



E-Update

March, 2009

Dallas VFZ Site Launches Campaign to Penetrate Youth Culture with Positive Material:

Vision Regeneration, Inc., CNE's Dallas Violence-Free Zone community partner, is launching an array of communications vehicles designed to promote positive messages in the youth culture. Vision, led by founder Omar Jahwar, is partnering with Clout Marketing to create a new social networking website called PositiveXChange, designed to compete with sites like MySpace, Facebook, and YouTube. The effort also includes a print and online magazine written for and about youth called MYJournal; video production called XChange TV; and weekly "Saturday Summit" entertainment programs held at the Faith Memorial auditorium, where Vision has its headquarters. The goal is to counter the destructive messages that currently dominate the internet in other social networking sites. Messages on PositiveXChange will be monitored before they are posted. The XChange TV and MYJournal will provide a venue for talented youth to perform and write and compete for space with positive material. They also will be given training in writing and television production.

Milwaukee Group Captures \$2 Million in Savings for Community:

Violence-Free Zone staff members at the Latino Community Center on the south side of Milwaukee have taken training and become certified to help community members do their tax returns. Last year, LCC staff helped community residents get refunds of some \$1.5 million that they might otherwise not have known how to get. This year the group reports that it is exceeding \$2 million in returns just for the local neighborhood. Program directors Andre Robinson and Amelia Stuckart say that the free service builds relationships and trust, and creates community cooperation in the effort to reduce violence.

Technical Assistance for FB/COs in Washington, DC:

A record number of more than 90 community-based organizations in Washington's Wards 5, 7 and 8 signed up to apply for CNE's 2009 technical assistance award program. The Center will select up to 25 community organizations to receive capacity-building technical assistance and 20 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. CNE provides technical assistance in Board Development, Organization Development, Program Development, Revenue Development Strategies, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Financial Management.

Media Coverage, CNE and the Violence-Free Zone:

The Richmond Times Dispatch published an excellent article on the working of the Violence-Free Zone and its impact on one of Richmond's previously most troubled high schools. The article, entitled "Wythe High Reports Drop in Violence, Thanks to Partnership," can be read at http://www.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/local/education/article/WYTH151_20090314-234004/232032. The VFZ program is implemented in the school by CNE's Richmond community partner The Richmond Outreach Center (The ROC).

CNE President Bob Woodson's opinion article entitled "What Kind of Race Dialogue" was published on Sunday, March 8, by the Washington Times and can be read at <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/mar/08/what-kind-of-race-dialogue/>.. Woodson is a regular guest on the Greg Garrison show in Indianapolis each Thursday at 10 a.m. EST, and can be heard on the internet at www.wibc.com/garrison. Some of the shows are posted and can be heard at any time. On March 19, Woodson talked about a new Family Sharing people-to-people program being launched by CNE. More details will come next month.