



Annual Report 2007

Bristol's Promise began as the Youth Networking Alliance in 1998 with the purpose to bring folks together who were working on or cared about children and youth issues. Bristol Virginia already had coalitions working together where Bristol TN did not.

In 2001 Mary Rausch at King College Linking Center, proposed that we should become a Community of Promise; King College was a College of Promise. Richard Wells from America's Promise visited in November of 2001, agencies and organizations signed on, the proposal of being a Community of Promise was taken to and approved by both Bristol City Councils and both Bristol School boards. America's Promise does not have a formal process for affiliation. We became Bristol's Promise: Youth Networking Alliance.

In 2004 both Bristols were able to conduct the Search Institute Survey. In fall 2004 Bristol Tennessee received a grant for Communities That Care and undertook community-wide planning, a process already embraced by Bristol VA. Bristol's Promise embraces both the asset-building approach of the 5 Promises and targeting Risk Factors as identified. Several evidence-based programs were begun.

In 2005 the process was completed. Bristol Tennessee City schools used data and received a \$8.2 million Safe Schools & Healthy Students grant that increased security, added preschools, counselors, The Learning Center and several evidence-based programs.

In 2006 Bristol's Promise officially incorporated and became a 501 c 3 organization, joined the Chamber, presented to Bristol TN City Council which adopted the National League of Cities resolution on Children and Families. After hearing from Jane Myron and Jenny Brock from Johnson City's Up and At 'Em program, MOVE to a Healthier YOU! initiative began with an October kick off. We applied for 100 Best Cities. Guiding Good Choices continued to be offered and we began offering Supporting School Success parenting for children pre-K to age 8.

2007 began with the notification that **Bristol TN received the America's Promise 100 Best Communities recognition!**

Accomplishments:

- 5 super Foods for a Super YOU! MOVE event
- creation of a Fast Food choices card
- Healthy Kids Day activities with a downtown Bristol's Promise History Walk brochure; a project of Bristol Leadership
- Presence at different health events, a presentation at Wellmont & REACH's health conference in May
- 'Where to Walk in Bristol' card for Steele Creek Park's Wildlife Weekend and dedication of the Fitness Trail
- We helped with Bristol VA assessment through facilitation of focus groups that brought adults and youth together to look at the results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Received a Junior League Grant for \$5000 for parenting education workshops
- Parenting workshops were held in the spring and fall
- 3 folks attended America's Promise Regional Forum in Nashville
- Partnered with Project FINE for 2 Poverty workshops in August
- Supported 2 neighborhood associations—Anderson & Fairmount—with offering use of our 501 c3 and \$100 each for support
- Four folks attended the 100 Best Communities Celebration and conference in Washington in October
- Submitted our first fiscal year for financial review by Stanfield, Thomas and Associates
- Filed a 990 form
- Applied for funding from Drug Free Communities, Speedway Children's Charities, Jr. League of Bristol, Tennessee State Incentive Grant
- Applied for 100 Best Communities for Bristol VA
- Remain members and/or affiliated with America's Promise, CADCA, CADCAT, Bristol Area Chamber of Commerce and our Networking partners