

## **Cedar Valley's Promise Goals (2001-2005)**

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress;  
working together is success.

- Henry Ford

### **GOAL #1 - Each individual is a life-long learner and a caring, responsible citizen.**

All educational programs will nurture the continuing growth of an individual's knowledge and their understanding of self and the world. The programs will provide a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment where learning flourishes. Each individual needs a quality, comprehensive educational program that develops all aspects of the person to include: aesthetic and artistic development; social and emotional development; intellectual development; physical development and well being; and, development of responsibility.

Children succeed in school for various reasons --- quality early childhood opportunities, caring adults, engaging curriculum, and nurturing environment to name but a few. Children who succeed in school have an increased chance of becoming responsible, productive adults and a decreased risk of engaging in problem behaviors such as dropping out of school, engaging in delinquent or violent behavior, becoming a teen parent, and using alcohol tobacco or other drugs. The statistics below (standardized test scores, drop out rate, attendance, etcetera) show overall commitment to school of Black Hawk County children.

### **Outcomes**

1. All children have access to quality programs, resources, and experiences provided by parents, caregivers, educators, and other community members who demonstrate respectful, responsible care giving and instruction.
2. Individuals have the opportunity to be involved in activities that foster academic and social success, including meaningful service to others.

3. Individuals share a common vision and language for character education and asset development and sets clear and realistic boundaries and expectations for all residents.
4. Individuals demonstrate trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.
5. All children have access to quality early childhood educational opportunities so they can enter school ready to succeed.
6. Individuals disseminate information and use data to help each person become a more educated, caring, responsible citizen.

**GOAL #2 - Parents, friends, and other community members model positive, responsible behaviors.**

Children born or raised in families that demonstrate positive, responsible behaviors are more likely to engage in the same behaviors as their families. Similarly, young people who associate with peers who exhibit positive behaviors are more likely to engage in those behaviors. The following data (below) are assessed as indicators of the quality of life for children in Black Hawk County.

**Outcomes**

1. Parents demonstrate appropriate parenting skills.
2. Individuals promote responsible sexual behavior.
3. Individuals who use a legal substance do so appropriately and responsibly.
4. Individuals model law-abiding behaviors.
5. Individuals use conflict management skills and mediation services.
6. Individuals are involved in mentoring.
7. Parents demonstrate informed decisions regarding child care/early education for their children.
8. Community will be free of illegal substances.
9. Individuals disseminate information and use data to help make the community a safer, healthier, more nurturing place to live.

### **GOAL #3 - All individuals / families are self-sufficient.**

Children living above the poverty level are more likely to be successful in school, the community, and life. The data displayed below indicates the measures that are used to reflect the economic climate of residents in Black Hawk County.

#### **Outcomes**

1. Individuals are provided access to adequate paying jobs.
2. Community/family needs are evaluated to insure that adequate resources are available, expanded, or developed.
3. Individuals receive information and training to make sound economic decisions.
4. Individuals receive information on strategies and techniques to access a better way of living.
5. Individuals have access to safe, adequate, affordable housing, transportation, childcare, and health care.
6. Individuals disseminate information and use data to help each person make good choices about their economic future.

### **GOAL #4 - Youth are provided with positive opportunities.**

Positive opportunities can help build self-esteem, goal setting skills, leadership, problem solving, cooperation, and assertiveness. They also help develop effective communication skills, adaptive and effective behavior changes, frustration tolerance, personal responsibility, and encouragement. Positive opportunities are often characterized by active challenges, group and individual processing, debriefing, and generalization of new skills and service to others.

#### **Outcomes**

1. Youth are provided with opportunities and access to participate in extracurricular activities and community programs offered by schools, youth serving agencies, religious institutions, and other groups.
2. Positive opportunities are developed for youth and information regarding access to these programs are disseminated throughout the community.

3. Agencies/Organizations who provide positive opportunities for youth, develop some non-traditional way of providing services (i.e. programs, collaboration, alternative times and/or places).
4. Adults receive training concerning the role of positive behaviors in young people's lives.
5. Youth have the opportunity to be involved in meaningful service to others.
6. Individuals disseminate information and use data to help provide programming and opportunities.

**GOAL #5 - Every child lives in a safe, nurturing environment that promotes a healthy start and future.**

A quality, fulfilling life starts with a safe, nurturing, healthy beginning. Presented with these opportunities young people can become more productive, well adjusted adults.

**Outcomes**

1. Every child born in the Cedar Valley is assessed before discharge from the hospital and each youth receives needed immunizations, childcare, and mental health services.
2. Every child in the Cedar Valley receives needed health care and dental services.
3. Systems to provide identification and solution of youths' health and educational problems are in place and coordinated.
4. Opportunities are provided to support caregivers (Including parents, grandparents, kith and kin caregivers, and childcare providers) efforts in providing a safe, nurturing, healthy environment for children.
5. Individuals have access to adequate food and receive education on proper nutrition, dietary needs, and exercise.
6. Community-based resources are available to children who cannot live in their own home.
7. Individuals disseminate information and use data to help make the community a safer, healthier, more nurturing place to live.

## **GOALS #6 - Individuals identify and embrace common understandings, similarities, and differences between cultures and groups.**

The Cedar Valley is a diverse region - racially, ethnically, ideologically, and in family structure. Because of this diversity individuals have the opportunity to enrich their lives by learning about other ideas, traditions, values, customs, celebrations, religious beliefs, etcetera.

### **Outcomes**

1. Individuals are involved in programs and activities that develop competencies, a sense of belonging, acceptance, critical thinking about bias, team building, trust, and the construction of a confident and knowledgeable self identity.
2. Individuals know and successfully apply conflict resolution skills.
3. Cultural learning opportunities and experiences are expanded for all segments of the community.
4. Individuals disseminate information and use data to help make the community a safer, more supportive environment in which to explore differences.

## **IMPACT**

Decisions made are collaborative, data driven, and positively impact the citizens of the Cedar Valley.

The incidence of teen pregnancy is reduced.

The incidence of drug use is reduced.

The incidence of child abuse is reduced.

The need for foster care and out of home placement is reduced.

The incidence of self-destructive behaviors is reduced.

The incidence of domestic violence is reduced.

The number of families living under the poverty level is reduced.

The incidence of school success is increased.

The availability of adequate paying jobs is increased.

The number of adult and student mentors is increased.

The number of youth involved in both school and community activities are increased.

The number of newborns assessed before discharge from the hospital is increased.

The number of parents involved in parenting-related programs is increased.

The number of positive cultural learning opportunities/experiences is increased.

The number of developmental assets for all youth is increased.

Access to quality healthcare, childcare, and preschools for all is increased.

Opportunity for all to be involved in service to the community is increased.

Mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse services are available.

Increased neighborhood involvement.