



E-Update

September, 2009

Violence-Free Zone Praised for Successes:

The Milwaukee Public Schools Board unanimously voted to fund the VFZ in eight high schools again after a Finance Committee session at which the Superintendent of Schools, two principals, an assistant principal, two parents, a VFZ student participant, and even Milwaukee's chief municipal judge came forward to praise the program. The VFZ went back to school in 32 schools for the fall session. The following are totals for the VFZ sites and the community organizations that partner with CNE:

- Atlanta, 6 schools (Visions Unlimited)
- Baltimore, 4 schools (New Vision Youth Services)
- Dallas, 13 schools (Vision Regeneration)
- Milwaukee, 8 high schools (Latino Community Center and Running Rebels Community Organization)
- Richmond, 1 school (The Richmond Outreach Center—The ROC)

Richmond Results for the Year:

Richmond's The ROC (Richmond Outreach Center) will continue its work at George Wythe High School with funding from the community through the Richmond Police Foundation. The school reported these year-end results comparing incidents and attendance before and after the Violence-Free Zone was introduced at George Wythe:

George Wythe High School Measures Pre- and Post-Violence-Free Zone

Measure	Pre-VFZ (07/08)	Post-VFZ (08/09)	Percent Change
Incidents	1,326	1,114	Down 16%
# of days of Out-of School	4,438	3,978	Down 10%
Unexcused Absences	14,177	9,161	Down 35%
Absences	22,972	20,949	Down 9%
Truancy Rate	34%	20%	Down 14%
Drop Outs	68	65	Down 4%

Fishing School Gets Extreme Makeover: One of CNE's Hands-Across Network organizations in Washington, DC was selected by the TV show "*Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*" to receive a completely new building to house its youth and family support center. Two local builders and hundreds of volunteers and donors worked 24/7 for a week to make it possible. The Fishing School was created in 1990 by Tom Lewis, a retired police officer who dedicated his life to serving children in a drug infested neighborhood in northeast Washington, DC. CNE has provided technical assistance and linkages to sources of support to The Fishing School for many years.

CNE Provides Training and Technical Assistance: 20 DC non-profits are working diligently on strengthening their financial and organizational management with assistance from the Center. CNE also has held workshops on Community Engagement, Outcome Measurement, Human Resources, the new IRS 990, and Development for Small Non-Profits in Tough Economic Times.