

HEALTHY FAMILIES

2005 Report

2005 was a year of change and progress. We re-evaluated our relationships with our MOU partners and have been working to better serve them. In so doing, we are now better connected with our MOU partners and are enjoying greatly improved relationships. We hope and expect that our improved interagency communication practices will result in increased referrals.

Our Family Resources staff devised some creative ideas to improve referrals. 'Interest boxes' were created and placed throughout the city to allow new and expectant mothers to drop a card in the mail requesting to be contacted. Also, the three H.F. Program Coordinators have worked diligently with the HEALTH DEPARTMENT and the WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN program to reevaluate how our agencies can better assist each other to benefit our mutual client families.

The 2005 HEALTHY FAMILIES CHRISTMAS PARTY (at the C.K. NEWSOME CENTER) was greatly enjoyed by our families. With the aide and sponsorship of the VECTREN EMPLOYEES the event was highly successful. As usual, the highlight was the children getting to meet Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus.

The YSB board gave Healthy Families staff the use of YSB's concession booth at the 2005 FREEDOM FESTIVAL. Although not profitable, it was a learning experience for all those involved in planning the event and running the booth.

PROGRAM STATISTICS:

4,279 home visits (each lasting 45 - 60 minutes) were conducted this year and we provided 1,786 referrals to community resources. 15 referrals were to *First Steps* for infant developmental delays. Eighteen (18) families were 'graduated' this year. Successful 'graduation' requires a family to fully participate in H.F. services for 3-5 years and achieve their self-identified goals.

OUTCOMES:

- 435 referrals were received from the 471 screenings completed this year
OR 92% of all screens performed.
- 189 assessments were completed this year
OR 43% of all referrals received.
- 324 families were served and achieved the following outcomes:
 - 42% of participants remained in the program 3-years.
 - 65% of participants became employed.
 - 31% of participants became enrolled in High School or College.

A SUCCESS STORY:

Mary Ann was 15-years old and single when she became pregnant with her 1st child. Mary Ann had recently been orphaned and placed in a residential home under state custody. While there, Mary Ann joined the H.F. program and used H.F. services to work toward independence. She became an 'emancipated minor' at 17 and moved into her own home. During her 3-years as a H.F. participant, Mary Ann (a.) found employment, (b.) completed high school, (c.) became a 'certified nurse's aide', and (d.) is working on her college degree. Mary Ann says about Healthy Families, "*the support and encouragement I received helped me get through my low-points and develop the positive outlook I needed to take charge of my life.*"