

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Impact Poverty Holds December meeting

Paducah, KY December 15, 2010 – The Impact Poverty Task Force held its monthly meeting on Friday, December 10, 2010 at the Paducah Board of Education.

Kristin Williams, task force facilitator welcomed the group and introduced Glenda Adkisson to the task force. Glenda attended the Bridges of Sustainable Communities training last month. She presented information she gathered at the training as well as the Getting Ahead program which has been approved for use in Paducah-McCracken County by the Task Force. Getting Ahead is a 15 week program that allows weekly meetings with community members in poverty and a trained facilitator. The goal is to move those in poverty, out of poverty and break the generational poverty cycle. The next step in the process is to identify facilitators for the weekly sessions.

After Glenda's presentation, the task force began a large group discussion. Focus was placed on the content from the October (SSI and KTAP) and November (Healthcare) meetings. The task force received a great deal of information during those two meetings and the December meeting allowed for discussion on those topics presented.

The group was most concerned about the SSI program especially as it relates to children. The impression was that, for some, classifying one's child as ADHD or having a behavior disorder was a means for financial income for one's family. The main concerns included the lack of follow up after a determination has been made, the lack of a cap and the impact on the child with no incentive to "cure" or treat the condition bringing income into the family. Another area of concern is the limited availability to Headstart. Discussion was held regarding criteria of current entitlement programs that seemingly encourage a division of family. There is a perception that there is more financial assistance than a two-parent family could generate thus making marriage financially unfeasible for some.

The November meeting focused on healthcare. The major issues that were brought up as areas of concern include a lack of dental care , urgent care not requiring an emergency room visit, and a lack of prevention management. As in the November meeting the group discussed the possibility of a federally or privately funded community health center.

The Task Force is scheduled to meet next on Thursday, January 13.

The goal of Impact Poverty is to develop a 10-Year Plan to reduce poverty in Paducah and McCracken County and break the cycle of generational poverty for its citizens. The United Way of Paducah-McCracken County is spearheading this effort.

Contact:

Ashley Wright

Executive Director
United Way of Paducah-McCracken County
ashley@unitedwaypaducah.org
270.442.1691

Or

Kristin Williams
Impact Poverty Facilitator
krw@krwstrategies.com
270.748.6348