



2008 VISION Partner Alliance Accomplishments		www.schuylkillvision.com	
Health	Health	Arts & Culture	Arts & Culture
<p><i>VISION: Schuylkill County will have a clean, healthy environment where every citizen finds opportunities for economic and personal growth, community involvement, cultural and spiritual expression.</i></p> <p>PA State Health Improvement Plan Schuylkill County's VISION and its partners are working with the Pennsylvania Department of Health on State Health Improvement Plan Initiatives.</p> <p>The Interfaith Health Network This group is a consortium of local churches and public health agencies. Their 2008 goals were to have a centralized health events clearinghouse for the congregations in the county and to use monthly bulletin inserts to educate the community about the area health resources. Their 2008 programs included: Senior Benefits Check-up and Healthy Steps Fall Prevention Program.</p> <p>Suicide Prevention Taskforce Schuylkill County has the highest adolescent suicide rate in the state of Pennsylvania. The Suicide Taskforce has reorganized and is working with partners to lower these numbers. On Friday, December 5, the Suicide Prevention Task Force unveiled a major initiative to combat youth suicide in Schuylkill County. A three- year federal grant will provide funding for an intervention through the primary care medical system that will teach professionals to screen youth routinely for suicide.</p>	<p>Schuylkill on the Move This group promotes walking in our County. They are currently developing a website to show local residents where they can walk in our area (walking trails, paths, facilities) and the numerous organized walks. The Schuylkill Mall developed a new Mallwalkers Program for those who want to walk indoors.</p> <p>Diabetes Taskforce This group is held its Annual Diabetes Forum for the public on November 7, 2008. They also recently presented a training on insulin pumps to area school nurses.</p> <p>Mental Health Committee The committee obtained grant funding to bring national educator and author, Rosalind Wiseman to our community. Wiseman presented an anti-bullying training programs to over 1,000 educators, counselors, parents and students in our area on October 13, 2008 at Pottsville Area High School.</p> <p>2009 Plans: Health Alliance Prevention Summit – March 27, 2009 Diabetes Mini-Expo – May 5, 2009- Schuylkill Mall</p>	<p>Diversity Council This group promotes diversity in our community through arts and education. In 2008, the council received a grant to begin a project called, “Movies with a Message”, organized ethnic cooking classes, and supported diversity presentations in the community. The group is also looking at partnering to start a Diversity Fund to support even more programs for the County.</p> <p>Celebrate Schuylkill <i>A sampler of ethnic & cultural celebrations held throughout Schuylkill County</i> A planning committee organized a County-wide Ethnic Festival. Groups involve in the planning included: Schuylkill County's VISION, the Diversity Council, the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce, Fairlane Village Mall, Boscov's, The Schuylkill County Council for the Arts, Downtown Shenandoah, Inc., Mahanoy City Historical Society, PADCO/Sovereign Majestic, and Schuylkill County Visitors' Bureau. The festival was held on Saturday, May 3, 2008 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fairlane Village Mall.</p> <p>Block of Art: a collaboration of arts and business in downtown Pottsville was held on April 19 & 20th.</p> <p>Walk-in Arts Center Plans are underway to develop an art incubator known as, the Walk-in Arts Center, in downtown Schuylkill Haven, PA. VISION is surveying area artists to gather data for plans for the center.</p>	<p>Arts & Cultural Alliance Schuylkill County's VISION is a member of this group whose goal is to promote the arts and encourage artistic talent in Schuylkill County. 2008 goals and accomplishments of this group include: The First Annual Art Summit held in April 2008, a community calendar of events coordinated between the Sovereign Majestic Theatre and the Schuylkill County Council for the Arts, improved communication between arts organizations and regular meetings of the Arts & Cultural Alliance. A needs survey of area arts groups is being completed and the second annual Arts Summit will be held in April to plan both short and long term goals for the arts and culture community. In addition, workshops on specific topics of interest to artists will be presented. Plans for a 2009 Fall Arts and Cultural Festival are being discussed including an art walk through the downtown.</p> <p>2009 Plans: Arts Alliance Arts Summit – April 2009 Arts Alliance 2009 Fall Arts and Cultural Festival Block of Art 2009 Movie with a Message – cultural films and discussion at the Sovereign Majestic Theatre Diversity Youth Conference – Fall/Spring Delin Awards – Penn State Schuylkill</p> <p>2010 Plans: Walk-in Arts Center, Schuylkill Haven to be completed.</p>