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Near South side of Milwaukee
Milwaukee Safe Streets Initiative

2009 Report

The following report summarizes the Community Coordinator's activities for the near south side of the City of Milwaukee during the period of January 2009 through June 30, 2009.

With almost two years since its inception, the Safe Streets Initiative for the south side has made considerable effort at building relationships and maintaining contact with local residents, community leadership, resource providers and law enforcement agencies. Through trainings, community events, school presentations, gang prevention programs and a variety of formal and informal gatherings the Safe Streets Initiative is an accepted component to the myriad of anti-gang and violence reduction efforts. Working to build effective collaborations has become the key to the successes of Safe Streets.

During the first half of 2009, the Safe Streets Initiative for the near south side of Milwaukee held six Notification Sessions, involving 34 recently released offenders and 77 community members. Each session has averaged approximately 17 people total, with many community leaders returning every month to share their message about the impact of crime and violence in their neighborhoods. The successes of these notification sessions come from the continued support and participation of a variety of people, most of who come on a voluntary basis.

A primary foundation of Safe Streets is its volunteers. Recognizing their continued dedication and support of violence reduction, the Safe Streets team is putting together a Partner Appreciation Luncheon for the end of June. This goal of the event is to firstly express gratitude to the multitude of people and organizations that have provide their expertise, time, and space to Safe Streets and also to field a roundtable discussion about the work of Safe Streets. This discussion will focus on evaluating current work and also provide some insight about future strategies. The event invites over 74 volunteers that include residents, block watches, community groups, and faith-based organizations.

Preparation for a second Call-in in Milwaukee Police District Two is underway. Working directly with the Community Target Team for district two, the projects involved in preparing the targeted neighborhood include pre and post surveys about safety and resident involvement, helping residents create block watches, presentations at local churches and community events, as well as finding local leaders willing to take an active role during the call-in. This work is being done in conjunction with the project involving preparation of the resource providers who will be offering Call-In Participants much needed help. This work includes team meetings, research, and effective collaborative partnerships.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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