

Dec 2019 - Mar 2020

Mission; The BASE mission is to connect with community partners and inspire action to create a safe, healthy community.

Vision; The BASE vision is a safe, healthy and accepting community for all.



# Quarterly Newsletter

## Mark Your Calendars!

The next BASE Coalition Meeting will be held April 17th @ 8AM as an online-only meeting. Please look at the email for intructions on how to join!

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis all events in April have been suspended.

Volunteers needed: August 6, 6-8 pm - Evansville Night Out @ Lake Leota Park

## 2020 Board of Directors

Courtney Bergsma (President)  
Citizen

Megan Halvensleben (Vice President)  
Evansville Community School District

Chief Patrick Reese (Treasurer)  
Evansville Police Department

Jim Brooks Evansville Community Partnership

Laura Mays Stoughton Hospital

Deb Miller Evansville High School

Gail Pluemer Winter Parent

Sean Mangold Recovery Coach

Dulcie Bergsma State Bank of Cross Plains

Kylie Hoops Youth Representative

Jennifer Braun Executive Director

Mark Mellecker Project Coordinator

## In this Issue:

Shop With a Cop

Board Elections and Additions

Evansville Police Department's New Chief

Sean Mangold visits with 7th grade students

Not Everyone is Doing It - Billboard and Exhibit

'Healthy Living with Chronic Pain' results

Time to Thrive Conference

STOP Grant Act and Action Team

I Am Jazz Reading

Hidden In Plain Sight

COVID-19

Connect with BASE: [www.linktr.ee/BASEEvansville](http://www.linktr.ee/BASEEvansville)

Mission; The BASE mission is to connect with community partners and inspire action to create a safe, healthy community.

Vision; The BASE vision is a safe, healthy and accepting community for all.



## Quarterly Newsletter

### First Annual Shop With A Cop!



This December, Building a Safer Evansville proudly partnered with the Evansville Police Department and the Orfordville Police Department to deliver the first ever Shop with a Cop event!

In Evansville, the kids shopped their hearts out at Family Dollar then headed over to Kopecky's Piggly Wiggly to meet Santa and decorate cookies while the little elves worked to get all of the gifts wrapped at the Evansville Fire District.

BASE's favorite quote was from an amazing little girl that said, "this is my favorite Christmas ever!" as she was thoughtfully picking out gifts for her family.

A huge shout out to every person and business that donated and partnered with BASE, the amazing volunteers and outstanding officers from Evansville and Orfordville that donated their time to make this event happen.



**Mission;** The BASE mission is to connect with community partners and inspire action to create a safe, healthy community.

**Vision;** The BASE vision is a safe, healthy and accepting community for all.



## Quarterly Newsletter

### Board Elections and Membership Additions

BASE would like to welcome the addition of Megan Halvensleben (with the Evansville Community School District) and Dulcie Bergsma (with the State Bank of Cross Plains) to the Building A Safer Evansville Board of Directors for 2020! BASE is happy to have Dulcie back on the Board and to bring Megan onto the team.

Board elections were held in December, where Courtney Bergsma was selected as the President of the board and Megan Halvensleben was elected as the Vice President. Chief Patrick Reese will continue his duties as the Treasurer.

BASE also hired Mark Mellecker as the new Project Coordinator for the Sober Truth On Underage Drinking Act Grant that BASE received in the fall! Mark is a proud native of Iowa, having graduated from the University of Iowa's Theatre Arts program in 2016. Mark and his wife McKenzie moved to Evansville in December of last year and are both excited to get involved with this wonderful community! BASE is ready to see what he can do!

### Evansville's New Chief of Police

After a period as the Interim Chief of Police, the City of Evansville formally selected BASE's own Patrick Reese to serve as the permanent Chief.

As an active supporter and Board member, Chief Reese has been instrumental in the success of BASE. BASE is glad to have you on the team, Patrick!

BASE has been lucky enough to witness firsthand what happens when you put your best people forward. Thank you for all you do for BASE and the City of Evansville!





# Quarterly Newsletter

**Mission;** The BASE mission is to connect with community partners and inspire action to create a safe, healthy community.

**Vision;** The BASE vision is a safe, healthy and accepting community for all.

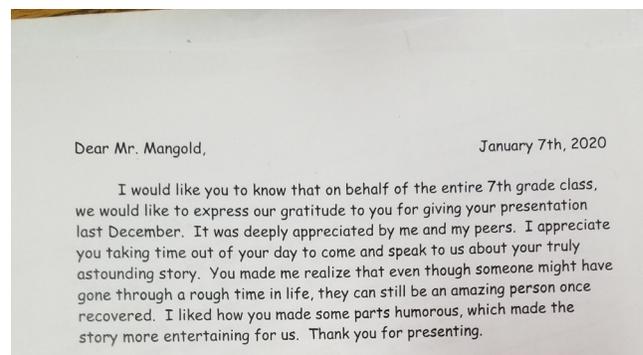
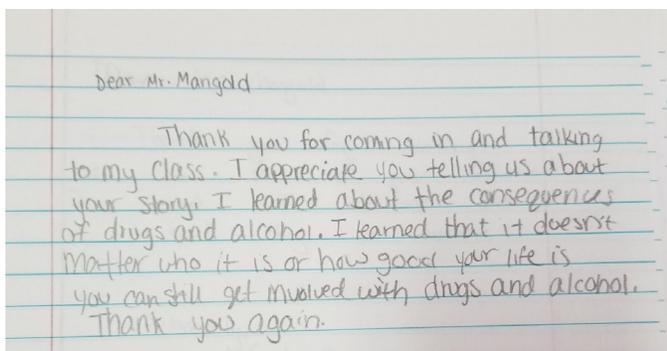
## Recovery Coach Educates Through Experience

Sean Mangold has a unique set of life experiences that provide him with the skills to provide support and education on the topic of addiction and recovery. In December, Sean spoke with one of the local 7th grade classes on the topics of addiction and recovery.

“If I had one bit of advice for someone in recovery it would be this,” states Sean, “Don’t think about what you are trying to quit, focus on what you want to change, where you want to be and make a plan for getting there. Recovery Coaches can help you do that.”



Students wrote thank you notes to Sean, many writing that it changed the way they see things and that you can’t always judge someone on how they appear or their background. Many also thanked Sean for his honesty in sharing his life story. Experience is an excellent resource in the world of prevention!



Mission; The BASE mission is to connect with community partners and inspire action to create a safe, healthy community.

Vision; The BASE vision is a safe, healthy and accepting community for all.

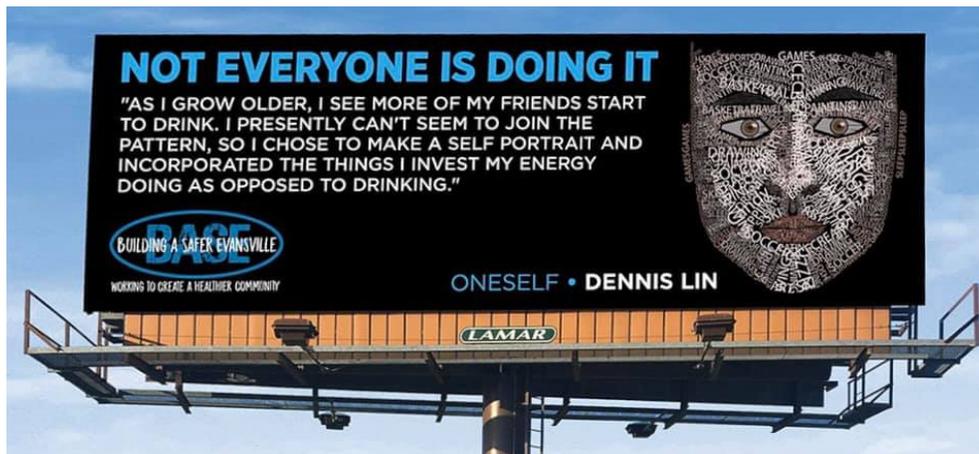


# Quarterly Newsletter

## “Not Everyone Is Doing It”

In the Fall of 2019, BASE and the Evansville Community School District partnered on the “Not Everyone Is Doing It” campaign to prevent underage drinking. Students at the Evansville High School participated in the “Communities Talk” art gala by creating art that portrayed healthy alternatives to underage drinking. It was a well recieved event, wherein local artist and high schooler, Dennis Lin was chosen as the winner!

Dennis’s artwork was put on a billboard at the beginning of January! BASE appreciates everyone who participated and the community members who attended the gala! For the month of January, The Grove Market had all of the participating artists hang their art in the main room on display. Thank you Jen and the team at The Grove Market for all you do!



Connect with BASE: [www.linktr.ee/BASEvansville](http://www.linktr.ee/BASEvansville)

Dec 2019 - Mar 2020

**Mission; The BASE mission is to connect with community partners and inspire action to create a safe, healthy community.**

**Vision; The BASE vision is a safe, healthy and accepting community for all.**



Quarterly  
Newsletter

## “Healthy Living With Chronic Pain” Program Concludes



The “Healthy Living With Chronic Pain” (HLWCP) program came to a close in January. BASE board member Sean Mangold and Director Jen Braun presented at SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital - Janesville’s Community Breakfast about the Healthy Living With Chronic Pain program that was funded by SMM Health Janesville!

The Healthy Living With Chronic Pain program has been incredibly important in providing adults with the tools and ways to deal with chronic pain through programming to improve health and well-being.

Developed at Stanford University, the workshop sessions meet for 2-1/2 hours, once a week for six consecutive weeks. This community-based program is very interactive, where mutual support and success build participants’ confidence in their ability to manage their pain and maintain active and fulfilling lives.

The focus of bringing Healthy Living With Chronic Pain to Evansville and Edgerton was to fill a need in rural Rock County communities for residents who live 30 minutes away from similar pain management programs. This program compliments prevention activities that are currently implemented to reduce Rx drug misuse and abuse by BASE and Healthy Edgerton.

Evansville had 9 participants successfully complete the 6 week course, with Edgerton having 10. Upon completion of the course, attendees were asked to rate their confidence in using the skills and exercises to manage their pain for an overall rating of 8.18/10. In a follow up with Evansville participants, 4 out of 5 reported that they were still using the skills learned during HLWCP!

**Connect with BASE: [www.linktr.ee/BASEvansville](http://www.linktr.ee/BASEvansville)**

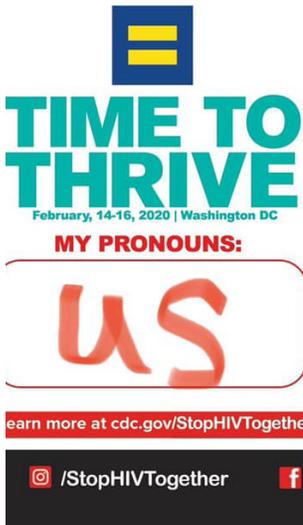
Mission; The BASE mission is to connect with community partners and inspire action to create a safe, healthy community.

Vision; The BASE vision is a safe, healthy and accepting community for all.



# Quarterly Newsletter

## “HRC Time to Thrive” Conference



In February 2020, BASE Executive Director Jen Braun, Evansville Police Department Ofc. Jess Rittenhouse and Evansville Community School District teacher and GSA club advisor DJ Redders attended the Human Rights Campaign ‘Time to Thrive’ conference in Washington D.C.

‘Time to Thrive’ provided Jen, Jess and DJ with many new opportunities. Jen came back into the BASE office after the conference with a wealth of new resources and a determination to make BASE and Evansville more inclusive for LGBTQ+ youth!

## STOP Act Grant Update

BASE was awarded the Sober Truth On Preventing Underage Drinking Act Grant in the fall of 2019. The focus of this grant is to reduce underage drinking in Evansville with an emphasis on LGBTQ+ teens. To address concerns about diversity and equality, BASE chose to reach out to community members who are involved with LGBTQ+ in Evansville to ask them to serve in advisory capacities on the STOP Grant Action Team.

BASE and the Action Team plan to meet once a quarter and are asking members for roughly 2 hours of time. Currently, meetings for the Action Team have been delayed due to COVID-19, but there are plans to meet online for the coming session. BASE is excited to have the support of community members in this endeavor!

The Evansville Police Department, Building A Safer Evansville and the UW-Madison Police Department’s Pride Team are currently planning a fall workshop on LGBTQ+ and Law Enforcement for fall 2020. The goal of this workshop is to provide Dane and Rock County law enforcement officers with the resources, tools and information necessary to enhance the cultural awareness of local law enforcement agencies. BASE is committed to providing local resources that police can use to aid the LGBTQ+ community.

Connect with BASE: [www.linktr.ee/BASEvansville](http://www.linktr.ee/BASEvansville)

Mission; The BASE mission is to connect with community partners and inspire action to create a safe, healthy community.

Vision; The BASE vision is a safe, healthy and accepting community for all.



# Quarterly Newsletter

## Evansville Pride for “I Am Jazz” Reading

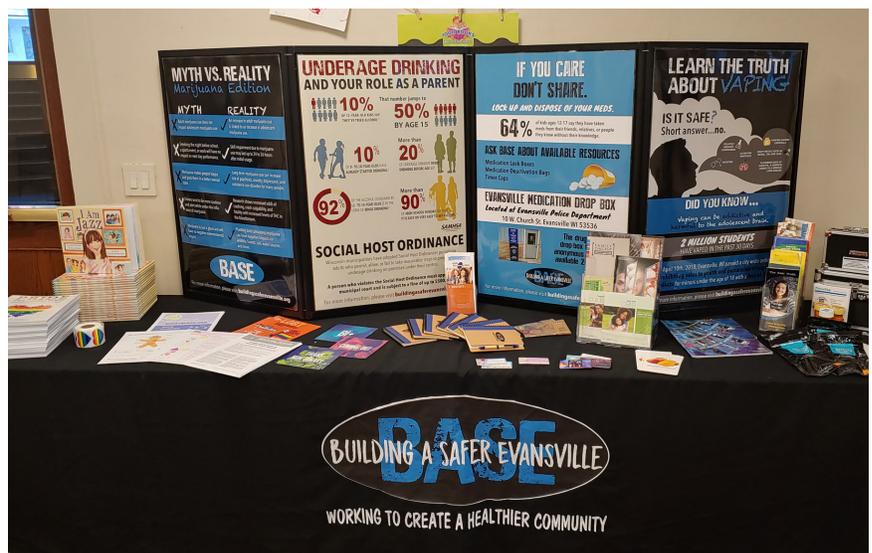
BASE and Eager Free Public Library demonstrated the importance of safe spaces and supportive cities as community members, youth and BASE Board members attended the “I Am Jazz” reading at the end of February.

As part of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s Welcoming Schools Jazz & Friends National Day of School and Community Readings, “I Am Jazz” was read to youth and their families to show BASE is proud to provide a safe space for developing youth.

BASE passed out coloring books, copies of “I Am Jazz”, did face painting, tattoos and coloring! There was extraordinary community support with close to 30 people attending! BASE loves to see the Evansville Pride!

This is the first of many LGBTQ+ affirming opportunities currently planned in Evansville. Events such as the “I Am Jazz” reading and support of Pride in Evansville is a focus of the STOP Act Grant

By creating a more inclusive and welcoming community, Evansville can work to raise protective factors for LGBTQ+ youth and prevent substance abuse.



**Mission;** The BASE mission is to connect with community partners and inspire action to create a safe, healthy community.

**Vision;** The BASE vision is a safe, healthy and accepting community for all.



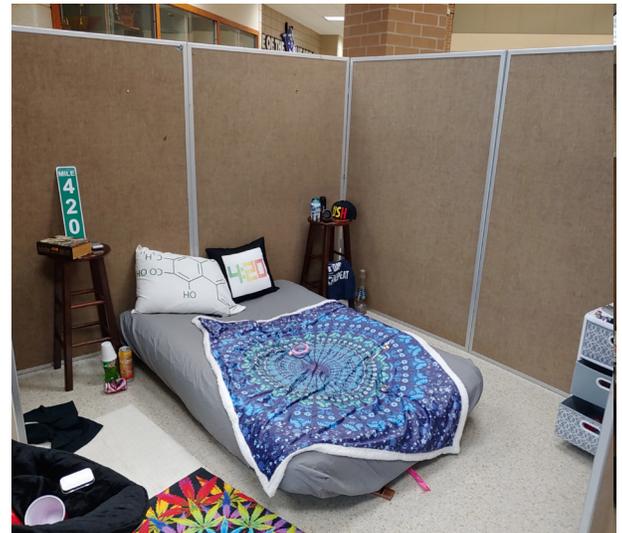
## Quarterly Newsletter

### “Hidden in Plain Sight” Important To See

Parents, law enforcement officials and school staff attended two March “Hidden in Plain Sight” rooms expecting to see a few surprises, but many walked away shocked at what they saw.

Objects they would never have thought to be safes or hidden storage, vapes of all shapes and sizes and even a few parents wondering what “420” or “hash” meant. Parents left with a renewed vigor to have more open conversations with their children after seeing the Hidden in Plain Sight room.

These rooms were set up at the Evansville High School during parent-teacher conferences and at the Rock County Human Services Healthcare Center as part of a Rock County Prevention Network collaboration for Foster Parents and Rock County Human Services employees.



### BASE Has the Best Community Partnerships!



For the months of March and April, The Grove Market in downtown Evansville is putting all contributions from the tip jar to Building A Safer Evansville! BASE is beyond lucky to partner with community members around town who go above and beyond to support our mission.

Not only are the people at The Grove generous, but they’re also pretty amazing in the kitchen! BASE’s own Mark and Jen are both stocking their homes with The Grove’s delicious offerings while they’re adapting to Wisconsin’s current Safer At Home Orders, so give Jen and Company a call and see how they can help serve you some awesome food!

Mission; The BASE mission is to connect with community partners and inspire action to create a safe, healthy community.

Vision; The BASE vision is a safe, healthy and accepting community for all.



Quarterly  
Newsletter

## COVID-19 and BASE

Evansville has been coming to terms with the changing circumstances surrounding COVID-19. Many businesses have temporarily closed, restaurants have changed their business platform, students have been sent home and so much more. COVID-19 has impacted every aspect of daily life but as a community, we must keep #EvansvilleTogether by supporting neighbors and small businesses. BASE had planned to host several events through the months of March and April, but after Governor Tony Evers issued the "Safer At Home" order, many of those plans were cancelled or modified. For the foreseeable future, coalition meetings will be held in an online capacity via Zoom, planned outreach is digital and BASE has turned to Facebook as an important tool for sharing important information relating to Safer At Home.

BASE, the Evansville Police Department and the Eager Free Public Library have partnered together to provide families and children with a fun break each week with Virtual Storytime With Evansville Police Officers! Using Facebook Live, the EPD has gone live on the BASE Facebook page. The initial 2 week run was so well received that the EPD decided to extend it an additional 2 weeks into April! Staff at the Eager Free Public Library have carefully curated stories about overcoming hardship, resiliency and silly fun for the wonderful officers at the EPD to read! Thank you Eager Free Public Library and the Evansville Police Department for helping entertain Evansville on Tuesdays with laughter and fun!

BASE has gone live on Facebook at least once a week to share important information with Evansville regarding COVID-19 and working to create a healthier community. Past topics have included the importance of shopping local, ways to stay healthy and focused while working from home, how to vote safely (by voting absentee!), how to prioritize healthy eating and how to stay connected during this time of physical distancing.

This time of uncertainty and unknown also welcomes the opportunity to come together as a community and help those that may need assistance. BASE is partnering with the Evansville Wisconsin Police Department to assist families or individuals that are experiencing possible food shortages, may rely on the schools for food, are unable to leave their homes or unable to work because of closures. If you would like to donate to the program, go to [www.buildingasaferevansville.org/donate/](http://www.buildingasaferevansville.org/donate/)