



## Annual Report 2008

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 an \$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 2006 kick off. Guiding Good Choices parenting education program continued to be offered and we began offering Supporting School Success for parenting children pre-K to age 8.

In 2007 Bristol TN achieved America's Promise recognition of 100 Best Communities, continued Move to a Healthier YOU! activities, received a community enhancement grant from the state of Tennessee, partnered with Bristol TN City Schools for poverty workshops, and applied for several grants and the 100 Best Communities recognition for Bristol VA.

2008 began with the notification that **Bristol VA received the America's Promise 100 Best Communities recognition!**

### 2008 Accomplishments

#### Organizational

- Maintained membership in CADCA and CADCAT
- Maintained membership in Bristol Chamber of Commerce
- Chose to do a thorough financial review every other year, 2009 being next, this year cursory review by Scot Nelms' Pal's accountant at Dent K. Burke
- Filed second 990 form—for our fiscal year 2007
- Applied for two grants—Anderson Neighborhood and State Farm Youth Advisory Board
- Sponsored an intern, Bonner Scholar from Wolford College, previous Bristol Area Youth Council member, Brett Barger
- Approved a \$500 sponsorship for YWCA Baby Fair, and \$100 THS Kids in the Castle event
- Began creating a new website and transferring information from America's Promise website that does not exist after December 31, including attendance at YWCA MS Sharepoint class, purchasing Sharepoint software
- Student intern began a website for Bristol VA Youth Services
- Purchased a laptop computer to store all of Bristol's Promises' files
- Attended Sullivan County Department of Children's Services community board meetings
- Attended Bristol Organization meetings
- Prepared a document for Bristol TN and VA school boards for what to look for in a superintendent/director of schools

- Facilitated the beginnings of a community/family and youth resource guide, to be both web-based and hard copy
- Facilitated 6 Youth Networking Alliance meetings:
  - January
  - March
  - May
  - July—Internships: Brett Barger, BP intern, Tammy Henkel, supervising, ETSU & King providing opportunities and YWCA Week without Violence
  - September—Lunched with Korean Children's Choir,
  - December—Bristol TN City Schools Project FINE assessment, 3 years of data
- 100 Best Activities:
  - Achieved 100 Best status for Bristol VA, January 2008
  - Press conference January 2008
  - Youth representative to Governor's office for state of VA
  - Sponsored inflatables at the Star Spangled Saturday event where Jon Lundberg, State Representative presented the TN State Community enhancement grant
  - 5 attendees at the forum and celebration in September, including 2 youth
  - Developed a bookmark with 100 things for Families and Young people to do, creating a detailed list for the website
  - Distributed bookmark to schools, libraries, chamber, etc.
  - Jo Hutton spoke at First Friday about 100 Best Communities recognition

### **Caring Adults**

Promoted Big Brother Big Sister's renewed presence in the Bristol Community

Held spring Guiding Good Choices class using Jr. League grant monies and partnering with the YWCA

Linda Brittenham continued to teach Guiding Good Choices classes and provide support to women at Sullivan County Jail

### **Healthy Start and Future**

Partnered with YMCA's Activate Bristol to supply materials, provide liaison to other organizations such as REACH! and Sullivan County Health Council to help promote the program

Updated and reprinted the Where to Walk in Bristol and the Five Super Foods for a Super You! cards

Partnered with Believe in Bristol to rework the Bristol's Promise Walk brochure

Helped Washington Lee Elementary school obtain pedometers and had a presence at their PTA meeting focused on movement

Partnered with Sullivan County Health Department to hold a Town Hall meeting on Underage Drinking at Java J's and a Town Hall activity at King College using a \$500 grant from SAHMSA.

Two board members attend CADCA conference in DC in February, bringing back information and resources

### **Safe Places and Structured Activities During Non-school Hours**

Continued Bristol Area Youth Council with a stronger Bristol TN presence (Stephanie Hoskins, Bristol TN Police community programs liaison). BYAC participates in leadership development, learning about our community, career development and service. BYAC submitted a grant to State Farm Youth Advisory Board with the topic of Environmental Responsibility focused on food and food production. Grants to be informed in December and begin in February.

Was the fiscal agent for Anderson Neighborhood to purchase Neighborhood Watch signage and Bristol's Promise board member facilitates the neighborhood group

### **Marketable Skills**

3 Bristol's Promise board members participate on the Chamber's Business and Education Task Force

Brought back information on graduation rates and workforce development from America's Promise forum

### **Community Service**

Bristol Area Youth Council provides community service and has embarked on a service learning project on Environmental responsibility

Presented to the Leadership Challenge service learning class at THS, presenting opportunities for service