



# E-Update

April, 2009

## **Richmond Officials Looking at Expanded VFZ Operation:**

Richmond School Board, Police Foundation, and police officials will travel to Milwaukee this week to see how the Violence-Free Zone program operates in multiple schools. The Richmond VFZ, currently in a single school (George Wythe high school) is producing outstanding results with high-need students in the program showing behavior and academic improvements far surpassing that of the general student body enrollment. In the third school quarter, VFZ caseload students had a decrease in the number of reported incidents of 34%; out-of-school suspensions decreased by 48%; and days of out-of-school suspensions dropped by almost 40%. The program has received encouragement and support from the Richmond Police Department, which has reported drops in vehicle thefts around the school that officers attribute to the influence of the VFZ program. The Richmond VFZ is implemented in the school by CNE community partner The Richmond Outreach Center (The ROC) and works closely with the school principal, teachers, and the RPD School Resource Officer staff.

## **Milwaukee VFZ Continues to Achieve Good Results:**

First and second quarter combined student results from the eight Milwaukee high schools that have the Violence-Free Zone program this year show continued inroads against youth violence in those schools. Violent incidents were reduced by 16% in the eight schools, and non-violent incidents by 21%, comparing this year's two-quarter results with the same period before the VFZ was introduced in the schools.

## **Financial Literacy Program Continues to Expand:**

With so many individuals and families getting into major financial difficulty because of overborrowing, the HSBC/CNE Financial Literacy program plans to introduce a new four-hour workshop curriculum called Borrowing Basics. The 2009 Financial Literacy program is well underway with 175 workshops scheduled in 18 states and a target of 5000 adults to be trained. Thus far, 1500 people have been trained in 38 workshops.

## **Woodson Speaks on Value-Aligned Leadership:**

CNE President Robert L. Woodson, Sr. told a group of several hundred Christian businessmen how the Center applies market principles to address the problems of poverty, stressing outcomes over credentials and seeking private sector solutions to promote social and business entrepreneurship in low-income communities. The address was given April 22 at the Values-Aligned Leadership Summit conference at Colorado Christian College.

## **U.K. Group Visits CNE to Learn About Youth Violence-Prevention:**

Officers of the United Kingdom's Community Safety and Youth Justice program came to CNE on April 22 to learn about the Center's successful youth violence prevention program.