

## **The Delaware County Prevention Education in All Classroom Environments (PEACE) Collaborative Overview**

### **Our Vision**

The PEACE Collaborative is committed to promoting comprehensive prevention education and positive youth development in all Delaware County schools through community collaboration such that children achieve academic success in a supportive, healthy school environment.

### **Our Members**

Big Walnut Local Schools

Buckeye Valley Local Schools

Delaware City Schools

Olentangy Local Schools

Delaware General Health District

Delaware Morrow Mental Health & Recovery Services Board

Delaware Co. Dept. of Job & Family Service

Helpline of Delaware and Morrow Counties, Inc.

Maryhaven

Turning Point

Recovery & Prevention Resources

The STAND UP! Leadership Team

The United Way of Delaware County

### **Our History**

Created in 2008, as a response to funding cuts in prevention programming, the PEACE Collaborative had 3 main strategic directions:

- Launching the PEACE Collaborative as a Foundation for Prevention in Delaware County.
- Coordinating and Operationalizing Prevention Strategies in Delaware County
- Advocating for and Advising on Prevention Policies and Practices

### **Recent History**

With Justice Assistance Grant funds received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, in 2010, a team of community agencies and school personnel vetted, interviewed and hired a PEACE Collaborative Coordinator and Youth Empowerment Coordinator. Although Helpline has served as the fiscal agent for this project and provided oversight to the hired staff, the employees hired as a result of initial funding in this project have worked on behalf of the community collaborative to coordinate agency efforts at impacting the safety of the county's youth. In less than a year, these two employees, along with the above named collaboration board, have pulled efforts to systematically impact youth crime prevention through the implementation of meaningful programs for youth and by youth ensuring youth representation on committees across the community making decisions affecting the wellbeing of youth.

Materials provided by Nancy Radcliffe, of Helpline of Delaware and Morrow Counties

Due to a loss of funds, the PEACE Collaborative lost the Coordinator position. Since the beginning of the year, the PEACE Collaborative has continued to meet and has discussed what can and cannot be done, given the limitations of existing members and lack of a coordinating position.

During the first two years, the work of the collaborative included developing a strategic plan, creating subcommittees, reaching out to the communities, building relationships between members, evaluating existing prevention programs, participating in a needs assessment/survey of the Delaware county school system. All of this was done to further the work of the collaborative and move on with our strategic plan. The beginning of 2011 marked PEACE continuing to meet without a coordinator. However, we recently learned that there will be funds to have a part-time Coordinator which will allow the work of the collaborative to continue at a faster pace.