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Be a Piece of the Puzzle Mission Possible: Got Outcomes!



Like most things, prevention programming is measurable by outputs and or outcomes. Most of us understand and expect to see the outputs of our efforts.

For example, 350 hotdogs served during a baseball game. What often are not captured are the outcomes of people buying the hotdogs at the baseball game. For example, an outcome statement would look like, 90% of consumers felt their purchase was worthwhile and will return during all the football games to support the program that provided said hotdogs. Motivated individuals whom support community programming helping ensure sustainability of said programs.

The Vernonia Prevention Coalition (VPC) and its sector representatives have a lot of outputs: trainings provided, outreach numbers, youth traveling to leadership programming, bully intervention training, youth serving youth programs, suicide intervention trainings, books purchased for school and community libraries, increased adult mentor opportunities, medical services brought to area, mental health services brought to area, meetings attended, partnerships established, articles written, training volunteers, food handler cards for adult volunteers, background check purchases for volunteers, grant writing, signs purchased, incentives distributed, code enforcement support, proper law enforcement reporting practices, etc. The VPC Director, DeAnna Pearl, can provide you numbers, dates, and times for each of these if you are interested. Just ask her and she can give you more than you wanted to know.

However, on Saturday November 5, at the Vernonia Volunteer and Victory celebration the VPC was able to bring to light the outcomes of efforts made by groups and individuals whom volunteer and support the livability of Vernonia. These outcomes were measured in the applause, tears, laughter and new found collaborations highlighted in the evening's events.

Outcomes of program partnerships between churches, collaboration of youth serving programs and recognition of support by never before realized like mission agencies. Outcomes were measured by comments, "I had no idea that was happening here?" or "Wow, who do I contact about being a part of that next year?" The greatest outcome measure of the night was the awe and thankfulness given to the Christian Public Service whom have collectively provided over 14,000 volunteer hours that equates to over a quarter of a million dollars of service. This is not to diminish the efforts of other groups and agencies that present on that Saturday from honoring the longest Lion Club member, Bill James, to the youngest recognized volunteer, Coral Donne Pearl, of Salmon Festival.

One of the greatest things we can do as a community is to celebrate the capacity, whatever that may be, of individuals, groups, programs and agencies that service our community. Often times the individuals or groups listed above do not take the time to get out of the trenches and celebrate their efforts. Several do not even want to be known because of whatever reason. Taking the time to celebrate the outputs and the following outcomes is important because it helps us recognize where we have been and how far we have come in realizing our mission. Some missions are simple and some are convoluted. But how do we know what groups mission are? Even greater questions, how can we partner or volunteer if we don't understand the missions of the groups, programs and agencies service our community?

The VPC's mission is to develop safe and healthy neighborhoods through collaborative



Members of Christian Public Service were recognized for their volunteer contributions at the Vernonia Volunteer and Victory Celebration.

shape the delivery of the message and the development of the community action, policy advocacy and enforcement that make sense for them. All the while keeping in mind the collective outcome of community members whom feel they live in a safe and healthy neighborhood. Bottom line outcome measurements are actually the increased recognition of efforts made by groups and individuals whom service Vernonia. Even greater, the increased participation of youth involved in supporting healthier and safer communities is at its all time high for the last five years. This in turn reflects the reduction of self harm by youth. Still further, it invigorates the community to work together to support a safe and healthy community.

We continue to invigorate by educating ourselves and others to the missions of the various groups whom serve Vernonia but to celebrate them as well. We are NOT just a small community trying to put on a hotdog feed. We ARE a community recovering from a disaster to rebuild a school, health center, senior center, food bank, waste water treatment, etc. to provide a safe and healthy environment for our community and our youth. We are NOW sitting at the table with county, state, federal agencies and private philanthropy. We CAN no longer be inarticulate about our needs and expectations. We are NOT VICTIMS of our circumstances nor at the mercy of the kindness of others. We are BECOMING creators of our own destiny. Similar to the WWII slogan, "We Can Do It!" the over 55 groups and agencies whom provide service and outreach to local citizens and surrounding areas can say, "We ARE doing it!" We ARE developing safe and healthy communities where volunteerism is celebrated and positive outcomes are the norm.

If you would like to know more about the VPC or volunteer opportunities, please contact DeAnna Pearl, Director, @ (503) 369-7370 or DeAnna@vernonia-or.gov.

planning, community action, policy advocacy and enforcement. It would be safe to say most of Vernonia and its surrounding communities want safe and healthy neighborhoods. The Coalition goes even one step further. With keeping our mission in mind, it is the 12 Sector representatives whom

Nov.—Dec. 2011 Volunteer Opportunities

- Ongoing Wash. Grade School**
Lunch Buddy Program
Have lunch with a youth—You WILL be loved
Contact: David Spackman (503) 429-7941
- Nov. 7-Dec. 16 Vernonia RFPD**
Toy and Joy Drive
Donate, collect, wrap and more
Contact: Tori @ main office (503) 429-8252
- Nov. 24 1-4 pm Vernonia Comm. Church**
Community Thanksgiving Dinner
Donations, Cooking, Serving, having fun
Cathy (503) 429-8033 Dennis (503) 429-0335
- Nov. 26 10 am @ VCLC**
Down Town Decorating
Decorating main street for the holidays
Contact: Nicole Larke (503) 429-4271
- Nov. 28-Dec. 16 9-5pm US Bank**
Community Giving Tree
Coats, Shoes, Dignity Bag items for youth
Contact: DeAnna Pearl (503) 369-7370
- Dec. 3rd 11-6pm**
Spirit of Christmas Events
Warming Stations, story telling, etc..
Contact: Sharon Bernal (503) 819-7924
- Dec. 19th—20th VFW Hall**
Vernonia Cares—Holiday Boxes
Building, packing, delivering food boxes
Sandy Welch, Director (503) 429-1414 (please call ahead)
- Dec. 20-22nd 11-4pm VHS Cafeteria**
Celebrating Family—Holiday Program
Donations, craft making, gift wrapping, , etc
DeAnna Pearl, Coordinator (503) 369-7370

Be a Piece of the Puzzle
Volunteering Keeps It Together!

2011 Vernonia Prevention Coalition Sector Representatives

Position	Name	Sector	Contact	Affiliation
Chair	Josette Mitchell	Government	(503) 429-4232	COV Mayor
Vice Chair	Pete Weisel	School	(503) 429-3521	VHS Councilor
Exec. Board	Dr. Ken Cox	Media	(503) 429-5891	VSD Superintendent
Exec. Board	Sgt. Shaun Carnahan	Police	(503) 429-4232	COV Police
Board Member	Mark Brown	Faith	(503) 961-5281	Vernonia Comm. Church
Board Member	Ashley Swanson	Prevention	(503) 396-2074	Public Health Foundation of Columbia County
Board Member	Heidi Brown	Business	(503) 429-2787	Grey Dawn Gallery
Board Member	Gina Fields	Parent	(503) 429-6306	Parent
Board Member	Lee Anne Krause	Youth Serving	(503) 816-9810	Kiwanis
Board Member	O.S.S.O.M.	Youth	(503) 429-3521	VSD 47J
Board Member	George Tice	Civic Org.	(503) 880-1627	Lions Club
Board Member		Health Serv.		Seeking Representation
	Heather Lewis	Contractor	(503) 429-4677	Resource Coord.

VPC Mission:
To develop safe and healthy neighborhoods through collaborative planning, community action, policy advocacy and enforcement.