

PRESS RELEASE

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United Way
Of Jackson County

UWJC HELPS PARTNERS WITH \$100,000 ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Family Service, Big Brothers get help from United Way initiative

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JACKSON (September 22, 2006) - The United Way of Jackson County announced that they have successfully negotiated the commitment of over \$100,000 in state liquor tax revenues to help provide funding to local youth programs. The funding was received through the Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, and is administered by the Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission.

The Breakout Drug Education program, a service provided by Family Service and Children's Aid, will receive approximately \$44,000 in funding for the 2007 fiscal year beginning October 1, 2006. Also receiving funding is Big Brothers Big Sisters' Children of Promise Excel (COPE) Program, a mentoring program focusing on children with incarcerated parents. COPE will receive approximately \$4,400 immediately and \$53,000 in fiscal year 2007.

"Because of United Way's efforts we were able to strengthen the Breakout program," said Judy Jove, Executive Director of Family Service and Children's Aid. "They stepped up to the plate to find a home for the Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, and led the effort to release these funds for Breakout. Our teens in Jackson County will learn some valuable skills to help them stay away from drugs and alcohol, thanks to United Way."

Kyle Ann Jansen, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters, had similar comments about the COPE funding. "Without United Way's leadership, we never would have had a chance to get the funding. We really needed their help, and they came through."

Robin Reynolds, Executive Director of the Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission, applauded the commitment of the Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and the United

Way in representing Jackson County and the need for funding these programs. “The working coalition from Jackson, including Jackson County Commissioner Gail Mahoney, was steadfast in their commitment to preserving these programs. We are glad we can help out. And Jackson County should know that their needs are being well represented.”

Breakout educates youth in grades 6-12 about the short and long term effects of drug use, helps them identify and effectively handle peer pressure, and teaches them how to avoid high risk situations. More information about Breakout can be found at www.strong-families.org, or by calling (517) 787-7920

COPE is designed to meet the needs of those children whose parents have limited contact due to incarceration. It is based on the premise that youth need the influence of mature, responsible adult mentors during their formative years, and is an effort to break the cyclical pattern of criminal behavior. Further information about COPE can be found at www.BigBrothersBigSisters.org, or by calling (517) 784-7181.

For further information about United Way of Jackson County programs and services, please contact Jim Brian at (517) 784-0511 or via email at jbrian@uwjackson.org.