

2015 Progress Report

583,437	<i>Estimate of total people touched by Character Council messages</i>
51,792	<i>Students reached through our work with their schools and educators</i>
65,109	<i>Adults and students who receive character quality of the month messages</i>
498,797	<i>Estimated reach of positive character messages through the media</i>
1,949	<i>Youth and adults engaged in our seminars and events</i>

EDUCATION: The Character Council provides educators with resources for creating a positive and safe learning environment and helping students succeed.

- **Training:** The Council facilitates dynamic workshops which provide inspiration, tools and



best practices in effective character education. In 2015, workshops were conducted for Parkway Schools in Rockford, OH, Centerville Schools in Centerville, OH, St. Joseph Orphanage in Cincinnati, Lakota Ridge Junior School in West Chester, and for students at Ivy Tech College in Lawrenceburg and Miami University Regional Campuses.

- **Character Lessons and Activities for Youth:** Each month, our

volunteer Jill Tomey creates a bulletin with quotes, activities, lessons, and reading lists for the character quality of the month. These free bulletins help over 1300 educators integrate character lessons into classroom activities with minimal time and effort.

- **School Partners:** We continue to partner with 23 local schools, 2 school districts, and one college who have made a commitment to character education. Schools report a more positive and caring school climate, fewer discipline incidents, and higher staff morale.

- **National and State School of Character Awards:** The Character Council sponsors the Ohio and Kentucky State School of Character Awards in collaboration with Character.org of Washington, DC. In October the Council participated in their National Forum in Atlanta.



FAITH: The Character Council partners with faith-based organizations to promote and encourage character growth.

- **Training:** The Council provided “Success through Integrity” workshops for displaced women through a partnership with The Lord Reigns and Marie Emma Transitional House. We also facilitated a Leadership seminar for ministers of Hope for You Church.
- **Faith-based Resources:** The Character Council continued to add to its web-based faith resources by publishing Faith Builder bulletins and Power Point presentations for the character quality of the month.



BUSINESS: We continue to provide training and consulting to businesses and non-profits, helping employees grow strong and creating positive, ethical work climates.

- **Business of Character:** Currently seven organizations remain committed to the “Business of Character” process: RiskSource Insurance Agency, The HealthCare Connection, Bressler & Company, Advantage RN, Hamilton Caster, the City of Lawrenceburg, and the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance. Businesses report improved morale, less conflict, and more teamwork as a result of the process. In addition, the University of Cincinnati Clermont and Deltec, Inc. hosted character training for their employees in 2015.



- **Strata Leadership Training:** In September, we formed a partnership with Strata Leadership of Oklahoma City (formerly Character First) to become certified as an Associate trainer. Four new topics are available: *Time Management; Communication and Listening Skills; Setting and Reaching Goals; and Building Teamwork.*

COMMUNITY: Through our website, emails, and presentations in the community, we helped raise greater awareness of character and provided a pathway for growth.

- **Character Quality of the Month Messages:** 2,057 individuals receive positive reminders through character quality of the month emails. Through our partners, another 65,109 receive quality of the month messages, providing a consistent pathway to growth and success.
- **Website and Social Media:** This year over 71,000 people visited our site from around the globe. Social media postings reached at least another 3,000.
- **Communities of Character Movement:** Steering committees in West Chester/ Liberty Township, Southeast Indiana, and the city of Hamilton continue to lead the "Community of

Character" movement making connections to local business, education, faith, and community leaders. Community highlights:

SE Indiana: The Council received a \$5,000 grant from the Dearborn Community Foundation to support "Creating a Culture of Integrity" open workshops for community leaders. Fifty representatives of various organizations in SE Indiana engaged in two dynamic seminars.

Hamilton: The "City of Character" Coalition continues to create awareness for character in the Hamilton community through a partnership with Project Civility of Miami University, a speaker's bureau, and participation in community events such as the July 4th parade. Banners displaying five traits were hung downtown during the summer.



West Chester/Liberty Townships: Lakota students are recognized each month for character through a unique partnership between Lakota schools, Cox Media, and the West Chester and Liberty township administrators. RiskSource, West Chester Hospital, and the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance sponsored open character seminars in which 30 business and community leaders participated.



- **Character Awareness Presentations:** During the year, Character Council trainers and volunteers provided presentations to the following groups: Hamilton Ministerial Association, Ohio Staffing and Search Association; Hamilton Rotary; Altrusa International of Hamilton; Eve Center; Interact for Health; and Ohio Criminal Justice Center of Excellence.

MISSION, VISION, GOALS, AND VOLUNTEERS

Mission

To foster character development in children and adults as a foundation for success.

The Need

Surveys show that most Americans feel there is a need in our country for a higher level of character, integrity, and civility. To change the country, we have to start at the community level.

Vision

By promoting excellence in character, we are working to establish “Communities of Character” across Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and Southeastern Indiana. Businesses, schools, government agencies, faith organizations, and the media are working together to promote and encourage good character.

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