**Clinton County Success Story**

The greatest success for Clinton County, while using the SPF process, would be the professional relationships that were built and the support that was gained to implement strategies. Although building relationships can take time, it was worth the efforts for our county. Once particular relationships were built it seemed to trigger other relationships that could further the planning and implementing processes. Since this process takes a great deal of partnering to make it successful, it was imperative to continuously remind the partners that it was not a one person process. Once the group was ‘bought-in’ to the idea of the process, there were still challenges, but the relationships allowed for trust that the process would work for our county.

One of the relationships built through the SPF process was with law enforcement. There are four law enforcement agencies; three city departments and one county department. Strengthening this partnership was imperative for the county goals to be accomplished successfully. The partnership that developed was one that has been addressed prior to SPF, but through this process it gave the four departments one prevention goal rather than individual goals to complete on their own. As the SPF process continued, the relationship with and among law enforcement began to change the prevention system dynamics. Many times officers have stated to the SPF Coordinator that they react to issues compared to being proactive. This process helped the departments discover just how important prevention is in Clinton County.

The changes in the county prevention system that have occurred due to the relationships built are ones that appear to be sustaining themselves as this county SPF project ends. Law enforcement has used the idea of prevention to educate businesses that sell alcohol. They have provided input to develop laws to prevent youth access to alcohol. Law enforcement departments have partnered to share youth for alcohol compliance checks, as well as sharing equipment to documents. Law enforcement appears to also be more engaged in prevention efforts through the local coalitions.

The relationship between those who provide prevention services and law enforcement, as well as the strengthened partnership among law enforcement agencies, has been Clinton County’s greatest success. This relationship will be sustained after the SPF project and future projects will benefit from the relationships developed, strengthened, and built through the SPF process.