



E-Update

July, 2009

DC Police Praise CNE Youth Peace Action:

Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police praised the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise for preventing further violence among youths in Benning Terrace public housing, where a July 4 shooting had resulted in escalating tensions. CNE and the Benning Terrace Youth Opportunities organization held meetings with more than two dozen young people and secured a peace pledge. D.C. Police Commander Melvin Scott spoke of CNE's success in reducing youth violence at a dinner July 23 held to honor the young people for their embrace of peace. Benning Terrace Youth Opportunities, headed by former Benning Terrace resident Charles Penny, is made up of young men who once were involved in problems in the area 12 years ago. After CNE helped negotiate a truce between warring youth factions in 1997, they began volunteering as football coaches to provide the youngsters in the development with positive alternatives to street life. They have worked for 12 years with virtually no support except for small grants from the Center and the D.C. Housing Authority. CNE is trying to raise funds to support their efforts. (Read Washington Times story, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/jul/24/youths-commended-for-peace-pact/>)

Richmond VFZ: Dramatic Reductions in Police Calls:

Police in Richmond also say that there have been significant improvements in violence and other problems at George Wythe High School since the Violence-Free Zone program was introduced there a year ago. The Richmond Police Department reports that service calls to the school were reduced by 18%, arrests were down 15%, and incidents logged by the police School Resource Officer dropped by 34%. The Richmond Violence-Free Zone is implemented in George Wythe High School—previously considered one of the city's most trouble-plagued—by CNE's community partner, the Richmond Outreach Center (The ROC).

Dallas CBS Television Station to Feature VFZ:

The new initiative aimed at invading the youth culture with positive messages that was launched by Dallas' Vision Regeneration is rapidly catching fire. Vision's multi-faceted program, called PositiveXchange, is receiving a major boost from the Dallas CBS television station in the form of a weekly 30-minute television program. Hosted by young people in the Violence-Free Zone program, the shows will feature performances by artists who present alternatives to the negative messages that dominate so much of the youth entertainment culture today. The weekly series will start August 8 on CBS 11 (www.cbs11tv.com).

CNE Chooses 20 DC Groups to Receive Technical Assistance::

Twenty community-based programs in Washington, DC's Wards 5, 7, and 8 have been selected to receive technical assistance and sub-awards from the Center as part of the 2009 Compassion Capital Fund program. They also have joined CNE's Hands Across Network of some 40 community organizations which meets monthly to share information, ideas, and resources.