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Overview of Research & Evaluation Accomplishments 2001-2002

Community Research Institute-Johnson Center

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Original Research

2001 Greater Grand Rapids Community Survey

September 2001

The Delta Strategy, Heart of West Michigan United Way, Area Agency on Aging, and the City of Grand Rapids

The Community Survey assessed citizen opinions, perceptions, and behaviors about the quality of life in the Greater Grand Rapids area. Findings available on-line at:

www.gvsu.edu/philanthropy/pdfs/community_survey_report_2001.pdf

Status of Women in the Workplace

February 2002

Women's Resource Center

This multi-method research study was designed to establish a baseline understanding of the employment status of women in Kent, Ottawa, and Muskegon Counties. The findings have been used by the Women's Resource Center in their Workplace Initiative. Findings available on-line at:

www.gvsu.edu/philanthropy/cr/pubs/women_workplace.pdf

2002 Employer Survey

June 2002

Kent and Allegan Workforce Development Board

A survey of almost 400 employers in Kent and Allegan Counties pertaining to their current employee training practices and employee training needs. Findings available on-line at:

www.gvsu.edu/philanthropy/cr/pubs/employee_training_programs_02.pdf

Secondhand Smoke at Worksites and Public Places

August 2002

Clean Air Now!

A poll of over 400 Kent County registered voters was conducted to identify beliefs and opinions about secondhand smoke and assess potential support for county regulation of smoking in worksites and public places.

Literature Reviews & Secondary Research

In Brief...Poverty

2001-2002

A series of one-page publications focused on issues and research around poverty to assist the work of community groups. Available on-line at: www.gvsu.edu/philanthropy/publications.htm

Welfare to Work: Connecting low-income residents with family-supporting jobs that lead to career advancement

September 2001

The Delta Strategy

Provides best practices and case examples of organizations working nationally in welfare to work arenas.

Suggestions for Smoking Cessation Surveys**May 2002***Tobacco Free Partners*

Provided feedback on current survey and information regarding national models used to measure the outcomes of smoking cessation programs.

Literature Review on the Working Poor**July-August 2002***The Delta Strategy*

Examines who the working poor are in America, what barriers keep the working poor from moving to self-sufficiency, and what strategies are being used to assist the working poor out of poverty.

Kent County Correctional Facility Statistics 2001**August 2002***The Delta Strategy and Kent County Commissioners*

Compiles demographic statistics regarding the average Kent County jail population, inmate charges, and information regarding racial disparity in the United States' corrections system.

Evaluation of Neighborhood Reform**August 2002***Grand Rapids Community Foundation*

Review of what can be learned from the evaluation of community initiatives, what it takes to evaluate community change, strategies for involving community members in evaluation, evaluation methods, and dissemination of findings.

Current Trends for Community Foundations**Summer 2002***Grand Rapids Community Foundation*

Explores emerging issues and hot topics currently affecting the world of community foundations.

Support for Entry-Level Health Care Employees**September 2002***The Delta Strategy*

Review of how health care employers around the country are supporting their entry-level employees, particularly those experiencing barriers to successful employment. Includes national models and best practices from across the nation.

Program Evaluation

Kentwood Public School District**2000-2003***Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative***Arbor Circle****2001-2003**

- *Analysis of Arbor Circle Services for Kentwood Public Schools*
- *Analysis of Clinical Environment and Care Model*

Ottawa County Health Department**October 2001***Zero to Three Kids Agree, Positive Parenting Time***Hospice of Michigan****June 2002***Pediatric Early Care*