

HHI At-a-glance

Jul-Aug 2009

Southwest Region

The Hometown Health initiative of the **Southwest Region** partnered with the Educational Cooperatives in Southwest Arkansas to sponsor nationally known brain-based lecturer, Jean Blaydes Madigan on June 22nd to June 25th. "Building a Better Brain through Movement", was provided for four consecutive days in each co-op region. This program was partially funded by Act 1220 funds received from the Center for Health Advancement. Approximately 140 teachers, early



childhood educators, counselors, nurses, and administrators attended the workshops.

Southeast Region

Forrest City School District has successfully applied for and received a Fresh Fruits and Vegetables grant from the USDA for \$137,480.00. The program provides reimbursement for fresh fruits and vegetables served free to students during the school day outside the lunch and breakfast meals. The program is sponsored through the Arkansas Department of Education's Child Nutrition Unit. The goals of the program are to create a healthier school environment by providing healthier food choices, increase fruit and vegetable consumption, make a difference in diets to impact present and future health as well as expand the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience.

Central Region

Grant County, Central Region Office and University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Public Health have partnered together to focus on promoting awareness of Perinatal Periods of Risk- a way to assess various risks to mothers and babies-in Grant County. Grant County has a high rate of teenage pregnancies as well as a high ratio of infant morbidity. Through our partnering with Chapel Hill School of Public Health, Grant County is host to a candidate for Masters intern whose expertise is Maternal Child Health.

Hometown Health Improvement



Northwest Region

The city of Plainview, in **Yell County**, passed an ordinance on June 11, 2009, prohibiting smoking and the use of tobacco products in city buildings and offices, city parks, recreational facilities, and city owned vehicles. The ordinance actually prohibits tobacco use within 50 feet of the city parks and recreation facilities.

Carroll County is working on a walking trail. Six new grants were awarded in the community this month for a total of \$767,850. Grantors include State highway grant, AR Historic Preservation, Walmart, Local civic groups.

Northeast Region

Mississippi County Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Arkansas sponsored an event held at First Missionary Baptist Church in Blytheville. The day consisted of active play for children with fitness equipment borrowed from the U of A Extension Office; group led exercise provided by Elroy Brown; a volleyball game coordinated by coalition members; tobacco prevention education by a youth board member; and health screenings including blood pressure and blood sugar. The event ended with a healthy lunch consisting of fruit, vegetables, and water.

Fulton County's Annual Camp Fit-N-Fun was held in June with approximately 150 children in attendance. A SOS booth was set up at the main building of the camp where the children ate their lunch and snacks to provide education and presentation. The children learned the importance of staying physically active, drinking milk and water, washing hands, the roles of organs in the body, the dangers of tobacco and healthy nutrition.