

## Adult Ed & Employment

### A) Adult and out-of-school youth education

- SER Jobs for Progress, Inc. introduced ESL learners to basic computer literacy skills so they could access the self-paced IBM Reading Recognition program which allowed individuals to learn English.
- Big Friends Little Friends, a mentoring program of the Family Service Association, matched 33 mentors with mentees for a total of 57 matches for the year.
- The Center for University, School and Community Partnerships presented a day-long conference entitled "Early Literacy Matters," at the UMass Professional Learning Center.
- BCC's ESOL Courses helped learners to master English language skills that enabled them to move on to other courses.
- Pathways to Literacy ran two literacy classes targeting DSS foster families twice a week from January through June. The program integrates literacy education into other parts of the human service system.

### B) Alternative programs including tutoring, drop out prevention and after-school programs

- The Women in Technology Program at BCC introduced 223 high school-aged women to careers in technology through its regular program and two day summer camps and an overnight summer camp program.
- Lighthouse Christian Ministries opened an outreach center on 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Corky Row with a children's mentoring program two afternoons a week.
- The Fall River Public Library's Children's Reading Program ran a 6-week summer reading club, a 3-week September Fun with Video program, a pre-school story time program for 3 to 5 year-olds, and a number of other events to encourage youth literacy.

### C) Youth and senior employment and volunteerism

- Forty-four youth worked in City Departments such as Parks, Water, Public Works, Sewer, traffic and School, as part of a summer employment program run by the City of Fall River. to improve basic employment skills of at-risk youth and incorporate work-based learning, community service and leadership opportunities.

## Housing & Planning

### A) Affordable housing

- Over a hundred new home buyers were offered assistance by members of the Greater Fall River Realtors Association in financing and purchasing a home.
- Approximately twenty first-time homebuyers have attended classes at the Fall River Affordable Housing Corporation facility each month to learn the home buying process.
- Bishop Connolly High School's Habitat for Humanity group partnered with Bristol Elder Services and the Catholic Diocese of Fall River to identify elderly individuals who need assistance with raking, cleaning and snow shoveling in order to maintain their housing. Student members of the chapter volunteered their time as part of their public service time.
- The Homelessness Prevention Task Force made up of representatives of homeless service providers, the health care community, religious organizations, neighborhood organizations, consumers and law enforcement met throughout last year to create a draft plan to end homelessness in ten years.

### B) Waterfront access

- Fall River Office of Economic Development announced a \$3.1 million award for the reconstruction of the west berth of the Fall River State Pier. The pier project commences the next major step in the revitalization of the Port of Fall River and the development of a state-of-the-art water transportation hub.

### C) Improvements in recreation facilities for youth and adults

- The Boys & Girls Club of Fall River opened a new addition with a game room, learning center and the Rogers Teen Center.
- North End Neighborhood Association is working with a representative of the Mayor's Office to identify property that would be suitable for the development of a new children's park in the North End of the City.
- City of Fall River Board of Park Commissioners is overseeing renovations on the Grove area of Kennedy Park, tennis courts at Maplewood Park and addition of a skateboard park at Lafayette Park. A study of North Park is currently being conducted to restore some of the original features of this Olmstead-designed park.
- The Bank Street Neighborhood Association is working with the Fall River Street Tree Planting Association to purchase a number of trees suitable for planting at the Bank Street Tot Lot to provide much-needed shade in the grassy area of this neighborhood park.

**Healthy City Fall River**  
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Partners for a Healthier Community is the local Community Health Network Area (CHNA) organized by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to establish a working partnership between DPH and area residents to improve the health status of all those who live or work in the CHNA

**Partners for a Healthier Community**  
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Healthy  
City  
Fall River



## Summary of Second Year Accomplishments 2005-2006



## Second Year Accomplishments

The Healthy City Fall River initiative identified five Priority Areas in which to address health and quality of life improvements for the city.

The first year (2004-2005) identified and met or partially met goals for fifty projects (See Summary of First Year Accomplishments). In the second year (2005-2006), an additional forty-eight project goals were under way

These accomplishments are briefly described on each of the following panels. More detailed information on all ninety-eight of the Healthy City Fall River projects can be seen at the website, [www.healthycityfallriver.org](http://www.healthycityfallriver.org).

## Safety & Substance Abuse

### A) Increased community policing and personal safety

- United Neighbors involved foster families in a number of social events that strengthen connection, communication and family unity.
- DRIVE Impaired Driving Program offered ongoing education and outreach for high school and college students on the impact and risks of impaired driving.
- The city's first neighborhood event for the Fall River Hispanic community was held in cooperation with the Maplewood Neighborhood Association and brought Hispanic residents together with Association members.

### B) A drug-free community, including enforcement of tobacco laws

- Designed to reduce future addiction, Camp Steppingstone is recruiting youngsters for a summer recovery camp program for children of alcoholics and drug addicts.
- Clients of Steppingstone's Men's Addiction Treatment Program offer their perspectives and engage in a hard hitting, factual presentation to high risk adolescents

- Steppingstone's annual Women's Health Event focuses on the dangers of tobacco, with an understanding that women face special health risks.
- SSTAR's Parenting Wisely program taught 13 universal parenting skills using video vignettes of common family problems. with follow-up group discussions for parents.
- BOLD Coalition helped youth construct a float for the Fall River Celebrates parade, hold a candidates' debate, a fashion show in June and plan a community-wide strategic planning session over the summer.
- HELPP Heroin Prevention Project –put on two seminar series, one for neighborhood association leaders and another for human service professionals, to look at law-enforcement, treatment and prevention of heroin addiction.

### C) Reduction of gangs

- The Peaceful Coalition, comprised of a diverse population of teenage boys ages 14-19 representing the spectrum of Fall River's ethnic and racial demographics, met weekly to create a safe, violence-free school and community. They have presented to a Peaceful Coalition group organized at Henry Lord Middle School.
- The Fall River Tobacco Control Program completed compliance checks with high school students and educational training for retailers on request. Inspections of all retailers in Fall River, Somerset and Westport were conducted.

## Environment & Recreation

### A) Cleaner streets and parks

- Recycling of books, clothes, batteries, bulbs, cell phones, computer monitors and TVs, as well as curbside materials (bottles, cans, plastic and paper) have increased to 14.44 % as of December, 2005, representing the percent of all 31,685 tons of material disposed of in the City for 2005.

### B) Increased and improved recreational opportunities for youth and adults

- The Salvation Army's Club 3-16 after-school program for elementary school age children and at-risk, low-income families offered crafts, community speakers, field trips and character-building lessons
- Over 300 young people from six to 18 years of age participated in heart-healthy floor hockey games twice a week from September through February through the Police Athletic Association's floor hockey program.
- Between twenty-five and forty adults over the age of 60 gathered twice a week at the Niagara-Maplewood Senior Center for aerobic exercises designed to keep participants fit.
- Fifteen elders who have medical issues or financial issues in addition to developmental challenges engaged in one-to-one recreation activities of their choice through People, Inc.'s Recreation Support program.

### C) Measures to ensure cleaner air and water

- Fall River Biodiversity Days Committee held events in June to increase awareness of local biodiversity as a critical indicator of environmental health.

## Health Education

### A) Nutrition and diabetes education

- The Fall River WIC Program maintains collaboration with healthcare providers to set children on a path to healthy weight and good health through the Childhood Obesity Prevention initiative.
- Classes in healthy cooking and eating are offered by the International Institute of Culinary Arts to local residents as a way to make good nutrition both fun and tasty.
- The Fall River Public Schools in partnership with local nutrition, fitness and wellness experts are

developing a local School Wellness Policy.

- The U-Mass Extension Nutrition Education Program provides nutrition education to the Steppingstone women's treatment programs to help them with the recovery process.
- Bristol Elder Services offered nutrition and diabetes education to Khmer-speaking elders in an effort to prevent the onset of Type II diabetes among Cambodian elders.
- The SE Mass. VNA Community Outreach Program included many no-fee community presentations on various topics including cholesterol control, mosquito protection, and stroke prevention to councils on aging and community groups.

### B) Tobacco education

- Partners for Clean Air was awarded a second EPA Healthy Communities grant and has partnered with the John E. Boyd Center for Childcare and Development to educate parents and caregivers about the dangers of exposing children to secondhand smoke and to encourage them to take the Smoke-free Homes & Cars pledge.
- Freedom from Smoking, a smoking cessation program for adults that involves group sessions once a week for eight weeks to guide people through the process of quitting, was offered three times this year through St. Anne's Hospital.

### C) Physical fitness education

- The Diabetes Association, Inc. teamed up with Pose Company School of Dance to provide Hip Hop dance instruction to middle school-aged children who are at risk of developing Type II diabetes.
- Over one hundred Fall River Police Department personnel signed up for vital sign, weight, and cholesterol monitoring. Results indicated a 57% improved blood pressure values, a 56% improved or maintained total cholesterol values, and that 33% obtained or exceeded weight loss goals.