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From the Director

This year has been exceptional for many of us. Each day we hear good news about steady decreases in crime, violence, and truancy. Rates of employment and literacy are rising. We read in the paper about encouraging stories of communities rebounding economically and spiritually. And we see firsthand that our youth are making a difference and choosing to have aspirations, set goals, and live productive lives. Some children in our communities have motivated us with their ambition, touched our hearts with their actions, and made us proud of them with the inspiring work that they do to make their streets and schools better places.

This issue of In-Sites highlights projects that are mobilizing and educating youth and training them to be strong community leaders. You will read about Weed and Seed sites making great strides in integrating the education of adults and children alike into their crime prevention strategies.

Partnering with organizations to coordinate learning opportunities for the youth in our Weed and Seed sites has become a priority for EOWS. Through partnerships with the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), the National Congress for Community Economic Development (NCCED), the Urban Family Institute, and the U.S. Navy, to name a few, EOWS has integrated youth-focused programs and training into the Weed and Seed program at the national level. You will learn more about these partnerships in this issue.

We open this issue with a commentary from Jack Calhoun, Chief Executive and President of the National Crime Prevention Council, written after the shooting incident at Buell Elementary School in Flint, Michigan. The piece was featured in the March 2, 2000, edition of the Washington Post. I'm certain that you will find his words inspiring.

Stephen Rickman
Director, EOWS

A complete brief is now available from the Weed and Seed Community

Policing Summit. The summit hosted more than 25 chiefs of police from cities across the country to study current trends and the future of community policing.
Call 202-616-1152 to order a copy.

All Officially Recognized Weed and Seed sites are eligible to receive videotapes from the Weed and Seed Community Broadcast Series. Visit the EOWS Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/ to learn more about the series, and call 202-514-0709 to order your copies.

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Mailbox

The Weed and Seed National Conference 2001 is in the planning stages and EOWS wants your suggestions and comments. These national conferences are held once every 2 years, so help EOWS make the 2001 conference the best yet!

Send your comments to askeows@ojp.usdoj.gov. Sites will be notified with details after a host city has been selected.

A Message From Jack Calhoun
Chief Executive and President
National Crime Prevention Council

The tragedy in Mount Morris Township, Michigan, that killed one child and branded another for life is a community responsibility and a parental failure. It points to the need for Americans to act responsibly in relation to the possession of handguns.

There were clear opportunities to prevent this senseless violence:

- (1) The owners should have kept the weapon locked up, unloaded, and inaccessible.
- (2) The child shooter should have been taught by word and deed never to touch a handgun.
- (3) Children at the school who reportedly knew about the gun should have been trained to tell a teacher immediately.

Ultimately, a community determines the level of gun violence it will countenance by regulating availability, by setting standards for ownership and storage, and by establishing expectations for behavior by adults and children.

Parents and gun owners should communicate clearly and frequently with their children about the dangers of guns. They should know where their guns are at all times. Most importantly, they should never leave guns loaded or leave them unsecured in a location that is easily accessible to children. The reality is that a gun in the home is more likely to cause injury or death to family and friends than

to be used in protection of the household. . . . Please lock up your guns. It's the least we can do.

This message was prepared in response to the tragic shooting of a 6-year-old child by a classmate at Buell Elementary School in Mount Morris Township, Michigan, on February 29, 2000.

In-Sites Receives National Award

Each year, the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) honors those who have made significant contributions to the art and science of communications within government. The NAGC Blue Pencil Award annually recognizes excellence in writing, photography, editorial content, and layout and design in government publications.

This year 474 communications products were submitted for award consideration. EOWS is very proud to announce that In-Sites won the Blue Pencil Honorable Mention for Most Improved Publication!

The In-Sites team worked together in the past year to re-engineer the newsletter to better meet readers' needs. Improvements for the year 2000 include a new cover design, expansion from 16 to 24 pages, and improved editorial content, all of which were featured in the Millennium Issue. In-Sites will continue to evolve in the coming year as we strive to provide important information to our more than 4,000 subscribers.

EOWS and NCCED Look to Youth for Input on Determining Community Needs

Jessica Caldwell
Junior, Howard University
EOWS Youth Liaison

EOWS and the National Congress for Community Economic Development (NCCED) have joined forces to create the Youth Advisory Council (YAC), a liaison between the youth in Weed and Seed communities and EOWS and NCCED. The council currently comprises 13 members representing Charleston, South Carolina; Detroit, Michigan; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Portland, Oregon; and Washington, D.C.

Council members possess the leadership and initiative needed to offer advice on what changes should be made within their communities to benefit youth. The council meets three times each year, during the spring, fall, and winter. A planning retreat will be held in summer 2000. Members range in age from 16 to 21 and serve a 12-month term.

On December 3, 1999, YAC members gathered for their first meeting at the 4-H Center in Washington, D.C. This meeting provided an opportunity for the participating young people to define their roles as individuals and their intentions as a group.

At the end of the 3-day meeting the newly formed YAC came up with a mission statement: "to formulate ideas and strategies to improve youth advocacy and to promote youth as active social change agents in distressed communities through education, civic and community participation, public safety, and socialization through inter-generational collaborations."

The December meeting also laid a foundation for the First National Weed and Seed Emerging Young Leaders' Forum (EYLF). EYLF, coordinated by NCCED, took place March 30-April 2, 2000, at the 4-H Center in Washington, D.C. The forum allowed these youth leaders the opportunity to study community engagement, leadership development, and career exploration. Issues addressed included youth violence and working within socioeconomically distressed communities. Overall, the forum gave youth a sense of empowerment that will carry over into adulthood.

The next issue of In-Sites will provide a full report on the First National Weed and Seed Emerging Young Leaders' Forum.

What's Working

Buffalo Weed and Seed Hosts MLK Day 2000 Celebration at Safe Haven

Oswaldo Mestre
Buffalo Weed and Seed Director
Buffalo, New York

Although many considered January 17, 2000, a "day off," for hundreds of thousands of Americans across the country it was a "day on" in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. "Day On, Not a Day Off" is a special initiative to honor the life and work of Dr. King through community service on the King holiday sponsored by the Corporation for National Service in partnership with Best Buy Co., Inc.; the Do Something Kindness & Justice Challenge; First Book; Habitat for Humanity International; the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change; the Points of Light Foundation; the United Way of America; and Youth Services America.

In Buffalo, New York, the "Martin Luther King 2000 Day of Service" (MLK Day 2000) was celebrated at the King Urban Life Center (Safe Haven), located in the heart of the Buffalo Weed and Seed target area.

Buffalo Weed and Seed was 1 of 137 organizations chosen nationwide to receive a grant from the Corporation for National Service to facilitate the day-long event. More than 500 community residents and friends were in attendance as a host of community officials and speakers gave heartfelt presentations on "Implementing Dr. King's Vision in the New Millennium." Participants included Buffalo Mayor Anthony M. Masiello, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York Denise E. O'Donnell, Bishop of Buffalo Henry J. Mansell, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Buffalo Division Michael Mason, and Common Council representatives, including Byron Brown, Charlie Fisher, Karen Ellington, and various community leaders.

"This MLK Day 2000 celebration is not to highlight the King Center; it is to give back, through service, to a community that is hungry for change and ready for growth," said Betty Stone, Vice President of the King Urban Life Center's Board and Chairperson of the MLK Day 2000 event.

Throughout the day, community residents participated in numerous interactive and service-related activities and workshops. Activities included conflict resolution and crime prevention breakout sessions facilitated by the University of Buffalo and the Buffalo Police Department, abstinence training workshops ("How To Live Out Your Dreams") presented by Communities Helping To Achieve Abstinence Together, and a "Developing a Community Action Plan" workshop facilitated by Buffalo Weed and Seed and geared toward community-based problem solving. Youth worked on art projects with the theme "How Do I See MLK in Me?" sponsored by the Art Attack program of the Albright Knox Art Gallery.

The West Seneca Youth Bureau sponsored a "Blizzard Barbecue" at which music and prizes were provided by Buffalo's WBLK-FM radio station, community service volunteers helped AmeriCorps members clean lots and deliver meals to area homes through Meals on Wheels, and King Urban Life Center students, under the direction of Deborah Cobb, performed a play titled "I Have a Dream."

The day ended with youth making a pledge to perform community service. Youth in the Weed and Seed target area were asked to pledge 100 hours of community service to their school and community in the year 2000 by participating in activities such as cleaning up vacant lots, volunteering at food kitchens, or tutoring younger students. Quarterly recognition ceremonies will honor these children and offer them encouragement as they strive to meet their goals. Those who complete the 100 hours of service will receive special

recognition at next year's MLK Day 2001 celebration, and the child completing the most community service hours will receive a scholarship award from the Buffalo Weed and Seed to attend the 14th National Youth Crime Prevention Conference, coordinated by the National Crime Prevention Council.

This is the sixth year that the Corporation for National Service has spearheaded efforts to fulfill the King Holiday and Service Act of 1994, which seeks to transform King's birthday into a day of service that reflects his life and teachings. This year Best Buy donated \$100,000 to support service events on the King holiday, becoming the first national corporate sponsor of the initiative.

To download the complete MLK Day of Service Toolkit and tips for getting started for MLK Day 2001 or to learn more about this initiative, visit www.mlkday.org/. Sites may contact the Buffalo Weed and Seed team at 716-851-4281 for more information.

Booker T. Washington Gym Future Home of Safe Haven

Reverend E.J. Tyson
Executive Director of the Vernon,
Texas, Weed and Seed

In this new millennium, Vernon, Texas, Weed and Seed community residents have much to be thankful for. On January 7, 2000, the Visions Economic Development Corporation held a news conference to celebrate the planned renovation of the abandoned Booker T. Washington School gymnasium. The facility is located in the heart of the Weed and Seed target area and will be the site's new Safe Haven. The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by Visions board members, supporting bankers, community residents, representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas, city leaders, and Paul Casagrande, Special Projects Coordinator at EOWS.

The gymnasium renovation has been targeted as Phase I of the corporation's restoration of the entire school complex, which was made possible by monetary pledges in excess of \$190,000. Contributions came from local businesses, civic clubs, churches, and area residents. The local Bankers' Clearing House granted the construction loan.

Phase II will concentrate on renovating the rest of the building for use as a multipurpose community center where youth can be involved in positive, constructive programs and adults can meet to discuss new ideas for reviving a

depressed and neglected community. Phase I is expected to be completed by June 2000. To learn more about this project, please call the Vernon Weed and Seed at 940-552-0728.

DEFY

National DEFY Training Draws Record Numbers

The National DEFY Train-the-Trainer Conference in March 2000 attracted more than 360 attendees, approximately 232 from Weed and Seed sites nationwide. Held at the Peppermill Hotel in Reno, Nevada, the training conference agenda was adapted from previous conference formats to better accommodate the needs of the U.S. Department of Justice and Weed and Seed site representatives by providing a separate track for Weed and Seed participants. The new format was well received and offered more opportunities for peer mentoring and interaction.

Like every initiative supported by EOWS, DEFY has grown tremendously. Each year more sites apply for funding from EOWS to host DEFY programs, and each year the process becomes increasingly competitive.

"Why is DEFY important?" EOWS Director Stephen Rickman asked the conference audience in his opening remarks. "DEFY provides drug education, but it is also a positive experience for youth who often lack adult role models. The family-centered society is becoming more a part of our past rather than our current circumstance. As a result, kids from all socioeconomic classes and backgrounds are spending less and less time at home with family members. And for the economically disadvantaged, the problem is compounded by the disproportionate number of children being raised in a single-parent situation and in poverty. Some of these children are experiencing alienation [and] emotional deprivation and as a consequence they are engaged in antisocial behavior. Our children need structure and discipline, our love, and our involvement-- and they need our guidance."

Rickman continued, "There is no work more important than what we do to support our youth. It symbolizes what we are and determines what our future will be. While others chase their dreams of accumulating and consuming things, you are here planning how to inoculate several thousand youth living in disenfranchised neighborhoods from drugs and gangs and providing them with positive experiences and positive role models. You are special people who

have not forgotten what really matters in life."

The U.S. Navy's Maj. Jim Hourican, host of the 2 1/2-day conference, graciously recognized the contributions of Weed and Seed communities to the DEFY program. "I must take a moment to thank the Weed and Seed representatives who are here with us," Hourican said. "I remember a few years ago there were just a dozen or so of you here, and today I am very happy to see that there are [more than] 200 Weed and Seed and Department of Justice representatives here committed to coordinating this very important effort in their own communities."

The U.S. Navy's Drug Demand Reduction Task Force (DDRTF) launched the youth mentoring program called Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) in two pilot sites--Pensacola, Florida, and Alameda, California--in 1992. EOWS formed a partnership with the U.S. Navy to bring the DEFY program to three Weed and Seed sites in summer 1996--New Orleans, Louisiana; Atlanta, Georgia; and San Antonio, Texas. The 2000 DEFY Camp season plans to bring the program to more than 65 Weed and Seed communities starting in June. This year, the U.S. Air Force has agreed to import the DEFY program into its own ongoing drug demand reduction efforts. Approximately 20 Air Force, 40 Navy/Marine, and 65 Justice-supported DEFY programs will take place around the world.

New curriculum and program management materials for Weed and Seed sites have been developed by EOWS and a team of volunteer U.S. Attorney's Office staff for the 2000 DEFY program. EOWS will mail these materials to attendees of the DEFY Train-the-Trainer Conference and post them on the EOWS Web site. In the next issue of In-Sites, a full report from a residential Phase I DEFY program jointly coordinated by four Washington, D.C., Weed and Seed sites will be featured.

Moving Messages: Buses Transport Voices of Art-Inspired Teens

Bill Lohmann
Richmond Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

Their neighborhood is known for guns and drugs, but a group of Gilpin Court teens is trying to make a difference with words and art.

Their work--in the form of colorful, handwritten messages--is appearing in advertising spaces on and in Greater Richmond Transit Co. buses.

The words of teen wisdom are simple, blunt and straight from the heart.

Respect me and I will respect you.

I want to see nature, not crackheads.

I'm more than what you make me to be.

The first time Demetrice Moore, 16, saw her work on the side of a purple-and-white bus, she was taken aback by the pride that swelled inside her.

"I was overwhelmed," she said, standing near the bus on Calhoun Street in the housing complex.

It was the same with Ashley Anderson and Tasha Burton, other participants in the collaborative project.

"It feels good to know that people can see it and feel inspired by it," said Ashley, 15.

The bus art came out of a 14-week Awareness Through Arts program sponsored by ART 180 and Weed & Seed of Richmond. The program featured segments on family, peers and community.

"Community was the last segment, and we wanted them to do something in the community rather than just talk about it," said Kathleen Lane, co-founder of ART 180, a nonprofit organization that aims to give kids in difficult circumstances a voice through art.

Volunteers from The Martin Agency and the AdCenter at Virginia Commonwealth University helped shepherd the project.

A high hurdle, Lane said, was getting the kids to say what they wanted to say "and not just regurgitate what we had told them." Eventually, they did.

"They were surprised," she said. "They weren't used to people being interested in what they had to say."

Respect your elders, you can learn a lot from them. More than you think.

Never let anybody hold you down from trying to succeed.

If I had a daughter I would tell her I love her and to never depend on anybody else but yourself.

Three different messages will appear on the sides of 15 buses for at least a month. Another dozen messages will appear inside 50 buses.

In a place like Gilpin Court, it is easy to be swallowed up by the negative. A big challenge for the instructors was to help the teens find something positive in their community and to convince them they can make a difference.

Message received. And passed on.

"I want people to think about what they've been doing," said Ashley Anderson,
"and try to change."

Group Workcamps

Building Ties

In late summer 1999, the Weed and Seed site in Racine, Wisconsin, was the subject of considerable local news coverage for hosting the Group Workcamps program. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the Journal Times, and the Kenosha News ran extensive stories with photos of teenagers climbing ladders, pick-axing roofs, scraping paint, and pouring concrete in the hot summer sun. The Group Workcamps project brought more than 400 youth from areas as far away as Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to the Racine Weed and Seed site.

Group Workcamps is a national nonprofit organization that recruits young people from diverse religious congregations across the country to perform services in communities needing housing repairs. The project concept was born about 20 years ago when Colorado's Big Thompson River flooded and roared down its canyon on the front range of the Rocky Mountains near Denver. Many lives were lost and homes and other personal property were destroyed by the water and the load of rocks and debris carried with it. Group Publishing, Inc., a nondenominational publisher of Christian curricula for children and youth, organized students from area high schools to help in the massive cleanup effort.

Since then, Workcamps has expanded every summer, providing desperately needed practical help to people all over the United States. The Workcamps secure the use of a local high school for lodging, identify 60-80 homes in need of repair, and provide funds for the purchase of materials. Communities are invited to apply for assistance through the Group Workcamps headquarters in Loveland, Colorado.

The experience is truly life changing for students and leaders alike. Last summer, Group Workcamps brought armies of teens to 32 American cities. Racine Weed and Seed was proud to serve as a cosponsor for Group Workcamps through the site's neighborhood improvement initiative.

The national home repair program organizes Group Workcamps each summer in communities in need across the United States. Volunteers pay \$335 each for expenses, with the Group Workcamps program contributing \$15,000 and local organizations like the Racine Weed and Seed donating matching funds. The local sponsor secures the use of a community high school to house volunteers for the 1 week volunteers are onsite fixing up houses in the community. Each Workcamps program brings youth volunteers to a partnering neighborhood to repair and paint houses and make the houses of disabled residents handicapped accessible.

"As I saw which homes were being worked on, I was very happy," said Racine Alderman Lorna George. "There's a story behind a lot of them."

In a letter to the editor of the Journal Times, Racine Weed and Seed Housing Coordinator Charlie French wrote, "There was not a day that went by that a youth or an adult leader didn't stop me to say what a blessing and privilege it was for them to be in such a great community to do this work. I would have to politely remind them that it was indeed the community that was blessed to have them here."

The Group Workcamps program is gearing up for another successful summer. If your community is interested in receiving more than \$80,000 in volunteer labor and building materials, contact a Group Workcamps developer at 1-800-635-0404, extension 4118.

Winners

Winston-Salem Weed and Seed Youth Receives Prestigious Award

William L. Sturdivant

Winston-Salem Weed and Seed Coordinator

Bianca Green, an outstanding fourth grader in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, received a prestigious award from the city of Winston-Salem for her efforts in relocating a tutorial program in the Salem Garden community.

Green sought out staff from Winston-Salem Weed and Seed and the Resource Center located in the Salem Garden apartment complex. She expressed her interest in relocating an afterschool tutorial program to the Resource Center (the

tutorial program was generally held outside or in someone's home). Due to space limitations and the increasing number of children between the ages of 5 and 7 in the community who were participating in the program, the Resource Center was the ideal place to meet for the tutoring group, comprising approximately 20 youth and led by 6 young ladies between the ages of 11 and 15. The group, which meets regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays, also formed a council and elected a council president and vice president.

Because of their efforts to begin a tutorial program, Green and the others received awards presented by Stephen Rickman, Director of the Executive Office for Weed and Seed; Loretta C. Biggs, Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina; and City Representative Joycelyn Johnson. Green also was awarded the prestigious Humanitarian Award by the Superintendent of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system for her efforts and was highlighted in local newspaper articles and television broadcasts.

Green is a natural leader who sets an example for others to follow. She not only tutors but also participates in Safe Haven activities at the Reynolds Park Recreation Center. Through Weed and Seed, Green and other youth have the opportunity to participate in educational, cultural, and recreational activities. Green's activities make a positive difference in the lives of others and the community.

Through the efforts of Weed and Seed, the Salem Garden community has tremendously reduced weapons violations, drug violations, and calls for police service. The Weed and Seed strategy, adopted in this community in 1996, is a major reason for these reductions. Drug violations have decreased 84 percent, weapons violations have decreased 79 percent, and children now have safe places for educational and recreational activities.

As part of the strategy, the Weed and Seed Resource Center was established in the Salem Garden community. The Resource Center is open to Salem Garden residents for meetings, tutorial programs, and special activities.

Does your neighborhood include any award-winning residents?

In-Sites would like to learn about the people in Weed and Seed sites who receive local or national awards in recognition of their achievements in their

communities. Please send an e-mail to askeows@ojp.usdoj.gov or a letter to EOWS telling us about your local winners.

Selma Weed and Seed Coordinator Honored

Ila Blue
EOWS Program Manager

The American Legion Fresno Star Post 38 in Selma, California, honored Weed and Seed Police Officer Tom Grilione on Saturday, March 25, 2000, at its 15th Annual Law and Order Banquet. Grilione was nominated for the American Legion award by Selma Police Chief Thomas Whiteside.

"Officer Grilione has done an outstanding job as Program Manager for the Weed and Seed program in Selma. Under the direction of Officer Grilione, the program has fostered better partnerships with residents, apartment complex property owners, and businesses," Whiteside wrote in his letter of nomination.

"Overall, there is a better quality of life in the target area, which can be attributed to Officer Grilione's efforts."

Grilione asked his superiors to assign him to the southwestern area of Selma that was unpopular with other officers because of the language barrier (a large portion of the area's residents speak Spanish only). He served in this area during his 5 years as a reserve officer, and the past 2 as a full-time sworn officer. When the supervisory position became available for the Weed and Seed program in that area, the logical candidate was obvious. Grilione has been the supervisor of the program since November 1998.

"Tom had extensive background in working within the targeted community and had extreme success building trust and relationships with the low-income families and children. There was no doubt in my mind that Tom Grilione was the right man for the job," commented Nora Benavides, former Selma Site Coordinator who was on the committee that selected Grilione for the position.

Grilione was honored at Fresno Star Post 38 along with three other law enforcement officers from the Fresno County region. All four officers will be nominated for the Officer of the Year Award, to be awarded by the Department of California American Legion later this year.

Davenport Receives Art Education Honor

Lou Ann Davenport, an art teacher at Sandburg and Butler elementary schools in Springfield, has been named the Illinois Art Education Association's Elementary Art Educator of the Year. Davenport has taught art in public schools for 19 years and is the director of the Arts Haven program at the Springfield, Illinois, Weed and Seed site. The Arts Haven concentrates mostly on the visual arts, and last year coordinated a production of the Nutcracker. The project enrolls about 35 students in grades 3-12. Davenport believes that if students can thrive in the arts classroom they may be able to extend that success to other aspects of their lives.

The Arts Haven program, part of the EOWS Special Emphasis Initiative, offers children a secure, structured environment where they can develop their artistic abilities and learn about career options in the arts.

"It feels great to be recognized for something you work very hard at," said Davenport, a member of the approximately 450-member Illinois Art Education Association. Davenport holds bachelor's and master's degrees in art education and a master's degree in community arts management.

Law Enforcement and Community Relations

Salinas Academy Builds Police-Community Relations

Anna Velasquez
Site Coordinator for the Salinas, California, Weed and Seed

Paula Placencia, a resident of Salinas, California, and mother of two, didn't know the police officers who patrolled her east Salinas neighborhood very well. Nor had she ever truly understood what they did, how they spent their time, or how they became police officers in the first place.

Placencia was like thousands of parents throughout the country. While law enforcement agencies strive to gain the trust of the communities they serve, many parents remain reluctant to get too close to law enforcement representatives. To bridge this gap, agencies are coordinating efforts not only to open the doors of communication to parents but also to teach them the basics of law enforcement and community policing.

The Salinas Weed and Seed and the Salinas Police Department created the Community Academy to help residents understand what police officers do in the Weed and Seed target area. After 4 weeks of classes, the academy graduated 36 parents to form the Alisal Community Parent Patrol on December 3, 2000. One of these graduates was Paula Placencia.

In four 2-hour sessions, the class learned about how police officers are selected and trained, the community services they provide, the laws of arrest, and prevention methods related to domestic violence and gang issues.

The December academy was the first of three to be held by summer 2000. The graduating class was lauded by civic leaders as models for their community.

"I hope you go and educate the community about what you have learned," Monterey County Supervisor for District 1 Simon Salinas told the graduates.

"One of the best ways we can solve problems is to keep the doors of communication open."

Life After SARA--An Advanced Model of Community Policing

Gino Rodriguez
Oxnard, California, Weed and Seed Program Manager/Police Officer

During the past decade community-oriented policing has used the scan, assess, respond, and analyze (SARA) model to address crime in neighborhoods and communities. This method has been successful, but communities are asking if more can be done to link the police and the community together in a stronger partnership. To meet these needs, an advanced model of community policing has been established in the Oxnard, California, Weed and Seed site. Designers call the system the "5 C's of advanced community policing."

The 5 C's stand for collaboration, cooperation, commitment, compassion, and concern. Understanding these terms and using this system every day has brought increased community participation and pride, closer relationships between the community and law enforcement, a reduction in crime, and a sense of peace and safety in the community.

A training manual currently is being published for distribution to Oxnard residents, law enforcement personnel, educators, members of the faith community, county service providers, and any interested persons. For more information, please contact Officer Gino Rodriguez, Oxnard Police Department, 805-385-7602, ginorod@excitemail.com.

Officer of the Year Raises Hoops (and Hopes) in West Valley City
Neighborhood

Amy Fox
West Valley City Communications Manager
West Valley City, Utah

Police Officer Larry Schmidt has been building relationships and basketball courts in a West Valley City neighborhood. Schmidt started playing basketball in November 1999 with many of the youth in the Arlington Park area, where he has been assigned as a Weed and Seed officer.

At first only a few of the neighborhood kids would come out and play basketball with a uniformed police officer. But as Schmidt continued to play, more kids and officers began showing up. Now usually 10 to 15 youth show up to play or to just hang out around the court with Schmidt, Officer Eric Reed, and Sgt. John Rasmussen.

Gordon Mafua, 23, is a resident of the Weed and Seed target area and said playing basketball with the cops "is better than making trouble." Mafua's neighbor Greg Baude, 19, agreed: "It's pretty cool to play with cops. They can bust us all the time, but we can beat them at basketball."

One area youth said the basketball games have even bridged racial gaps. "When we first started playing with the cops, guys started coming out [whom] we didn't get along with," said Feterika Manuo, a neighborhood teenager. "Around here the Mexicans and Polynesians don't get along--but now we do, and there is no more fighting. I think it is better."

For the past 3 to 4 years the neighborhood basketball court had been neglected--painted with gang graffiti, a bullet hole through the backboard, the goal rims bent. Schmidt wanted to fix up the court. He made use of moneys from the Federal Weed and Seed grant intended to weed out crime and plant seeds of revitalization. Officers Schmidt and Reed and several youth from the neighborhood put up a new backboard and break-free rim at Welker Memorial Park.

Schmidt and his fellow officers have been busy with more restoration activities and making homes safer by installing security devices such as chains, peepholes, and window locks. Because of their efforts and improved police-

community relations, the troubled Weed and Seed neighborhood has experienced a 40-percent reduction in crime. On October 14, 1999, Officer Schmidt saved a family including two children aged 4 and 6 and their pets from a burning home in an act of great heroism.

As Schmidt patrols the area, everyone recognizes him and wants to talk to him. Many youth want to talk about the completion of the basketball court; many adults want to follow up with him about some of the problems they have seen in the neighborhood.

"This has been a great assignment. I know what I am doing really makes a difference in people's lives," Schmidt said. "It also has been making a difference in crime. We have seen calls from the target area drop by more than 40 percent. There's still some criminal activity, but we are knocking it out one [incident] at a time."

On January 18, 2000, "Officer Larry" was honored by the Cottonwood Elks Lodge as Outstanding Officer of the Year.

"Schmidt is very deserving of this award and that is why he won the department's nomination for it," said Police Capt. Lynn Hanson. "In his 5 years with the department he has continually distinguished himself in the manner [in which] he has performed his job. In his current assignment he has [taken] a new department program and made it a shining example to other area police departments."

The Weed and Seed Summit on Community-Oriented Policing

Cohosting a brain trust, EOWS and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) invited 23 police chiefs from rural and urban jurisdictions across the country to meet with U.S. Department of Justice representatives and criminal justice researchers in Dallas, Texas, for a 2-day summit to study recent trends in community policing. Together the group examined promising approaches, underlying principles, and key components of successful community policing programs. The summit findings were broadcast live to more than 1,500 law enforcement agencies nationwide on Thursday, April 20, as Part IV of the EOWS Community Training Broadcast Series.

Results of the Weed and Seed Community Policing Survey conducted at the Site Coordinator Conference in January were announced at the summit (see below). Also during the live broadcast from the studios of the Law Enforcement Training Network in Dallas, Gil Kerlikowske, Deputy Director of COPS, presented working group findings, including the recommendation that

community policing operate using permanent geographic-based assignments for community policing officers. This element is crucial in fostering police-community trust and relations.

A brief reporting the group's findings and the results of the Weed and Seed community policing survey is currently in production.

Proceedings from the summit were distributed at the Weed and Seed Law Enforcement Conference, held May 31 to June 2, 2000, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Copies are also available by calling 202-616-1152.

Youth as Resources

Weed and Seed Sites See the Importance of Involving and Empowering Youth

Nicole A. Lester
Program Assistant
National Organization for Weed and Seed (NOWS)

The Weed and Seed strategy is effective in mobilizing community resources to combat crime and violence and ensure drug-free neighborhoods. Yet resources in many communities remain underutilized. Area youth can be a valuable resource for any community program. Often, youth know firsthand the social ills and crises in their communities, and when youth work together with adults, stronger programs, organizations, and communities can be built.

In early March, several Weed and Seed sites were given an opportunity to learn about the importance of youth-adult partnerships and youth leadership.

Community leaders from Weed and Seed sites in Texarkana, Arkansas; Topeka and Wichita, Kansas; and Dallas, Texas, attended a free skills-building workshop sponsored by Youth as Resources (YAR) and the Center for Youth as Resources (CYAR). The 2 1/2-day workshop, "Bringing Youth as Resources to Your Community," held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was led by a team of youth and adult trainers and introduced the YAR philosophy and principles of practice such as youth-led community service, youth-adult partnerships, and youth involvement in governance and philanthropy.

YAR, developed in 1987 by the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) with funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc., is a community-based program that provides youth the opportunity to design and carry out service projects that contribute to positive community change.

Darrell Stewart, Assistant Director of Topeka Parks and Recreation and a North Topeka Weed and Seed Steering Committee member, attended the YAR workshop to gather ideas for empowering the youth in his community. North Topeka Weed and Seed already has a number of youth-oriented

programs such as the Youth Activity Board, a program still in development that will enable youth to engage in service-learning projects.

"YAR would give our program ideas more structure," Stewart said. "I definitely see YAR becoming a part of our Weed and Seed community. It fits with what our community is already working to achieve."

Getting past the stereotypes that youth and adults have about each other is a key element to the YAR philosophy. Throughout the YAR workshop, trainers used interactive exercises and small group activities to get youth and adults thinking about their perceptions of each other. YAR trainers stressed the importance of youth and adults being open-minded and active listeners, which may make working together easier for them.

Carrie Jones, coordinator of the Wichita/Sedgwick County Weed and Seed site in Wichita, Kansas, said that she wants her Weed and Seed community to use YAR to get more youth involved in the community. "Many times, Weed and Seed sites are located in deprived areas and youth don't have supportive programs, unless they are the most successful or unless they are the troublemakers," Jones said. "YAR would get all types of youth involved in the community."

Each YAR program has a board made up of youth and adults from the community. YAR boards obtain money from local organizations, foundations, and businesses to establish a grant pool. The moneys in the grant pool are distributed to youth who apply to the board for funding for community service projects. Since 1987, YAR programs have engaged more than 200,000 youth across the country in youth-led and youth-designed community improvement projects. Projects tackle a range of social issues including drug abuse, gangs, illiteracy, crime, health, and housing.

YAR is a proactive, outcome-oriented program that uniquely involves youth in the community by giving them a chance to identify the needed projects in the community and make them happen. For more information about Youth as Resources, contact Jeff Todd, Director of Operations, Center for Youth as Resources, 1000 Connecticut Avenue NW., 13th Floor, Washington, DC 20036; 202-261-4163; e-mail Jtodd@ncpc.org. You may also visit the YAR Web site at www.yar.org.

Weed and Seed Photo Gallery

Photo Gallery premiered in the last issue of In-Sites (the Millennium Issue), and our readers have responded favorably. In-Sites will continue to feature this section in future issues as a tribute to Weed and Seed--these photos represent the spirit of our communities and tell a story within themselves. More than ever before, Weed and Seed sites are learning to record their successes as they celebrate them. We invite sites to forward their community images to us so that we may share them with In-Sites readers.

"All Rise for Student Court"

Sheryl Kabat
Program Manager
U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota

On April 22, 1999, at exactly 10:45 a.m., the gavel sounded. Student Court at Four Winds Elementary School in Minneapolis was called to order. The prosecutors--mostly eighth graders--informed the judges that they were ready to proceed. The defense attorneys--more eighth graders--did the same. The jurors, from grades four through eight, listened intently as the bailiff, another classmate, summarized the case before them.

The spectators at Student Court that day included someone whose presence would make most adults quake in their legal briefs. The kids, however, paid little attention to their honorable guest, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. After all, they had a job to do. They had to determine the sentence for a classmate who had admitted disrupting the classroom and being disrespectful of a teacher.

Student Court was developed by the Minnesota Center for Community Legal Education at the University of Minnesota. The Center worked with the Webster Open School in Minneapolis to design and implement its Student Court, the prototype for Student Courts at other schools such as Four Winds. The Center worked with students directly as it designed the Court, training students in the roles of lawyers, bailiffs, and jurors; training attorneys from the local U.S. Attorney's Office in the roles of judges; and guiding the implementation of the weekly court. Because of the popularity and initial success of the Webster program, the Center has received requests to help other Minnesota schools and

communities as they begin to explore the development of Student Courts.

The program is similar to Teen Court, which is popular in cities across the country. In Student Court, however, cases pertain solely to school issues, such as cheating in class and stealing from fellow students and school staff. Also, Student Court focuses on younger students--primarily those between the ages of 9 and 14, when delinquent behavior and violence are usually experienced for the first time.

The U.S. Attorney General's Office heard about Student Court through the U.S. Attorney's Office in Minneapolis, which is a partner in the Student Court program. Attorney General Reno decided to visit the Student Court at Four Winds to see the program in operation. She was very impressed and spent considerable time with the students talking about their experiences and asking for their input on the problem of school violence. It was a great day for the program, the kids, and everyone in attendance.

Through Student Court, youth learn to respond to negative behavior in a nonviolent manner. They learn to talk problems out and communicate--no arguing or fighting is allowed. They also learn how to speak up for what they expect from others in their schools. Each student defendant in Student Court has admitted guilt in wrongdoing, and jurors must consider the reasons behind the defendant's actions before determining a sentence. All sentences handed down by the jury must be restorative in nature and include an order that the defendant serve on the jury for at least 3 to 4 weeks.

The U.S. Attorney's Office provides a lawyer to serve as Student Court judge at each court session. As the only adult given a role, the judge guides the youth through the court process, but the students are the driving force behind the program. The Minneapolis Student Court Program is in session in two Minneapolis schools, Webster Open School and Four Winds Elementary School.

Conference Corner

This edition of Conference Corner will highlight some conferences being offered by OJP and other Weed and Seed partners.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) will host its SEARCH National

Conference in Dallas, Texas, June 26 to June 28, 2000. This science and technology conference will provide information on policy, operations, and technical issues surrounding the application of emerging Internet technologies to the justice industry. For more information, please contact the registrar at 916-392-2550.

The 26th Annual National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) Conference will attract more than 2,500 victim assistance professionals, survivors, and victim's rights advocates to Miami, Florida, July 30 to August 4, 2000. Visit www.try-nova.org for conference information and registration materials.

Weed and Seed will offer its final conference of the year in Miami, Florida, September 5-8, 2000. Creating Healthy Communities will unite Weed and Seed residents, community leaders, youth, site coordinators, Safe Haven coordinators, law enforcement personnel, and others to discuss their crime prevention practices. Special emphasis areas include what's working in gun abatement, teen pregnancy prevention, youth mentoring, arts-based programs, and gang prevention. Sites will learn how they can use special emphasis grant funding to better meet the goals of their strategies. Registration materials will be posted on the EOWS Web site (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/) as they become available.

State of Florida and U.S. Virgin Islands' Regional Conference Held in Tampa

William C. Daniels

LECC Assistant
U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida

From February 9 to 11, 2000, representatives from 24 Weed and Seed sites convened in Tampa, Florida, to share their experiences relative to the Weed and Seed strategy at a planned regional conference. Site representatives from communities throughout the State of Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and even as far away as Massachusetts attended the Bay Area event. The U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, Donna Bucella, welcomed the group to the conference; other distinguished representatives on the first day included the city's Mayor and Deputy Chief of Police.

Sites have since reported that the regional meeting format allowed for an

efficient exchange of information between sites and officials. The host site, the city of Tampa, concluded the first day's meetings with a warm Floridian reception at the Tampa Museum.

Conference topics included Community Mobilization Strategies, Progress Through Partnership--Sharing Resources, Millennium Marketing, Developing a Strategic Plan, and Neighborhood Restoration Strategies. The second day concluded with participants accompanying the Tampa Police Department in ride-alongs and Weed and Seed site tours. On the third day the Florida Regional Community Policing Institute of St. Petersburg, Florida, made a presentation titled "Bridging the Gap: Community and Law Enforcement Partnerships That Work."

Did you miss this one? Be sure to sign up early next year, because this region seems to have its concepts, commitments, and synergy headed in the right direction. For more information, call EOWS Program Manager Faith Baker at 202-305-2586.

Web Sight

The divide between the technological haves and have-nots is becoming one of the most critical economic and civil rights issues of this decade. The term "digital divide" is increasingly used to describe the gap between people with computer access and skills and those without.

Long before the phrase "digital divide" was coined, EOWS took steps to bridge the technology gap in Weed and Seed communities. Since September 1997, the SeedTech initiative has helped bring 21st-century technology to more than 20 communities and has provided job and skills training to thousands of target area residents who, without the initiative, would remain technological have-nots. As EOWS and SeedTech continue to establish technology and computer learning centers, other Federal agencies are dedicating resources to do the same.

In December 1999, the U.S. Department of Commerce hosted its first Digital Divide Summit, which focused on expanding access to information technologies for underserved populations and areas. In a speech before the meeting, President Clinton announced plans for a New Markets Tour of disadvantaged communities to focus national attention on the digital divide issue. He also announced his signing of an executive memorandum that establishes the closing of the digital divide as a key goal of the Federal Government.

The President has proposed a range of programs to expand access to the Internet, train teachers in new technologies, and provide tax incentives to corporations to help bridge the digital divide. The White House initiative and others can be reviewed in depth on the Internet. Below are a few Web sites that EOWS recommends to communities striving to become technological haves. The EOWS Web site (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/) provides links to these sites.

www.digitaldivide.gov--This is the U.S. Department of Commerce's digital divide Web site, a comprehensive clearinghouse for information about the Clinton Administration's efforts to provide all Americans with access to the Internet and other information technologies that are crucial to their economic growth and personal advancement. The site is a good place to start learning about digital divide issues.

www.digitaldividenetwork.org/grants.adp--A network supported by the Benton Foundation, in association with the National Urban League, this site provides links to funding opportunities for underserved communities. The network is aimed at a broad audience of policymakers, nonprofit leaders, foundation officers, educators, community organizers, social entrepreneurs, and industry experts.

www.powerup.org--PowerUP: Bridging the Digital Divide comprises more than a dozen nonprofit organizations, major corporations, and Federal agencies that have joined together to launch a new multimillion-dollar initiative to help ensure that America's underserved youth acquire the skills and resources they need to succeed in the digital age. Currently, PowerUP has four pilot affiliates: San Jose, California; Seattle, Washington; Alexandria, Virginia; and Washington, D.C. During the year 2000, PowerUP plans to expand to 250 affiliates and has a long-term goal of reaching thousands of centers in years to come. This site provides program information and details on how to become a PowerUP affiliate.

www.OneNetNow.com--This is a true community Web site designed to bridge the digital divide using unique resources to reach out to African-Americans, Latinos, and others who are being left behind in the technological revolution. The dynamic, culturally diverse online community enables its members to connect through common interests and engage in interactive dialogue.

EOWS News

Farewell

Many had the opportunity to say farewell to EOWS Program Manager Stacy Larsen at the Site Coordinator Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, and the DEFY

Conference in Reno, Nevada. Larsen, who left EOWS on February 28, managed up to 25 Weed and Seed sites over the past 2 years. EOWS benefited greatly from her talents and contributions to Weed and Seed and wishes her family much success in relocating to Portland, Oregon.

Welcome

On March 13, 2000, EOWS welcomed two new Program Managers from previous positions at the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Erin Holbert has worked for the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) for 5 years; Shannon Taitt, for 2 1/2 years. Both participated in the development and implementation of national programs and policies related to the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program and the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant fund.

While serving at BJA, Holbert gained extensive knowledge and experience in the development, implementation, and administration of various criminal justice programs. Prior to BJA, Holbert was an auditor in the private sector. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, which she used in her efforts as a Peace Corps Volunteer assisting small businesses in Jamaica.

Prior to accepting a position with the U.S. Department of Justice in 1997, Taitt was a Program Development Specialist with the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission. She was responsible for the administration of grant funds in the areas of law enforcement, juvenile justice, and domestic violence. She also provided training and technical assistance to State and local agencies interested in receiving Federal block and discretionary grant funds. Taitt is a graduate of North Carolina State University, where she earned a B.A. in political science and criminal justice and a master's degree in public administration.

Our Creative Community

EOWS would like the name of the biggest Weed and Seed conference to come from our most creative resource--our sites! The excitement seems to have settled down from Communities of the New Millennium, the Weed and Seed 1999 National Conference, and now it is time to begin planning our 2001 National Conference. While EOWS makes a host city selection, we're inviting sites to submit suggestions for the conference title. Visit the EOWS Web site (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/) for details!

Mark Your Calendar

July 9-13 The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) 24th Annual Training Conference and Exhibition will be held in Biloxi, Mississippi, at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center. More than 1,300 attendees will attend workshops that include topics in cultural diversity training, domestic violence, sexual harassment, crisis management, computer technology, community policing, and more. For more information, please visit www.noblenatl.org/confers.htm or call 703-658-9479.

August 1-4 The Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) National Conference 2000 will be held in Tucson, Arizona, offering 4 days of skill development workshops and opportunities for professionals to network. Specific topics include avoiding burnout, researching funding sources, grant writing, negative impacts of media on children, school violence education, Gang Resistance Education and Training Summer Component, gang trends, and special incident disaster planning. For more information, please visit www.atf.treas.gov/great/2000conf.htm or call 520-791-4177.

September 13-15 Fathers Behind Bars and on the Street, a joint conference of the Family and Corrections Network and the National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families, will be held in Durham, North Carolina. Through three tracks (Corrections, Community and Theory, and Policy), the conference will look at the needs of fathers, addressing the major factors contributing to children growing up in single-parent homes and in fragile families and more. For more information, please visit www.fcnetwork.org/ or call 202-737-6680.

Mailbox

EOWS receives hundreds of queries from the field each month. Our Mailbox section provides a forum in which to answer questions and share comments.

Via this shared line of communication, Weed and Seed sites can keep themselves informed and up-to-date--so we need you to participate! E-mail

your questions and comments to askeows@ojp.usdoj.gov or mail them to EOWS, 810 Seventh Street NW., Washington, DC 20531.

DEFY Web Site

"Is there an official DEFY Web site maintained by the U.S. Navy's Drug Demand Reduction Task Force? It was mentioned at the DEFY Train-the-Trainer Conference in Reno, Nevada."

Pam Lightsey
Weed and Seed Coordinator
U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Georgia

According to the U.S. Navy, a DEFY Web site is close to being launched. DEFY is a fast-growing mentoring program implemented internationally; therefore, it is expected that the Navy's DEFY Web page will cover efforts at the international level. EOWS will post DEFY information relevant to Weed and Seed on the EOWS Web site as it becomes available, including manuals, downloadable forms, and reports from various camps as they kick off Phase I of the DEFY program. When the Navy's DEFY Web site is launched, EOWS will feature the link on its Web site.

Weed and Seed Logo

"We'd like to get or download the Weed and Seed logo to put on our stationery. Can you advise how to do this?"

Jim Johnson
Long Branch Neighborhood Initiative
Silver Spring, Maryland

A logo is available for download at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/. The logo is for use by Officially Recognized Weed and Seed sites only. This logo file is not the highest resolution image file available but is satisfactory for stationery and Web page design. For a higher resolution image, call EOWS at 202-514-0709, and we will e-mail to you the images in the appropriate format. The Weed and Seed Guide to Promoting Your Weed and Seed Site contains a section on the use of the Weed and Seed logo. For a copy of this guide, please call the number listed above.

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