

# Community Focus

A Report for Springfield *and* Greene County

# 2004

[www.SpringfieldCommunityFocus.org](http://www.SpringfieldCommunityFocus.org)

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## A Report for Springfield and Greene County

# 2004

### Table of Contents

Blue Ribbons, Red Flags	3
Business and Economic Climate	4 – 5
Transportation	6 – 7
Public Order and Safety	8 – 9
Citizen Participation	10 – 11
Education	12 – 13
Recreation, Sports and Leisure	14 – 15
Community Wellness	16 – 17
Natural Environment	18 – 19
Arts and Culture	20



*Springfield is a community energized by a robust economy and a dynamic small business environment.*

# Introduction



A great opportunity lies before us as we present the inaugural *Community Focus: A Report for Springfield and Greene County*. We as a community will be taking a close look at ourselves. We will see many of our successes and positive attributes, but

we also will see many of our challenges. Through collaboration and mobilization of resources we can shape our community into one that serves all its citizens and continues to make Springfield a great place to live and work.

The idea for the “Community Focus” evolved over the past two years. It began with a Community Foundation of the Ozarks’ Needs Assessment Committee initiative. Representatives from Community Foundation of the Ozarks, United Way, Junior League of Springfield, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Southwest Missouri State University, Drury University, Springfield-Greene County Library District, Springfield/Greene County Health Department, Every Kid Counts, and the News-Leader discussed ways of communicating community needs in an ongoing and meaningful manner. Simultaneously, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce’s 2003 leadership trip to Lexington, Kentucky, learned of the Lexington Livability Report, an effort to assess strengths and weaknesses in that community.

The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the Needs Assessment Committee decided to join forces to produce our “Community Focus: A Report for Springfield and Greene County.” In addition, the Springfield-Greene County Library District has produced [www.SpringfieldCommunityFocus.org](http://www.SpringfieldCommunityFocus.org), a website dedicated to needs-based data collection. It is my hope that both the report and the website will provide researchers, grantseekers, grantmakers, and community leaders with valuable information now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Maura Taylor, Chair  
*Community Focus Steering Committee*



The *Community Focus: A Report for Springfield and Greene County* is an attempt to view our community through a variety of lenses and assess its overall strengths and weaknesses. Many people worked hard to prepare a report that is thorough and

meaningful. Numerous organizations collaborated on this project, and every effort has been made to include a wide variety of sources and information.

Still, this is an imperfect process. “Red Flags” and “Blue Ribbons” are editorial by nature, and some may rightfully question the conclusions that have been drawn. Also, the categories themselves are subjective, and the perspectives through which we see our community will require future revision.

Pointing out the limitations of this report is not done to denigrate the effort, but it does reveal that this is a work in progress. And that ongoing reflection is the essence of the *Community Focus*—the understanding that a community willing to honestly examine itself is a community committed to a better future.

Finally, I want to thank the people who contributed to this report: Jennifer McClure, Todd Richardson, Dr. Andrew Baird, Dr. Julie Leeth, Dr. Lloyd Young, Brian Fogle, Annie Busch, John Rush, Jim Anderson, Brad Bodenhausen, Kathy Steinberg, Sandy Howard, Jeanne Duffey, and Maura Taylor. Numerous groups allowed us to use their information and data. In addition, the Steering Committee met several times to determine community strengths and weaknesses. Without the efforts of these people, this project would not have been possible.

Sincerely,

Gary Funk, President  
*Community Foundation of the Ozarks*

# Community Focus

## A Report for Springfield and Greene County

# 2004

*Community Focus: A Report for Springfield and Greene County* identifies several community conditions or trends that deserve recognition or immediate action. The Blue Ribbons indicate outstanding community successes or attributes; the Red Flags signal community problems that demand our attention. Viewed together, the Blue Ribbons and Red Flags reveal some striking community paradoxes. For example, although Springfield is a community energized by a robust economy and a dynamic small business environment, it faces an array of serious problems stemming from an increasing number of children living in poverty. Consider that our community has nationally recognized health facilities, programs and services, yet many children lack access to basic medical and dental care. Finally, as our city and county develop and implement commendable participatory visioning and planning models, our public schools struggle to develop strategies that will ensure adequate funding.

Certainly, these contradictions are not unique to Springfield, yet our success in nurturing community strengths while overcoming pressing challenges will ultimately shape the future of Springfield and Greene County.



Springfield City Hall

## Blue Ribbons

The Community Focus highlights leading indicators in a wide range of areas. Taken together, they portray a community bolstered by an excellent economic climate that features a dynamic small business environment, a vast array of health and wellness resources, and a strong commitment to civic engagement and collaboration.

*The overall economy of Springfield and Greene County is outstanding.* Fueled by a nationally recognized small-business climate, our economy is a major part of a regional boom that is an economic growth engine for the state. New and diverse job markets, vigorous higher education and health sectors, and a reasonable cost of living all contribute to our region's continued economic vitality. Springfield's exciting Center City redevelopment is a reflection of this strength.



CoxHealth Medical Center South

*Springfield and Greene County are rich in medical and public health programs.* Anchored by CoxHealth and St. John's Health System, two lauded health institutions, Springfield is a regional hub for health and medical services. These assets are augmented by a progressive and innovative public health department and strengthened further by Drury University's outstanding reputation in pre-medical studies and Southwest Missouri State University's Ozarks Public Health Institute.

*Vision 20/20, an exemplary community-based planning process, headlines a variety of collaborative efforts that have moved our community forward.* Whether it is the Urban Districts Alliance working with the Springfield Finance and Development Corporation to assist Center City redevelopment or The Good Community educating city leaders on key issues, most of our meaningful community accomplishments are achieved through collaboration and coalition building.

## Red Flags

Growth poses challenges. Springfield's increased urbanization and the national trend toward economic polarization have resulted in greater numbers of our children living in poverty. Reducing the impact of increasing domestic instability, ensuring that all children receive adequate medical and dental services, and adequately funding public education so that all children can succeed will require a thoughtful and systemic effort.

*Too many children in our community suffer from the lingering effects of poverty.* Domestic instability is a well-documented outcome of poverty. Domestic violence, child abuse, neglect rates that are higher than the state averages, and greater incidences in youth drug-related crimes all warrant the immediate attention of our community. The presence of high methamphetamine traffic in Springfield and Greene County is believed to be a major contributing factor to some if not all of these problems.



*The needs of many at-risk children in Springfield are not being met.* Our community must be willing to address the issue of inadequate social and health-related services. Many children in Springfield and Greene County lack access to adequate dental and health care.

*Public schools in Springfield and Greene County lag far behind the state average in per pupil expenditures.* Although college-bound students generally do well, current dropout rates are not acceptable to our community. Throwing money at educational problems usually solves little, but area schools will find it increasingly difficult to serve the growing numbers of at-risk students without adequate resources. The recent support (June 2004) of a tax-levy increase for Springfield Public Schools was a step in the right direction, but school leadership, the school board and advocacy groups must continue to work together to make the case for stronger support of public education.

*Note: Throughout the Community Focus: A Report for Springfield and Greene County, Blue Ribbon and Red Flag indicators have been used to identify information related to these findings.*

# Business and Economic Climate

The economy of Springfield and Greene County is at the center of a regional explosion that is an economic engine for the state of Missouri. According to the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center, statistics from March 2003 to March 2004 show that 24.2 percent of net new jobs in the state were created in the city of Springfield, although the city accounts for only 3



percent of the state's total workforce of 3 million people. Significant job growth has occurred in the professional and business, wholesale trade, retail trade, health care and social assistance, transportation/trade/utilities, education, and financial sectors. Manufacturing was the only sector not gaining, with

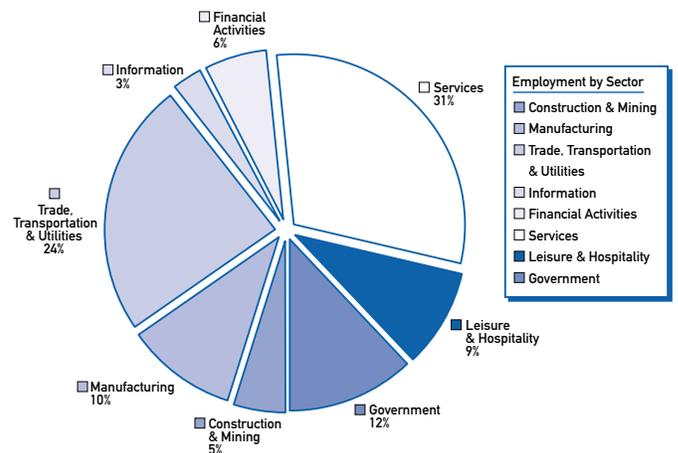
a 6.6 percent job loss during the year ending March 2004.

In addition to job growth, Springfield and the surrounding area have a lower than average unemployment rate, increasing growth in annual per capita income, and a population growth rate around 2.2%. These indicators are positive and are indicative of the strong economic climate of the region.

The Springfield Metro Area has been recognized in many ways for its accomplishments as a community. Accolades include: Top 10 Places to Live and Work (*Employment Review*), Top 40 Best [Smaller Metros] in America for Starting and Growing a Business (*Inc. Magazine*), Top 12 Midwest



Cities for High-Tech Jobs (*CorpTech, Technology Industry Growth Forecaster*), Number 6 ranking out of 331 metros for business expansion (*Expansion Management Magazine*), and Most Productive City (*Sprint Business*).



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2003

The cost of living in Springfield is 11.4% under the national average (4Q-2003), and the average home sales price in 2003 was \$116,174. Approximately 92% of Springfield's businesses are considered small businesses.

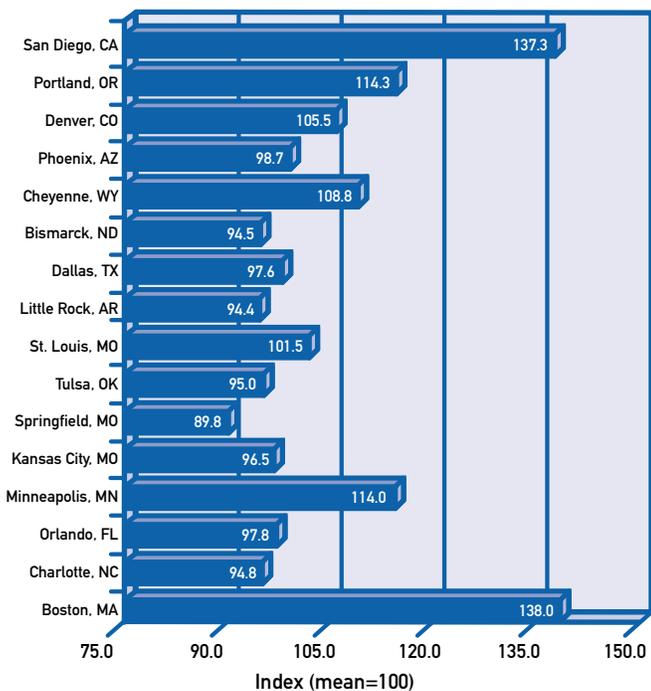




Downtown Springfield

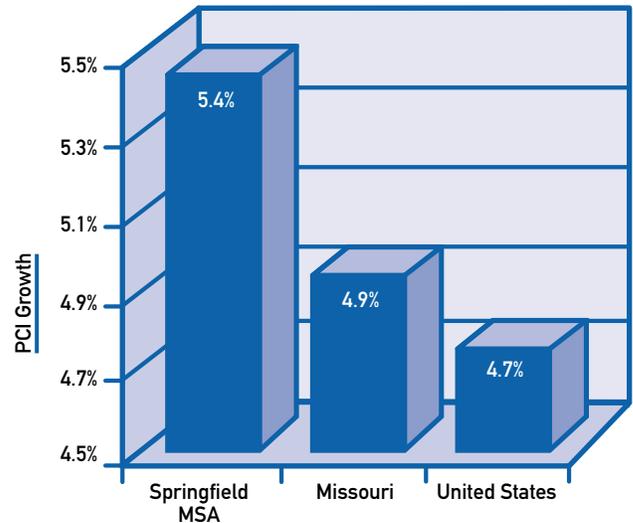


### COST OF LIVING INDEX COMPARISON



Source: ACCRA, 4th Quarter 2003

### PER CAPITA INCOME ANNUAL GROWTH COMPARISON



Source: USDC, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 1990-2002

# Transportation

Transportation is a high priority in Springfield and Greene County. The City of Springfield’s Capital Improvements Program funds high-priority transportation needs through a 1/4-cent sales tax with a three-year sunset provision that holds the City accountable for fulfilling its pledges before seeking renewed taxpayer support. More than \$400 million in capital improvements projects have been completed in the past six years; the tax was renewed in February 2004 to raise another



\$26 million to widen streets, improve intersections, add school sidewalks and traffic signals, and for other projects such as neighborhood improvements. The City of Springfield also partners with the Missouri Department of Transportation using a 1/8-cent sales tax to make improvements such as dual left-turn lanes on state roads within the City.

That renewable sales tax, first approved in 1996, allows the City to move forward on projects much more quickly than would be possible waiting for state funding to become available.

To aid in the alleviation of congestion on Springfield’s roadways and to provide the community with increased public access, City Utilities operates a fixed route and paratransit bus system. The city’s bus system continues to grow and expand its services, with an increase of 30,000 more passengers in 2003. The utilization of the public transit system is integral in helping alleviate congestion.

	2001	2002	2003
<i>CU Total Passengers</i>	1,515,611	1,509,686	1,539,264
<i>CU Bus Miles</i>	1,127,665	1,215,805	1,229,100
<i>Number of Buses in fleet</i>			
	26 fixed route buses		
	5 paratransit buses ( <i>used to transport disabled passengers</i> )		

All buses are wheelchair accessible.

Source: City Utilities



## RESPECT RED

There are 232 traffic signals within the City of Springfield, and 122 of the top 132 high traffic locations (those with 10 or more accidents per year) occurred at signalized intersections. In the years from 1997 to 2003, there were 20,492 accidents at signalized intersections of which 2,787 or 13 percent involved “running a red light.”

The City of Springfield has taken steps to help correct this problem through an initiative known as “Respect Red.” The city’s approach focuses on Enforcement, Education and Engineering. Recently, the City Council voted to increase the minimum fine for red-light violations to \$100, and took measures to provide police officers with the listing of those intersections with the highest counts of red-light runners. In addition, two types of warning signs have been placed around the city noting the “Respect Red Minimum Fine” and “Drive Friendly” to encourage positive driving habits.



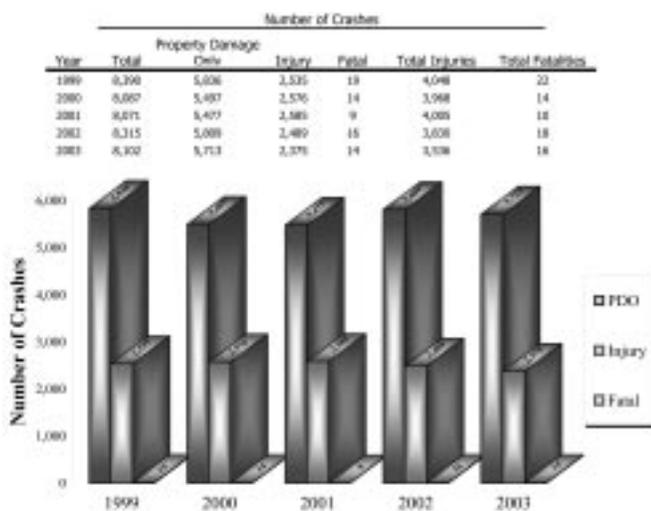
## TOP 15 SIGNALIZED INTERSECTIONS WITH HIGH INCIDENTS OF RIGHT-ANGLE CRASHES IN 2003

Cedarbrook Ave at Chestnut Expy	22
Campbell Ave at JRF WB Ramp	18
Battlefield Rd at Ingram Mill Rd	17
Chestnut Expy at Patterson Ave	17
Grand St at Kimbrough Ave	16
National Ave at Sunset St	15
Battlefield Rd at KMart/Mall Entrance	14
Battlefield Rd at Delaware Ave	14
Campbell Ave at Walnut Lawn St	14
Kansas Expy at I-44 WB Ramp	14
Kansas Expy at Mount Vernon St	13
Kansas Expy at Republic St	13
Cherry St at National Ave	12
Atlantic St & Kansas Expy	11
Benton Ave & Central St	11

**Note:** Right-angle crashes are frequently a result of red-light running. There were 167 injuries as a result of the 221 right-angle crashes reported at these 15 locations.

Source: City of Springfield

## FIVE-YEAR CRASH HISTORY

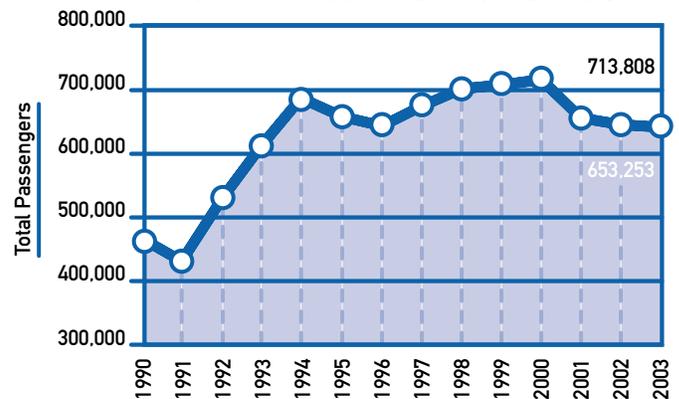


Source: City of Springfield



The Springfield-Branson Regional Airport (SGF) continues to thrive, but has experienced a slight decrease in total passengers since 2000. This decrease is in line with the national trends. Still, SGF has added Delta Connection services to Cincinnati and an additional Northwest Airlinck service to Minneapolis in 2004. The airlines operating at SGF provide Springfield and the surrounding region with easy connections to major hubs in the U.S. and around the world. The terminal building is operating its 10 gates at full capacity, and there are plans to develop a new Midfield Terminal to address the current challenges and ensure growth beyond a 50-year planning period. The ability for SGF to provide our community with quality passenger and cargo services is key to the growth and stability of Springfield's economy.

## TOTAL PASSENGERS FOR SGF



Source: Springfield-Branson Regional Airport

# Public Order and Safety

The people of Springfield and Greene County are fortunate to enjoy the services of dedicated law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency service personnel. The city government has placed public safety as its top priority, and the funding and training programs reflect this dedication. Personal safety is a key element in a community's quality of life.

The Springfield MSA Violent Crime Index and murder rate are below the national average and lower than the rates of many urban areas. Unfortunately, incidences of aggravated assaults, property crimes, burglary, larceny, and theft exceed the national average.

An area of concern is that drug arrests for people under 18 years of age are on the rise. Springfield Chief of Police Lynn Rowe attributes the drug arrests and property crime to increases in the area's growing methamphetamine problem. Chief Rowe notes, "The drug destroys lives, tears families apart, and places a financial and criminal burden upon us all. Property crimes appear to be on the rise, which can be linked directly to the meth problem."

Another alarming statistic for Greene County is the number of offenses against family and children, often an indicator of domestic instability. The domestic violence rate for Greene County is nearly double the rate statewide (Source: Missouri Uniform Crime Reporting Program, 2004).



## COMPARISON DATA

Crime Rates Comparison (crimes per 100,000 people)

	Springfield	MSA National Average
Crime Index	4,893.6	4,118.8
Violent Crime Index	467.0	494.6
Murder	1.8	5.6
Forcible Rape	35.7	33.0
Robbery	72.4	145.9
Aggravated Assault	357.0	310.1
Property Crimes	4,426.7	3,624.1
Burglary	831.9	746.2
Larceny-Theft	3,280.5	2,445.8
Motor Vehicle Theft	314.3	432.1

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Report, 2002

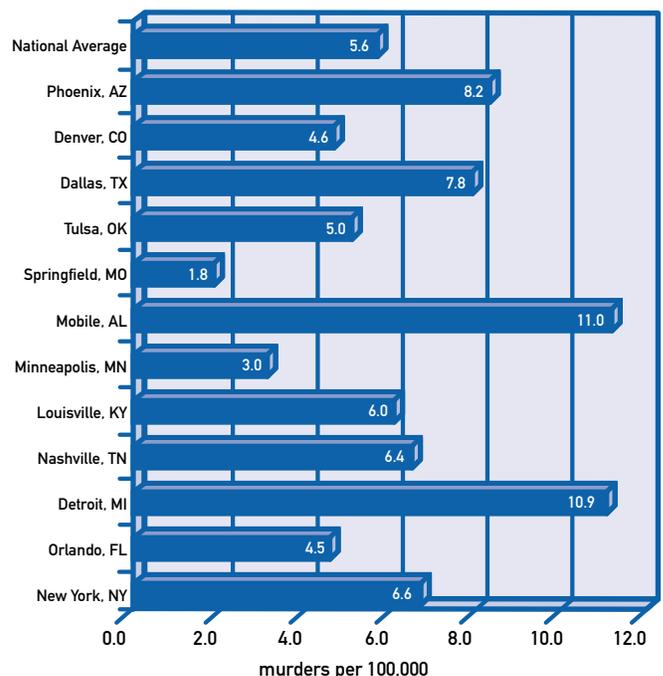
## GREENE COUNTY JUVENILE OFFICE

	2002	5-yr avg.
Intakes	4,513	4,807
% JV cases filed	15.84%	14.15%
Delinquency cases as % of total cases filed	23.22%	26.10%

**LOCAL TREND** Decrease in the number of intakes although the percent of cases filed had slight increase.

Source: Every Kid Counts 2003 Annual Children's Scorecard

## MURDER RATE COMPARISON



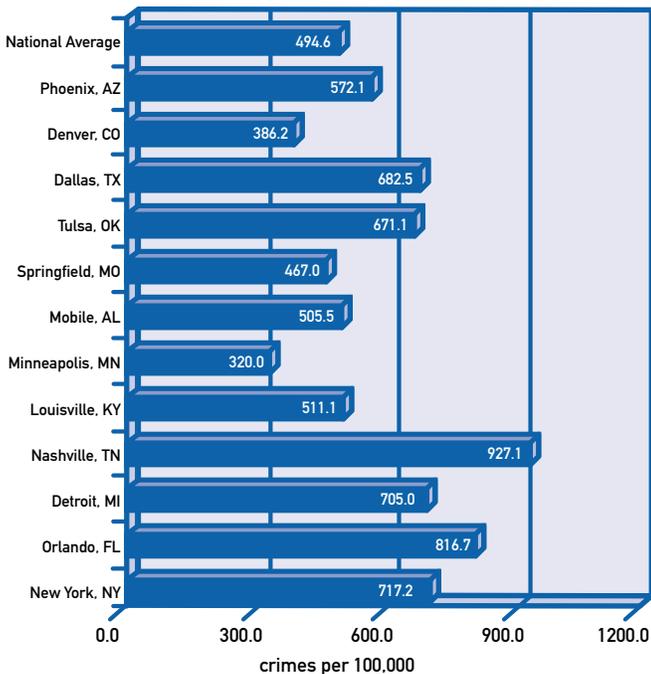
TOTAL CRIMES FOR SPRINGFIELD

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	5-year	Trend
Total Crimes	11313	11523	13351	14141	12066	12478.8	Down
Murder	7	4	4	10	4	5.8	Down
Forcible Rape	56	65	65	60	102	69.6	Up
Robbery	152	124	285	262	222	209	Up
Aggravated Assault	521	359	488	657	733	551.6	Up
Total Crimes Against Persons	735	552	842	989	1061	836	Up
Burglary	1930	1832	2279	2182	1882	2021	Down
Larceny/Theft	7981	8402	9367	10066	8352	8833.6	Down
Motor Vehicle Theft	666	737	863	904	771	788.2	Down
Total Crimes Against Property	10577	10947	12509	13152	11005	11638	Down

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports 2002-1998

Note: Greene County total crime reporting comes under the Missouri Uniform Crime Reporting Program, restructured in 2001; comparative data not available.

VIOLENT CRIME RATE COMPARISON



A STATEMENT FROM CHIEF ROWE

*There are lingering challenges associated with methamphetamine manufacture and use. The drug destroys lives, tears families apart, and places a financial and criminal burden upon us all. Property crimes appear to be on the rise which can be linked directly to the meth problem. The chemicals used to "cook" meth contaminate houses and other places where manufacturing takes place. Far worse, however, is that the cooking of meth sometimes takes place in the presence of children whose health is placed in serious jeopardy through contamination.*



Springfield Police Chief Lynn Rowe

# Citizen Participation

Volunteering and service continue to be a valued part of community life in Springfield and Greene County. The people of Springfield participate in numerous non-profit organizations and philanthropic endeavors. They contribute time, talent, and resources to worthy causes that improve the quality of life for the entire community.

Our community has witnessed an explosion in the nonprofit sector. Springfield has more than 1,000 nonprofit organizations, and these groups play an increasingly important role in providing human services, nurturing young people and enriching our culture. The United Way of the Ozarks, the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, The Junior League, and scores of private foundations provide charitable support in excess of \$8,000,000 per year (Source: Community Foundation of the Ozarks). Volunteerism

is extremely important, the Junior League alone provided over 27,000 hours of service last year.

Voter registration remains strong in Greene County. However, voter turnout tends to fluctuate in accordance with ballot issues. The most recent 2004 Primary election

had a record turnout for an August election of 47% or more than 79,000 voters.

Registered Voters	2002	2004
Greene County	177,086	170,000*

\*This number will increase as the November election approaches.

Population Over 18 in Greene Co. (2000 Census)	187,043
Voted in Presidential Primary Election 2004	36,337
Voted in County Sales Tax Election 2004	35,432
Voted in School Board Election 2003	44,718
Voted in Congressional Election 2002	83,061
Voted in Presidential Election 2000	102,926

(Source: Greene County Clerk)



## United Way of the Ozarks Campaign

Total Amount Raised (Source: United Way of the Ozarks)

2002	2003	2004
\$3,202,163	\$3,305,938	\$3,309,134

## United Way Day of Caring

Companies and Volunteers participating; number of projects

	2001	2002	2003
Companies	93	95	100
Volunteers	1300	1500	1400
Projects	100	102	112

181,964 people were served by United Way of the Ozarks in Greene County in 2002.

## Community Foundation of the Ozarks

### ASSETS

2001	\$38,578,733
2002	\$44,108,976
2003	\$51,061,895
2004	\$71,450,000

*“Make no small plans...”* begins a passage written by Daniel Burnham in 1907 and taken to heart by the hundreds of citizen volunteers who crafted Vision 20/20, the long-range plan for Springfield and Greene County.

The community began working in 1994 to create a comprehensive plan that would be a living document of distinct visions to enhance our quality of life. More than 350 citizens contributed some 25,000 hours to create the original set of recommendations to guide our future; in 2003-04, dozens more spent many hours revisiting Vision 20/20 to create an updated five-year action plan.

The planning covered a variety of areas ranging from transportation and water quality to parks and historic preservation. The Vision 20/20 process spurred a number of significant initiatives, most notably the creation of Jordan Valley Park as the centerpiece of an historic revitalization in Center City. In addition, citizens have supported Vision 20/20 plans with eight successful referendums linked to capital improvements, parks and Jordan Valley Park.

*Key initiatives linked to Vision 20/20 include:*

- Creating a Neighborhood Assessment process that seeks residents’ input on issues affecting their neighborhoods and aggressively taking action on dangerous and abandoned buildings. This initiative is designed particularly to thwart the blight that threatens our urban neighborhoods to maintain a strong core around Center City.
- Developing the innovative partnership between the City and the Missouri Department of Transportation to win voter approval for a 1/8-cent sales tax for transportation that permits major improvements on state roads within the City.
- Using revenue from a special 1/4-cent sales tax for parks approved by voters to build school parks, develop more Greenway trails, acquire major tracts for metropolitan parks, and construct new facilities such as the Doling Family Center and Chesterfield Aquatic Center.
- Developing the Partnership Industrial Center West, working with major institutions to develop master expansion plans and facilitating Center City growth and linkages.



*“Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency.”*

—Daniel Burnham

# Education

Greene County's eight public school systems are facing the same issues that challenge public education on the national level: a stronger demand for accountability, erratic state and local funding, and the volatility that comes from the increased politicization of public education.



Still, unlike other metropolitan areas, Greene County's school systems have not experienced a drastic flight toward private education, and the districts have maintained an overall competence in academic performance.

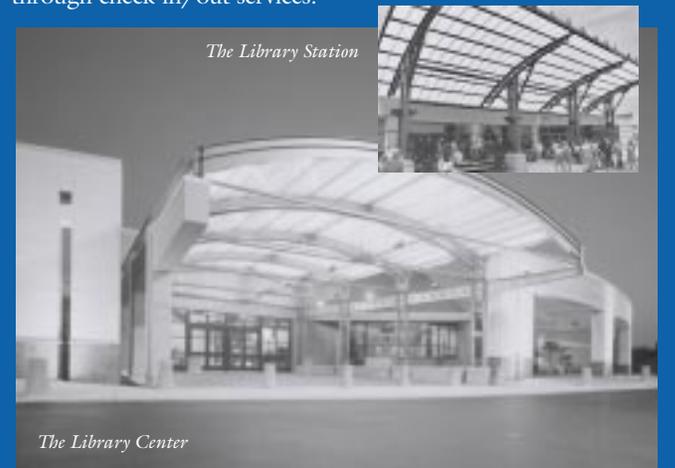
The greatest challenge to Greene County's school districts is remaining competitive in the educational funding arena. Per pupil expenditures are well below the state average, and teachers' salaries also lag considerably. These trends are exacerbated by a steady increase in free and reduced lunch rates, a traditional indicator of the number of economically disadvantaged students. Although Greene County's relatively low cost-of-living impacts school funding comparisons, the gaps between the County's districts and the state average are alarming. This funding shortfall combined with the necessity to combat the effects of poverty will continue to challenge school boards, administrators, and teachers.

Despite the funding hurdles, Springfield and Greene County public school students' overall academic performance is on par with or exceeds state averages. In fact, five Greene County districts have better-than-average dropout rates, and four districts meet or exceed the state average for the ACT. These academic

## LIBRARY SERVICES

The Springfield-Greene County Library District has served the area for more than 100 years, and continues a fine tradition of providing the community with access to information for educational, recreational and business use. In 2003, the district opened its newest branch at 2535 N. Kansas Expressway, and added a new 30-foot, satellite equipped bus for the purpose of bringing computers, storytelling and other services to patrons.

Our public libraries compare favorably to other communities in circulation and numbers of patrons served. The various branches are well suited to facilitate the needs of patrons in new, interactive ways that cater to multiple tastes. Such amenities include Internet access, gift shops, food services, meeting rooms, story times and special programming for children, computer classes, and drive through check-in/out services.



## LIBRARY USE

Comparison Data with similar size communities

	<i>Springfield</i>	<i>Anchorage</i>	<i>Harford County</i>
Annual Visits	1,292,004	865,397	976,524
Total Circulation	2,491,907	1,383,668	2,841,750

successes, in the midst of challenging economic times, are a testimony to the personal dedication of our county's public school teachers and students.

Indicator (2002-2003)	STATE	SGF	Willard	Ash Grove	Fair Grove	LR	Republic	Strafford	Walnut Grove
Total Enrollment	894,029	24,356	3,313	883	1,012	1,883	3,151	1,060	314
Free and Reduced Lunch	39.21%	37.80%	27.95%	31.03%	32.51%	20.20%	29.35	34.30%	38.40%
Student Mobility	28.70%	19.90%	14.50%	16.90%	20.70%	20.10%	23.70%	9.80%	N/A
Pupil/Teacher Ratio	18	20	18	18	20	21	21	17	16
Avg. Total Teacher Salary	\$39,293	\$37,321	\$35,546	\$33,622	\$34,918	\$32,816	\$36,955	\$35,263	\$32,811
Total Dropout Rate	3.38%	4.59%	3.43%	2.44%	2.42%	2.06%	2.70%	2.89%	9.80%
ACT-Graduate Scoring at or Above Nat'l Avg	33.90%	38.00%	30.30%	28.60%	29.60%	45.50%	33.90%	42.90%	33.30%

*Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.*

**SELECTED MISSOURI SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
2002 – 2003 PER PUPIL  
EXPENDITURES (ADA)\***

State Average	\$7,345
Parkway	\$8,114
Columbia	\$7,815
Independence	\$7,814
Camdenton	\$6,815
Jefferson City	\$6,750
Raytown	\$6,701
St. Joseph	\$6,232
Springfield	\$6,222
Joplin	\$5,746

\*ADA refers to per pupil expenditure based on Average Daily Attendance.

**PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER 18  
RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS**

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Missouri	21.8%	22.0%	23.9%	25.9%
Greene Co.	21.2%	21.6%	24.7%	27.0%

Source: Missouri Kids Count, 2003

# Recreation, Sports and Leisure



Springfield and Greene County embrace participatory and competitive athletics. In 2003, Springfield was named Missouri's Sportstown U.S.A. by *Sports Illustrated Magazine*. This achievement reflects the success of an outstanding Park Board. The Springfield-Greene County Parks and Recreation District strives to maintain the balance of competitive and recreational programs, free and paid facilities,

and meeting needs with available resources. All of these aspects come together to form one of the best parks and recreation systems in the state and nation.

The City of Springfield has a lot to offer sports fans through such facilities as the Cooper Tennis Complex, home of the Lasers. This 23-court complex has hosted local, state, regional, and national USTA competitions on an annual basis. In 2000, this facility was recognized as the #1 public tennis facility in the country. In addition, the city has a public championship 18-hole golf course, and recently the new John Q. Hammons Field opened to host the SMS Bears baseball program. This state-of-the-art \$32 million ballpark is slated to host a minor-league team, and is integral to the Center City development.



The City of Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board have worked extensively to develop Jordan Valley Park (home to the Jordan Valley Ice Park), the new Expo Center



and the newly developed Founders Park. All of these programs have been developed as a major planning priority of the City Council. The City's commitment to providing top-notch sports and leisure amenities allows our community to boast some of the finest parks in the state and nation.



## DATA

Park Acreage	2000+ acres
Number of Parks	65
Parks expenditure/cap (25,000,000/151,580)	\$164.93
Parks Operating Budget	25,000,000
Parks Capital Budget	7,000,000

## Sports Venues and Participant Information

Golf	120,000 rounds of golf are played per year
Tennis	20,000 hours of court times booked annually
Softball	5,000 people participate each week on 450 teams
Baseball	2,500 children play each week on 220 teams
Community Family Centers	Over 7,000 are members of family centers; over 60,000 people purchase daily passes
Indoor/Outdoor Swimming	60,000 participate annually
Zoo	160,000 people attend the Dickerson Park Zoo annually
Ice Park	200,000 attend skating functions each year
Skatepark	20,000 participants annually



Park/Location	Baseball	Basketball	Food Concession	Grills	Horseshoes	Ice Skating	Lake or Pond	Picnic Area	Playground	Recreation Center	Rest Rooms	Shelters	Soccer	Softball (lighted)	Swimming	Tennis Courts	Trails
<b>Springfield Parks</b>																	
Champion/W. Downing at Grant				•			•	•									•
Cherokee School/5241 S. Holland								•									•
Chesterfield Park & Family Center/2511 W. Republic		•						•	•	•	•				•		•
Cooper/2300-2700 E. Pythian	★			•				•	•		•	•	•			•	•
Cowden/Battlefield & Kimbrough									•								
Dickerson Park & Zoo/1400 W. Norton Street			•	•			•	•	•		•	•					
Doling Park & Centers/2600 N. Campbell			•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•
Edna Norris/2056 S. Moore Road									•								
Eugene Field/2120 Baratara									•								
Fassnight/S. Campbell & Meadowmere		•	•	•				•	•		•	•		•	•		
George Washington Carver/500 S. Belview																	•
Gillenwaters Tennis Complex/3635 S. Jefferson									•		•					•	•
Glenwood/Cedarbrook & E. Trafficway	•	•		•				•	•							•	•
Grant Beach/N. Grant & Lynn	•	•	•	•				•	•		•	•			•	•	
Hartman/Del Prado Hills Subdivision									•	•							
Hawthorn/815 S. Market									•	•		•					
James Ewing Sports Complex/Scenic & Bennett	•	•	•	•				•	•		•			•		•	
Jenny Lincoln Park & Center/Jefferson & Harrison				•	•			•	•							•	
Jordan Valley Parks/635 & 735 E. Trafficway						•											•
Killian Sports Complex/2141 E. Pythian				•						•			•				
Kirkwood/Glendale & Seminole	•							•	•		•						
L.A. Wise/3100 W. Nichols									•								
LaFayette/2100 N. Boonville	•			•				•	•		•					•	
Living Memorial/4405 S. Glenstone				•				•	•		•	•					
McBride School/Golden & Weaver								•	•								•
McDaniel/National & Sunset									•								
McGregor School/W. Madison									•	•							•
Meador/2500 S. Fremont	★	•	•	•				•	•		•		•	•		•	
Miles/2000 E. Cherry								•	•		•						
Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial/2400 S. Scenic				•				•	•		•	•					
Nichols/1900 W. Nichols	★	•						•	•		•	•		•		•	
Oak Grove Park & Center/1538 S. Oak Grove				•				•	•	•	•						
O'Reilly-Tefft Gymnasium/1408 E. Pythian										•	•						
Overhill/1100 S. Overhill Road	•	•											•				
Parkwood/2600 N. Barnes				•				•	•								
Phelps Grove/800-1200 E. Bennett				•				•	•		•	•				•	•
Ray Kelly Park & Center/2225 S. Fremont								•	•	•	•						
Ritter Springs/State Highway 13 North				•	•		•	•	•		•	•					
Sanford/Battlefield & Franklin									•								
Sequiota/3500 Lone Pine								•	•		•	•					
Silver Springs/1100 N. Hampton		•	•	•	•			•	•		•	•	•			•	•
Smith/1536 E. Division Street		•	•	•	•			•	•		•	•				•	•
Truman School/Vernon and Stoneridge		•						•			•		•				•
Washington/1600 Summit								•	•		•	•					
Watkins/2100 W. High		•	•	•	•			•	•		•	•				•	•
Westport/3100 Mt. Vernon	•		•					•	•		•	•		•	•	•	
Youngs/Chestnut Expressway & York Avenue								•	•								
Zagonyi/Mt. Vernon & Park Avenue				•	•			•	•		•					•	

★ Lighted Field/Court

# Community Wellness

The Springfield community and economy owe much of their robust health to the city's medical arts. Six area hospitals, more than 800 physicians and an array of clinics provide care in every American Medical Association specialty. Springfield's health care industry employs 20,000 people with an economic impact of nearly \$3 billion annually.

Springfield's "Medical Mile" is home to two of the nation's top integrated health care networks—CoxHealth and St. John's Health System—numerous outpatient surgical centers, mental health facilities, home health care services, long-term nursing facilities, and health information and education resources. State-of-the-art technology and compassionate care combine to make Springfield a regional hub for health care.

Pre-med programs at Drury, Evangel and SMSU as well as SMSU's Ozark Public Health Institute, add to the overall health care culture. In addition, the Springfield/Greene County Health Department is widely recognized as an innovative public health organization.

Unfortunately, this wealth of medical resources is not available to all our citizens. According to a 2004 Advocates for a Healthy Community, Inc., report, many low-income people lack access to necessary dental and health care. Another major problem in our community is child abuse rates that are nearly double the state average.



## Red Flag: Access to Dental Care

According to Advocates for a Healthy Community, Inc., access to dental care, particularly for Medicaid-insured children, is extremely limited. Dental services in Greene County are provided by 120.8 FTE dentists (1:1990) for the general population. However, for the poor (those covered by Medicaid, uninsured and in poverty) the FTE is 4.2 for a ratio of 1:29,012. HRSA has identified Greene County as short 14.6 FTE dentists to provide services to low-income patients.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT CARD

### Health

	Greene Co. 2002	5 yr. mean	Trend	Missouri
Low Birth Weight	6.7	5.9	NC	8.1
Mothers as Medicaid Participants (as a percent of total live births)	49.6	45.5	UP	44.3
First Trimester Prenatal Care	88.9	89.0	NC	86
Births to Mothers Under 18 (as a percent of total live births)	4.4	4.1	UP	4.7
Mothers Smoking During Pregnancy (as a percent of pregnant women)	19.2	19.2	NC	18.1
 Child Abuse and Neglect (rate per 1000 children)	11.4	14.3	Down	6.9
Immunization Rate (percentage of children, public clinics)	92.2	91.6	NC	77.8
Infant Death (per 1000 live births)	7.5	7.0	UP	8.5
Communicable Disease (incidence per 100,000 population)				
Gonorrhea	96.6	67.0	UP	160.0
Tuberculosis	2.9	4.2	Down	2.4
HIV	11.5	6.7	UP	5.6
Deaths (crude rate, per 100,000 population)				
Cardiovascular Disease	350.1	389.4	Down	352.2
Lung Cancer	61.2	72.6	Down	62.9
Breast Cancer	16.0	14.6	UP	14.7
Motor Vehicle Crashes	16.8	15.7	UP	20.5
Suicide	14.0	13.0	UP	12.0
Children Receiving Serious Emotional Disturbance Mental Health Services	3.8%		UP	2.6%

(Source: Springfield Greene County Health Dept 2004 Community Health Report Card, except for the child mental health statistic which is from Missouri Kids Count 2003 Data Book reporting 2002 Data.)

**Strengths:** Decreases in deaths from cardiovascular disease and lung cancer. Decrease in child abuse and neglect statistic but it's still much higher than the state number. Child immunization rates remain much higher than the state.

**Weaknesses:** Communicable diseases, HIV and gonorrhea are up. Infant deaths have increased. Breast cancer, motor vehicle deaths, and suicide are all up as well. Mothers as Medicaid recipients and mothers under 18 years old have increased.

*Source: Springfield/Greene County Health Department*

# Natural Environment

The people of Springfield and Greene County are fortunate to enjoy the natural beauty of the Ozarks. Our natural environment is a mixture of green, rolling hills to heavily forested, low mountain country. This diverse landscape comes together as a unique blend of scenery, which is an attraction to visitors and residents alike.



The 2003 Environmental Health Report Card indicates that Springfield's air currently meets air quality standards. The air quality in our city is currently "in attainment" of

the national ambient air levels for ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter. Advancements in emission controls on vehicles and stationary pollution sources of all kinds have led to significant improvements in our air quality. These improvements allow citizens of Springfield and Greene County to enjoy healthy air.

The water quality in Springfield's natural environment gives cause for concern. Rainwater runoff combined with the use of nitrogen rich fertilizers and other chemicals have made their way into surrounding streams. Currently, our waterways have elevated levels of mercury and nitrate. Hazardous waste disposal continues to pose challenges.



Springfield and Greene County have a number of groups working to promote environmental stewardship. Ozark Greenways, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and the James River Basin Partnership work hand-in-hand with public agencies to promote a clean and healthy environment.

## OZARKS GREENWAYS

*"Ozarks Greenways, working to bring nature back into Springfield Recreation"*



One unique aspect of the Springfield environment is the work of the Ozarks Greenways. Ozarks Greenways is a non-profit

group of private citizens in the greater Springfield Area who are working to preserve and enhance the Ozarks' natural heritage for public use and enjoyment. This group works closely with private landowners, developers, and governmental entities to make greenways a reality. These greenways are linear parks, which preserve undeveloped ribbons of natural habitat, usually through urban areas. Greenways typically follow stream corridors or abandoned railroad rights-of-way. Hard surfaced paths with minimal grade have been provided for the community with access for walkers, runners, bicyclists, in-line skaters, wheelchairs, and baby strollers.



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT CARD

Greene County 2002

5 - Year Mean

Trend

NA - Not Available    NC - No Change

## WATER

Greene County Private Well Testing (% testing safe)	56	58	Down
E.Coli Testing in Streams and Rivers (% testing safe)	63	NA	NA
Water Quality			
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l)	6.3	NA	NA
E Coli (cfu/100ml)	50	NA	NA
Nitrate-Nitrogen(mg/l)	5.2	NA	NA
Mercury in Fish Tissue (ppb)			
Fellows Lake 2001	115	NA	NA
Community Well Chemistry (nitrates mg/l)	0.19	0.15	Up
Boil Orders Issued in Community/Public Wells (governed by DNR)	2	3.4	Down
Groundwater levels	+3.25 ft. or 1% increase		NA

## COMMUNITY HEALTH

Greene County Giardiasis Case Rate	16	13.5	Up
Elevated Blood Lead (% of total tested < age 6)	3	1.8	Up
Food Service Inspections (% citing no critical violation 2001-02)	66	NA	NA
Animal Bite Rate (per 100,000 population 2001-02)	112.8	125.2	Down
Miles of Trail Added	1	NA	Up
Urban Ecosystem Analysis	Data Pending		
Park Land Added (acres)	156.4	NA	NA

## SOLIDWASTE/ RECYCLING

Household Hazardous Waste (HHHW Total Lbs. Disposed of/Recycled 2001-2002)	99,078	89,115	Up
Percent of HHHW recycled 2001-2002	80	1.4	NC
Recycled Material at City Collection Sites (Tons)	3397.68	3383.8	NC

## AIR QUALITY

Carbon Monoxide (ppm)		EPA Standards		
2nd Max 1-hr	35	5	5	NC
2nd Max 8-hr	9	3.3	3.46	NC
Nitrogen Dioxide (ppm)				
Annual Mean	0.053	0.011	0.012	NC
PM10 (ug/m3)				
2nd Max 24-hr	150	46	38.4	Up
Annual Mean	50	18	18.5	NC
PM2.5 (ug/m3)				
Annual Mean	15	12.7	NA	NC
24-hr Max	65	28	NA	NC
Sulfur Dioxide (ppm)				
2nd Max 24-hr	0.14	0.041	0.048	Down
Annual Mean	0.03	0.004	.004	NC
Ozone				
2nd Max 1-hr	0.12	0.089	.092	NC

## POPULATION

Greene County Population Projections	243,355	240,325	Up
Greene County Single Family Housing Permits Issued	1,051	909	Up

# Arts and Culture

The Springfield area has a strong artistic and cultural heritage. The Landers Theatre is Missouri's oldest and largest civic theater, and it remains an integral part of the community today. Visibly strengthening the city landscape, the Landers continues to serve as an anchor for Center City redevelopment. Southwest Missouri State University's Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts is a premier facility rarely found in communities of Springfield's size.

As a university town, Springfield benefits from the rich artistic and cultural life associated with three prominent campuses, all with strong visual and performing arts programs.



Strengthened through a spirit of volunteerism and excellent leadership, Springfield has a community theater, symphony, opera, ballet, museums, and many visual arts organizations.

Springfield's arts and cultural organizations employ more than 70 individuals and hire hundreds of contracted artists, stage workers and professionals.

These programs are fueled by tremendous volunteer assistance, with more than 600 volunteers per year.

Increased financial support is critical for the continuance and stability of Springfield's arts and cultural programs. Corporate and business support accounts for less than 1 percent of arts revenues. State support is minimal. These low levels of support are destabilizing and speak to the importance of building endowments, cash reserves, and enhanced



Springfield Art Museum

## Springfield's Established Arts Organizations

Springfield Art Museum	Established 1928
Springfield Ballet	Established 1976
Springfield Little Theater Org.	Established 1934
Springfield Regional Opera	Established 1979
Springfield Symphony	Established 1934



Springfield Little Theater

revenues for the purpose of sustaining arts and culture in the Greene County area.

An Arts Patronage Initiative is a project committed to addressing the issue of sustainability for the arts. Located in the historic "Creamery" building in Jordan Valley Park, the Initiative is educating arts patrons on the importance of resource development, planned giving and regional cooperation.

Data	2003
Number of People employed in the arts	71
Number of Arts and Cultural Organizations	43
Number of People Served by Local Arts and Cultural Orgs	228,692
Number of Museums	3
Number of Local Festivals	12
Number of Organizations Offering Art/Dance/Music/Theater Schools	7
Budget Springfield Regional Arts Council (SRAC)	\$211,000
Number of Members/Donors or SRAC	135
Arts Council Activities Attendance est.	96,900
Springfield Art Museum Attendance	39,329
Number of Volunteers at Arts Related Events	611

(Source: Springfield Regional Arts Council/Cultural Plan)



# Community Focus

[www.SpringfieldCommunityFocus.org](http://www.SpringfieldCommunityFocus.org)

*Designed and produced by Schilling/Sellmeyer & Associates*

This project completed with support from the following organizations:

*Community Foundation of the Ozarks*

*Junior League of Springfield*

*Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce*

*Springfield-Greene County Library District*

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Steering Committee

*Jim Anderson*

*Kevin Gipson*

*Dave Roling*

*Harold Bengsch*

*Melissa Haddow*

*John Rush*

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*Susie Henry*

*Randy Russell*

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*Sandy Howard*

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*Marci Bowling*

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*Denise Bredfeldt*

*Jim Johnson*

*Maura Taylor*

*Annie Busch*

*Arthur Mallory*

*Paul Thomlinson*

*Brian Fogle*

*Sylvia Persky*

*Carol Williamson*

*Gary Funk*

*Todd Richardson*

*Lloyd Young*

*Jim Rives*

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