

Health Action Center timeline

Late 2010	January 2011	February	May	Summer	September	September 23
The idea for Health Action Center is born	Axel Fuentes and the Health Action Council gets use of a house from Methodist Church in Milan	Fundraising begins with raffles, food sales and yard sales.	Renovations on the house begin, including replacing piping and rennovating the kitchen and bathroom	Renovations continue	Health Action Council runs out of money to continue rennovations	Grand opening

HEALTH | Newly opened Health Action Center in Milan, Mo., assists Spanish-speaking population with medical information

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es or above probably are competent enough to help doctors and patients communicate, she said.

"You're going to get in a situation where you don't know the exact word to translate, but as long as you feel confident trying to find other ways to tell the person what's going on, you'll be fine," she said.

HAC is another way Hablantes Unidos is trying to forge relationships between students and Spanish-speaking immigrants in the area, Warner said. They currently give English lessons at Kirksville restaurants after hours and mentor Hispanic students at Kirksville High School.

English lessons likely will be part of their work at the Milan community center, Warner said.

There is a desire among residents in Milan to improve basic English communication, sociology professor Bonnie Mitchell, said, who attended the center's grand opening.

Mitchell teaches an immigration course that covers issues related to Hispanic immigrants in the rural Midwest.

Mitchell said she spoke to an elderly man at the HAC who said he wanted better access to language lessons.

"He is not literate in either Spanish or English, so he was hopeful that the Health Action Center might get involved in a little bit of [English as a Second Language] instruction," she said.

"He gave me an example of saying his name and not knowing how to say the letters of the alphabet in English so they could write down his name."

She said people in Milan want additional services, like translators at hospitals and worker safety training in Spanish. A large portion of the immigrant population in Milan works at Premium Standard Farms, a meat packing facility, and she hears about people being injured on the job who don't speak English as their first language.

The outlook has improved during the last few years, she said, largely because of Axel

Fuentes, a field organizer with the civil-rights organization Center for New Community, who has worked with Milan community for several years to get the center off the ground.

At its grand opening, Fuentes said, first in English and then in Spanish, that the goal is to connect the Latino community to health information, and to create a source for people to turn to with questions and problems.

Fuentes moved to Milan four years ago and started listening to people's concerns, he said.

The biggest health issues they face are a lack of health care providers, a lack of transportation to doctors and a lack of education about health, he said.

Now the Health Action Council, made up mostly of Hispanic women, are trying to find solutions to those needs.

It took a while to open the

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— Bonnie Mitchell
Sociology Professor



Courtesy Photo
The Health Action Council cuts a ribbon for the grand opening of the new community center Friday afternoon in Milan, Mo.

center because most of the immigrant population of Milan work long hours at the PSF plant and have limited time to devote to opening a community center,

he said. Despite their more than 60-hour work weeks, Fuentes said, the people of Milan turned out to work on the HAC.

MAE | Special education certification will be discontinued after this year

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[education] teachers." A big factor in the decision to discontinue special education certification for is the changing philosophy regarding children with special needs, he said.

"All the research is showing you have to include [special education] students in the regular classroom," Yoder said.

Truman is the first University in the state to announce it will implement a change in special education certification, Yoder said.

Junior Leigh Swartz, a pre-MAE student, said she is still unsure how the change will affect her schedule next year, but she

said she is not that worried and will meet with her adviser to figure it out.

Swartz said she thinks it's a good idea to train teachers who can work in regular classrooms and are certified to teach special education, based on what she's observed in classrooms.

"I've been in schools and a lot of special [education] kids are being mainstreamed in classrooms, and they do pull them out less," she said. "They don't really have separate classes anymore."

The school will pay the Praxis exam fee for special education students next school year, Yoder said.

BIKES | Reported bike thefts have increased from last year

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"My kids [have] two bikes and I have no idea what the serial number is to it ... I would have no proof to come up and say 'Hey, this is my bike.'"

DPS Sgt. Chad Whittom said the time between when bikes are stolen and when they are reported as such varies from minutes to several weeks.

"We always tell people the sooner we know that crime has occurred, the smaller of a time frame we have to look at," Whittom said. "The quicker we can get a crime reported and be able to respond to it and try to start working on it, the better our results are going to be."

Whittom said when a bike is reported stolen, DPS officers check on campus bike racks for the missing bike. He said many bikes are similar in their design, which often makes it difficult to return it

to the owner if they do not have enough specific information.

"If you've got a blue Roadmaster, there's probably 50 of them out there at any given time exactly alike, and we have to be able to show that it's the bike that was stolen from that individual."

Whittom said to avoid this problem, bike owners should write down their serial number and get their bike registered for free at DPS or the Kirksville Police Department.

"Then if the bike is stolen, we've already got the identifying information that we need," he said. "We also give you a sticker to put on your bike, and it has a unique number on it to your bike. So if we find your bike and we call in the number, they'll be able to tell us who it belongs to."

Whittom said based on checking bike racks, less than 50 percent

of students register their bike.

Farnsworth and Whittom said the majority of bikes reported stolen are unlocked, but occasionally locks are cut.

Senior Dylan Salata, a bike Co-op employee, said he saw some suspicious activity last week at the shop when an individual brought in a bike for service.

Salata said the bike's front wheel and several parts did not match the frame.

"It was all hammered in to fit the bike," he said. "It had disc brakes on it but it wasn't a bike with disc brakes built on it. We were just like 'Man, this is a weird setup,'" Salata said.

He said the individual said he was borrowing the bike from a friend. Salata said it definitely was a suspicion that the biker was stealing parts.

SIDEWALK | A downtown restaurant owner looks to change city ordinance to sell food on the sidewalk

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At the City Council meeting Sept. 19, Mitchell spoke to have the laws changed.

Steve Taylor, Steve's Garden Deli former owner, and Missouri Rep. Zach Wyatt, R-2, spoke on behalf of Mitchell's cause. Both said they support what Mitchell is trying to accomplish with her business and stressed that they think a change in the ordinance could

create positive potential for downtown revenue.

City Manager Mari Macomber met with Mitchell to discuss information the Council would need to make a decision changing the ordinance.

Macomber said the Council asked for the Kirksville Downtown Improvement Committee, who represents the whole of downtown, to find out what businesses want regarding the issue

of sidewalk sales and then communicate that back to the Council.

"The Council wants to know what the downtown wants so they can consider making changes that would accommodate what [Mitchell] is trying to do," Macomber said.

Following the meeting, a survey was sent to downtown business owners by KDIC Executive Director Jeremy Pingel to judge whether they are interested in

changing the ordinances.

Macomber said she requested to have a letter summarizing survey results signed by the KDIC Board by today. That way, if the Council wishes to make changes that reflect what the letter says, they can do so by Oct. 3, the next Council meeting. Any changes would go into effect Oct. 4.

"I think the majority of the business owners downtown, at

this point, would be interested in periodically setting things out [on the sidewalk]," Pingel said.

As fire codes prevent Mitchell from being able to cook the kettle corn inside, Mitchell said the cooker currently is in storage until she hopefully can use it again.

"I feel kind of dumb because I'm having to fight so hard for popcorn," she said. "But it's not just popcorn, it's my business."



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