

## Safe Community Shoufeng



Country: Taiwan

Number of inhabitants: 19,295

Programme started year: 2006

International Safe Communities Network Membership: 147

Designation year: 2008

**The programme covers the following safety promotion activities:**

### **For age groups**

We have planned initiatives according to health and safety needs of all age groups, and focus on how to make every resident understand the concept of safety promotion and injury prevention and actively participate in *Shou-Feng* community safety promotion program.

### **Children 0-14 years:**

#### *1. Infant and preschooler (0~6 years)*

Safety brochures regarding Infant and preschool children's safety were delivered to care-givers, while they took their children to health station for the following checkups:

- (1) Hearing test for child aged 4.
- (2) Visual Acuity for child aged 5.
- (3) Developmental Delay screening for infant aged 3 months and 15 days to child aged 3 yrs and half.

#### *2. Children (7~14years)*

Cooperating with World Vision and Yonglin Education Foundation, we offer after-school childcare & learning program for school children, especially those from single parent family which accounts for 40% of the families in Shoufeng Township.

### **Youth 15-24 years:**

- To keep the teenagers away from fighting and drugs, we provide an educational program to gang the youngsters as a service team to participate in the public environment cleaning, caring for elders who live alone and supporting the community activities.
- To prevent sports injuries, we integrated safe sports education into the youth basketball games.

### **Adults 25-64 years:**

For adulthood safety promotion, our program focused on farming safety and suicide prevention.

- To promote toxin free agriculture and tool handling safety.
- Integrating local resources to create local jobs for reducing emigration and family problems.
- To ally Health Center and Hualian Armed Forces General Hospital to provide free physical examination and psychological counseling for adults above 45 years.

### **Elderly 65+ years:**

In Shoufeng Township, 16.09% of the population are elderly. We provided following programs for their safety:

#### *1. Free meal and home safety improvement and maintenance service for elderly living alone:*

The program was supported by one of our coalition, Mennonite Social Welfare Foundation.

#### *2. Fall prevention:*

Through training courses provided by Public Health Center, 30 instructors were able to help our senior citizens to practice balance activities everyday at home.

#### *3. Medication safety:*

Cooperating with Mennonite Christian Hospital, a health education program regarding medication safety was delivered to every household with elderly.

### **At the following environments:**

#### **Schools**

Injuries occurred in schools are mainly caused by sport activities. Warm-up exercise and other sport safety courses are emphasized at every elementary and high school. In addition, every school also

1. establish a network that consists of neighbors, family members and school teachers for guiding students to engaged in proper leisure activities and friendships.
2. assign a person to be responsible for inspecting the safety of school facilities and reporting on things need to be repaired or improved.

#### **Water**

The plentiful water resources of Shoufeng attract crowds of people to play in the brooks between June and August. Hidden vortexes and sudden water level rising causes some accidents every year. In addition to hold water safety education and assign more manpower to guard key areas, we also

1. Put water safety promotion posters on the wall of every village's gathering place.
2. Work with local media, radio station and newspapers, to call attention to keep out of dangerous water areas.
3. Work with local police station to enforce laws in banning residents and tourists to get into dangerous water areas.



## **Roads**

Road traffic accidents are a major cause of injuries in this township. Speeding, drunk driving, neglecting traffic rules, and poor road facilities and conditions are related factors. We have increased road safety education, enforced the law, and improved facilities on the road and found some improvement. We will sustain to promote road traffic safety by

1. Installing warning signs and safety facilities on sites that accidents occurred most and at community crossroads.
2. Enforcing the law for speeding, drunk driving and other regulation-breaking behaviors.
3. Holding seminars on Road safety in the universities, and plan a more effective improvement strategies.
4. supervising grit trucks to use special path.

## **For high risk groups and environments:**

In addition to living-alone elderly, single-parent and grandparents-raised children, foreign spouses and economically disadvantaged families are also the target groups of our high risk group program. We set up service points for new immigrants to learn Taiwanese culture and custom in daily life; and we provide material assistance and referral service for disadvantaged families.



Besides high risk traffic sites and high risk water area, abandoned houses and courtyards are also considered as high risk places where alcoholics and gamblers like to gather and snakes like to harbor. We went through all kinds of channels to find the owners and asked them to sign the agreement on lending the places for public use. Then we gathered volunteers to turn those places into public meeting rooms and gardens. Now, through the effort made by stakeholders in this community, some good outcomes have been achieved. However, we will continue to improve our service in the following ways:

1. Enhance volunteer training in special services for elderly and vulnerable groups.
2. Setting up a reporting system for living alone elderly.
3. Setting up a surveillance system for high risk traffic sites.
4. Setting up warning signs and surveillance reporting system for landslide suspected area.

## **Injury Surveillance**

We set up an injury data collection and analysis center which works closely with local schools, police station, health center, fire brigade and household registration office. We also set 5 community

injury registration sites to collect injury data in detail of when, what and how the injury occurred. Injury data are compiled and analyzed monthly. In 2007, we build a GIS system to assist in identifying high risk places and even high risk individuals.

With the support of our coalition members, we expect to move further:

1. To get professional help in linking the data from different sources and GIS system.
2. To provide information to stakeholders in a more effective way for devising better injury prevention strategies.
3. To broaden data collection to all 15 villages of Shoufeng Township.

### **Future prospective for all age groups and environments:**

All present programs will be continued, and we will also focus on the following tasks,

1. From 2008 to 2010, we will train 10 more volunteers of all ages in each village.
2. Household survey will be held to find out hidden needs for safety promotion projects.
3. To encourage schools within Shou-Feng community to include safety education and trainings as part of school curriculum.
4. To promote pesticide-free planting comprehensively, not only in farming but also in gardening.
5. To conduct a comprehensive survey regarding the safety of public facilities and make short, mid and long term improvement plans accordingly.
6. To Recruit 20 more volunteers to support the urgent tasks.
7. To enhance our volunteer worker's mobility and maintenance skills for safer environment of the community.
8. To promote the concept of green and safe in environmental change as well as behavioral change.

### **Vision of ShouFeng Safe Community:**

- **Continually fostering safe community program according to WHO six indicators.**
- **Continually caring the injury control among high risk groups.**
- **Combines the issues of Safety and health to increase the quality of life for locals.**
- **Sharing the experience with other communities nationally as well as internationally.**

### **Participation in Safe Community conferences :**

2005 : 3rd Asian Region Safe Community Conference, Taipei, Taiwan

2007 : 2007 Conference on Safe Communities and Safe Schools in Taiwan

2008 : Asia Safe Community Workshop, Hong Kong

2008 : 2008 Conference on Safe Communities and Safe Schools in Taiwan

**Hosting Safe Community Conferences :** No

**Hosting “Travelling Seminars” (national) :** 2006, 2007, 2008

**Staff**

Number: 3 full-time

Organization: Hualien County Nou-Li InterCommunity Association

Specific intersectoral leadership group: Shoufeng Community Safety Promotion Center

General public health/health promotion group: Shoufeng Township Health Center

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