Mayor’s Livability Summit on Children and Youth

The Livability Summit on Children and Youth was held in December 2008. More than 150 people attended, including elected officials, business leaders, education representatives, service providers, students and civic leaders. The Summit provided a forum for participants to meet and discuss current needs, learn about best practices and identify collaborative opportunities. Summit participants identified continued on page 5

Sub-Committees

Three sub-committees have been formed that allow the Council to quickly progress on the goals identified at the Livability Summit held in December 2008 as well as at the 2005 Mayor’s Roundtable on Youth. Each sub-committee is chaired by a member of the Mayor’s Council and meetings are conducted monthly. Each sub-committee reports their respective committee work via an update at the quarterly Mayor’s Council on Children and Youth meeting.

The sub-committees are:

- Youth Civic Engagement (focusing on engaging youth in meaningful community activities);
- After3 (focusing on after school programming) and marketing www.After3Boise.com;
- Early Learning (focusing on kindergarten readiness).

Neighborhood Based Services

Following the lead of the City’s Strategic Plan to deliver services at the neighborhood level, the Mayor’s Council emphasized the delivery of after school programming to neighborhoods identified as areas of highest need. One of those delivery methods was the development of the Boise Parks and Recreation’s Mobile Recreation Program. Launched in February 2008, the program features a van loaded with art supplies, games, sports equipment, snacks, and staff. The van rotates between various parks, schools and apartment complexes in identified areas of highest need.

Since its inception, the Mobile program has had nearly 65,000 visits by Boise’s youth.

School-based Morley Nelson and Grace Jordan Neighborhood Community Centers opened in 2008 and school-based Whitney Neighborhood Community Center opened in 2009. Built in partnership with the Boise School District, these community centers are located inside District elementary schools and offer programming to neighborhood youth as well as the local community.

continued on page 5
After3

In 2008, the Mayor’s Council distributed the annual provider survey and used feedback to update the youth programming online map. There are 220 youth program locations listed on the After3 search engine; we are actively seeking information for approximately 80 additional locations. The current survey was reviewed and updated by the After3 sub-committee and is ready for distribution to program providers in Spring 2010. The After3 sub-committee will assess community needs based on the recent survey and address gaps in programming by providing neighborhood based services.

The After3 sub-committee is currently working with Boise-based Oliver Russell, an advertising agency, to give the after3boise.com website a new look and develop new marketing strategies. After3 bookmarks have been distributed to all K-6 classrooms in the Boise School District and Meridian schools in the Boise City limits. Kid-friendly stickers are being distributed at various events and facilities.

During the 2010 fiscal year, MCCY will conduct a second gap analysis using juvenile crime statistics, Title 1 schools where 50% or more of the students qualify for free and reduced lunch, and after-school programming. The new data will be used to determine if the primary areas in need have changed since the original analysis in 2006.

Early Learning

A Roundtable will be held on November 12th for organizations offering early learning programs. The goal is to compile best practices and create a marketing strategy that will increase awareness of the key indicators of social, emotional, cognitive and physical development and the importance of early learning. The Roundtable will also provide an opportunity for the Mayor’s Council to increase awareness of current resources.

The Mayor’s Council’s ultimate goal is to have quality after school programs within ½ mile of every identified area of need (based on disinvestment, juvenile crime statistics and student demographics).
Youth Civic Engagement

In the last year, MCCY sponsored several new opportunities for youth involvement including:

- Two Boise students attended the America’s Promise conference in Washington DC. The conference focused on strategies on how to improve student drop out rates. As a result, our student representation asked that we change the sub-committee’s focus from high school students to junior high students.

- Four youth members of the Mayor’s Council on

Youth in Sports

A list of all the local youth sports organizations is now updated on the After3Boise.com website, and promotional efforts are occurring to inform the public of its availability.

Mayor Bieter requested that a working group of leaders from various user groups meet to review their scholarship requirements and procedures. The review revealed there are numerous scholarship opportunities available through the youth sports organizations, and the general consensus is that a child will not be turned away if he or she has an inability to pay.

However, organization leaders are concerned that many scholarship recipients may not have parental support to get to practices and games if they receive an award to participate. Some organizations award scholarships to youth who can’t get to practices and competition, exhausting resources that could benefit other youth. Since many of the organizations fund scholarships through donations, there is a limit on how much money is available and a limit on promoting availability of assistance.

COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR YOUTH

Movies under the Stars

By: Jennifer Henderson, Executive Director, Boise Public Schools Education Foundation

What a summer! We stepped into the Education Foundation’s first event, Movies under the Stars. More than 6,000 people joined in the fun, family-friendly, free event at the Julia Davis Park Gene Harris Bandshell. Boise Parks & Recreation partnered by providing the facility and games and activities through their Mobile Recreation Program. Student groups from Borah High School provided face painting and support. Entertaining the crowds before all three movies was the very talented Borah High’s Runway 28 band. We look forward to more fun-filled successful events with next year’s Movies under the Stars.
Reaching the Youth through YMCA Programs
By: Teresa J. Wood-Adams, Child Development Branch Executive, Treasure Valley Family YMCA

In 2008, the YMCA served a total of 1,368 youth (Kindergarten through 6th grade) at 7 different YMCA School Age (After School and Summer Day Camp) locations. At these sites, 316 of these youth received YMCA Financial Assistance totaling $132,758.

The YMCA also served a total of 780 children in early childhood (infants through preschool) at 11 different YMCA locations – of which 94 children received YMCA financial assistance totaling $100,113.

United Way Born Learning
By: LeAnn Simmons, Director of Education Initiatives, United Way

Children are born learning and the early years of life are critical for healthy cognitive and social development. School readiness impacts a child’s opportunities for success later in life. Research indicates that children who start school unprepared are less likely to be reading at grade level in 3rd grade, and subsequently less likely to complete school, graduate from high school or pursue post-secondary educational opportunities that enable them to live financially independent lives.

In 2007, United Way of Treasure Valley initiated the Born Learning Program to help parents and caregivers prepare their children for school success. A school readiness model has been developed that can be replicated. Children and families in targeted neighborhoods are identified to participate in intensive school readiness activities involving family literacy components and pre-school experiences. The children will attend Title 1 schools where there is a high correlation of poverty and lack of school readiness. Parents and children attend Family Activity Nights where parents learn family literacy skills taught by the Learning Lab and Humphrey’s Diabetes Center provides nutrition training.

In the summer children attend Kindergarten Readiness Camps taught by the Treasure Valley YMCA. We track Kindergarten IRI scores, teacher observations and parent satisfaction. We are currently serving about 125 kids and their families in the Treasure Valley.
"...the future economic, social and cultural well-being of the City of Boise depend upon the ability of today's children and youth to reach adulthood by experiencing a safe, healthy and nurturing childhood, thereby allowing such children and youth to become the City's future business, professional and civic leaders..."

City Resolution creating the Mayor's Council on Children and Youth, April 2006

Livability Summit from page 1
two primary areas that impact the ability of youth to participate in out-of-school programs: transportation and cost. The Mayor's Council has committed to analyze what options are available to help alleviate these issues. Some MCCY members believe that many parents (and youth) are unaware of the programming that is available in their neighborhood. As a result, the Council is focusing on improving accessibility and marketing to assist in minimizing the transportation issue.

Neighborhood Based Services from page
In 2008 and 2009, Boise Public Library opened three new full-service neighborhood branch libraries -- one in Northwest Boise, one on Boise's Central Bench, and a third in West Boise at Cole & Ustick. The expanded library services were welcomed enthusiastically, with almost 1.4 million people visiting Boise libraries in FY2009 (up 10% vs. prior year), borrowing 2.0 million items (+18%). Almost 53,000 people attended library programs, and 21,605 people registered for new library cards (+21%). Plans are in the works for a fourth library to be located in Southeast Boise; the City is also exploring the potential for a new Main Library in downtown Boise.
The Mayor's Council on Children and Youth is comprised of representatives from the following organizations:

- Ada County Juvenile Court Services
- Boise Public Schools Education Foundation
- Boise School District
- Boise State University
- City of Boise Mayor's Office
- City of Boise Parks and Recreation
- Matthew-Jones Foundation
- Meridian School District
- Micron Technology
- Neighborhood Housing
- Silver Sage Council of Girl Scouts
- Treasure Valley Family YMCA
- United Way of Treasure Valley
- University of Idaho
- Youth Representative, Bishop Kelly High School
- Youth Representative, Boise High School
- Youth Representative, Centennial Kelly High School