



# E-Update

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## **Chicago is Next Spot for the CNE Violence-Free Zone:**

CNE has been officially notified by Chicago Public Schools that it will be awarded a contract to bring the Violence-Free Zone youth violence reduction program to the city. CNE's Chicago community partner, the K.L.E.O. (Keep Loving Each Other) Community Family Life Center, will implement the program in Chicago's Englewood Community and provide mentoring and advocacy services to 100 young people. The goal of the program will be to "(A) reduce the likelihood that the student will engage in aggressive behavior or criminal activity and (B) to decrease the frequency of the student's truancies, suspensions, and expulsions. The VFZ program also seeks to improve student's academic performance and increase his or her involvement in extra-curricular activities. With direction and training by the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, the K.L.E.O. center will recruit, screen, hire, and manage Youth Advisors from the community to act as mentors to the young people. K.L.E.O. is directed by Torrey Barrett, who founded the organization in 2007 after a sister was killed in domestic violence. This will mark the first CNE Violence-Free Zone program site in Chicago, although CNE has provided training and technical assistance to leaders of other community-based organizations there.

## **Redskins' Rocky McIntosh Steps Up to Help in Benning Terrace:**

Reports of the plight of the Benning Terrace little league football organization, whose offices suffered vandalism and destruction last month, moved many to offer donations and assistance. Redskins starting linebacker Rocky McIntosh and his wife personally came to CNE's Washington, DC offices to deliver some \$3800 worth of new electronic equipment—from X-boxes to computers and more. The equipment will be moved to the program's new offices as soon as secure space is acquired in Benning Terrace. The sports program is led entirely by volunteer coaches who once were part of the problem 13 years ago in Benning but who transformed their own lives and have come back to try to steer the younger generation into positive directions. Youngsters from 7 to 17 are served by the program.

## **Milwaukee Superintendent Honored at Retirement:**

Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent William Andrekopoulos, who took a chance on a community-based youth violence reduction program by inviting it into eight MPS high schools, was honored at his retirement in June after serving 30 years in Milwaukee schools. Superintendent Andrekopoulos became a strong advocate for the CNE Violence-Free Zone after seeing how successful it was in reducing violent and nonviolent incidents and suspensions and he has hosted school officials from all over the country to show them how well it has worked. CNE President Bob Woodson presented the Superintendent with a plaque expressing the gratitude of CNE and its grassroots leaders, as well as that of young people and parents.