Giles County F.O.C.U.S.

“FOCUS on Communities Utilizing Services”

Geographic Data-Driven Service Interventions
“Families thrive when protective factors are robust in their lives and in their communities.”

Center for the Study of Social Policy
The County of Giles works from the premise that advanced levels of education, higher economic achievement, and improved health outcomes interconnect. Each directly supporting and enhancing the other.

In order to better “focus” opportunities and improve our citizens physical, social, and economic well-being a mapping project was executed to distinguish locations of need.
But first, a brief history of our programs that lead us to FOCUS.
In February of 2009 Giles County started a Day Report Center. Day Report is an alternate sentencing program for non-violent, non-sex crime related offenders. It was created in order to relieve some of the mounting fiscal and societal costs related to incarceration. (The steadily increasing jail bill was projected to reach $1,000,000 by 2020)

- Clients are referred to Day Report either by direct court order or through Probation and Parole as sanctions in lieu of incarceration.
- Upon referral, clients are assessed via five instruments: and an abbreviated Mental Health Screening Tool and a Disease Risk Questionnaire.
- Clients receive Substance Abuse Resistance Education and/or Life Skills modules based upon screening results.
- Clients receive several, random drug screens per month. The preferred stay is 6-12 months.

The control group rate of incarcerant recidivants is 26%. The post-Day Report recidivism rate is 18%. This equates to a 31% reduction in recidivism. Day Report is not only a financial win for the county. It is a win for the successful offenders and their families when jail time is no longer in their futures.
Department of Social Services/Temporary Aid for Needy Families Collaboration

When individuals are receiving TANF benefits, and are physically capable of working, they are required by State and Federal law to do so. DSS refers these clients to the county.

- Upon referral, interviews are conducted to learn what their interests, aptitudes and aspirations may be. Restricting factors are also discussed.
- They are then placed in a volunteer setting that benefits the public with the understanding that this “trial period” is designed to identify whether they have a sincere desire to be reliable workers.
- When they have proven to be reliable, effort is made to place them in paid positions.
- In some cases where the desire for further education is expressed and is logical, they go through an interest inventory and aptitude testing to help identify where success is likely and then this educational process is facilitated.
Enhanced Pre-Kindergarten Education

Research has shown that investing in high-quality, pre-kindergarten education yields benefits for children, schools, and communities.

- Children who participate in high-quality, pre-k programs enter school better prepared to learn and have advanced socialization.
- Pre-K participants graduate high school at a 44% higher rate.
- In adulthood, pre-k participants are less likely to be arrested for violent or drug crimes and have significantly less arrests overall than a comparison group.
- They are less likely to drink and smoke, have a greater employment rate and higher income levels.
- Additionally, they are more likely to own homes, have savings accounts, and demonstrate better parenting skills.

Giles is fortunate to have four types of Pre-K: Head Start Pre-K, VPI and VPI+ and a special Early Head Start program. Within our FOCUS communities we work especially hard to encourage utilization of pre-k opportunities.
Summer Youth Work Program – SYWP

Finding and keeping a job is a key step in a young person’s transition to adulthood and economic self-sufficiency.

- Employment allows young people to cover expenses for themselves and their families.
- It provides valuable opportunities for them to apply academic skills and learn occupation-specific as well as general “world of work” skills; such as teamwork, time management, problem-solving, etc.
- Teen employment (16-19 years) is directly associated with improved employment and earnings later in life as well as myriad other indicators of adult success.

The summer of 2016 marked the 4th year of the Giles County SYWP. 49 students, aged 16-19, completed a 6 week/192 hour work placement that matched their work experience (if any), their interests, aptitudes and their future plans. They received an incentive for the hours in their work experience.
Access to Community College Education – ACCE

The ACCE Program provides the financial means for any Giles County Student who graduates from high school to attend NRCC (New River Community College) at no tuition cost to the student.

- Students must graduate with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 and maintain this during college.
- The student may achieve an Associate Degree, Trade Certificate or Trade Certificates leading to an Associate Degree.
- A maximum of 60 credit hours will be paid by ACCE and students may attend college for up to two years.
- The student must provide 80 hours of community service to the county for each year they are in school.

ACCE is a workforce development initiative and its’ purpose is to elevate the educational levels of a rising, young workforce. Giles County Board of Supervisors Chairman Ricky McCoy stated: *The better educated workforce resulting from ACCE will result in the development of more moderate and high-paying jobs for our citizens. More good jobs will lead to a quality of life enhancement; positively impacting all aspects of the human condition for everyone who calls Giles County their home.*

The 2016 fall semester marked the beginning of the second year of ACCE. 81 students were attending college as a result of the ACCE program.
Giles County Community Service Program

The community service program allows individuals to pay their court costs through the provision of work hours to Giles County. Perhaps, even more importantly, these individuals learn accountability, good work habits and through this process, realize increased levels of self-confidence and self-esteem.

Community Service participation helps ex-offenders to gain self-confidence and develop/enhance good work habits. It also provides a positive working experience, improves work skills and establishes good job references. It helps offenders to enter into the workforce as productive citizens. Another benefit, which was not discovered until the program was started, is enhancement of the professional competence of current Giles County staff in their management and supervisory skills. This has increased staff ownership and pride in the program’s success.

The program works closely with, and accepts referrals from, New River Community Corrections, Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program, Court Service Unit, Department of Social Services and Adult Probation and Parole. The program has also been used by local high schools as a way of dealing with student suspensions or sanctions created by minor offenses. The program currently averages in excess of 140 hours of work performed weekly. A few examples of where this work is performed include the Giles Public Service Authority garbage trucks, turf management on the county owned golf course, the county animal shelter and our public school system. Successful work experience has led to ex-offenders obtaining full-time positions with the private sector. Community service is funded by the county and county staff provide program delivery.
Let’s FOCUS on the Mapping...

Giles County is not unique in that we have many highly skilled and effective organizations providing “reactive” services in response to the needs of our citizens. In spite of this fact we continue to have new generations of citizens with low socio-economic status who suffer all the consequences that relate to this; utilizing a highly disproportionate percentage of our reactive services.

Early in 2015, the Giles County Administration and the Giles County Board of Supervisors decided to take a detailed look at exactly where, and by whom, reactive services were being utilized within Giles. The goal of the mapping was to clearly identify concentrated community clusters where we could affect positive social norms changes. This would be achieved through a more “focused”, efficient, accountable, and comprehensive delivery of reactive services through our network of reactive service providers.
Data was collected and GIS Overlays were designed to geographically identify exactly where 23 different types of reactive services were utilized within the county. These reactive services included domestic calls, truancy, incarcerant residents, EMS calls, etc..
Breakdown of Data Points for Mapping Overlays

A total of **5,279 individual** data points were collected from 2014 records and logged onto the map overlays.

Data points (physical addresses) were collected, and color-coded by incident type.

These incidents included records from: General District Court, Circuit Court, Regional Jail, 911 Animal Control, 911 Assaults, 911 B&E, 911 Civil Disturbance, 911 Domestics, 911 Drunk in Public, 911 EMS, 911 Fight, 911 Fire, 911 Larceny, 911 Mental Subject, Community Service, Day Report, Child Protective Services, Emergency Removals, Foster Care, Investigations, etc.
Mapping revealed that 5% of the addresses in Giles County utilized 55% of all our reactive services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Addresses</th>
<th>Percentage of Incidents Recorded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>71.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>54.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00%</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>25.07%</td>
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## FOCUS Communities Identified - Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Addresses</th>
<th>Total of Addresses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
<th>Incidents per Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hungry Hollow</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>55.06%</td>
<td>475</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Stoney</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>36.72%</td>
<td>240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pearisburg South</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>86.36%</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pearisburg North</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>70.00%</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchard Grove</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>78.79%</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodges Chapel</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>48.03%</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Downtown Rich Creek</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>54.90%</td>
<td>128</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Line Rd</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>85.37%</td>
<td>113</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maybrook</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>31.33%</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrows North</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>67.24%</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>2.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>River Road</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>83.33%</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ingram Village</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>33.73%</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>3.1</td>
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<td>All listed Neighborhoods</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>1111</td>
<td>54.73%</td>
<td>2099</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<td>Total for County</td>
<td>2804</td>
<td>9244</td>
<td>30.33%</td>
<td>7579</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Orchard Grove Mapping Results
State Line Road – Map by Unit
Giles County FOCUS

**Mission Statement**

- To lead positive social change for families and individuals living in Giles County through the coordination of advocacy, information, opportunity and community involvement.

**Our vision**

- Every child is provided relationships to help them achieve his/her greatest potential and participate in and contribute to the community
- Every parent is provided relationships to help them improve the quality of life for their families
- Every adult is provided the relationships to help them become responsible, participating citizens
Why the FOCUS Program – Focus On Communities Utilizing Services? Improving the outlook for the future of the “State Line Road Summer School Lunch Bunch” is one great example of why.