he continues to be involved in ABC," commented Julie Shepard, Director of Health Promotions of the Adams County Health Department and ABC Steering Committee member. "He has helped us increase our resources, streamline our structure, and be more effective."

Tyler Norris is the Founding President of Community Initiatives, L.L.C., a firm based in Boulder, Colorado and dedicated to improving health and healthcare in America. He provides strategic consultation and performance support to community collaborations and healthcare organizations. A founding co-chair of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's National Leadership Alliance and Chair of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Active Living by Design program, he has worked with more than 275 communities and healthcare organizations in the United States and internationally to help initiate scores of civic, health, education and social venture projects.



Tyler Norris

Alliance for Building Community
c/o United Way of Adams County
300 Civic Center Plaza
Quincy, IL 62301

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
QUINCY, IL
PERMIT NO. 167