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## **Walking with a Purpose Success Story: Van Buren County**

Parents, school personnel, and other adults completed the walkability assessment on May 26, 2010 in Stockport. Van Buren Parents As Teachers, the SAFE Coalition, and the Van Buren School took part in the survey; however, no students were available to attend. In the future, the town plans to hold another walk, in hopes that more individuals will attend.

The survey revealed that the sidewalks are in poor condition and are not large enough for multiple walkers. There are no cross walks on main street, and sidewalks only exist for walkers heading north or south of town, but none are available for those who live east or west of town. The lack of sidewalks makes it nearly impossible for residents who live outside of town to safely access Main Street, the school, or library.

The group plans to complete additional Walking with a Purpose studies in other towns in the community. The results of the assessments will be compared to identify the chief concerns and possible solutions for creating safer walking communities. The survey results will be shared with the two school districts in the county, the county supervisors, the Villages of Van Buren, and local community organizations who may have an interest in helping improve the walkability of the community.