



# E-Update

February, 2009

## **Police Say VFZ Dramatically Reduced Car Thefts, School Arrests:**

Motor vehicle thefts are down 73% in the area around Richmond's George Wythe High School, Richmond police report. The CNE Violence-Free Zone program is implemented in the school, one of Richmond's most trouble-plagued, by CNE's Richmond community partner, The ROC (Richmond Outreach Center). For the four months between September and January, the Richmond Police Department (RPD) reports that car thefts in the sector immediately adjacent to the school dropped from 64 to only 17. Lt. Scott C. Booth of the RPD said, "I believe the youth intervention aspects of the Violence-Free Zone at GWHS has impacted Motor Vehicle Theft in Sector 312."

From a cost/benefit standpoint, the reduction is significant in terms of savings to vehicle owners, insurance companies, and in police resources.

RPD said there was a 38% reduction in arrests at the school and a 46% drop in "incidents" reported by the police School Resource Officer. The Richmond school system also reported decreases of 22% in incidents, 3% in suspensions, 71% in expulsions, and 17% in drop-outs compared to the same four-month period last year.

## **More Non-Profits Will Receive Technical Assistance:**

Up to 25 community organizations in Washington, DCs Wards 5,7, and 8 will be able to receive capacity-building technical assistance from the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, thanks to a Compassion Capital Fund grant. The Center is now soliciting competitive applications from local service-providing groups in the distressed areas of the nation's capital. Eligible organizations must have operating budgets of less than \$750,000 and have a record of providing services in the areas of at-risk youth, homelessness, elders-in-need, ex-offenders, substance abusers, promotion of healthy marriages, or helping families and individuals in transition from welfare to work. Twenty of the groups may also be eligible to receive \$10,000 to \$14,000 sub-awards from CNE to be used to expand upon or improve existing program services or provide operational and/or infrastructure building support. Interested organizations must attend a March 6 briefing. For more information, contact Latisha Daniels at (202) 518-6500.

## **Woodson Testifies on Youth Violence Threat Before House Subcommittee:**

CNE President Bob Woodson told the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security that the growing threat of youth violence is as menacing to the future of America as any terrorist attack from a foreign enemy, with as many black youth killed by other blacks in four months as lives were lost in the 9/11 World Trade Center terrorist attack. "While we must continue to strengthen and improve the external institutions that are in place to help young people," he said, "we cannot solely rely on them to bring about change; we must invest in the internal centers of influence." He went on to describe the community-based Violence-Free Zone program and its outstanding record of reducing youth violence. For a copy of his testimony, go to

[www.cneonline.org](http://www.cneonline.org).