



South Shore Connection ■ ■ ■ ► *Bridging Resources for Children's Success*

**Join Us!**  
**Be a Part of the Solution**

**South Shore Connection**



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# History

September 21, 2009

Dear Members of the Community,

We appreciate this opportunity to tell you about our mutual commitment to improving educational attainment throughout Lake County. For too long we have watched the number of young people ill prepared to be successful adults grow larger and the number of young people who complete high school prepared to be successful in college or further training continue to shrink. We can no longer afford to address this most critical and persistent challenge in a piece-meal fashion. In the past year, Legacy Foundation, Lake Area United Way and Foundations of East Chicago have each undergone a critical analysis of our community's most pressing needs and the role each of our organizations has in addressing those needs. Not surprisingly, educational attainment surfaced again and again as key to improving the social and economic climate of our community.

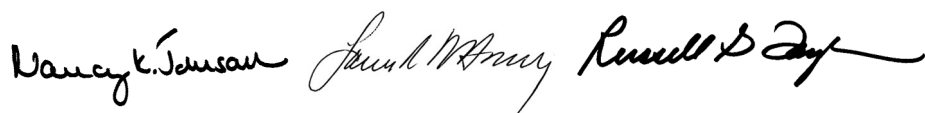
In May of 2008, nFocus Software was introduced to Northwest Indiana by Community Organizations for Families and Youth (COFFY), a collaboration of organizations that serve families and youth in Gary, Indiana. It was readily apparent that the ability of our schools and nonprofit organizations to share data in real time could turbo charge efforts to help children be successful in school and in life. This "connection" would have the power to keep caring adults on the same page about what is happening daily with an individual child. This simple but critical capacity to share information could help our community achieve our goals in educational attainment and job readiness.

Legacy Foundation, Lake Area United Way and Foundations of East Chicago felt so strongly about the importance of bringing this strategy to Lake County that a mutual commitment was made to pursue the resources required for implementation and "South Shore Connection" was born. South Shore Connection is a collaboration between funders, schools, nonprofit organizations and families dedicated to the expectation that every child in our community will obtain the education they need to be successful, productive adults.

Nancy K. Johnson  
President  
Legacy Foundation

Lou Martinez  
President  
Lake Area United Way

Russell G. Taylor  
Executive Director  
Foundations of East Chicago



***“Bridging resources for  
Children’s Success”***



### **Legacy Foundation**

Legacy Foundation has a tradition of involvement in education in both scholarship and program areas. Legacy administers over 30 scholarship funds and was recently awarded a significant grant from Lumina Foundation for Education to expand our work in educational access and success. This grant made it possible to implement the data sharing component of this project.

As the Community Foundation that serves Lake County, Legacy values partnering with people and institutions to strengthen our communities. We believe in the power of individuals to build community as we nurture and support effective leadership and we support our nonprofit sector in innovative and impactful work.

Ensuring that every child in Lake County graduates with a quality diploma is a big goal but we believe we have the tools, the partners, and the will to make it happen!

### **Lake Area United Way**

Lake Area United Way is committed to advancing the common good by creating opportunities for a good life. This is less about helping one person at a time and more about changing systems to help all of us. It's the idea that we are all connected and interdependent.

With advancing the common good as a community impact strategy, United Way is embracing three broad action steps: helping children and youth achieve their potential, promoting financial stability and independence, and improving people's health. It takes a quality education to get a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health.

We recognize that everyone wins when children succeed in school. United Way is excited about the prospect of partnering with others in the use of new and exciting technology that connects schools to organizations committed to helping children be successful in school and life, thus enhancing their future financial stability and good Health.

### **Foundations of East Chicago**

The Foundations of East Chicago have sought to advance education attainment beginning with our initial four-year scholarships in 1997. Our scholarship program now has grown to an annual commitment of \$270,000. To strengthen opportunities for success, we supported Core 40 awareness campaigns, funded non-traditional education programs like the *Tri-City Alternative Actions Program* which addressed at-risk youth issues and we supported unique programs such as *Destined for Success* and the *Cardinal Sailing Program* which exposed our students to expanded learning horizons. Without measurement tools, there can be no assurance that success has occurred. NFocus TraxSolutions has the ability to gather vital information to evaluate progress with real-time data collection that permits instant program adjustments that help students succeed. Our investment in youth programs must have the tools to measure success on many levels to make real differences in their lives. *It takes a village to raise a child!*

## **Lake Station School Corporation**

*Where the Knowledge of Tomorrow Is Taught Today*

Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Dan DeHaven

The mission of the Lake Station Community Schools, in cooperation with parents and the community, is to provide quality learning opportunities enabling all students to reach their potential. We are dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing environment which fosters the development of students who will make sound decisions in an ever changing world.

## **Gary Community School Corporation**

*Focusing on the Future: Creating 21st Century Schools*

Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Myrtle Campbell

The Gary Community School Corporation is committed to the effective engagement of staff, students, parents and community in providing a quality education in a safe and orderly environment. We hold high expectations that all students will be prepared to function successfully as productive, responsible and caring citizens in a diverse, global, technological society. The Corporation will assume the responsibility for student progress at all levels ensuring that the requisite skills, knowledge and dispositions are acquired.

## **Hammond School Corporation**

*Focus on Achievement*

Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Walter J. Watkins

The School City of Hammond is committed to providing diverse learning experiences and environments to develop high educational attainment for lifelong learners.

### **Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana**

The opportunity offered by South Shore Connection, to share student data in a “real time” environment between social service organizations and school districts, provides tremendous potential for agencies such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana, to address the needs of youth residing in our collective communities.

Data sharing of this magnitude will support our organization, and other agencies, in being more efficient in the obtainment of crucial student data. Additionally, this opportunity will allow us to ensure that programs and services, in which our youth members are enrolled, are addressing specific academic and behavior needs. Through this opportunity, our organization will be able to enhance our ability to measure the impact Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana is having on our Club members’ academic performance.



Lincoln D. Ellis, President/CEO  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana  
Nonprofit Envoy, South Shore Connection

### **Lakeshore Responsible Fatherhood Alliance**

The Lakeshore Responsible Fatherhood Alliance is a coalition of organizations working to improve the well being of children by increasing the proportion of children growing up with involved, responsible and committed fathers, to end father absence by connecting children and fathers and promoting responsible fatherhood by equipping men to be better fathers and father figures.

### **Communities in Schools (College Readiness Fund Program)**

Ready2Go is designed to give students college planning and academic preparation tools. Parents will learn how to help their children make the best choices to start on an education and career track that are matched to their skills and preferences.

### **Crisis Center**

Professional counseling, phone counseling including suicide line, referrals, emergency shelter for children and youth, senior reassurance calls, outreach to youth in crisis, youth development and delinquency prevention.

### **Educating to Excel (College Readiness Fund Program)**

This program will provide year round mentoring. They will purchase additional software (Student Edge) that will help students prepare for PSAT, SAT, ACT, and Advance Placement exams. They will utilize additional web-resources to support the program.

### **Food Bank of Northwest Indiana**

The Bank of NWI provides food for hungry people in Northwest Indiana through a network of charities. This is done by soliciting, purchasing and redistributing quality food, increasing public awareness, advocating solutions for the issues involved with hunger, and acting as an information and referral resource to the community.

**Gary Neighborhood Services**

Provides child day care, youth activities, senior programs, group meeting space and case management.

**Hammond Area YMCA**

Provides programs that promote moral, social, mental and physical development of all people.

**Hobart Family YMCA**

Provides programs for all people that promote moral, social, mental and physical development

**KIPP College Prep Charter School (College Readiness Fund Program)**

Through PSAT test preparation in partnership with Princeton Review and a mentoring program, KIPP Lead will continue to prepare students for academic and social success on the path to an through college. Purdue Calumet- Service Learning Center will provide college students who will serve as mentors.

**New Beginnings Outreach (College Readiness Fund Program)**

Destination College is a series of workshops given monthly for students to prepare them for college. This program will be accompanied by a Parent University, a workshop for parents of high school students preparing to attend college.

**Parents as Teachers Lake County**

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an early childhood, parent education and family support program, serving families throughout pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten. Adopted from the PAT National Center model, the program translates the latest neuroscience information on how children grow and develop, as well as advice on how parents can foster learning and encourage growth in language, intellectual, physical, and social-emotional skills.

**Purdue University Calumet (College Readiness Fund Program)**

PUC provides access to their existing programming from 820-1000 individuals. They currently provide numerous community-based and campus workshops and seminars through Upward Bound and Trio programs.

**YWCA of Northwest Indiana**

YWCA's purpose is the economic advancement of women and the elimination of racism. Provides services for children, youth and families that promote academic and career achievement, financial success, physical and emotional health, positive parenting and involvement in community activities.

**Salvation Army of Gary (College Readiness Fund Program)**

Their program will incorporate college readiness awareness and the KH2GO campaign. This program will blend with existing programs that exist currently. Striving for Excellence in Academics will incorporate sports, fine arts and other programs that will steer students toward post secondary educational opportunities.

**Boys & Girls Club of Northwest Indiana (College Readiness Fund Program)**

This program will provide low performing first generation African American males with hands on financial aid workshops, college exploration activities, and college tours.

**Boys & Girls Club of Lake Station (College Readiness Fund Program)**

Preparing minorities for degrees in STEM initiative. Minority students will be exposed to college access and readiness activities, college tours, and mock university discussions on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

**Holistic Community Coalition**

Tri-city Alternative Actions Program (T.C.A.A.P.) is a youth intervention program that targets junior high school students who are at risk and assists them to reintegrate within the traditional school setting and become not only higher achieving student but productive members of society

**Mission of Jesus Christ Church**

Alternatives ... to Bridging the Gap are an after-school tutoring program that focuses on assisting high school students to improve their grades in the Core 40 subject areas. The overall goal is to improve the graduation rates of the students.

**Salvation Army, East Chicago Corps**

The Corps will utilize the software to learn how to allocate its current resources to further its mission of provide services to those in need in our community.

**South Shore Arts**

Along with the Northwest Indiana Symphony, South Shore Arts serves some 30,000 children and youth annually through an extensive variety of arts education programs conducted with schools, social service agencies and municipalities. Measuring the effectiveness of these programs in a tangible manner that can be demonstrated to participants, partners and funders, as well as the community at large, continues to be a challenge.

**St. Stanislaus School**

The school mission is to serve the students residing in the diverse Calumet area by providing a well –disciplined environment of academic excellence through quality instruction and providing learning experiences in a safe, supportive, faith-sharing community.

**United Neighborhood Organization**

United Neighborhood Organizations, Inc. builds community by serving neighborhoods through a network of local centers. The community centers enrich local neighborhoods and individuals by offering programs that enhance opportunities for the growth, development and enjoyment of all residents.



## South Shore Connection

### **Vision Statement:**

South Shore Connection functions as a model of a successful collaboration that addresses challenges that have been identified across sectors and communities.

### **Goals:**

South Shore Connection determined the following three goals:

- I Academic Access & Success** – Increase High school students' graduation rate and access to post-secondary education.
- II Safe Communities** – Build safe neighborhoods by reducing crime and strengthening families.
- III Healthy Communities** – Ensure health and human services are available in each city or town that strengthens children and families through activities which enhance the quality of life.

With an approach to expand South Shore Connection partners over a period of time, this collaboration of various institutions and entities collecting and sharing data makes the potential capacity of South Shore Connection unlimited.

### **Academic Access & Success Outcomes:**

South Shore Connection rated Academic Access & Success as its top priority, with the other two goals benefiting from this achievement. Progress toward attainment of Academic Access & Success will be based on the following indicators:

1. Annual increase in students' attendance.
2. Annual increase of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with reading and math skills at grade level.
3. Annual increase of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolling in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars
4. Annual increase of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolling in college aspiration programs.
5. Annual increase of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students taking the PSAT.
6. Annual increase of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students taking the SAT.
7. Annual increase of students graduating with a Core 40 Diploma.
8. Annual increase of students enrolling and attending post-secondary institutions.
9. Annual increase of students successfully completing a quality, post-secondary credential.

### **Academic Access & Success Strategies:**

South Shore Connection has identified the following strategies to achieve Academic Access & Success:

- ◆ Capacity Building for organizations providing out of school services.
- ◆ Community Awareness of resources for academic success.
- ◆ Identification and recognition of programs that are proven successful.



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## About nFocus Software

nFocus Software is the leading provider of data collection and outcome measurement software to the public sector. For more than fifteen years, nFocus Software has successfully implemented solutions for customers of all sizes.

Today, nFocus Software's solutions track and measure outcomes for more than 2.5 million children in all fifty states and Canada. nFocus Software customers include non-profit organizations, Fortune 500 companies, and the federal government.

Our solutions capably serve organizations ranging from local sites with fewer than 100 individuals, to state-wide deployments serving thousands of individuals, to the United States Army where our solutions are used to track the training and mission readiness of all 1.4 million soldiers.