

Project Faith in Youth



Fiscal Year 09/10 Evaluation Report July 2010

Prepared for Community Service Programs, Inc.
by EVALCORP Research & Consulting

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I. Introduction

Funded by the County of Orange Health Care Agency's Alcohol and Drug Education Prevention Team (ADEPT) through Community Service Programs, Inc. (CSP), Project Faith in Youth (FIY) is a faith-based program working with diverse faith communities in Orange County to elevate substance abuse prevention and to empower young people to make positive choices. The program's mission is to build the capacities of Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) to deliver alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) prevention services to their youth.

During the 09-10 fiscal year, Project Faith in Youth recruited, selected and funded three FBOs through a competitive Mini-Grant Program for the purpose of developing their capacity to design and implement ATOD prevention activities within their faith communities. The mini-grant applications were developed and released by FIY in August 2009. All applications received were scored by an independent evaluation review panel. The three mini-grantees selected for the 09-10 fiscal year included the following FBOs: Saint Callistus Church in Garden Grove, Saint Verena and the Three Holy Youth Coptic Orthodox Church in Orange, and HOPE (Helping Others Prepare for Eternity) in collaboration with Village Bible Church in Garden Grove.

Each of the three selected grantees received a \$5,000 mini-grant and agreed to implement at least 3 youth-focused ATOD prevention activities within their faith communities, administer pre-and post-surveys to assess youth protective factors, and to attend prevention workshops/trainings, technical assistance sessions, and Faith and Institutions Together for Health (FAITH) Coalition meetings. In addition, the grantees agreed to develop and submit a plan to sustain ATOD prevention beyond the funding period by July 31, 2010.

II. Evaluation Methods

Project Faith in Youth contracted with an independent consulting firm, EVALCORP Research & Consulting, to create an evaluation framework for and conduct an overall evaluation of a performance objective and six performance measures established by ADEPT for FIY to accomplish during the 09-10 fiscal year. The project's performance objective was to ensure that mini-grant recipients implement three youth-focused prevention activities, with at least fifty percent of the youth participants reporting an increase in one or more of the following protective factors: meaningful participation within the community, connectedness to the faith community, and positive adult/peer relationships. The six performance measures were to: (1) sustain the current membership of the Orange County FAITH Coalition; (2) expand the FAITH Coalition membership; (3) provide at least 18 technical assistance sessions to at least five past grantee members; (4) award mini-grants to three new FBOs; (5) provide at least 21 technical assistance sessions to at least three new grantee members; and, (6) conduct at least one event to showcase the work and accomplishments of the FAITH Coalition and the prevention projects implemented by the FIY mini-grantees.

As a means of determining whether Project Faith in Youth attained its goals, the following primary research questions guided the evaluation:

- 1) To what extent did Project Faith in Youth achieve its proposed performance objectives?
- 2) What, if any, challenges or barriers were encountered during the project's implementation? If so, how were they overcome?
- 3) What were the primary lessons learned and what are recommendations for similar initiatives in the future?

The evaluation framework was participatory and included input from project staff and other key stakeholders throughout the data collection and evaluation process. For instance, the Evaluation team worked with FIY staff to develop the Youth Pre- and Post-Surveys of Protective Factors, provided consultation to the FIY staff on the administration of the youth surveys by the grantees, and analyzed data and summarized findings from the series of youth surveys. Evaluators also conducted interviews with the grantees and FIY staff to gain insight for interpreting findings and information on the challenges and lessons learned throughout the project's implementation. In addition, EVALCORP reviewed and analyzed all FIY materials, Mini-Grant Applications, training and presentation documents, and multiple tracking tools provided by FIY staff to determine whether the performance objective and performance measures were met.

III. Progress Made Towards Objective and Measures

As discussed above, Project Faith in Youth had one performance objective for the 09-10 fiscal year. This section evaluates the extent to which FIY achieved this objective.

A. Performance Objective

Performance Objective 1

- By June 30, 2009, mini-grant recipients will have implemented three (3) youth-focused prevention activities, whereby at least fifty percent (50%) of the youth participants will report an increase in one (1) or more of the following protective factors:
 - a. Meaningful participation within the community
 - b. Connectedness to the faith community; and
 - c. Positive adult/peer relationships

To enhance their ability to meet this performance objective, representatives from three faith-based organizations attended various core trainings facilitated by project staff. The following four trainings were conducted to familiarize grantees with ATOD prevention: An Introduction to Asset Building; Prevention Works: A Youth Developmental Model; Friday Night Live Partnership; and, the Orange County Department of Education and AOD Prevention training. In addition, technical assistance sessions were provided to all of the grantees to assist with their prevention efforts.

With the education and guidance given in the ATOD trainings and technical assistance sessions, each mini-grant recipient successfully implemented at least three youth-focused prevention activities as required in the performance objective. A sampling of prevention activities implemented includes a retreat, Christmas concert, merchant education campaign, community service projects and development of a prevention video game. The prevention activities were offered to all youth who attended each respective faith-based organization.

In order to measure whether there was an increase in the aforementioned protective factors among youth, the three mini-grant recipients were required to administer pre- and post-versions of the Youth Survey of Protective Factors. The pre-survey was to be conducted with youth participants in the fall of 2009 near the onset of the funding period and prior to the prevention activities. The post 1-survey was to be conducted with youth participants after a prevention activity at their FBO, and the post 2-survey was to be given to youth participants in May 2010 at the end of the program year. Selected prevention activities provided by each mini-grant recipient are described below.

Selected Prevention Activities Implemented by Mini-Grant Recipients

Saint Callistus Church

1. **Parents for Change:** Youth prepared and planned this drug awareness forum that educated parents on the dangers of underage drinking and what they could do to improve communications with their children. This event included a panel of speakers from law enforcement, health education, and ATOD rehabilitation services.
2. **Charity Basketball Tournament:** This tournament was a fundraiser organized with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) that included an ATOD prevention component.
3. **Sticker Shock Project and Merchant Education Campaign:** This prevention program educated owners and personnel at retail establishments selling alcohol on the laws regarding alcohol sales to minors. As a result of this campaign, youth had eight merchants sign a pledge vowing not to sell alcohol to minors. Youth were trained by Friday Night Live and MADD representatives.

Saint Verena and the Three Holy Youth Coptic Orthodox Church

1. **Family Fun Night:** This prevention activity engaged parents in youth in discussions about alcohol and drug-related issues.
2. **Youth Winter Retreat:** A motivational and spiritual retreat was held that addressed ATOD topics concerning youth.
3. **Los Alamitos “We Care” Food Bank Service:** A monthly community service project was conducted in which youth assisted in packaging food and distributing the packages to families in need.

HOPE/Village Bible Church

1. **“Photo Voice” Community Assessment:** Youth took pictures of risk factors they found in the community. Then youth participants created a visual depiction of the pictures taken and discussed risk factors with their parents and peers.
2. **Fast-Forward:** In this collaborative activity with the Gospel for Asia, youth participated in an overnight fasting event, followed by a community service activity in the morning in which youth packaged and distributed food to those in need.
3. **T-Shirt Design Project:** Youth designed T-shirts with anti-drug messages in this prevention activity. All T-shirts were put on display during a luncheon so that parents could see and discuss their children’s T-shirt designs.

Youth Survey Data Collection

Each mini-grantee was asked to administer the Youth Pre-Survey of Protective Factors to at least forty (40) prevention program youth. The Youth Pre-Survey of Protective Factors contained 28 closed-ended items, with 6 demographic items and 22 items focused on the following protective factors: (1) participants’ level of meaningful community participation; (2) connectedness to the faith-based community; (3) positive relationships with adults; and, (4) positive relationships with peers. Respondents were asked to indicate how true each statement regarding these protective factors was to them, using a 5-point Likert scale with the following definitions: 1 = Not at all true; 2 = A little true; 3 = Somewhat true; 4 = Pretty much true; and 5 = Very true.

FIY staff trained grantees on how to administer the youth surveys. The pre-survey was administered by each grantee in the Fall of 2009 prior to youth’s participation in ATOD prevention activities. The Youth Post-Survey of Protective Factors was administered twice, at two different points in time. The first post-survey (post 1) was

given to youth after their participation in a prevention activity; whereas, the second post survey (post 2) was given to youth in May 2010 near the end of the fiscal year. The first 28 items on the post-surveys were identical to the pre-surveys. In addition, both post-surveys also asked youth to indicate perceived changes in the same protective factors (listed above) as a result of their participation in the program. Finally, the post-surveys included three open-ended questions asking participants the following: (1) what was most valuable/useful about the program; (2) what, if anything, was not valuable/useful about the program; and, (3) what recommendations they had to improve the program. All Likert-scale and open-ended responses to survey items were analyzed, with findings presented later in this section.

Data Collection Challenges

As with many multi-site, multi-survey data collection efforts, some challenges arose in the administration and collection of the data. One of the main challenges with any survey administration is collecting the number of surveys targeted. In the case of FIY, all the grantees found it challenging to meet their goal to collect 40 Youth Pre- and Post-Surveys of Protective Factors. To meet their goal, FIY grantees administered the pre-, post 1-, and post 2-surveys on different occasions and not always consistently, which meant that the same youth who took the post 1- and post 2-surveys may not have taken the pre-survey or vice versa.

Another data collection challenge occurred when two grantee sites inadvertently administered the pre-survey instead of the post-survey, or inadvertently administered an incorrect version of the post-survey. For instance, one site administered the pre-surveys after a prevention activity instead of administering the post 1-survey. Another grantee site used an incorrect version of the post-survey which only listed the pre-survey items and did not include the additional post-survey items. At this site, only five participating youth responded to the correct post-survey.

Lastly, at another grantee site, the post 1-survey was administered multiple times to participants who participated in a number of the same prevention activities. As a result, 18 youth completed multiple post 1-surveys. To avoid data duplication, only one post 1-survey was analyzed for each of the 18 youth, resulting in a loss of 30 post 1-surveys.

Data Analysis

The data collection issues described above led the evaluation team to make some adjustments to the data analysis. In FIY's efforts to meet its data collection target, the inconsistencies in the administration and collection of the surveys led to an insufficient number of pre-, post 1-, and post 2-surveys that could be matched for a valid paired t-test analysis. Instead, EVALCORP examined aggregate changes in pre- to post 1- to post 2-youth protective factor mean scores for each FBO. The results of this analysis revealed the extent to which protective factors increased among youth at each grantee site.

To also determine the percentage of youth who reported an increase in protective factors as a result of the program, a separate analysis of the four additional post-survey items was conducted. It should be noted that in the case of a couple of sites, the analysis of youth's perceived changes in protective factors is limited to the post 2-survey due to the mix-up between the administration of the pre- and post-versions of the survey (mentioned above). The same applies to all open-ended questions on the post-surveys.

Key findings and demographic information for each grantee are discussed below. Detailed tables indicating each grantee's mean scores on survey items for each protective factor are provided in Appendix A.

Findings from Youth Surveys of Protective Factors

Saint Callistus Church

A total of 40 pre-surveys, 30 post 1-surveys and 30 post 2-surveys were analyzed. Youth participating in the prevention activities conducted by Saint Callistus Church were on average 16 years of age, with ages ranging between 15 to 19. The majority of participants were Asian (83%) and female (58%). Almost all respondents reported living with their parents (95%).

When comparing responses on the pre-survey to items on the post-surveys, aggregate mean scores increased from the pre-survey to at least one of the post-surveys taken for all (100%) of the items within the protective factor of meaningful participation within the community. Mean scores for 86% of the items within the protective factor of positive adult/peer relationships increased from the pre-survey to at least one of the post-surveys. In addition, three quarters (75%) of the items within the protective factor of connectedness to the faith community increased from the pre-survey to at least one of the post-surveys. (See Appendix A for tables of mean scores on survey items for each protective factor.)

Saint Callistus Church only collected data for the additional 4 post-survey items relating to their perceived increase of the protective factors as a result of the program at the time of the post-2 survey. Analysis of these items on the post-2 survey indicates that all (100%) of the 30 youth respondents agreed that the statements regarding the three types of protective factors are either “somewhat true,” “pretty much true” or “very true.” Thus, all youth respondents to the post-survey reported that as a result of the program they: (1) have more meaningful participation in the community (mean=4.60); (2) feel more connected to the faith community (mean=4.77), and (3) have a more positive adult (mean=4.43) and peer relationships (mean=4.67).

A total of 30 youth participants responded to the open-ended items asking them to describe the most valuable/useful aspect of the program. Youth respondents most frequently indicated that they found the sense of community/belonging to be most valuable (n=10). Similarly, others found the encouragement and support provided to be most useful (n=5). Additional themes mentioned included: an increased bond with their religion/faith (n=5), personal growth and development such as leadership skills (n=4), information about drugs and alcohol (n=3), a sense of satisfaction through helping others (n=2), and one person reported that the activities themselves were most valuable.

When asked to describe what was not useful/valuable about the program, a total of 19 youth responded. Almost all (n=16) respondents indicated that all aspects were useful and that they could not think of anything that has not been valuable to them. However, three respondents provided negative experiences/feedback about other peers who were involved in the program.

A total of 23 participants responded when asked to provide recommendations for improvement. Almost half (n=10) of the respondents indicated that they liked the program the way it was and could not think of any improvements. Several respondents (n=5) stated that they would like to have more activities, such as “more retreats” and “activities to help the community.” Others (n=4) indicated that they would like to see more youth involved in the program and suggested additional efforts to increase enrollment such as increased advertising. Other individual responses included: better communication via email, more participation from members, improved organization, and the formation of group to “help deal with troubles out of the norm.”

Saint Verena and the Three Holy Youth Coptic Orthodox Church

A total of 40 pre-surveys, 22 post 1-surveys, and 25 post 2-surveys were analyzed. The majority (63%) of youth participants was males. On average, participants were 14 years of age, with ages ranging between 11 and 17. Three quarters (75%) of the respondents indicated that their ethnicity was “Other,” which is appropriate according to project staff as the majority of youth at this FBO are Middle Eastern and that was not a survey response option for ethnicity. Finally, nearly all (98%) participants indicated that they live with their parents.

When comparing mean aggregate scores, all (100%) of the items within the connectedness to the faith community protective factor showed an increase from the pre-survey to at least one of the post-surveys. Mean scores for 86% of the items within the protective factor of positive adult/peer relationships increased from the pre- to at least one of the post-surveys. Furthermore, mean scores for 75% of the items within the protective factor of meaningful participation within the community increased from the pre-survey to at least one of the post-surveys. Tables of mean scores on survey items for each protective factor are provided in Appendix A.

This grantee was able to obtain data on the four additional closed-ended post-survey items at post 1- and post 2-survey administrations. Data analysis of the post 1-survey reveals that 100% of the youth respondents indicated that it was either “A little true,” “Somewhat true,” “Pretty much true” or “Very true” that as a result of the program they increased their meaningful participation in the community (mean=3.91), and have more positive relationships with adults (mean=4.27) and with peers (mean=4.36). In addition, almost all (95%) of the youth indicated that it was at least “A little true” that as a result of the program they increased their connectedness to the faith community (mean=4.27).

At the time of the post 2-survey, all (100%) of the 25 youth respondents indicated that it was at least “A little true” that participation in the program has lead to more meaningful participation in the community (mean=4.52) and increased connectedness to the faith community (mean=4.48). In addition, almost all (96%) of youth indicated that it was at least “Somewhat true” that as a result of the program they have more positive adult (mean=4.48) and peer relationships (mean=4.52).

Several youth responded to the three open-ended questions about the program at their church. In total, 29 youth participants responded when asked what was most valuable/useful to them about the program. Youth (n=8) most frequently indicated that the most valuable component of the program was the knowledge they gained about the negative impacts of alcohol and drugs, and that they learned to stay from it. Many youth (n=7) also commented that everything about the program has been valuable/useful to them. Others (n=3) found the bonds created with peers and the connectedness to the community a valuable aspect of the program. Various respondents (n=3) commented that the various lessons provided from the program have been beneficial. Other aspects of the program that were mentioned to be valuable by two respondents included: helping others, spreading drug awareness, the different kinds of presentations, and the overall positive changes that came about as a result of the program.

Respondents were then asked to describe what was not valuable/useful about the program. A total of 27 youth responded to this question, with almost all (n=25) indicating that all parts of the program were useful and that they were happy with the program. Only two respondents provided examples of aspects of the program they did not find valuable/useful. One youth indicated that some of the information provided was repetitive while another student did not find the skits to be valuable/useful.

Lastly, students were asked to provide recommendations for improvement. A total of 23 youth responded, with almost half (n=10) indicating that they could not provide any recommendations and liked the program the way it was. Many students (n=9) mentioned that they would like the program to offer more activities. Some specific

activities that were mentioned included: family night, trips to food shelters, and sports activities. A couple of youth would like to see more audience interaction, and one youth participant would like to see a separate program for younger participants.

HOPE/Village Bible Church

A total of 53 pre-surveys, 38 post 1-surveys, and 19 post 2-surveys were analyzed. Youth participants in prevention activities provided by this grantee were on average 14 years of age, with ages ranging between 9 and 17. Just over half (55%) of the participants were female. In addition, participants most frequently described themselves as Hispanic or Latino/Latina (49%), followed by White (34%) and Asian (15%). Most (83%) participants reported living with their parents.

All of the items within the three protective factors of meaningful participation within the community, connectedness to the faith community, and positive adult/peer relationships showed an increase from the pre-survey to at least one of the post-surveys. (See Appendix A for tables of mean scores on survey items for each protective factor.)

HOPE/Village Bible Church only collected data on the additional closed-ended post-survey items on the post 1-survey. All (100%) of the youth indicated that as a result of the program, it is “Somewhat true,” “Pretty much true” or “Very true” that they have more meaningful participation within the community (mean=4.00). All (100%) youth agreed that is at least “Pretty much true” that as a result of the program they experience a greater connectedness to the faith community (mean=4.60). Finally, all (100%) of the youth indicated that it is at least “A little true” that as a result of this program they have more positive adult (mean=3.60) and peer relationships (mean=4.40).

A total of five youth responded to the three open-ended responses on the post 1-survey. Almost all (n=4) respondents indicated that the community service aspect and the ability to meet other peers were the two most useful/valuable elements of the program. One person, however simply stated that he/she enjoyed “experiencing the kindness that HOPE shows.” When asked to describe what was not valuable/useful about the program, all (n=5) youth participants reported that each component of the program was useful and provided a “positive experience.” When asked to provide recommendations for improvement, the majority (n=3) of participants suggested increased activities, such as more fieldtrips and get-togethers. One participant suggested that the program should also be offered to parents and one participant indicated that the program should be conducted within a bigger space.

B. Performance Measures

In addition to the one performance objective, FIY was also required to meet six performance measures. To determine whether the performance measures were met, numerous tracking tools, quarterly progress reports, program documents and training materials were reviewed and analyzed. To further assess each performance measure, project staff were also asked to describe, what if any, barriers were experienced with implementation for each performance measure. The following section includes a description of each performance measure, with an explanation of how each one was met or exceeded, and what challenges were experienced.

Performance Measure 1

- By June 30, 2010 sustain the current membership of Orange County FAITH Coalition by having (12) organizations participate in at least three (3) meetings during the fiscal year.

As indicated by tracking materials, progress reports, handouts, attendance documents, and a draft year-end report provided by Project Faith in Youth staff, this objective was met and exceeded. Project staff reported thirteen current FAITH Coalition members attending at least three meetings throughout the year. Many of these members attended more than three meetings, with one member attending eleven meetings during the 09-10 fiscal year.

To better facilitate the achievement of this measure, the FAITH Coalition needed to be restructured. Project staff believed that in order for the FAITH Coalition to be effective, leadership responsibilities needed to be divided between past and current members. To encourage an environment of shared leadership, various committees were established such as a Membership Committee, Training Committee, Grant Writing Committee, Hospitality Committee and an Executive Committee. Coalition members were asked to sign up for these various committees to establish and promote involvement in these newly developed committees.

The main challenge that was experienced in meeting this objective was sustaining membership within the FAITH Coalition. To address this challenge, project staff tried to make the meetings more interesting and “lively” by introducing ice-breakers at the beginning of each meeting that were conducted by Hospitality Committee members. To help ensure attendance, FAITH Coalition meeting reminders were sent out a month prior to the meetings, in addition to personal phone calls that were made three days prior to the meetings.

Performance Measure 2

- By June 30, 2010, expand the FAITH Coalition membership through the addition of six (6) new organizations that will participate in at least two (2) meetings during the fiscal year.

This objective was also met and exceeded by Project Faith in Youth, as the FAITH Coalition had 25 new members this past fiscal year. As indicated by tracking records, progress reports, handouts, attendance documents, and a draft year-end report, eleven of these new members attended at least two meetings throughout the year, meeting the requirement for this objective.

In order to achieve this performance measure, the Chair of the Membership Committee spearheaded a membership drive to recruit new members to the FAITH Coalition. In addition to recruitment activities, quarterly trainings on Asset Building and the Youth Development Model were also conducted.

Project Faith in Youth staff did not report any challenges associated with this objective. The creation of the various committees discussed above seemed to be an effective way to delegate tasks to meet this objective.

Performance Measure 3

- By June 30, 2010, provide at least eighteen (18) technical assistance sessions to a minimum of five (5) past grantee members on planning, implementing and sustaining their ATOD prevention activities.

As indicated by tracking materials, progress reports, power-point slides, handouts, attendance documents, and a draft year-end report, Project Faith in Youth staff provided a total of 26 technical assistance sessions to 10 past grantees throughout the year, meeting and exceeding this performance measure.

Various strategies were implemented to ensure that this measure would be met. Past grantee members were sent monthly reminders about upcoming FAITH Coalition meetings and were also given notifications about upcoming prevention trainings to be held as described in the Project Faith in Youth Newsletters and announcements that were sent to them. Past grantees were also involved in the planning and organizing of the

“Best Practices in Faith Based Prevention” event which allowed FIY staff to provide them with technical assistance in presenting their sustained prevention activities. Finally, four past grantees were extended technical assistance and distributed ATOD prevention resources during other specific events.

No challenges or barriers were experienced while trying to achieve this goal. Project staff attributes the lack of challenges encountered to the strong relationships that have been established with the past grantees.

Performance Measure 4

- By September 30, 2009, award mini-grants to three (3) new Faith-Based Organizations.

To meet this goal, Project Faith in Youth developed and sent out Mini-Grant Application forms to over 500 FBOs in Orange County with an application deadline of August 28, 2009. Received applications and score sheets were submitted to an independent evaluation panel for review. The independent evaluation panel, which included a member of the evaluation team, met on September 9, 2009 to review, score and select the three mini-grant recipients. All three mini-grant recipients were notified on September 10, 2009. To determine if this measure was met mini-grant materials, application packets, tracking tools and progress reports were reviewed and analyzed.

No challenges were experienced in meeting this goal. Project staff did not encounter any barriers to developing or distributing the mini-grant application and were satisfied with the decisions and collaboration with the independent evaluation panel.

Performance Measure 5

- By June 30, 2010, provide at least twenty-one (21) technical assistance sessions to a minimum of (3) new grantee members on planning, implementing and sustaining their ATOD prevention activities.

As indicated by tracking materials, quarterly progress reports, power points slides, a draft year-end report, handouts, and attendance documents, Project Faith in Youth staff members provided a total of 46 technical assistance sessions in the areas of planning, implementing and sustaining ATOD prevention activities to the three mini-grant recipients throughout the fiscal year. Thus, meeting and exceeding the performance measure.

The first technical assistance sessions provided the grantees with background information about Project Faith in Youth and the FAITH Coalition, including information about their history, mission, and objectives. The initial sessions also detailed the grant requirements such as the mandatory meetings and trainings. Subsequent technical assistance sessions focused on the development of the grantee’s action plans which were to detail “youth-focused activities they would be implementing to increase youth protective factors: meaningful participation within the community, connectedness to the faith community and positive adult/peer relationships.” The grantees were provided with past “model action plans” which also served as examples of past youth-focused activities. Additional technical assistance sessions focused on reviewing grantees’ past and upcoming prevention activities and on developing and/or providing resources to assist grantees in their activities. Other assistance provided focused on finalizing grantees’ Expenditure Reports and the Sustainability Plan.

Community Partners that played a role in the achievement of this performance measure were the Friday Night Live Partnership Program and MADD Orange County. A Friday Night Live Partnership Program Chapter was formed early in the grant period at Saint Callistus Church. which provided momentum and helped structure youth-oriented prevention activities. In addition, the Executive Director of MADD Orange County provided an

interactive Sticker Shock training for each of the fiscal year 09-10 mini-grant recipients' project coordinator and youth leaders.

The biggest challenge experienced by Project Faith in Youth staff was providing training for the HOPE/Village Bible Church, as it is the first time two FBOs were collaborating as a single mini-grant recipient on prevention activities. This grantee required more guidance and assistance, with project staff providing them unique ideas for developing collaborative activities. The challenge of developing and planning collaborative activities suited for these two organizations was overcome by the creativity and expertise of the FIY staff members.

Performance Measure 6

- By June 30, 2010, conduct at least (1) event with at least twenty (20) attendees to showcase the work and accomplishments of the FAITH Coalition and the prevention projects implemented by the Project Faith in Youth mini-grantees.

As indicated by tracking tools, progress reports, and a draft year-end report, Project Faith in Youth staff accomplished this goal by planning and organizing the event titled, "Best Practices in Faith-Based Prevention" held on May 25, 2010. This event had a total 72 attendees representing adult and youth leaders in the faith community, county prevention providers, law enforcement, school representatives and collaborative partners. A total of 12 grantee recipients (nine past grantees and three 09-10 fiscal year grantees) used visual displays and videos to present their most successful prevention strategies that have been implemented and sustained. This performance objective was met, with the attendance requirements exceeded.

Project staff described this event as a huge success that was enjoyable to organize and attend. The only challenges experienced were through extraneous circumstances that arose, including: (1) one past grantee who could not attend but whose program was a crucial component to the event; (2) a late presenter; and, (3) a presenter who at the last minute could not attend the event. Project Faith in Youth staff resolved these challenges by being flexible and working around the various circumstances. For instance, FIY staff obtained a video from the crucial program and showed it at the event to illustrate the program's activities. Similarly, project staff was also able to show a video for the presenter who was absent at the last minute. Finally, project staff was able to accommodate the late presenter by moving his presentation until later in the event when he arrived.

IV. Grantee Interviews

In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of Project Faith in Youth accomplishments, grantee interviews were conducted by EVALCORP. A total of four representatives from the three mini-grantees for the 09-10 fiscal year were interviewed, including one leader from Saint Callistus Church, one from Saint Verena and the Three Holy Youth Coptic Orthodox Church, one from HOPE, and one from Village Bible Church. The grantees were asked to describe why they had applied for the mini-grant, what they hoped to accomplish with the funding they received, types of things or activities the funding was used for, how working with Project Faith in Youth has impacted their organization, challenges that were experienced and how they were overcome throughout the fiscal year, their satisfaction with the Project Faith in Youth staff, their sustainability efforts, and their recommendations for improvement.

A. Reasons for Applying for the Mini-Grant

Reasons for applying for the mini-grant varied amongst the grantees and included: a desire to integrate different youth groups, a need for alcohol and drug prevention, and to increase awareness about addiction within the community. One grantee indicated that the grant would integrate youth in the faith community with youth in the community overall, allowing faith-based youth to serve as role models. Another grantee indicated that there was a need for a prevention program in the community due to the growing drug and alcohol problem. Similarly, another grantee indicated that there was a need for awareness of addiction/dependencies within the community and that this program would be beneficial for all community members.

Grantees sought to achieve various outcomes as a result of the program. One grantee hoped that the funding would provide the foundation for continued awareness and knowledge about drug and alcohol dependency for years to come, ultimately exposing young congregants to an awareness program for years to come. Another grantee hoped that funding would result in activities that would increase youth outreach to the community. In addition, another grantee wanted to see an increased number of youth “attending church functions and getting off of the streets” and therefore, not participating in drugs.

B. Allocation of Funding

Recipients of the mini-grants used the funding for multiple purposes. All grantees used a portion of the funding to provide food and refreshments during various types events and activities. Additionally, funding was used for mentoring program activities; purchasing art supplies, flyer racks, and sports equipment; and for materials that were distributed to merchants selling alcohol. One organization used the funding to purchase board games for families in their congregation as a means to encourage family night and family interaction.

C. Impact of Project Faith in Youth

Grantees described several ways in which Project Faith in Youth has impacted their organization. One grantee described how the project has brought parents and children of their congregation closer together, describing that through combined adult and youth activities, parents and children have begun to understand each other better. These combined family activities have allowed for “many ah moments” between children and parents. Another grantee indicated youth have started to see themselves as role models in the community and have seen the need for outreach in the community as a result of the program. Furthermore, another grantee stated that the greatest impact of Project Faith in Youth is the increased participation in youth programs, as well as a sense of empowerment created in the youth. The grantee explained, “The kids feel good about themselves and feel that they have made a mark and an impact.”

D. Challenges

Each grantee faced unique challenges and barriers. One grantee described difficulty in youth enrollment as the biggest challenge. Many youth did not believe they needed to participate in prevention activities since they did not have a problem with any substances; therefore, they did not want to participate in the program. This barrier was overcome by framing youth participation in a positive light. For instance, youth were told that since they did not have a problem with substance abuse they could “teach other kids how you stay away from peer pressure.” This grantee also tried to make prevention activities fun and inclusive for various age groups, targeting younger children as well as older teens. Another grantee experienced difficulty “blending” the youth of their organization with the youth of the FBO they were collaborating with. This barrier was overcome by teaching the two youth groups to communicate with each other through meetings and requesting that youth engage with one another.

Once the youth groups began communicating with one another, they were able to participate in combined group activities with successful outcomes.

For the third grantee, language barriers were the biggest challenge. All of their prevention materials had to be developed into English, Spanish and Vietnamese as the FBO is located in a tri-lingual community. To further accommodate the language barriers and to make information available to all parents, translators were provided during all parent meetings. In addition to language barriers, cultural challenges also had to be overcome. The FBO experienced lackluster concern from parents who did not see a problem with underage drinking. This faith community had to educate parents on why underage drinking was problematic.

E. Satisfaction and Recommendations

All grantees were in agreement that Project Faith in Youth staff did an exceptional job at providing trainings and technical assistance throughout the year. Each grantee described the FIY staff as being supportive, cooperative and attentive to the various needs of the organization. As one respondent stated, “[The staff] never hesitated to help us and they provided direction and guidance on anything we needed.”

Each grantee indicated intentions to continue ATOD prevention activities within their organization and their respective communities. Grantees mentioned a desire to continue the Friday Night Live program, family night, and participation in food banks as ways to sustain ATOD prevention activities.

Although all of the grantees were generally satisfied with the mini-grant program, a few suggestions for improvement were provided. One recommendation given was for the results from the Youth Pre-Survey of Protective Factors to be provided closer to the beginning of the funding period rather than several months into the program. This would allow the grantees to better tailor the programs and activities to fit the needs of their youth. Another grantee suggested that it would be helpful for new grantees to be provided a list of past grantees’ activities. Having examples of past activities would make it easier to plan for and develop an effective program. Another recommendation was made regarding the quarterly trainings. One grantee believed it would be helpful for the trainings to be held in the evening rather than in the morning as it is not feasible for many people to take off work to attend meetings during the day. Moving the quarterly meeting to the late afternoon or evening would allow for increased attendance.

V. Staff Interviews

In addition to grantee interviews, FIY staff was also interviewed. Project staff members were asked to describe the most significant accomplishments achieved by the project during the 09-10 fiscal year, challenges/barriers encountered and how they were overcome, lessons learned, and recommendations for improving the project in the future.

A. Major Accomplishments

Project staff identified various accomplishments that occurred during the past fiscal year. One accomplishment was the “Best Practices in Faith-Based Prevention” year-end event that highlighted past grantees’ sustained prevention efforts. Honorees who attended this event presented programs or strategies they offer youth through videos and visual displays presentations. According to project staff, the event “drew an audience of 72 persons representing OC faith communities, community prevention providers and community partners.” Staff also identified the implementation of current grantees’ prevention strategies as an accomplishment, describing the various activities each of the three grantees carried out this year. Finally, increased networking among faith-

based groups was also described as significant accomplishment. Several youth ministers and faith community members county-wide attended trainings on Asset Building and Youth Development which allowed for the differing attendees to meet one another and brought in many “people who had never attended any FAITH Coalition meeting before.”

B. Challenges

FIY staff members described the following two major challenges that were experienced throughout the 09-10 fiscal year: (1) One of the grantees required assistance to be able to more effectively collaborate with one of its faith-based partners, and (2) Grantees had some difficulty developing action plans for the year’s activities. In order to increase collaboration between one of the grantees and its faith-based partner, project staff provided the grantee with ideas and guidance for activities that would allow cohesive collaboration between the two groups. They “proposed prevention projects which would involve youth and parents from both organizations to work together.” To address the grantees’ challenge in developing action plans, Project Faith in Youth staff provided sample draft copies of action plans to the grantees. Project staff also worked collaboratively with grantees to “map out a comprehensive action plan.”

C. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

One Project Faith in Youth staff member has learned that it would be beneficial for current and past grantees to share resources with one another. As stated by the staff member, “I realized the importance for current and past grantees to share with one another prevention strategies and projects that have worked for them.” Recommendations for improvements were to: (1) Make recruiting efforts of FAITH Coalition members an ongoing process in order to broaden and strengthen its membership base; (2) Integrate AOD prevention more seamlessly into existing programs offered by youth ministers; and, (3) Encourage informal “mentor-mentee” relationships between past and current grantees to increase knowledge sharing and collaboration between the groups. However, although this kind of relationship would be beneficial for both current and past grantees, it is important not to “overload the past grantees with additional work.”

VI. Summary

During the 09-10 fiscal year, Project Faith in Youth awarded three FBOs (Saint Callistus Church, Saint Verena and the Three Holy Youth Coptic Orthodox Church, and HOPE/Village Bible Church) with a \$5,000 mini-grant in September 2009. This grant was to increase each organization’s capacity to design and implement ATOD prevention activities focused on youth in their faith community. The FIY initiative was required to meet one outcome objective and six performance measures. A thorough evaluation of all youth surveys, project documents, training materials, progress reports, and tracking tools indicated that all of the required performance measures and objective were met, and most were exceeded.

A. Achievement of Performance Objective and Measures

Each of the three mini-grant recipients was able to implement at least three youth-focused prevention activities throughout the fiscal year and was able to distribute and collect pre- and post-versions of the Youth Survey of Protective Factors required to measure whether or not youth reported an increase in protective factors. Results of the pre- and post-survey data analysis indicated that youth did in fact report an increase in all three of the designated protective factors of meaningful participation in the community, connectedness to the faith community, and positive adult and peer relationships. In addition, most youth who participated in prevention

activities reported gaining valuable information and expressed satisfaction with the ATOD prevention program at their FBO.

However, some data collection challenges were experienced with the Youth Surveys of Protective Factors. All three mini-grant recipients needed to administer the pre-surveys two times in order to obtain the 40 surveys required. In addition, two grantee sites inadvertently administered the pre-survey instead of the post-survey, or inadvertently administered an incorrect version of the post-survey. Given this barrier, data regarding the perceived increase in the protective factors could only be analyzed from one post-survey for these grantees. Finally, a sufficient number of pre- to post-survey matches could not be obtained because youth participants varied between the time of pre-survey, post 1-survey and post 2-survey administrations. Therefore, aggregate mean scores between the pre-survey and both post-surveys were analyzed and compared for improvement among youth as a whole at each site.

All six performance measures were also met and in most cases exceeded. Project Faith in Youth did not report many challenges in meeting the performance measures, and were able to overcome any challenges that did arise due to their relationships with previous grantees, restructuring of the FAITH coalition, and flexibility and creativity when dealing problems arose.

B. Grantee Interviews

In addition to a thorough review of all program materials and tracking tools, grantee interviews were conducted by EVALCORP. Grantees described the various ways in which participating in the FIY mini-grant program benefited their organization. They mentioned that prevention activities have helped to bring youth and parents closer together and have given youth a sense of empowerment and confidence. All grantees indicated that they were entirely satisfied with their collaboration with Project Faith in Youth staff and described the staff to be incredibly helpful throughout the entire year. Challenges that were faced varied for each grantee and ranged from needing to increase youth enrollment in prevention activities to language and cultural barriers. All of the challenges described by grantees were overcome through unique ways so that successful implementation of the prevention activities was achieved. Furthermore, all grantees plan to sustain their ATOD prevention activities and programs in the future.

C. Staff Interviews

Project Faith in Youth staff was interviewed to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the 09-10 Mini-Grant Program. The most significant accomplishments described by staff members included the “Best Practices in Faith-Based Prevention” event in which previous mini-grant recipients were able to showcase successful activities/ programs they have implemented. Also identified were the various prevention activities developed by the 09-10 fiscal year grantees. Challenges that were experienced included providing additional attention and technical assistance to one grantee in particular as this faith based organization applied for the mini-grant in collaboration with another organization. Staff provided this grantee with ideas for collaborative prevention activities, which at times was challenging as this was the first time two organizations were funded as one. Another challenge was helping grantees develop action plans as many grantees found this aspect of the program difficult. Staff overcame this challenge by providing examples of past action plans as models. Lessons learned by project staff this year included the re-affirmation of the importance of resource sharing between current and past grantees. Staff members emphasized the importance of supporting grantees to build relationships with one another. FIY staff recommendations for improvement included a continued effort to recruit FAITH Coalition members, a more seamless implementation of prevention activities into already established programs at each faith-based organization, and to encourage mentor/mentee relationships between past and current grantees. In sum, FIY staff was proud of the 09/10 grantees’ ATOD prevention efforts and program accomplishments overall.

Appendix A: Average Scores on Youth Surveys of Protective Factors by Item

Below are the average scores on survey items from the Youth Pre-Survey, Post 1-Survey, and Post 2-Survey of Protective Factors for each of the three mini-grantee sites broken down by the three protective factors: meaningful participation in the community, connectedness to the faith community, and positive adult/peer relationships. Respondents were asked to indicate how true each statement was to them using the following scale. The averages in the tables below are also based on this scale.

1 = "Not at all true" 2 = "A little true" 3 = "Somewhat true" 4 = "Pretty much true" 5 = "Very true"

Protective Factor 1: Meaningful Participation within the Community

Item #	Survey Items	St. Callistus Church			
		Pre (N=40)	Post 1 (N=30)	Post 2 (N=30)	Increase Yes/No
7	I am encouraged to participate in community service projects.	4.48	4.70	4.20	Yes
8	I participate in community service projects.	4.33	4.63	4.57	Yes
9	I place high value on helping other people.	4.38	4.87	4.67	Yes
10	I do things that make a difference.	4.03	4.27	4.50	Yes

Item #	Survey Items	St. Verena and the Three Holy Youth Coptic Orthodox Church			
		Pre (N=40)	Post 1 (N=22)	Post 2 (N=25)	Pre (N=40)
7	I am encouraged to participate in community service projects.	4.10	4.50	4.16	Yes
8	I participate in community service projects.	3.72	4.00	4.16	Yes
9	I place high value on helping other people.	4.36	4.23	4.36	No
10	I do things that make a difference.	3.85	4.09	4.20	Yes

Item #	Survey Items	HOPE/Village Bible Church			
		Pre (N=53)	Post 1 (N=38)	Post 2 (N=19)	Increase Yes/No
7	I am encouraged to participate in community service projects.	3.75	4.06	4.47	Yes
8	I participate in community service projects.	3.42	3.66	4.00	Yes
9	I place high value on helping other people.	4.21	4.29	4.68	Yes
10	I do things that make a difference.	3.47	3.49	3.95	Yes

Protective Factor 2: Connectedness to the Faith Community

Item #	Survey Items	St. Callistus Church			
		Pre (N=40)	Post 1 (N=30)	Post 2 (N=30)	Increase Yes/No
11	I am given a useful role in my faith community.	4.20	4.37	4.47	Yes
12	I am a part of a youth ministry/youth group at my church or place of worship.	4.75	4.80	4.57	Yes
13	I help decide/plan youth-oriented church activities.	3.50	3.60	4.13	Yes
14	I participate in religious services.	4.65	4.53	4.63	No

Item #	Survey Items	St. Verena and the Three Holy Youth Coptic Orthodox Church			
		Pre (N=40)	Post 1 (N=22)	Post 2 (N=25)	Increase Yes/No
11	I am given a useful role in my faith community.	4.05	4.23	4.28	Yes
12	I am a part of a youth ministry/youth group at my church or place of worship.	4.41	4.68	4.76	Yes
13	I help decide/plan youth-oriented church activities.	2.79	3.05	3.48	Yes
14	I participate in religious services.	4.62	4.68	4.68	Yes

Item #	Survey Items	HOPE/Village Bible Church			
		Pre (N=53)	Post 1 (N=38)	Post 2 (N=19)	Increase Yes/No
11	I am given a useful role in my faith community.	2.69	3.09	3.68	Yes
12	I am a part of a youth ministry/youth group at my church or place of worship.	3.28	3.66	4.84	Yes
13	I help decide/plan youth-oriented church activities.	1.58	1.71	2.58	Yes
14	I participate in religious services.	3.72	3.74	4.74	Yes

Protective Factor 3: Positive Adult/Peer Relationships

Item #	Survey Items	St. Callistus Church			
		Pre (N=40)	Post 1 (N=30)	Post 2 (N=30)	Increase Yes/No
At home, school, and/or faith community there is an adults...					
15	who really cares about me.	4.65	4.77	4.87	Yes
16	who tells me when I do a good job.	4.08	4.30	4.43	Yes
17	who always want me to do my best.	4.63	4.72	4.70	Yes
18	who listens to me when I have something to say.	4.13	4.37	4.30	Yes
19	who I can go to for help with a problem.	4.23	4.27	4.33	Yes
I have a friend about my age...					
20	who really cares about me.	4.60	4.83	4.70	Yes
21	who I can talk to about my problems.	4.53	4.73	4.60	Yes
22	who helps me when I am having a hard time.	4.45	4.70	4.60	Yes
My friends...					
23	try to do what is right.	3.93	4.13	4.00	Yes
24	Do well in school.	4.00	4.27	4.07	Yes
25	would disapprove of me using alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.	4.48	4.40	4.40	No
26	participate in community service projects.	3.88	4.10	3.87	Yes
27	participate in youth ministry/youth group at a church or place of worship.	3.93	4.03	3.80	Yes
28	participate in religious services.	3.93	3.93	3.77	No

Protective Factor 3: Positive Adult/Peer Relationships Continued

Item #	Survey Items	St. Verena and the Three Holy Youth Coptic Orthodox Church			
		Pre (N=40)	Post 1 (N=22)	Post 2 (N=25)	Increase Yes/No
At home, school, and/or faith community there is an adults...					
15	who really cares about me.	4.69	4.82	4.76	Yes
16	who tells me when I do a good job.	4.33	4.59	4.56	Yes
17	who always want me to do my best.	4.73	4.68	4.68	No
18	who listens to me when I have something to say.	4.05	4.14	4.48	Yes
19	who I can go to for help with a problem.	4.21	4.41	4.44	Yes
I have a friend about my age...					
20	who really cares about me.	4.33	4.77	4.68	Yes
21	who I can talk to about my problems.	4.08	4.50	4.64	Yes
22	who helps me when I am having a hard time.	4.05	4.68	4.44	Yes
My friends...					
23	try to do what is right.	3.77	4.36	4.00	Yes
24	Do well in school.	4.21	4.64	4.36	Yes
25	would disapprove of me using alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.	4.51	4.50	4.48	No
26	participate in community service projects.	3.49	3.86	4.12	Yes
27	participate in youth ministry/youth group at a church or place of worship.	3.46	3.82	4.16	Yes
28	participate in religious services.	3.67	3.86	4.36	Yes

Protective Factor 3: Positive Adult/Peer Relationships Continued

Item #	Survey Items	HOPE/Village Bible Church			
		Pre (N=53)	Post 1 (N=38)	Post 2 (N=19)	Increase Yes/No
At home, school, and/or faith community there is an adults...					
15	who really cares about me.	4.77	4.97	5.00	Yes
16	who tells me when I do a good job.	4.48	4.79	4.84	Yes
17	who always want me to do my best.	4.88	4.95	4.89	Yes
18	who listens to me when I have something to say.	4.35	4.66	4.74	Yes
19	who I can go to for help with a problem.	4.38	4.74	4.89	Yes
I have a friend about my age...					
20	who really cares about me.	4.54	4.53	4.63	Yes
21	who I can talk to about my problems.	4.15	4.39	4.53	Yes
22	who helps me when I am having a hard time.	4.37	4.39	4.53	Yes
My friends...					
23	try to do what is right.	4.06	4.29	4.47	Yes
24	Do well in school.	4.13	4.21	4.32	Yes
25	would disapprove of me using alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.	4.54	4.58	4.37	Yes
26	participate in community service projects.	3.25	3.68	4.26	Yes
27	participate in youth ministry/youth group at a church or place of worship.	3.29	3.92	4.63	Yes
28	participate in religious services.	3.42	3.97	4.53	Yes