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Rutland City Project VISION
"We Believe In Rutland"

You may have heard about Rutland's Project Vision but don't know as much as you would like. Please allow me to provide the following brief outline of Project Vision, its goals, and its operation.

Project Vision is a diverse coalition of over 100 social and health service agencies and organizations, schools, colleges, business organizations, the City of Rutland, local, county, state and federal probation, parole and law enforcement agencies, faith based groups, volunteers and neighbors. We have united to address the drug related challenges facing our community with the goal of making Rutland one of the healthiest, safest and happiest communities in America.

Project Vision has two core values. The first is "Collaboration for the greater good" which affirms that our goals and objectives transcend those of any particular partner. More importantly, it reflects our belief that by working together we can accomplish more than we ever could working alone. Reflecting this value, Project Vision has no independent paid staff or support structure. Instead, we rely on the resources of our many generous partners. We are very proud of our lean and highly efficient organizational structure.

Our second value is "A renewed focus on the positive - We Believe In Rutland." This value is simply a recognition of the fact that the Rutland Region is blessed with an array of wonderful attributes and is an exceptional place to live and work.

Although Project Vision has only been in existence for about a year, we have already helped to bring about some significant changes in our community. Perhaps the most significant change is the new and exciting commitment to working together to address our challenges. Our silos are starting to crumble and we are working together in a way that has never been attempted, much less accomplished, before in the City of Rutland.

Associated with Project Vision is the Vision Center housed at the Rutland Police Department. Capt. Scott Tucker provides day-to-day leadership over its operation. Within the Vision Center work "non-traditional" law enforcement partners who regularly collaborate with members of the RPD to address issues within households and neighborhoods that law enforcement cannot most effectively tackle alone. These non-traditional partners include domestic violence specialists, mental health counselors, child advocates and family counselors, a judicial rapid intervention coordinator, a prosecutor, an officer of the Dept of Corrections, animal control, and our in-house crime analyst.

During bi-weekly mapping meetings, or RutStat (our version of the data-driven, nationally recognized best-practice CompStat), our non-traditional partners join RPD shift commanders to review locations that experience increased levels of calls-for-service and develop response strategies specific to each location/scenario. The expressed goal is to catch small problems before they reach critical levels by bringing all available resources to bear through brainstorming and problem solving. Employment of collaboration and partnerships across diverse groups to drive down quality of life crimes is something that no other law enforcement organization is doing in the State of Vermont, and we do it to great effect.

To learn more, please visit: <http://projectvisionrutland.com>

Christopher C. Louras, Mayor
City of Rutland