



E-Update

August 23, 2007

CNE Awarded OJ Grant for VFZ:

The Center was notified August 15 that it was being awarded a U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs FY 2007 National Solicited Juvenile Justice Programs award in the amount of \$740,000. The “systems improvement” grant will be used to perfect the CNE Violence-Free Zone model and advance the implementation of the VFZ by providing capacity-building technical assistance to the VFZ site organizations, refine and standardize VFZ selection and training curricula across sites, and document their experiences and best practices for publication, there by improving the ability of the local partner organizations to provide services on a sustained basis.

Woodson is Featured Speaker in Akron

CNE President Bob Woodson received a proclamation from the Mayor of Akron and was the featured speaker at the North Akron National Night Out evening event. Hosted by the North Hill Community House and He Brought Us Out Ministry, he also led a noon session in the community. He talked about the CNE unique community-based Violence-Free Zone initiative and how it is producing positive results in 22 high-risk urban schools, in Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Milwaukee, Washington, DC, and Prince George’s County, MD. All the schools have experienced significant reductions in suspensions, code of conduct violations, fighting, and gang incidents. Police and prosecutors also have praised the program for reducing incidents in surrounding communities. North Hill Community House and He Brought Us Out Ministry are led by Gary Wyatt, who with his wife Patricia have worked closely with CNE. In addition to applying principles of the VFZ approach, Wyatt led a delegation of four youths to the CNE Weed and Seed Youth Leadership Camp in Florida July 22-28.

Milwaukee Public Schools Announce VFZ Expansion

At a media conference July 26, Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent William Andrekopoulos announced that the school system had contracted with CNE to implement the Violence-Free Zone initiative in five high-risk Milwaukee high schools. They are: Bay View, Custer, Marshall, South Division, and Washington High Schools. CNE’s Milwaukee community partners, the Latino Community Center and the Running Rebels Community Organization will operate the VFZ in the five schools. Andrekopolous told reporters “We are expanding the Violence-Free Zone initiative because it works.” Total budget for the five schools is \$1,572,000. The school system contract is for \$900,000, and a total of \$420,000 has been donated thus far from Milwaukee foundations, including the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, the Jane Bradley Petit Foundation, the Argosy Foundation, the Elizabeth Brinn Foundation, the Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation, and the Marshall and Ilsley Foundation. CNE has submitted grant requests to other Milwaukee foundations.