



# E-Update

May, 2009

## **Success Story: NBC Nightly News to Feature CNE Technical Assistance Recipient:**

On Friday, May 15, NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams will feature Dr. Satira Streeter in its "Making A Difference" segment. Streeter is founder and executive director of Ascensions, an organization that provides comprehensive therapeutic services to low-income people who would normally either not have access to mental health services or would be too embarrassed to seek those services out. Ascensions Community Services has been a member of CNE's Hands Across Network since 2005 and has received technical assistance from CNE in the areas of Board Development, Human Resources, Organizational Development and Finance. When CNE first met Ascensions it was located in the home of its Executive Director, Dr. Streeter. Capacity building grants from CNE have afforded Ascensions the opportunity to acquire its space in Anacostia, purchase furnishing for the space, and equipment and software necessary to run an efficient business. According to Dr. Streeter, as a result of CNE's Technical Assistance and grant making, Ascensions is now a fully developed organization and was recently recognized as one of DC's best small charities by the Catalog of Philanthropy.

## **Gang Activity Down, But New Youth Violence Threat Emerging:**

The 1980s and 1990s saw an insurgence of gang activity that nearly paralyzed the communities they infiltrated with violence and criminal activity. While gang activity in the inner city has been reduced by community outreach programs and law enforcement, a new phenomena has emerged. According to Omar Jahwar, a gang intervention specialist and director of CNE's Dallas Violence-Free Zone program, the new pattern of youth violence is neighborhood-based. While traditional street gangs were organized around a common initiative or threat and members chose to belong, now youth can become victims of senseless violence only by virtue of where they live—not based on their behavior, their friends, or any other factors in their control. Jahwar's Vision Regeneration organization will host a "Community Conversation" to focus on this issue and discuss solutions. Participants include community leaders, radio and television personalities, teachers, parents, and past or presently affiliated gang members, and youth directly impacted. For more information go to [www.vrinc.org](http://www.vrinc.org).

## **CNE, Milwaukee VFZ Partners, to Honor 32 Students for Turning Their Lives Around:**

Students from eight Milwaukee high schools will be honored May 26 for succeeding against the odds—for turn-arounds in their behavior and/or for excelling in academics despite challenging circumstances. CNE and its Milwaukee Violence-Free Zone community partners the Latino Community Center and Running Rebels Community Organization will present trophies and medallions to four students from each of the eight VFZ high schools—two each for Most Improved Behavior and two for Academic Achievement in Challenging Circumstances. "In a time when fights and disturbances among youth are front page news," said CNE President Bob Woodson, "we want to hold up some who are courageously turning away from negative behaviors and who are striving for educational success." Representatives from each school group also will be presented to the Rotary Club of Milwaukee.

**Jack Kemp's Role in the Neighborhood Empowerment Movement:**

Bob Woodson's opinion article: "What Jack Kemp Taught; Lessons the Republican Party Failed to Learn" is available at <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/may/08/what-jack-kemp-taught/>