



# Partnership

## Healthy Environment Policy Initiative Columbia

Contact: Ian Thomas  
PedNet Coalition  
P.O. Box 7124  
Columbia, MO 65205  
573-239-7916  
ian@pednet.org

Columbia's Healthy Environment Policy Initiative (HEPI) **partnership** includes grassroots advocacy, public health, public schools, government leadership, faith-based community and academia. Existing partners have worked effectively **together** for many years. New partners such as Central Missouri Community Action and Urban Empowerment Ministries strengthen partnership **connections** in the community.

### **Project Director: Ian Thomas, Ph.D.**

- Co-founder and Executive Director of PedNet Coalition, with mission to promote active transportation and create bicycle/pedestrian network
- Directed successful "Street Design Standards" advocacy campaign, 2001-2004 (see over)
- Built PedNet membership to 6,700 and designed numerous programs including nationally recognized Walking School Bus program
- National speaker on Safe Routes to School (SRTS) issues



### **Project Coordinator: Stacia Reilly, M.Ed.**

- Health Educator with Columbia/Boone County Health Department (CBCHD)
- Worked in public health for over a decade, building expertise in large-scale outreach campaigns, communications and social marketing
- Assisted Ian in directing Columbia's Active Living Partnership since 2003
- CBCHD will provide access to Community Issues Management (CIM) system and donate 0.25 FTE of Stacia's time to the project



### **Key Partners**

*PedNet Coalition  
Mayor's Office, City of Columbia  
Columbia/Boone County Health  
Dept.  
University of Missouri  
Urban Empowerment Ministries  
Central Missouri Community  
Action  
Columbia Public Schools  
Community Garden Coalition  
The YouZeum*

### Community Liaison: Minister Samuel Robinson



- Minister with Urban Empowerment Ministries, faith-based organization in First Ward that strives to empower people to impact their community
- Director of Power Players, a ministry that provides educational, career, and entrepreneurial counseling
- Coaches individuals in budgeting and investing, the importance of making healthy choices, and obtaining necessities like food, utilities and shelter

### Legislative Advisor: Mayor Darwin Hindman, J.D.



- Columbia native now in fourteenth year as Mayor
- Career campaign focus on healthy lifestyles and quality of life for all
- Instrumental in Katy and MKT Trails, city-owned Activity and Recreation Center, and Columbia's \$22 million federal Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program grant
- As City Council chair, will be able to introduce and push for policy changes recommended by Healthy Environment Policy Board

### Policy Advisor: Ann Cohen, MS, RD, LD



- Co-Director of University of Missouri Extension Healthy Lifestyle Initiative, contributing \$10,000 and .25 FTE of Initiative team staff time to project
- Program Coach for Missouri Foundation for Health Healthy and Active Communities grantees
- Chair of Missouri Action for Healthy Kids

### Policy Advisor: Mary Hendrickson, Ph.D.



- Associate Professor in Rural Sociology, University of Missouri
- Director of MU Extension's Food Circles Networking Project, with focus on policies that nurture a vibrant, local food system
- Assisted in the creation of the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Council

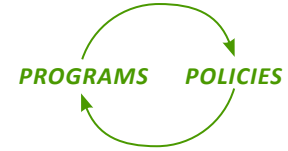
### Evaluation Specialist: Stephen Sayers, Ph.D.



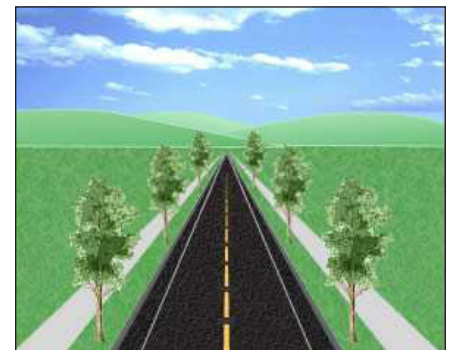
- Assistant Professor in School of Health Professions, University of Missouri
- Research specialization in evaluating programmatic and policy change strategies to reduce child obesity
- Principal Investigator on Active Living Research (ALR) grant to evaluate Columbia's Active Living by Design project

## Readiness

Formed in 2003, the Active Living Partnership adopted a logic model in which programmatic and policy advocacy strategies reinforce each other to create active living environments.



The Street Design Standards policy campaign (2001-2004) is a model. Health professionals, educators, environmentalists, and business leaders formed an ad-hoc group to study street design. Then, City Council appointed an official committee, which recommended new standards including 5' sidewalks, 6' bike lanes, and narrower driving lanes. Finally, Council passed these street standards into law.



Columbia's Healthy Eating by Design project (2005-2007) established school wellness policies, the practice of improving cafeteria environments, and media literacy education.

With experience and success in using programs to leverage policy in both active living and healthy eating, and with new partners bringing political power, policy experience, and connections with the low-income community, the HEPI Partnership is ready to accept the challenge to make effective and lasting policy, systems, and environmental changes in Columbia.

#### Columbia Public Schools

- Fully-engaged member of Columbia's Active Living Partnership
- Strong public endorsement and growing material support for PedNet's Walking School Bus program

#### Central Missouri Community Action

- Mission is to empower families in poverty to achieve self-reliance
- Will donate staff time and share community assessment data on gaps in health and nutrition resources

#### Community Garden Coalition

- Provides support, supplies and community garden plots to lower-income individuals
- Most CGC community gardens are located in First Ward