



E-Update

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March 29, 2010

Auto Thefts Reduced 25% around Milwaukee Schools with VFZ:

Significant reductions in motor vehicle thefts around Milwaukee public high schools with the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise's Violence-Free Zone program may be a side benefit of the VFZ program, researchers from Baylor University reported. According to William Wubbenhorst, a fellow of Baylor University's Programs on Prosocial Behavior, the Milwaukee Police Department data shows that "Auto thefts decreased by 25% between academic years 2006-07 (i.e., pre-VFZ) and 2007-08 (i.e., post-VFZ), the most recent data provided by the Milwaukee Police Department. In comparison, the citywide reduction in auto thefts during this same time period decreased by only 6%. Given the fact that the Milwaukee Police Department did not indicate that any special efforts were in place in these specific areas to reduce auto thefts, it is a reasonable assumption that the work of the Youth Advisors with students *within* the school also influenced their behavior and decision-making *outside* of the school."

The research team led by Dr. Byron Johnson and Wubbenhorst released an updated edition of the Milwaukee Violence-Free Zone case study that was published in January, 2009, with new data. Some of the other findings reported in the Baylor case study:

- Violent incidents were down 11% compared to increases of 15% for non-VFZ schools
- Nonviolent incidents were down 21% compared to increases of 19% for non-VFZ schools
- Suspension rates were down 7% compared with increases of 4% for all MPS schools
- Total suspensions were down 29.6% compared with only a 9% decrease for non-VFZ schools
- Motor vehicle thefts around VFZ schools decreased by 25% compared with only a 6% citywide reduction

The Violence-Free Zone program was introduced into Milwaukee public high schools almost six years ago. There are eight schools participating in the 2009/2010 school year. CNE's Milwaukee community partners, the Latino Community Center and the Running Rebels Community Organization, implement the program by hiring young adults from the same communities to act as Youth Advisors to students in the schools. The Youth Advisors act as hall and cafeteria monitors, conflict mediators, and they mentor high-need students assigned to the program by each school.

Conference on Philanthropy to Feature Woodson's Lessons in Creative Grantmaking:

Bob Woodson will be a keynote speaker at the Conference on Philanthropy 2010 at the InterContinental Chicago O'Hare on Saturday, April 24. Woodson will address the topic of "Creative Grantmaking: Lessons Learned from the Principles that Operate in the Market Economy. See link:

Conference on Philanthropy 2010, April 22-24,
<http://advisorsinphilanthropy.org/net/frmEveReport.aspx?ID=42>.

Woodson Interview in World Magazine:

CNE President Bob Woodson went to New York in late January for a session with World Magazine Founder Marvin Olasky and students at the King's College in Manhattan. The interview is published in the March 27 edition of World Magazine and there is a link to the audio recording of the interview.
<http://www.worldmag.com/articles/16497>

Recent Radio Shows:

Recent topics on The Bob Woodson Show—What Works and Why internet radio show have included: “The Tyranny of the Helping Hand—how traditional programs have actually hurt low-income people;” “Rediscovering Our Principles and Reclaiming Our Future;” “Two Veterans Talk About How to Reduce Youth Crime and Violence;” “The Deeper Impact of Reducing Youth Violence;” and “The Role of Faith in the Restoration of Young People, Families, and Communities.” Information about the shows and Bob's guests as well as live and archived shows is available by going to www.cneonline.org and clicking on the Radio icon. The program airs on TalkZone radio every Tuesday at 1 p.m. ET, and all the shows are archived and available for listening or download by going to the website.