



E-Update

July 23, 2007

DC Reports First Results:

The Violence-Free Zone initiative, although underway for only three months, already has produced positive results in a high-risk Washington, DC school, according to DC Metropolitan Police Department figures. MPD reports that in Johnson Middle School, there was a 50% reduction in fights and major incidents and a 57% reduction in disruptive incidents and non-violent crimes during the spring quarter, compared with the same period a year ago. The Violence-Free Zone, implemented by East Capitol Center for Change, started operating in the school in March. Climate survey data collected from students also gives the ECCC VFZ high marks. One hundred percent of the students said the Youth Advisors had been helpful; and 83% said they stopped fights before they happen. CNE and its community partners ECCC and Peaceholics have contracted with the city to implement the VFZ in two schools, Johnson and Anacostia High School. CNE measures two types of data: total school numbers showing the impact of the VFZ on overall safety and student behavior, and data on individual high-need students who are referred by school staff for special attention by the VFZ Youth Advisors. This spring a total of 115 high-need students were enrolled in VFZ character-building programs in the two schools.

California City Asks CNE Help:

CNE has been asked by the City of Palmdale to assist city leaders in doing outreach to grassroots neighborhoods so that all citizens can benefit from the economic and civic development planned by the city. CNE President Bob Woodson led a CNE team in a two-day site visit to Palmdale in late June to meet with city officials, school district executives, and community leaders. Already, CNE was able to connect with a strong neighborhood leader, and linked city officials to other grassroots leaders in the community. A delegation of officials from the city will come to Washington in late August to meet with other public officials who have been involved in previous CNE projects as well as learn more about the Violence-Free Zone initiative. The Center previously helped Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith in a similar program to identify and build the capacity of neighborhood leaders so they could fully participate in plans to revitalize that city.

CNE Camp Targets High-Risk Youth to Lead Positive Change:

More than 100 young people from high-risk neighborhoods across the country came together at the 2007 Center for Neighborhood Enterprise's Weed and Seed Youth Leadership Camp to hone their leadership skills and develop tools to identify problems and promote solutions in their own communities. Representatives from Weed and Seed organizations from Rhode Island to Florida and as far west as Reno, Nevada are participating in the camp, accompanied by their adult chaperones. Held from July 22-28 on the Stetson University campus in DeLand, Florida, the camp is sponsored by CNE and supported by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Community Capacity Development Office of Weed and Seed. The camp experience is divided into mini-camps focusing on Leadership; Career Development; Family and Community Life; and Money Management and Investments. The youngsters also have ample time for sports, recreation, music, and other activities.