



St. Joseph Youth Alliance

"Engaging community partners to improve the lives of children and families."



Who is Youth Alliance?

Since 1991, St. Joseph Youth Alliance has been leading the charge alongside community partners to make sure local children and teens have the brightest futures possible. This includes: ■ Leading comprehensive programs to help local teens live a life free of drugs and alcohol

■ Reducing the risks of childhood abuse and neglect for young children ■ Connecting teens and young adults with powerful career mentoring and service opportunities ■ Helping centers that serve young children provide the safest, most dynamic educational environments.

What are the core areas that drive Youth Alliance?



5 KEYS for KIDS

Called the *Five Keys for Kids*, the partners and members of Youth Alliance have chosen to focus their work on five key areas – crisis prevention, early childhood education, substance abuse prevention, youth asset development and youth mentoring.



Crisis Prevention: Parents Encouraging Parents By delivering integrated support and social services to families, Youth Alliance is helping prevent child abuse and neglect. Through the Family Connections program, parents connect with other parents as they identify their parenting strengths, participate in social activities and engage in parenting education.



Early Childhood: Working Alongside Childcare Providers The most critical foundation for a child's educational success occurs before they ever start school. Youth Alliance works with area childcare providers to offer customized, professional training, technical assistance and grants/equipment for childcare providers as they expand. The goal is to equip childcare providers in 11 counties to provide the most dynamic environment possible.



Substance Abuse Prevention: A Life Free From Substance Abuse The goal of the Substance Abuse Prevention initiative at Youth Alliance is to equip and empower teens to live a life free of drug and alcohol abuse. This means helping parents with tough conversations and working with law enforcement partners to complete compliance checks. Youth Alliance also coordinates Red Ribbon Week, designed to reach thousands of teens with the message that sobriety can open every door to their future.



Youth Asset Development: Positive Values and Commitment to Service Alongside substance use prevention efforts, Youth Alliance partners and members help provide opportunities for teens to build positive values and serve their community. This powerful initiative creates future leaders and lowers teen risks for substance use.



Youth Mentoring: Career Experience and Confidence By linking numerous area businesses with teens for custom mentoring experiences, Youth Alliance is a regional leader in helping teens develop stronger career skills, academic skills and leadership drive.

We're above the influence!

Are you?

Red Ribbon Week • youth-alliance.org



"Best job ever!"



Terry Shimer opened her in-home childcare center in 2008 and has continued to receive accreditation guidance and technical

support from Youth Alliance's Educare program. "My focus is on school readiness as we continue expanding," says Terry. "Youth Alliance's Educare program has been there every step of the journey. Thank you for guiding me toward the best job ever!"

St. Joseph Youth Alliance

Dedicated to Changing Lives, Saving Lives and Creating a Bright Tomorrow for Children and Teens

Key Outcomes: St. Joseph Youth Alliance

1. Crisis Prevention:

- Buchanan County data shows a decrease in child abuse of more than 62 percent across seven years (2004 to 2010). During 2011, more than 260 home visits were completed in partnership with area agencies across Andrew, Buchanan and DeKalb Counties.

2. Early Childhood Success and Accreditation:

- The Youth Alliance Educare program served 144 child development centers and 94 early childhood teachers through 624 on-site visits in 2011.

3. Substance Abuse Prevention:

- Alongside the St. Joseph Police Department, 43 Responsible Beverage Server training courses were offered in 2011 and a total of 384 alcohol inspections. During the most recent 12-month period, the compliance check failure rate had declined from previous figures of more than 50 percent to around 10 percent.

4. Youth Asset Development:

- Through the YAC Attack summer program, 37 youth volunteers (ages 11-17) gave 2,601 hours of structured community service! In 2011, 17 YAC volunteers earned the Presidential Volunteer Service Award!

5. Youth Mentoring:

- As part of the Northwest Missouri Mentoring Partnership, Youth Alliance is helping teens and young adults ages 14-21 who are at risk of dropping out of high school by providing a Worksite Mentoring Program. Two job fairs were held and 50 sophomore referrals were generated, along with nine new business mentoring partners.



How Can You Get Involved?

1. Join Youth Alliance. Submit your application as an individual, an organization or a service club to become a member of Youth Alliance. Together, we're creating the brightest future possible for area children and teens.
2. Volunteer with Youth Alliance. More than 4,000 hours of volunteer service are logged by local teens and adults each year under the coordination of Youth Alliance. You can become part of our volunteer initiative today and help create future leaders.
3. Become a Mentor. Nothing changes a teen's life, or sets them in a successful career direction, like on-the-job mentoring. Get involved today by working with Youth Alliance as we lead local teens toward new career goals that are filled with promise and built on avoiding drugs and alcohol.
4. Support Youth Alliance's Mission. Your financial gift means Youth Alliance can carry out its critical goals, such as helping kids avoid drug and alcohol use and increasing their chances for school and career success for the long-term. Every dollar makes a true difference.

Contact Youth Alliance:



St. Joseph Youth Alliance
5223 Mitchell Ave
St. Joseph, MO 64507
(816) 232-0050
youth-alliance.org

