



E-Update

January 30, 2007

Violence-Free Zone Focus of White House Conference:

Government officials, businessmen, and leaders in the nonprofit and faith community heard high praises for the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise's Violence-Free Zone initiative January 16 at a conference hosted by the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. First in a series planned by new FBCI Director Jay Hein to illustrate the power of community-based programs, the event focused entirely on the VFZ project. Deputy Attorney General John McNulty gave opening remarks and noted that he had known of the Center's success since he was a staffer on the House Judiciary Committee, which held hearings in 1998 on the success of the Benning Terrace truce and other CNE programs throughout the country. Dr. John Deasy, Prince George's County Public Schools Chief Executive Officer reported that suspendable incidents at Bladensburg High School had dropped from 130 a year ago to 50 in the same period this year as a result of the VFZ. In addition to Robert L. Woodson, Sr., speakers included CNE's five VFZ site leaders: Atlanta: Gwendolyn Poles Sands; Baltimore: Rev. Billy Stanfield; Dallas: Omar Jahwar; Milwaukee: Ramon Candelaria; and Washington, DC/Prince George's County: Curtis Watkins.

Former Dallas Cowboy Star Quincy Carter Working with VFZ:

Former football star Quincy Carter is writing a new chapter in his life by working with Vision Regeneration in Dallas as a hall monitor and mentor in Dallas' Madison High School. A story in the Atlanta Journal Constitution relates his story, and quotes him as saying "Man, these kids, they are feeding life into me." The story also notes that the Vision Regeneration program, supported by the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, "is credited with helping transform Madison from one of Dallas' most dangerous, gang-ridden schools into a safe haven where test scores have risen dramatically." For more information, click on

<http://www.ajc.com/search/content/sports/uga/stories/2007/01/26/0126sptquincy.html>

Student Leaders Come to Washington:

Almost 50 student leaders from across the country converged on Capitol Hill January 12 to present their elected representatives information they had gathered about problems in their communities and to ask their support in implementing solutions. The young people, members of the Weed and Seed National Youth Leadership Council, also worked on their leadership skills in a four day conference hosted by CNE and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Weed and Seed.

Grand Total: 5,531 Adults Received Financial Literacy Training:

The results are in, and they exceeded the goal of 5,000 low and middle-income adults to receive financial literacy training in 2006 in the Your Money Counts program of the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise and HSBC-North America. CNE Training Director Charles Perry reports that 150 workshops were held in 2006