



CENTER FOR  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ENTERPRISE



# Center for Neighborhood Enterprise

## Annual Report 2009

*TRANSFORMING LIVES,  
SCHOOLS, AND TROUBLED NEIGHBORHOODS  
FROM THE INSIDE OUT*



***OUR MISSION IS TO TRANSFORM LIVES,  
SCHOOLS, AND TROUBLED NEIGHBORHOODS  
FROM THE INSIDE OUT***

**— FOUNDING PRINCIPLES —**

- Those suffering the problem must be involved in the creation and implementation of the solution.
- The principles of the market economy should be applied to the solution of societal problems.
- Value-generating and faith-based programs are uniquely qualified to address the problems of poverty.



## A Message from Robert L. Woodson, Sr.



Bob Woodson

The Center for Neighborhood Enterprise was founded in 1981 because of my strong conviction that change – whether in an individual, an organization, or a community – must start from within. My own experiences up to that point had convinced me that some of the most profound wisdom lies in the untutored minds of those neighborhood leaders who see problems in their communities and who know exactly what must be done to address them. They were the only ones who could promote change – not outside agencies that parachute in programs, or credentialed professionals who regard people in need as clients.

The Center was created to support those neighborhood healing agents, by giving them training and technical assistance to strengthen their ability to serve, and to link them to sources of support. We are a research and demonstration organization, which means that we continually canvass the country to see what is working, and in some instances, put energy into a specific area to demonstrate that there are solutions to some of society's most troubling problems. As one of our grassroots leaders famously said, "The Center goes around the country like a Geiger counter finding out what works, and then applies miracle grow."

In 2009 we continued to receive confirmation that our approach is correct. Our Violence-Free Zone youth violence reduction program was the subject of a second case study by Baylor University, whose researchers went back to Milwaukee to see if the good results reported a year ago still held true. Their report:

*"Interviews with Milwaukee school officials, teachers, and other relevant stakeholders indicate widespread agreement regarding the linkages between the implementation of the VFZ initiative and improvements in a host of areas. Student climate surveys generally confirm that perceived improvements concerning the overall learning atmosphere/environment, safety, and general orderliness within the VFZ schools exceeded those of Milwaukee's other high schools. In-depth interviews with teachers and administrators support these findings."*

To read about more detailed results of the VFZ program, please go to page 2. Our principles also are validated in the testimonies of the community organization leaders who report that their organizations have gone to new levels because of the help they have received from CNE's excellent technical assistance team. And the results produced by the financial literacy program show that working in the community, through trusted community leaders, is the best way to promote positive and responsible financial behaviors.

This annual report is about results. Once again, we thank you, our supporters, for your part in creating these results. We think you will be impressed.

Sincerely,



Founder and President  
Center for Neighborhood Enterprise

*TRANSFORMING LIVES,  
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THE INSIDE OUT*



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# ■ *The Violence-Free Zone*



## *Schools, Police Praise CNE Youth Violence Reduction Program*

The CNE Violence-Free Zone program continues to produce outstanding results and has garnered praise from school and law officials alike. Two Baylor University case studies of the Milwaukee VFZ, in eight high schools for the 2008/2009 school year, show “significant improvements in the VFZ schools that are measurable over time.” Baylor researchers Dr. Byron Johnson and William Wubbenhorst reported that interviews with Milwaukee school officials, teachers, and other relevant stakeholders indicate widespread agreement regarding the linkages of the VFZ initiative and improvements over a host of areas. Student climate surveys also confirmed the improved perceptions of safety, orderliness, and overall learning atmosphere/environment.

Similar results are being reported at the other sites around the country. In September, 2009, the VFZ went back to school in 36 of some of the nation’s most troubled middle and high schools in Atlanta (5 schools); Baltimore (5); Dallas (17); Milwaukee (8); and Richmond (1).



*Graduation day at Young Professionals Academy, a unique job preparation program that is part of the Milwaukee Violence-Free Zone.*

### **SOME VIOLENCE-FREE ZONE RESULTS REPORTED BY BAYLOR UNIVERSITY**

#### **– Milwaukee, WI – 8 high schools with VFZ – 2008/2009 compared to pre-VFZ**

- Violent incidents down 11% compared to increases of 15% for non-VFZ schools
- Nonviolent incidents down 21% compared to increases of 19% for non-VFZ schools
- Suspensions down 29.6% compared with only a 9% decrease for non-VFZ schools
- Increases in student GPAs of 4% compared to no increase in all MPS schools
- Auto thefts around VFZ schools decreased by 25% compared to only 9% around non-VFZ schools

#### **– Richmond, VA – George Wythe High School – 2008/2009 compared to pre-VFZ**

- 16% reduction in incidents
- 41% decrease in truancy rates
- 18% reduction in police service calls to school
- 61% reduction in motor vehicle thefts within the police sector in which the school is located



In addition to school and individual student improvements, new data has begun emerging about the impact of the VFZ on community crime and safety. The Richmond Police Department reported a 61% decrease in motor vehicle thefts in the police sector around George Wythe High School and attributed the decrease to the VFZ program. The Baylor University study said that auto thefts around all eight VFZ schools were down 25%, compared with only a 9% decrease in the rest of Milwaukee. Police service calls and School Resource Officer incident reports also were substantially reduced.

CNE’s goal is to conduct cost-benefit analyses to calculate the benefits of the VFZ in reducing police, fire, and ambulance calls to schools, court costs, and incarceration as well as the costs of juvenile crime in the community.



VFZ staff members from the Latino Community Center have conducted a wide range of community service projects.

*“I’m not even going to say it’s a program, it’s really a cultural shift, an emphasis on bringing the community into our schools and embracing our children. We saw instant improvement in suspensions, instant improvement in class disruptions, in fact, talking with the principals, they have told me they don’t know how they could be a principal without the program in the schools. So it’s been a very positive experience. The data presents itself. It’s actually changing lives of children.”*

– Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent William Andrekopoulos

***Succeeding Against the Odds  
– the Staying True Awards***



From left: Newly minted college students Dawn Henn, Sydney Conejo, and Sylvester Stewart, Jr., with Dawn Barnett of Running Rebels Community Organization at a CNE Violence-Free Zone meeting in Washington, DC, in November, 2009. All three were VFZ program participants, and Dawn and Stewart were Staying True awardees in 2008.

Thirty-two students from eight Milwaukee High Schools were honored for succeeding against the odds – for improved behavior and/or for excelling in academics despite challenging circumstances. The “Staying True” awards created by the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise and its Milwaukee community partners the Latino Community Center and the Running Rebels Community Organization went to four students at each of the eight high schools participating in the CNE Violence-Free Zone program. They received trophies and medallions at a reception on Tuesday, May 26, 2009, and were honored by the Rotary Club of Milwaukee at a luncheon the same day. They were selected from the more than 900 students in the Milwaukee VFZ program.

# ■ *Training and Technical Assistance*



Valerie Ashley (left), Executive Director, Southeast Ministry, with Geanie Kase, CNE's Director of Training and Technical Assistance.

## *The "Growth Hormone" of Technical Assistance*

One of CNE's grassroots leaders once said, "CNE is like a Geiger counter that goes around the country finding what works. Then it applies miracle grow." CNE's secret ingredient is the program of technical assistance it has developed to meet the unique challenges of nonprofit organizations serving low-income communities. Over the past 29 years, CNE has provided training and technical assistance to more than 2600 leaders of grassroots service organizations in 39 states.

Technical assistance means many different things to the organizations assisted by the Center. For Pastor Freddie Garcia and the now international Victory Fellowship recovery and transformation program, it was leadership and managerial training, and help dealing with regulatory challenges over the years. For Bishop Shirley Holloway, it was financial management and administrative efficiency, and linkages to sources of investment that have made it possible for her to develop a

multi-campus program serving thousands of homeless and addicted men, women, and their families.

CNE's core technical assistance areas are Human Resources, Organizational Purpose, Strategic Planning, Board Development, Facilities Management, Technology, Financial Management, and Fundraising. Each organization receives an organizational assessment and together with the Center, develops a plan to strengthen areas of need. The Center has been a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Administration Compassion Capital Fund intermediary organization since 2003 and has served almost 40 faith and community-based organizations in Washington, DC with technical assistance and subgrant awards. The Center also links the groups it has served in its Hands-Across Network, which meets monthly to share information and best practices.

## **What They Say... About CNE Technical Assistance**

*"Thanks to the two-tier approach of technical assistance and capacity building grants provided by the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE), Step Afrika! is a dramatically different organization than it was in 2004 ... Step Afrika! has benefited from the TA expertise of Virginia Kase and her staff in human resources, program development, financial management, and organizational development. Additionally, small grants have enabled Step Afrika! to complete an IT assessment, procured the recommended hardware, and obtain our first audit as well as to implement a comprehensive development plan."*

– C. Brian Williams, Founder and Executive Director, Step Afrika!

*"The other name for the Hands-Across Network meetings should be Executive Director 101. Every session seems to take me further into my knowledge. I have felt so empowered by what I have learned."*

– Valerie Ashley, Executive Director, Southeast Ministry

*Over the past 29 years, CNE has provided training and technical assistance to more than 2600 leaders of grassroots service organizations in 39 states.*

# ■ Financial Literacy

## Good Training Helps Many Get through Tough Times

The nation's economic crisis created challenges for CNE's financial literacy community partner organizations in 2009. No longer merely teaching budgeting and borrowing basics, these grassroots groups were faced with trying to help people save their credit and even their homes from foreclosure. Despite the severity of some of these issues, the community organizations that joined forces with CNE and HSBC North America produced excellent results in providing behavior-changing training to 6,148 low and moderate-income adults during the year.

A total of 30 community and faith-based organizations or site affiliates partnered with CNE and HSBC NA to deliver 175 Your Money Counts (YMC) Adult Financial Literacy

*"Due to our geographic location, the number of un-banked individuals and the overall number of low income families, the workshops are very much needed. The workshops empower the community and give them a sense of ownership. We are very happy with CNE services."*

– El Paso Collaborative's Executive Director, Delia Chavez

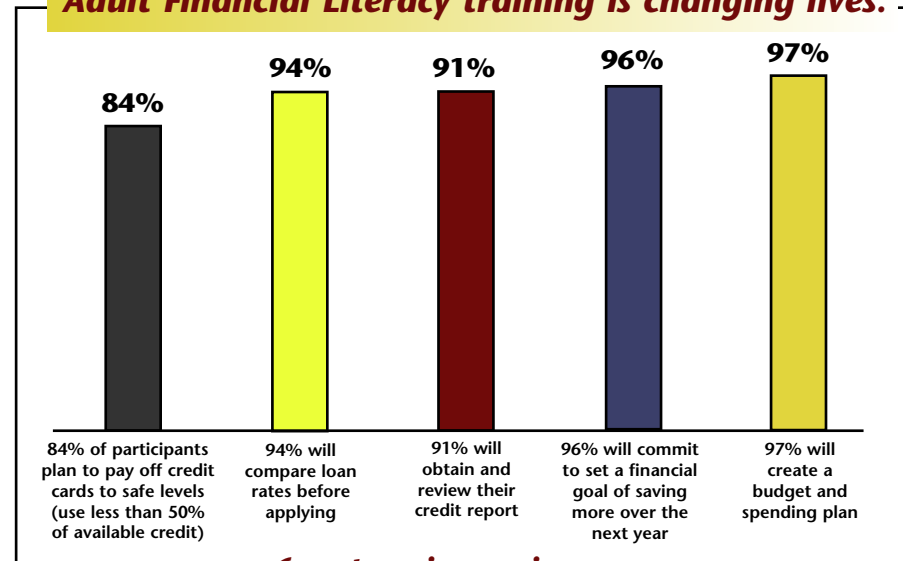
workshops in 18 states. Using protocols established by CNE, each site was responsible for planning, organizing, hosting, and delivering the local trainings. The workshops focused on eight topics: Managing Your Money, Identity Theft, Borrowing Basics, Credit History, Banking, Using Credit, Homeownership, and Managing Your Mortgage.

The Center and HSBC provided financial literacy education to 22,484 adults from 2006 through 2009.



Buffalo Weed & Seed Executive Director Antwan Diggs awards a door prize to a participant in the CNE/HSBC Financial Literacy workshop.

### Adult Financial Literacy training is changing lives.



6-part seminar series survey

**Number of adults receiving Financial Literacy Training from 2006 to 2009 = 22,484**

# Spreading the Word

## 2009 Speeches and Appearances

### 2009 Speeches

**CNE/Hudson Institute:** Panel, "A Post-Racial America?" Washington, DC

**Colorado Christian University:** Values-Aligned Leadership Summit, Denver, CO

**Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, K.L.E.O. Community Family Life Center, and Open Society Institute's Campaign for Black Male Achievement:** Forum, "Breaking Barriers: End School Violence and Improve Academic Success Among Black Males," Chicago, IL

**EFFORTS:** 10th Annual Banquet, Lanham, MD

**House of Help/City of Hope:** Graduation Address, Washington, DC

**House of Help/City of Hope:** Kingdom City Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, Waldorf, MD

**Houston Baptist University:** Convocation, Houston, TX

**King of Kings Foundation:** Annual Meeting, New York, NY

**Milwaukee Public Schools:** 2009 Safety Awards Program, Milwaukee, WI

**Milwaukee Violence-Free Zone:** "Staying True Awards III" Luncheon, Milwaukee, WI

**Office of Partnerships and Grant Services:** Capacity-Building Initiative Graduation Ceremony, Washington, DC

**Running Rebels Community Organization:** Annual Scholarship/Awards Banquet, Milwaukee, WI

**Steamboat Institute:** 2009 Inaugural Freedom Conference, Steamboat Springs, CO

**The Heritage Foundation, DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society:** Seminar, "Seek the Welfare of the City: Effective Responses to Poverty and Human Need," Lookout Mountain, GA and Houston, TX

**The Heritage Foundation:** Forum, "Tribute to Jack Kemp's Legacy," Washington, DC

**The Jack Kemp Foundation:** Inaugural Conference, Washington, DC

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families:** African American Healthy Marriage Research Conference, Chapel Hill, NC

**U.S. House of Representatives, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security Hearing:** Testimony, "Youth Violence: Trends, Myths and Solutions," Washington, DC

**Virginia Commonwealth University:** Policy Class, 3 Sessions, Washington, DC

**Vision Regeneration:** Community Conversation, Dallas, TX

### Media

*Editorial Board, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

*Richmond Times Dispatch*

*The Diane Rehm Show, WAMU FM, Washington, DC*

*The Examiner*

*The New York Times Magazine*

*The Washington Informer*

*The Washington Post*

*The Washington Times*

*TMJ4-TV Milwaukee*

*WAMU Radio*

*WISN Channel 12-TV Milwaukee*

*WJLA-TV Morning Show, Washington, DC*

*WUWM Milwaukee*

*Weekly: Garrison, WIBC Indianapolis and www.wibc.com*

Other local media around the country



### The Bob Woodson Show – What Works and Why

**The Bob Woodson Show – What Works and Why** was launched October 27, and draws on the CNE President's decades of promoting solutions to some of society's most challenging problems. The shows are archived and available to hear or download by going to [www.cneonline.org](http://www.cneonline.org) and clicking on the Radio icon.

### 2009 Shows:

**Oct. 27. Youth Violence, What is the Solution?** William G. Andrekopoulos, Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools, and Pastor Torrey Barrett, founder of the K L E O Community Family Life Center in Chicago.

**Nov. 3. Youth Violence, The Turnaround of South Division High School:** Former Principal Mark Kuxhause, and Andre Robinson, Amelia Stuckart, and Jesse Garcia of the Latino Community Center.

**Nov.10. Youth Violence Reduction Approaches, Measuring Results:** Dr. Byron Johnson and William Wubbenhorst of Baylor University, and CNE National Violence-Free Zone Program Director Kwame Johnson.

**Nov. 17. The Law Enforcement Perspective on Youth Violence:** Milwaukee District Attorney John Chisholm, Richmond Police Foundation Chairman Heidi Abbott, and Richmond Assistant Chief David McCoy.

**Nov. 24. Can Today's Violent Youth Be Changed?:** Pastor DeForest "Buster" Soaries.

**Dec. 1. Building on Strengths in the Black Community:** Dr. Robert Hill and Dr. Ivory Tolbert.

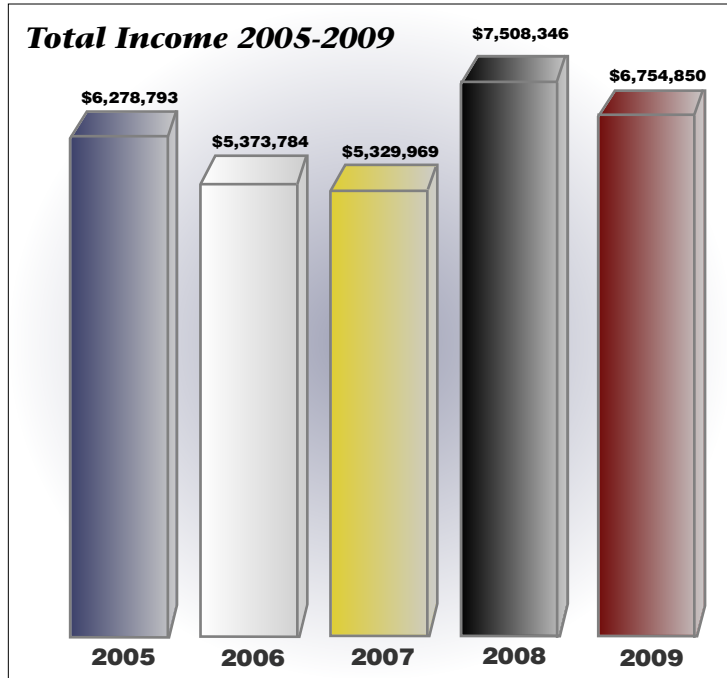
**Dec. 8. Part I: The Path to Redemption – How to Reduce Violence and Redeem Lives:** Bishop Shirley Holloway, Founder of the House of Help, City of Hope, and CNE Technical Assistance Manager Virginia "Geanie" Kase.

**Dec. 15. Part II: The Path to Redemption – How to Reduce Violence and Redeem Lives:** Omar Jahwar of Vision Regeneration, and Brian Williams, Step Afrika!

**Dec. 22. What Young People Say about Their Lives:** High school students from Atlanta, Milwaukee, and Richmond talk about their challenges and what changed their lives.

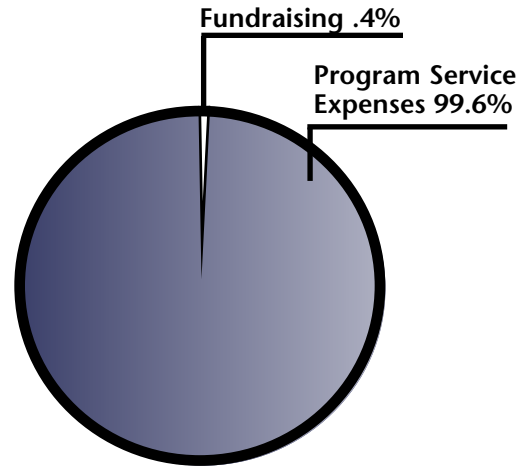
**Dec. 29. Financial Literacy – Repairing Credit and Getting Back on Track Financially:** HSBC Vice President Loretta Abrams, CNE Financial Literacy Program Director Charles Perry, and Buffalo Weed and Seed Program Director Antwan Diggs.

# ■ 2009 Financial Report ■

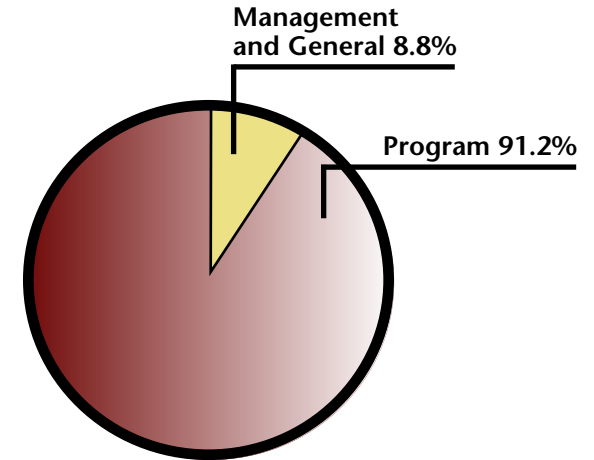


**Total Income 2009: \$6,754,850**

**Total Functional Expenses  
2009: \$6,670,918**



**Total Program Service  
Expenses 2009: \$6,636,236**



## 2009 Major Supporters

Achelis Foundation  
Antelope Valley Union High School District  
Helen Bader Foundation  
Thomas & Jennifer Baker  
Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation  
Elizabeth Brinn Foundation  
R. Bradford Evans  
Chevron  
District of Columbia

Clifford and Patricia Ehrlich  
Baruch and Karen Fellner  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
Ron Haskins  
Herzfeld Foundation  
Hickory Foundation  
Robert Hill  
HSBC  
Bill, Sheila and Phin Lambert Family Foundation  
Marcus Foundation

Terence M. Mathis  
Wesley G. McCain  
Milwaukee Public Schools  
M&I Foundation  
Penates Foundation  
Mortgage Insurance Companies of America  
New Hope Foundation  
Frank Nicolai  
Susan and Alan Patricof Family Foundation Fund

Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation  
Richmond Metropolitan Police Department  
Richmond Police Foundation, Inc.  
Gerard R. Roche  
Howard Solomon  
Michelle R. Taylor  
Tiger Woods Foundation  
David & Julia Uihlein Charitable Foundation

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Compassion Capital Fund  
U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
Richard Wiederhold  
Herbert S. Winokur, Jr. Family Foundations, Inc.  
Robert L. Woodson, Sr.  
Zerbe Family Foundation

CNE has been awarded a 4-Star Rating from **Charity Navigator**

# ■ What They Are Saying About CNE ■

## ■ Violence-Free Zone

### – John Chisholm, Milwaukee District Attorney:

*“Since this program has been in place – there clearly have been other factors as well – but this is one of the key factors – we’ve seen the largest reduction in violent crime in Milwaukee’s history in the last 25 years. And that’s how deeply I feel that this isn’t just a luxury, not just a good program, this is a necessity that we need to have in our community if we are going to continue creating a safe environment, a place where people know that their kids are going to be able to go to school in safety ... ”*

### – David McCoy, Assistant Chief of Police, Richmond, VA:

*“The VFZ program at George Wythe has played an integral part in our overall public safety strategy. Not only has it helped reduce crime at the school but also has positively affected the surrounding community. Negative incidents in the school are down, attendance is up, GPAs are up. Working with CNE, Richmond Public Schools and the Richmond Outreach Center has been a plus for the Richmond community. Addressing the quality of life issues in and around the school continues to be part of our community policing efforts – and the Violence-Free Zone certainly plays a key role in our successes. VFZ’s outcome-based, core programming approach continues to pay dividends for all involved.”*

## ■ Training and Technical Assistance

### – Dr. Satira S. Streeter, Executive Director, Ascensions Community Services:

*“We received our first grant from CNE in 2004 when Ascensions was being run from my home and I was the only volunteer serving families. Because of the funding received from CNE we are currently a full functioning Mental Health center with computers, furniture, electronic equipment, and evaluation material ... We are now recognized as a premiere non-profit in the Washington area being featured in the Catalogue for Philanthropy, on NBC nightly news, and in various newsprint media ... I am convinced that none of this would have been possible if it had not been for the time and energy CNE offered us in the very beginning.”*

### – Derek Moseley, Chief Judge, City of Milwaukee Municipal Court:

*“Any given day I have from 100 to 300 juvenile cases on my calendar from incidents inside the schools, the parks, and the community. We realize we can’t continue to prosecute our way out of some of these problems. There are two types of cases, some that people need to be in the court and those that need to be addressed by an out-of-the-box strategy. The Violence-Free Zone is an out-of-the-box strategy. As a judge, I hope that you will support this program and I hope that you will expand it to other schools. It makes my job easier – believe me, it helps make my job easier ... ”*

### – Robin Kitzrow, Principal, Bay View High School:

*“I watched something I’ve never seen in schools before. I watched the Violence-Free Zone Advisors become the safety nets for students that had basically given up on themselves. They took these students, they gave them hopes, they gave them dreams, and then they followed through with this. They kept up with the students, they went to their homes, they were out in the community, they communicated with all of us. When they knew that something was going on in the school, being proactive, that was really their job. When students needed help and they didn’t know who to come to, it was very common to see students walk up to Violence-Free Zone Youth Advisors. I watched students that never, ever thought they would graduate, never thought they would go to college, walk across the stage in June. That really is the proof.”*

## ■ Financial Literacy

### – Financial Literacy Workshop Participant from Brooklyn, NY:

*“I thank God for the financial literacy workshop because it has helped me be more cautious with my spending, buying and giving. I have gained knowledge and understanding that has helped me to help others with financial trouble. Thank you for making a change in my life.”*

## *In Memoriam: Pastor Freddie Garcia*



Pastor Freddie Garcia – founder of Victory Fellowship in San Antonio, Texas – passed away in November, 2009 after a long illness.

The Center for Neighborhood Enterprise first heard of Pastor Freddie in 1990 when soliciting nominees for CNE’s Achievement Against the Odds awards. CNE President and Founder Bob Woodson heard about a former drug addict named Alfredo “Freddie” Garcia, who with his wife Ninfa was saving addicts in a tiny house in the San Antonio barrio. Selected by the judges, he was one of seven extraordinary citizens who came to Washington, D.C. to receive the award from President George H. W. Bush in the Rose Garden. This began a more than 20-year close relationship between CNE and Pastor Freddie.

Pastor Freddie’s legacy lives on in Victory Fellowship’s continuing work, in the thousands of lives freed from drug and alcohol addiction, and in the hearts he touched and transformed through his teaching and example of faith.

***“Only in America  
could a Mexican who  
grew up in the barrio  
find himself honored  
by a President of the  
United States.”***

— Pastor Freddie Garcia

*Photo Caption:*

*Front:* Pastor Freddie and Ninfa Garcia.

*Back:* Jubal Garcia and CNE President Bob Woodson.



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