



# E-Update

April 25, 2007

## **White House “Drug Czar” visits, praises VFZ:**

John P. Walters, White House Director of National Drug Control Policy, made an extensive site visit to CNE’s Violence-Free Zone site at Baltimore’s Frederick Douglass Senior High School April 17, meeting with school staff, teachers, and students to assess the impact of the VFZ on reducing violence at the school. Walters was hosted by Minister Billy Stanfield, founder and executive director of New Vision Youth Services and Robert L. Woodson, Sr., President of the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE). Also participating in the site visit were several staff members of Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) who was unable to attend because of a last minute hearing conflict. Walters told reporters after the meetings that he was “very, very impressed” with the Violence-Free Zone project and what it has done for Douglass High School. Principal Darline Lyles said the program has made a significant difference in the ability of school staff to teach. For links to the Baltimore Sun article and other recent news coverage, go to CNE’s website:

[http://www.cneonline.org/pages/CNE In The News](http://www.cneonline.org/pages/CNE%20In%20The%20News)

## **Milwaukee Family Safely Relocated with Help of CNE Donors:**

The heartwarming response by CNE friends has undoubtedly saved the lives of the family targeted by gang members after the eldest son, 18, agreed to identify for authorities the killer of his pregnant fiancé. The young man was being helped by the Latino Community Center in Milwaukee, our lead Violence-Free Zone site there, and with their help, he took this major step of doing the right thing at the risk of his life. CNE has been very moved by the response of so many of you who sent checks to help the family relocate. A few days after the family left, a car came by the house in fired multiple shots into it. Had they still been in the house, there is little doubt that they would have been injured or killed. Unfortunately, the Milwaukee District Attorney’s office does not have funds for witness protection. The funds donated by CNE friends made it possible for the family to move to a location in a new state. We have linked the family to local resources there, and have made contact with a pastor whose church is opening its arms to help them. The mother, who has a good employment record, has had several job interviews and is awaiting an answer. CNE is now seeking additional donations to cover this transition period, since the family had to leave virtually everything it had in Milwaukee. This includes three months house rent as well as some items such as ROTC uniforms for two of the boys, that will allow them to start their new lives. The local church and others have pledged to assist the family in meeting other long term needs. Checks can be made out to the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, and designated to the Starfish Fund—named after the story of the man who was asked why he kept throwing stranded starfish back to safety in the ocean when there were so many in need. It might not make a difference in the grand scheme of things, he explained, but it certainly made a difference to that starfish.