

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Right Path for Washington County is to promote healthy youth development by reducing and preventing youth substance abuse and by continually building and strengthening our broad-based community coalition to support healthy behavioral choices among Washington County youth.



*Building healthier
Washington County
youth...
One child at a time,
One experience at a time.*

Funded in part by



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*Coordinator
Cathy Harper*

*Washington County's
community coalition
for fostering healthy youth
development*

What are The Right Path's services, programs and activities?

- ◆ Drug and alcohol prevention and awareness activities in county schools
- ◆ Leadership and community service opportunities for youth
- ◆ Collaboration with the Washington County Behavioral Health Board on Youth Leadership Summits and the Washington County Prevention Connection
- ◆ School outreach work with youth-led groups: Students Against Destructive Decisions and STAND groups
- ◆ Summer anti-drug and -alcohol media campaign, designed by county youth
- ◆ Drug-free dances each Tuesday night during the summer months
- ◆ Teen and Family Swim Nights each Friday during the summer
- ◆ Other drug-free youth events throughout the year
- ◆ Collaboration with other youth-serving organizations and agencies on activities that promote healthy families and healthy children

Who is involved?

Coalition partners include:

Washington County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Board
United Ways of Washington County and the Mid-Ohio Valley
Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Fund
Marietta Community Foundation
VFW Post 5108
Marietta Family YMCA
Washington County Juvenile Court
Salvation Army
Salvation Army/Boys & Girls Club of Washington County
OSU Extension Office
Washington County School Districts: Belpre, Fort Frye, Frontier, Marietta, Warren and Wolf Creek
St. Mary School
Ely Chapman Education Foundation
Municipal governments
Washington County Sheriff's Office
Washington County Commissioners
Washington County Children Services Board
Washington County Family & Children First Council
Civitan, Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis Clubs
Community Action
Peoples Bancorp
Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers
Marietta College
Washington State Community College
Memorial Health System
L & P Services, Inc.
Washington County Tobacco Prevention Project
Clear Channel Radio, WMOA, WJAW and 93R
The Marietta Times
Belpre and Marietta Area Chambers of Commerce
Boy Scouts
McDonald's
Betsey Mills Club
Marietta Family YMCA

What is The Right Path for Washington County?

In 2003 the Washington County Behavioral Health Board, then known as the Mental Health & Addiction Recovery (MHAR) Board, was awarded a three-year prevention State Incentive Grant for the purpose of preventing problem behaviors and fostering healthy development of youth. This provided an unusual chance to apply science to prevention efforts, both in identifying and prioritizing the risk and protective factors unique to Washington County and in selecting research-based prevention programs proven to be effective for those factors.

The first year of the grant was designated for planning; Washington County MHAR Board selected the Communities that Care (CTC) prevention planning system to guide the process. This prevention planning system is a community action model that leads community coalitions through a process to identify the unique risk factors and protective factors that face youth in the community.

In the fall of 2003, 75 key leaders from around Washington County attended the initial orientation, representing all county school districts and colleges, law enforcement and courts, businesses and industry, elected officials, civic groups, social service agencies, hospitals and health departments, the media, clergy, and parent and youth leaders. From this core group came The Right Path for Washington County.

The second two years of the grant were designated for the selection and implementation of evidence-based programs and practices most effective for Washington County's unique problems and assets. The Right Path for Washington County chose Positive Action, a research-based prevention program, to address the greatest risk factor, *poor academic performance*, and to enhance the greatest protective factor, *belief in the moral order*.

Youth from all around the county were recruited to serve on the Youth Involvement Group (known as "YIGZ"), and to help address the second priority risk factor, *community disorganization and low neighborhood attachment*. This work group elected to develop an annual prevention media campaign and an ongoing series of community drug-free youth and family events.

The Right Path continues to be a vital coalition in Washington County, providing prevention services and programs, drug-free activities, youth-adult partnerships, leadership opportunities for youth and communitywide collaborations to promote healthy youth development.

