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## COMMUNITY FOCUS 2007

*A Report for Springfield and Greene County*

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The 2007 Community Focus report is a summary of information compiled by many individuals and subcommittees (see back cover for a list of those people). Additional information, data and sources are available on a website dedicated to this report.

Please visit:

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Springfield/Greene County is a unique community. We are fortunate to have so many strong, forward-thinking leaders willing to once again commit to the report card concept with *Community Focus 2007: A Report for Springfield and Greene County*.

Our community's willingness to take a candid look at its strengths as well as its weaknesses sets us apart.

We know that this area is a great place to live but we also know that we have challenges. We're not afraid to identify these challenges and then work together to overcome them.

As in the 2004 and 2005 reports, this 2007 report assigns a red flag to the growing number of children living in poverty, indicating an area that demands our attention. Our community's response to this challenge has been outstanding. Many individuals and organizations have committed financial resources and volunteer time to address the red flags. This collaboration and commitment reflect one of our strengths as a community: our ability to work together.

Many community volunteers have served on the steering committee and subcommittees. They, along with our financial supporters—Community Foundation of the Ozarks, Junior League of Springfield, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Springfield-Greene County Library District and United Way of the Ozarks—have worked diligently to produce this report. The identified benchmarks in this report allow the community to measure the impact of our financial commitment, volunteer time and other resources on changing the identified red flags over time.

I have been part of the Community Report Card since its beginning in 2003 and would like to thank the many volunteers who committed their time to this project. Like them, I believe this report can make a difference. Many of us feel that if citizens are made aware of our challenges, they will step forward with resources and volunteer time. They have!

Our community is moving toward the goal of making ours a "great community" for all its members. Together, we continue to make a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maura Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

**Maura Taylor**, Chair  
Community Focus Steering Committee