



# E-Update

June, 2009

## **Marcus Foundation Makes Major Commitment to VFZ:**

Atlanta's Violence-Free Zone, implemented by CNE community partner Visions Unlimited, will expand from two middle schools to five schools this fall—three middle and two high schools--thanks to new funding by the Marcus Foundation. On June 17, CNE President Bob Woodson, Vice-President Terence Mathis, National Violence-Free Zone Director Kwame Johnson, and Visions Founder Gwendolyn Sands, Atlanta VFZ Director Lanigan Pettway, and Timothy Dash met with Bernard Marcus, co-founder of Home Depot and founder of the Marcus Foundation, Executive Director Jay Kaiman, and treasurer and chief financial officer Rick Slagle. The Foundation, which already has invested nearly \$8 million over the past seven years in the Washington, DC and Atlanta Violence-Free Zone programs, will provide almost \$3 million over the next three years to continue and expand it in Atlanta. Foundation officials praised the success of the violence-reduction program and its ability to make lasting changes in the lives of troubled young people.

**President's Fund Provides Special Help:** Tasha Allen, a participant in CNE's Violence-Free Zone program at Milwaukee's North Division High School, was offered a chance of a lifetime—to compete in an event that could lead to a place on an Olympics team. But Tasha didn't have the money to pay for the trip or for a chaperone to accompany her. Thanks to contributors to the CNE's President's Fund, a check for \$2,000 has been sent to Tasha and she is on her way to the U.S.A. Junior Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon. The President's Fund was created for special cases like these where young people have done everything they can to do the right thing but need extra resources to achieve their dreams or meet other emergencies.

## **Financial Literacy Audiences Continue to Seek Crisis Information:**

While topics such as Using Credit, Credit History, Identity Theft, and Managing Your Money still continue to be the most popular among low and middle-income adults participating in the Adult Financial Literacy program, CNE/HSBC program organizers are emphasizing the importance of developing wealth-building strategies and offer workshops on Homeownership and Managing Your Mortgage. At a little over the half-way point in the year, the program is well on its way to its goals with 79 workshops conducted to date. More than 2800 adults have participated in the workshops this year. About 65% of them rent or live with someone else, do not have a college or professional degree, and earn less than \$30,000 a year.

## **CNE Training and Technical Assistance Program:**

The Center has selected 11 community-based programs in Washington, DC's Wards 5, 7, and 8 to be part of the 2009 Compassion Capital Fund program and expects to be able to make as many as nine additional awards in July. Through the CCF program, CNE is able to provide technical assistance to the organizations and small subgrants to be used for capacity-building projects. CNE has assisted more than 40 community-based organizations in DC and convenes them monthly in the Hands Across Network meetings to share information, ideas, and resources.