

District 2 - Year End Report  
Safe Streets Initiative  
December, 2007  
Submitted by: Paulina Jasso, Community Coordinator

The following is a summary of work that has been completed since July 2007 by the Community Coordinator in Milwaukee Police District Two.

Over 162 contacts have been made that include residents who live in the district, faith-based organizations and community-based organizations that serve the district, law enforcement agencies, and public officials. During initial meetings with community stakeholders, Safe Streets was introduced, explained and promoted. Participation at over 30 events has taken place in order to further promote the Safe Streets Initiative and educate stakeholders about the dynamics of the project. Seven training opportunities regarding the Safe Streets Initiative and other Common Ground related topics have been attended since July 2007.

In September, Restorative Justice Circle training was conducted for invited community leaders, four of which work in District Two. Since the training, those community leaders have been conducting their own circles.

In September, along with the District Two Community Prosecutor Paul Hauer, the Community Target Team was created. The Community Target Team is a community-based and collaborative approach to reduce crime in neighborhoods that are targeted by particular need. The target area chosen is 11<sup>th</sup> Street to 16<sup>th</sup> Street on West Greenfield Avenue. Included on the team are representatives from Probation and Parole, City Attorney's Office, District Attorney's Office, Milwaukee Police Department, Hope House, Southside Organizing Committee, Safe & Sound Community Partners, and Marquette Law School. The Community Target Team is similar to the Law Enforcement Target Team, where various representatives from Law Enforcement agencies meet to discuss major offenders in the district. With the Community Target Team, representatives meet to discuss the needs, resources, etc. of a targeted neighborhood. The first project of the Community Target Team is to conduct a needs and resource assessment of the area that includes demographics, crime statistics, resource assessments, homeownership, etc. With this information, the Community Target Team will be working with community residents to better understand resources that are available, how to report crime, target offenders with specific resources, and promote positive behavior in order to reduce crime.

The first Reentry circle was conducted for five gang-related offenders that live in District Two. Of the five, three were able to attend the circle that also included various representatives from the community, agencies, and law enforcement. During the circle, participants discussed their personal stories about the impact of violence on their lives. Offenders have expressed gratitude for being part of this pilot program as well as community residents grateful for the opportunity to meet with offenders. Andre Sherard, a case manager for WCS, offered case management

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services to the offenders. He has met with them individually and will be providing assistance in finding employment, housing, education, etc. where necessary.

Another ongoing portion of the District Two Safe Streets initiative has been to promote gang prevention programs in the community. Visits to several elementary schools in the districts have resulted in parent and staff meetings with law enforcement about how to report crime, characteristics of gangs, and crime analysis in the area. Being the point of contact for the schools, communication to vital resources has become more efficient and effective, reducing frustration and waiting by all parties involved.