



ENVISION A DAY....


when all of Union County children, adults,
and families have the resources and
community support they need to succeed.




ENVISION living in a community
that doesn't lose kids or adults to
abuse, addiction, poverty, or crime.




ENVISION a community where
a new generation will become
the best and the brightest
regardless of personal
situations.



ENVISION a greater number
of healthy, happy and successful adults
staying in Union County to raise their
families and build their careers.



ENVISION a community that helps
those who are coming out of incarceration and abusive
situations to become successful and productive
community and family members.



Then **ENVISION** families who will
continue to make Union County a model
community and...

Finally, **ENVISION** a community
that works together to make all of
this happen.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

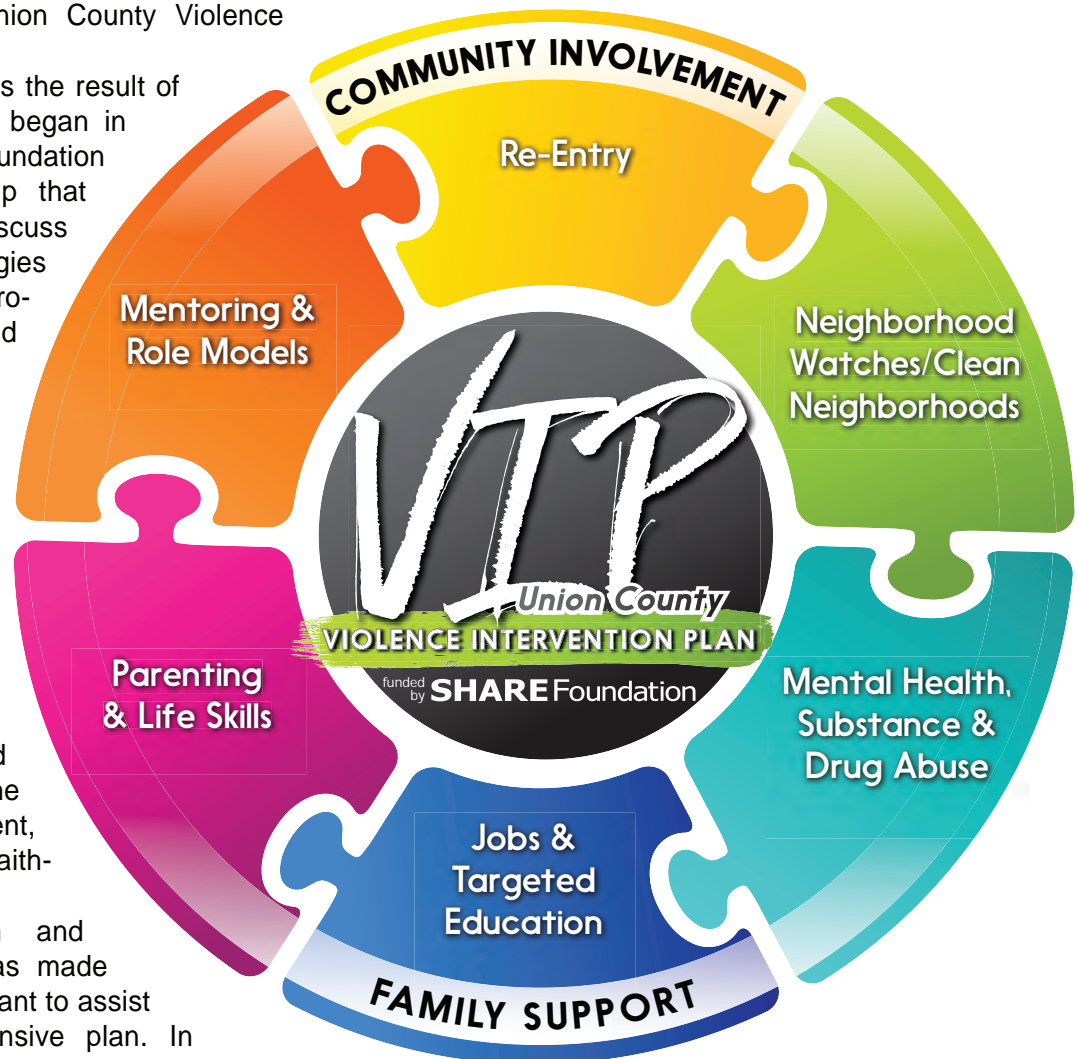
From 1997 through January 2017 the SHARE Foundation provided funding in the form of grants as an outreach into the community. Over \$6.9 million in grants has been paid to 86 different not-for-profit organizations for strategic initiatives. Beginning in 1999, SHARE began partnering with numerous community leaders and organizations every four to five years to assess and reassess the health needs of Union County residents. In 2015, SHARE spearheaded a reassessment of community needs utilizing community forums and Union County surveys from UAMS, Centers for Disease Control, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Arkansas Department of Health to determine the latest trends. According to research that ranked the 75 counties in Arkansas, with 1 being the best and 75 being the worst, Union County improved in health outcomes from 59th to 44th, but declined in health factors from 34th to 38th. One significant area of concern was the increased incidence of violent crime. It is in response to this need that SHARE is working with community partners to develop the Union County Violence Intervention Plan (VIP).

The Union County VIP is the result of community-wide efforts that began in the fall of 2016. SHARE Foundation formed a small core group that convened monthly to discuss evidence-based strategies and brainstorm ways to pro-actively address crime and violence prevention and intervention, beginning with youth and families. From these meetings and other contacts, over 75 people representing various community sectors were invited to join this effort, including education, non-profit agencies, families, public and private sector leaders, healthcare and mental health providers, the justice system, law enforcement, government, media and faith-based groups.

After much research and discussion, the decision was made to bring in an outside consultant to assist in developing a comprehensive plan. In

December 2016, the core group selected Robert H. Holt, Executive Director of L.O.V.E. “Let Our Violence End” Inc. of Little Rock, Arkansas as facilitator and consultant. He has spent 25 years working on the streets, in schools and neighborhoods around the country with gangs, drugs and family dynamics. Beginning in 2017, the core group hosted a variety of community events and focus groups designed to define the service gaps in our community. To date, over 200 individuals have been involved in determining the direction of the VIP. Approximately 30 stakeholders from the community sector representatives were asked to continue to work with the core group and for Mr. Holt to facilitate a process for change. This input has been incorporated into the plan presented here. The VIP will serve as a catalyst for change in efforts to positively impact outcomes for children, youth and families in Union county.

Six Focus Areas were identified in the process and are depicted in the diagram of the Plan below:



HOW WILL IT HAPPEN?

The **Union County Violence Intervention Plan (VIP)** has been created in order to make available a community network of supports, opportunities and activities focused on specific, well-defined and jointly held outcomes and best practice strategies.

The Union County VIP initiative will continue to convene working groups focused around the six priorities that are identified in the Plan. These working groups will be charged with encouraging participation from the community partners in implementing the VIP.

If we, as a community, are truly committed to changing the odds for young people and families in need, we have to change the way we do

business. No single organization or person can do it independently. We must work together, like never before, to generate a greater impact than anyone could ever achieve alone.

In the words of **Margaret Mead**
“never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has”.

HOW CAN YOU HELP MAKE AN IMPACT?

The **Union County VIP** now belongs to the people of Union County. It will lead our community in realizing our vision for children and families. We call on every resident to become part of the movement to build a culture in which all Union County children, adults, and families have the resources and community support they need to succeed.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Mentoring & Role Models

PRIORITY: Mentoring & Role Models



- Will have caring, competent and consistent mentors for at-risk children

Strategies



- Implement a coordinated approach to increase the number of trained mentors
- Utilize the "Church Adopt A School Initiative"
- Utilize other evidence based mentor training programs for youth
- Develop and conduct community awareness campaigns regarding the importance of mentoring

Targeted Outcome



- Increase number of trained mentors
 - Reduce in-school disciplinary actions such as bullying, campus violence and in-school suspensions
 - Improve academic performance
 - Improve school attendance
 - Provide mentors for non-profits
- Long term outcomes:
- Reduce Crime
 - Reduce school drop-out rates
 - Reduce out of wedlock pregnancy

Potential Partners



- Churches
- Schools
- Businesses
- Media
- Non-Profits
- Families
- Civic Organizations
- Volunteer Service
- Organizations
- Professional Associations
- Veterans Groups



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Re-entry

PRIORITY: Re-entry



- Individuals in need of a support system will have a successful transition into their communities

Strategies



- Implement a co-ordinated approach to increase the number of trained mentors
- Develop and conduct community awareness campaign to dispel residents' concerns about individuals re-entering their communities, and to increase residents' understanding of the importance of strengthening local support services and resources
- Increase The Good Grid utilization
- Utilize substance abuse prevention programs
- Establish a more collaborative re-entry process which could include implementing a job readiness program and developing and/or supporting parenting/relationship classes before and after the inmates release

Targeted Outcome



- Increase number of trained mentors
- Easier access on how/where to attain necessary resources
- Healthy family functioning and relationships during incarceration and re-entry

Long term outcomes:

- Reduce recidivism
- Reduce substance abuse of those re-entering society

Potential Partners



- Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC)
- Re-entry programs recognized by ADC
- City Law Enforcement/ Parole Officers
- Union County Sheriff Office
- Media
- Courts
- Churches
- Businesses
- Cities of Union County
- Non-Profits
- The Good Grid
- South Arkansas Community College
- South Arkansas Regional Health Center (SARHC)
- Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Recovery Groups
- Workforce Development
- Legal counsel

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Neighborhood Watches/Clean Neighborhoods

PRIORITY: Neighborhood Watches/ Clean Neighborhoods



- The community's role in crime prevention will increase
- Residents will live, work and play in safe and clean neighborhoods

Strategies



- Conduct and support a coordinated approach to increase number of neighborhood watches
- Develop and conduct community awareness of being smart about crime
- Develop and conduct community awareness regarding the importance of personal ownership, bonding and pride in neighborhoods

Targeted Outcome



- Increase number of neighborhood watches in each Ward
- Public is educated about crime and prevention
- Increase Ward clean-ups

Long term outcomes:

- Reduce Crime
- Reduce Litter

Potential Partners



- Alderman / Councilmen
- Residents
- Law Enforcement (city and county)
- Parks & Playgrounds Commission
- Crime Stoppers
- Media
- Courts
- Churches
- Businesses
- Cities of Union County
- Keep El Dorado Beautiful
- Landlord Association

FAMILY SUPPORT

Parenting & Life Skills

PRIORITY: Parenting & Life Skills



- Positive family and social relations will be enhanced

Strategies



- Implement a coordinated approach to establish life skills training and parenting/grandparenting support groups
- Implement a coordinated approach to promote the availability of resources, services, and family friendly environments
- Promote and conduct events to increase family involvement
- Develop and conduct community awareness campaigns about the importance of good parenting
- Present specific trainings on topics such as boundaries, safe dates, sexting, etc.

Targeted Outcome



- Increase parent and grandparent life skills and support groups
 - Enhance parenting/grandparenting skills
 - Increase family involvement and greater awareness of family friendly environments
 - Increase knowledge of resistance and coping skills
 - Reduce out of home placements (child welfare encounters)
- Long term outcomes:
- Decrease: abuse, neglect, juvenile arrests, substance abuse and truancy

Potential Partners



- Schools / Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO)
- Media
- Courts
- Churches
- Businesses
- Cities of Union County
- Non-profits
- Families
- Child care
- Physicians
- Medical Center of South Arkansas (MCSA)
- DHS
- Mental health providers

FAMILY SUPPORT

Jobs & Targeted Education

PRIORITY: Jobs & Targeted Education



- Citizens will be gainfully employed
- Barriers to employment will be broken down

Strategies



- Increase community awareness of job availability
- Increase community awareness of Adult Education and Workforce Development
- Promote The Good Grid awareness and utilization training
- Increase opportunities for job shadowing and apprenticeships
- Increase STEM focus (science, technology, engineering and math)
- Develop an awareness campaign emphasizing the value of education, life long learning and gainful employment

Targeted Outcome



- Students will be workforce ready
 - Those wanting or needing employment know where to find the training and skills development they need
 - Increase number of GEDs that are attained
 - Increase number of individuals with industry recognized credentials
- Long term outcomes:
- Decrease unemployment rate

Potential Partners



- Schools
- Media
- Courts
- Churches
- Businesses
- Cities of Union County
- Non-Profits
- South Arkansas Community College
- Chamber of Commerce
- Workforce Development
- AR Rehabilitation Services
- Legal counsel



FAMILY SUPPORT

Mental Health, Substance & Drug Abuse

PRIORITY: Mental Health, Substance & Drug Abuse



- Access to mental health services and substance abuse prevention; and treatment options will be expanded

Strategies



- Develop an awareness campaign on substance abuse and mental health issues
- Develop stronger collaborations between agencies that serve in the behavioral health/substance abuse, and mental health communities
- Develop early intervention programs and/or services to increase mental health and/or substance abuse prevention and treatment for all ages
- Expand Drug Court in Union County

Targeted Outcome



- Individuals will receive timely diagnosis and treatment of emotional and/or behavioral disorders and substance abuse
- Decrease risky behaviors related to substance abuse
- Enhanced campus climate: reduction of bullying, campus violence, and in-school suspensions
- Increase outreach and help for those seeking referrals to appropriate services

Potential Partners



- Schools
- Media
- Courts
- Churches
- Businesses
- Cities of Union County
- Non-Profits
- Families
- Mental health providers
- Substance abuse providers
- ADH
- Law Enforcement (City and County)
- First Responders
- Hospitals
- Physicians



HOW CAN YOU HELP MAKE AN IMPACT?

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Re-Entry

Mentoring &
Role Models

Neighborhood
Watches/Clean
Neighborhoods

VITP

Union County

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PLAN

funded by **SHARE** Foundation

Parenting
& Life Skills

Mental Health,
Substance &
Drug Abuse

Jobs &
Targeted
Education

FAMILY SUPPORT

Developed by SHARE Foundation for the Union County Violence Intervention Plan



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