



## 2013 Human Service Summit

### Individual Exercise

**Question:** How have you or your organization used the Safety Net Messages that were developed at the 2012 Human Service Summit. Which Safety Net Message(s) did you use? For those who did not attend last year's Summit, they were asked to write how they might use the messages going forward.

Responses are presented in random order. Not every response referenced a specific safety net message. Some responses were specific to program activities and were not included.

- Shared *Safety Net Programs give children equal opportunity for success* with funders, community partners, local businesses, fundraising event, community educators.
- Shared *Poverty is a reality even in affluent community like Johnson County* to local businesses, community partners, legislative funders, community educators, tours of Head Start program, fundraiser luncheons.
- *Safety net doesn't just help the poor.* Consistently express the idea that programs have a benefit larger than the direct recipients.
- *Children lack the public voice to speak for themselves.* Six by Six at JCL is a platform for staff to start the early literacy conversation with patrons of any income level.
- Regularly share UCS reports to members of Student Intervention Team members at high school (as well as teachers)
- Used the safety net messages from last year to show others in the community that poverty is a reality in JoCo and needs to be addressed.
- *What is safety net? Safety net benefits all of us. Safety net doesn't just help the poor.* Facilitated conversations with family, friends and co-workers.
- *Investing in the Safety net now prevents costs later.* Presentations to mayors of KC; individual meetings with businesses asking them to invest in early childhood.
- *Safety net programs give children an equal opportunity for success.* Facebook messages, inviting community leaders to read to children, letters to editor of KC Star, service days with businesses.
- Educating the community (at presentations/events) that poverty does exist in affluent JoCo and examples of our many neighbors that are affected by this poverty.
- Workplace incentives for supporting the United Way campaign; conversations with neighbors and community regarding the safety net; communication with elected officials.

- *Poverty is reality in JoCo. Defining the safety net.* Utilizing a newsletter monthly and have featured safety net discussions in this.
- In conjunction with UCS, JoCo Government developed and shared materials with State legislatures about the critical role of the state-funded safety net services in JoCo.
- Harvesters utilizes *Safety net benefits all of us; investing in the safety net now prevents higher costs later;* to advocate for a robust food network in our community. Adequate food resources are vital to families overcoming crisis. Nutrition helps seniors stay in their homes, children to succeed in school and adults to be healing, productive workers. We use the safety net messages with our donors, volunteers and community partners.
- Messages included in grants, presentations (volunteers, board and community); Facebook (CCNEK) Field trips (school).
- Talked about safety net issues with groups such as Leadership Overland Park, Chambers, etc.
- *Safety net doesn't just help poor.* Shared in P.R. and other info re: domestic violence – domestic violence increases because victims can't get jobs.
- *Poverty is reality in JoCo.* Shared with state legislative hearings on social service budgets.
- *The well-being of all neighbors is vital to our own well-being.* Shared with JoCo. State legislators in Topeka.
- Shared through grants, informative field trips, Facebook (CCNEK), presentations and meetings.
- The messages should be incorporated into the County's philosophy and mission statement.
- *Safety net prevents higher costs later* in grant proposals; discussions with corporate and foundation funders. *Unemployment's influence* on increase in child abuse during TV and radio interviews.
- REACH has used these messages to target advocacy efforts to policymakers, guide our lobbying efforts, direct funding to safety net clinics and Community Mental Health Centers.
- *Safety net programs give children an equal opportunity for success.* This year SHNW has been able to work with the community bringing in supplemental food resources for our students. The establishment of the Love Fund with community funds helps students afford lunch. Harvesters also provides sack lunches, these help students be better prepared to learn.
- *Safety net programs give children an equal opportunity for success.* KS Head Start Assoc. has advocated at state and national level to maintain support for Head Start, SNAP, TANF and Medicaid expansion. All support services that provide critical needs for children in poverty.
- *Safety net programs give children an equal opportunity for success.* Used this message to advocate with political leaders to continue to fund Head Start, at risk preschool programs, community health partnership, PAT (parents as teachers) and SNAP, funding to support children's education.
- Communicated with elected officials, civic leaders; used in private conversations and public speeches.

- *Well-being of our neighbors is vital to our own well-being.* JoCo Library working with Overland Park police dept. and others to stabilize neighborhood (75<sup>th</sup>-95<sup>th</sup>/Antioch – I-35); educating staff at those libraries; hosting meetings for neighborhood and public safety, care providers service.
- *Poverty is a reality even in an affluent community like JoCo.* Host a poverty community discussion; provide resources; educate staff on resources available to those in need; refer customers to service providers and assist in navigation path to services – JCL.
- *The safety net benefits all of us.* Included a statement in our state legislative program that our City shared with our state representatives.
- *The safety net benefits all of us.* Conversations with clients about services available, even if they don't qualify, other relatives and friends may benefit; giving appropriate referrals; education of other staff.
- *Poverty is a reality even in JoCo.* Shared with colleagues, friends and family.
- *Poverty is a reality in an affluent community like JoCo.* Just spreading the word with friends, colleagues, etc.; sharing data with local government officials to garner support for programs; emphasis public transportation.
- Sermons which include info on safety net aiming at information and motivation for action.
- Engaged fellow pastors and faith community members in discussion and actionable steps to address known gaps in the safety net.
- General discussion of messages received with workers at office so workers can keep this in mind when working with children and families providing services to them.
- Testifying before Kansas State legislature to preserve state EITC.
- Use of a newsletter regarding our services and needs of those in poverty. Continually bringing to the business community awareness of poverty.
- Discussions with legislators and other policymakers regarding safety net issues.
- Organizational strategic planning with safety net messages as a baseline for planning.
- Have safety net providers speak to educational community – Title I, counselors, social workers.