



# E-Update

February 7, 2008

## **The Results Are In and They Are Impressive!**

January was a red-letter month for the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise with these results reported from various initiatives:

- First quarter numbers released by the Milwaukee Public Schools show that the six schools in which the CNE Violence-Free Zone is at work have seen an overall reduction of 25% in violent incidents, 23% less non-violent incidents, and a drop of six percentage points in suspensions over the same period a year ago. The news was widely heralded in the media and by school and public officials. On January 24, CNE and its community partners the Latino Community Center and the Running Rebels Community Organization briefed representatives of the nine Milwaukee foundations that are helping bring the VFZ to the schools.
- On January 29, CNE, LCC and RRCO hosted an awards banquet to honor 24 students in the six schools who are participants in the VFZ and have either achieved academic success in the presence of challenging circumstances or had significant improvements in their behaviors. Milwaukee's Mayor Tom Barrett, District Attorney John Chisholm, MPS Superintendent William Andrekopoulos were just a few of the city's leaders who came to help celebrate their successes.
- On January 15, the Antelope Valley (California) Union High School District kicked off the installation of two Violence-Free Zones, one in Pete Knight High School in Palmdale and one in Eastside High School in Lancaster, CA. The community-based organization selected by CNE to implement the VFZs is Murrell's Farm and Boy's Home.
- The Atlanta Violence-Free Zone site, implemented by VisionsUnlimited, received data from the Atlanta Public Schools showing continued significant reductions in key measures in the two schools with the VFZ program compared with the pre-VFZ year two years ago. In Harper Archer Middle School, suspensions were down 11%; class disruptions down 85%; bus misconduct down 88%; fighting down 29%; and bullying down 89% for 2006-2007. At Ben Carson Middle School, suspensions were down 20%; class disruptions down 88%; fighting down 39%; and bullying down 25% for 2006-2007 over the pre-VFZ year of 2004-2005.
- A total of 4300 adults received financial literacy education in 2007 thanks to the HSBC/CNE Your Money Counts Adult Financial Literacy program. More than 90% of the participants said they would now pay all bills on time, pay more attention to loan disclosures, and check their credit reports to detect attempts at identity theft.

- Forty-five student leaders from 12 states came to Washington in January to make reports to their Congressional representatives about the problems they have identified in their communities and the solutions they have created. The youths have received training from CNE as part of the Weed and Seed Youth Leadership Initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice Community Capacity Development Office.