

# Springfield and Greene County

*Community Focus: A Report for Springfield and Greene County* is a collaborative project that provides our community the opportunity to reflect on its strengths and weaknesses. The previous three reports have identified areas of success and challenges facing Springfield-Greene County. Since 2004, reports have produced meaningful action in terms of resources, volunteer commitment and grants as a response for those areas needing our attention.

This year is special as it serves as the fifth anniversary of the *Community Focus* report. Therefore, the primary goal of the 2009 *Community Focus* is to identify red flags from the 2004, 2005 and 2007 reports, provide trends and current indicators of those red flags, and discuss any progress made to address the red flags since originally identified. In addition, the report provides a brief review of community strengths (blue ribbons) acknowledged in previous reports. A new element presented in this year's report are issues identified as potential future challenges for Springfield-Greene County referred to as emerging issues.

Over the past year all eyes and ears in this community, the nation and around the world have been focused on headlines reminding us of the unprecedented economic conditions we are experiencing. Although the 2009 report recognizes the resilience of our community, the effects of the recent economic climate are clear and often referred to throughout the report. Therefore, at times, information in this report should be understood in terms of recent resource constraints.

While we are new to the *Community Focus* report, there are many volunteers who have come back again to work on this valuable project by serving on the steering committee or subcommittees. These volunteers and community leaders are some of the brightest, most passionate and caring people in

their fields who are truly committed to moving our community from good to great. In addition, we wish to thank 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—for making this project possible.

We believe *Community Focus* is being used to reflect on our community and good things are happening. The 2009 report will reveal continued progress and new initiatives developed to address red flags. Together we can, and we are, making a difference. This ongoing reflection is essential for a community that is truly committed to a better future for its citizens.

Sincerely,



Jill Reynolds, CFP  
Chair, *Community Focus*  
Steering Committee



Cristina Gilstrap, Ph.D.  
Facilitator, *Community Focus*

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## Community Focus 2009

*A Report for Springfield and Greene County*

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### For More Information:

The 2009 *Community Focus* report is a summary of information compiled by many individuals and subcommittees (see back cover for 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).