

# New Nonprofit Collaborative Will Share Planning, Resources

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Four nonprofit organizations will coordinate and share core operational functions and leverage each other's programs to better meet the needs of children and families they serve in the Kalamazoo area.

Their new collaborative, Hub ONE, has received a three-year, \$8.3 million grant from the Stryker Johnston Foundation to launch the initiative. Hub ONE comprises the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo, Prevention Works, Urban Alliance and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Each will remain an independent organization with its own identity.

The work will begin immediately and will be evaluated independently.

The long-term goals of Hub ONE include:

- The creation of a shared-service delivery model to address intergenerational poverty and the unique challenges faced by individuals and families served by these organizations;
- More effective use of community resources, achieving cost reductions through shared functions and responsibilities, economies of scale and less turnover of personnel;
- Increased professional development attained through collective hiring, training and retention efforts based on best practices; and
- More comprehensive care for individuals and families achieved through a holistic approach to the delivery of services.

“Our stakeholders have been clear that they want a larger share of nonprofit dollars to go toward impact,” said Danielle Sielatycki, CEO of Prevention Works. “Our intention is to move from a scarcity mindset that pervades our nonprofit sector to one of effectiveness.”

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“Sharing resources,” says Luke Kujacznski, Executive Director at Urban Alliance, “gives us the opportunity to be clear about the very direct and personal work that our impacted families need. We’re looking for Hub ONE to become a proving ground for more impactful service.”

Hub ONE will not be a new, independent nonprofit organization. The specific initiatives of the collaborative will be guided by the four organizations’ chief executives in cooperation with their boards of directors, other nonprofit organizations, donors and community partners.

Human resources, information technology, professional development and accounting are among the functions being built into the infrastructure of the new collaborative.

“We need to shift our focus,” said Amy Kuchta, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters. “Bringing the true purpose of our organizations to the forefront of our daily work creates an opportunity to be more intentional about the way we serve those in need.”

The shared-service delivery model, Kuchta said, will feature a “navigational” element to locate and coordinate community services for individuals and families. “For instance, at Big Brothers Big Sisters we provide mentoring, but a young person we’re serving, or his or her family member, could very well use the tools and services of other organizations.”

That navigational approach, said Sielatycki, is at the heart of an individual-guided, family-driven planning process that drives positive outcomes.

Each of the four organizations is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit with an independent, community-based board of directors.

Prevention Works, with a 14-person staff and a Health Empowerment Team of more than 75 part-time facilitators, provides prevention programs to youth and families; collects, analyzes and

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reports local data on substance abuse, violence and social emotional health; and coordinates, develops and manages community networks.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo, with a staff of 33 and three local units, is dedicated to ensuring that the youth in Kalamazoo have a safe place to go, access to quality programs and services that enhance their lives and shape their futures.

Urban Alliance works in neighborhoods with a staff of 16, helping individuals move toward self-sufficiency through the development of necessary life and employability skills and job placement assistance.

Big Brothers Big Sisters, with a staff of 24, provides one-on-one mentoring programs that support youth to achieve their full potential.

Normal operational and program funding of each of the four organizations will continue, as will their programs. “This isn’t a replacement organization. It isn’t a merger,” said Matt Lynn, Chief Professional Officer at Boys & Girls Clubs. “Hub ONE is both a practical solution to the daily challenges we face and a strategic approach to addressing larger community issues. Cooperation and communication will be key.”

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