

Zion Township Crew and Coalition for Healthy Communities partner

With the economy causing so many cutbacks, one project in the Zion-Benton community is just taking off. Thanks to a partnership between CREW and the Coalition for Healthy Communities, a position is being created to focus on building community partnerships in Beach Park, Winthrop Harbor and Zion.

The Coalition has received a Federal Drug Free Communities Grant for nearly 10 years and those funds will no longer be available after September 2012. With this in mind, the Coalition participated in a strategic planning workshop series facilitated by Dr. Gary Fields.

Four areas were narrowed down to focus on, including: Literacy, Substance Abuse Prevention, Community Partnerships and Wellness. But, staff would be needed to fill the gaps from the loss of the grant, as well as

Open House

Thursday, Oct.
20, 5:30-7 p.m. at Pearce
Campus, 23rd St., Zion
Showcase agencies
located in Pearce.

Door prizes including
an eMac computer
being donated by ROE.
All are welcome.

other projects created by the different focus groups.

Additionally, CREW has worked with Zion-Benton Township High School on evolving Pearce Campus into a Resource Center. The intent was to override the transportation issues many residents have by bringing needed resources to the community.

CREW also created RESPOND, formerly PEC, to bring front line workers from

30 social service agencies together for a monthly lunch so that they could build relationships in order to work better together to help clients achieve their goals.

Working together, CREW and CHC also formed PIT Crew, which stands for Prevention, Intervention and Treatment of Substance Abuse, so that agencies with these missions can work better together. From these meetings stemmed Teen Court, as well as a \$25,000 grant partnering with Nicasa to have a substance abuse counselor from CREW working in the area junior highs and high school.

An Open House will be held at Pearce Campus to showcase agencies located in Pearce on Thursday, Oct. 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. with door prizes including an eMac computer being donated by ROE. All are welcome.