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OJJDP

NEWS @ a Glance

Office of Justice Programs
Partnerships for Safer Communities
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J. Robert Flores
OJJDP Administrator

OJJDP Helps Big Brothers Big Sisters Celebrate 100th Anniversary

Founded in 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is the oldest and largest mentoring organization in the United States, serving more than 275,000 youth (ages 5–18) in 5,000 communities. National research has shown that the positive relationships between mentors and youth have a direct, measurable, and lasting impact. Youth who have been mentored are less likely to use drugs, drink alcohol, skip school, or engage in acts of violence. They have greater self-esteem, improved academic performance, and better relationships with friends and family.

BBBS's one-to-one mentoring focuses on meeting children's basic developmental needs and helping at-risk youth overcome challenges. A mentor spends an average of 4 hours per week with a youth who needs a supportive adult. Guided by rigorous standards, trained personnel carefully coordinate each match. Professional caseworkers assist mentors, children, and families.

OJJDP Support

Since 1998, OJJDP has allocated more than \$23 million in earmarked funding to BBBS. OJJDP's \$6 million funding for fiscal year 2004 is helping BBBS operate and expand services at regional training centers, award subgrants to affiliates for school- and faith-based mentoring, pilot a new service delivery model, and develop a management information system for local affiliates.

OJJDP funding helps BBBS provide training, technical assistance, and other support to more than 200 local affiliates. By backing efforts to implement effective practices and programs and enhance regional development centers, OJJDP furthers BBBS's goal of having 1 million mentors by 2010.

Centennial Celebration

OJJDP congratulates BBBS as it celebrates 100 years of helping children. The year-long centennial campaign is reaching out to past BBBS participants around the country. OJJDP provided funding to support several centennial activities, including the following:

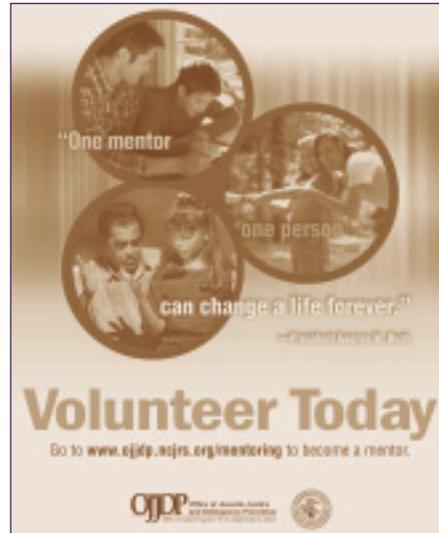
- ▶ A national search to locate and register thousands of former BBBS participants, and a campaign to reunite former big brothers and sisters with their little brothers and sisters.

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Big Brothers Big Sisters (continued from page 1)

- ▶ Collection of participants' personal stories, and publication of a book highlighting 100 stories from the first 100 years.
- ▶ A fundraising initiative to recruit and cultivate corporate sponsors and private donors.

The centennial celebration featured a special 2-day event in New York City on June 15–16, 2004. Through the Juvenile Justice Telecommunications Assistance Project at Eastern Kentucky University, OJJDP provided live satellite broadcasts, Internet cybercasts, and edited tapes of selected anniversary activities. For additional information about Big Brothers Big Sisters and the centennial celebration, visit www.bbbsa.org. ■



This mentoring promotion from OJJDP appeared in a recent issue of Vista, the nation's oldest dual-language magazine serving the Hispanic community. Vista has a national circulation of 1 million.

Web Site Offers New Look, Faster Path to Juvenile Justice Information

As part of the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP's) efforts to use technology to provide the field with efficient, easy access to information, OJJDP recently unveiled its newly designed Web site. The site now has a fresh, contemporary look—and users can find information faster, with fewer clicks.

The enhanced site adds many benefits. New navigational elements make using the site much more intuitive. Content refinements sharpen the focus on agency priorities and make the Web pages less text-heavy and easier to read. A new FAQ section efficiently answers questions about OJJDP and its activities. The revised calendar of events makes it possible to find conferences or workshops instantly.

The heart of the redesigned Web site is its database-driven ability to provide visitors with a number of significant advantages:

- ▶ **Visitors can easily find everything the site has to offer on a particular topic.** Through the Topics page, visitors can gain access to all items throughout the site related to that specific topic.
- ▶ **Search results are more focused.** Visitors can search the site by topic and then narrow their search by type of information—funding opportunities, programs, events, publications, etc.
- ▶ **Publications are easier to find.** Visitors can narrow their publication searches by topic and series and can sort their results in alphabetical or chronological order.
- ▶ **Information is more up to date.** Visitors can count on finding the latest available information, because the new database dramatically simplifies the process of updating the site's content.

In keeping with OJP's goal of being a premier source for justice-related tools and research, OJJDP has added features to improve the statistical information on its Web site. As part of the overall redesign, the **Statistical Briefing Book** now has a new look and is easier to navigate. The redesigned Briefing Book offers more ways to find information, new links to national data sets and other resources, and better access to online statistical publications from OJJDP. New topical sections answer questions about juvenile probation, juvenile reentry and aftercare, and juvenile justice system structure and processes.

OJP and OJJDP are committed to providing accurate, timely information that supports efforts to make a real difference in the lives of America's youth. This new, user-friendly Web site is a cornerstone of that commitment. ■

New Publications

Publications may be viewed and downloaded at OJJDP's Web site (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp). Print publications may also be ordered from the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse (call 800-851-3420 or order online at puborder.ncjrs.org).

Access to Counsel. Examines access to legal counsel in the juvenile justice system.

Juvenile Justice Practices Series Online Bulletin. June 2004. NCJ 204063.

Blueprints for Violence Prevention. Describes the Blueprints for Violence Prevention Initiative, which developed and implemented research-based criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of programs that prevent violence and drug use and treat youth with problem behaviors.

Online Report. June 2004. NCJ 204274.

Highlights of the 2002 National Youth Gang Survey. Presents selected findings from the 2002 National Youth Gang Survey.

Fact Sheet. April 2004. FS 200401.

Juveniles in Corrections. Presents the latest available national and state-level data from the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement.

National Report Series Bulletin. June 2004. NCJ 202885.

DOJ Observes Missing Children's Day 2004

The U.S. Department of Justice's annual commemoration of National Missing Children's Day was held May 19, 2004, at DOJ's Hall of Justice in Washington, DC. Attorney General John Ashcroft, Assistant Attorney General Deborah J. Daniels, and OJJDP Administrator J. Robert Flores were among the dignitaries who participated in the event.

This year's ceremony recognized the extraordinary efforts of police officers, private citizens, and corporations on behalf of missing children. Attorney General Ashcroft presented Officer of the Year Awards to Postal Inspector Steven Sadowitz, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Indianapolis, IN, and Senior Special Agent Perry Woo, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Fairfax, VA, in recognition of an investigation that resulted in the dismantling of a child sex tourism and prostitution ring in Mexico. Other law enforcement officers receiving recognition included the following:

- **2004 National Missing Children's Law Enforcement Award winners:** Officer Elizabeth M. Butler, Manlius (NY) Police Department; Sergeant Richard Woolley, Onondaga County (NY) Sheriff's Office; Special Agent Colleen Maher, Office of Inspector General; Captain Lyndon Parrish, Cass County (MI) Sheriff's Office; Special Agent Roy Johnson, Federal Bureau of

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Funding Update

Be sure to check the OJJDP Web site (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp) for the latest news on OJJDP funding opportunities, including grant application information, deadlines, and links to the Office of Justice Programs' online Grants Management System (GMS). To receive e-mail notification of new funding opportunities, subscribe to JUVJUST via the OJJDP Web site.

Peer Review

OJJDP is conducting peer reviews of applications for the programs described below and expects to announce awards in the coming months.

Applications for the FY 2004 **Tribal Youth Program (TYP)** and **TYP Mental Health Initiative** were due on June 1, 2004, and awards will be announced soon. OJJDP expects to award a total of approximately 35 cooperative grants for these programs. For more information about the programs, visit ojjdp.ncjrs.org/typ.

The **Drug-Free Communities Support Program (DFCSP)** will award approximately 20 new grants and 20 continuation grants of up to \$75,000 for the

DFCSP Coalition Mentoring Program. This program uses experienced, successful DFCSP grantees to support and encourage the development or expansion of other community antidrug coalitions. For more information about DFCSP, visit ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/index.html.

Recent Award

OJJDP has awarded a 3-year cooperative agreement for \$2.6 million to Research Triangle Institute to convene a **Girls Study Group**. The group will help OJJDP identify strategies for addressing female delinquency. ■

Innovation Awards Finalists Named

OJJDP's Performance-based Standards (PbS) project is one of three federal programs named as finalists in the 2004 Innovations in American Government awards competition. Twelve programs operated by state and local agencies are also finalists. The prestigious awards are sponsored by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Finalists were announced in May, and winners will be named in July at the annual Excellence in Government conference.

The PbS system helps improve conditions of confinement in juvenile corrections and detention facilities. PbS sets national standards and gives facilities tools to collect and analyze data, make improvements, and measure the results. Launched by OJJDP in 1995 and directed by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, PbS is active in 26 states and the District of Columbia. For more information, visit www.performancebasedstandards.org. ■

Law Day 2004 Celebrates Landmark Civil Rights Case

Each year on May 1, Law Day provides an opportunity for Americans to reflect on their legal heritage, the rule of law, and the rights and duties of citizens. The American Bar Association instituted Law Day in the late 1950s.

The theme of Law Day 2004 was "To Win Equality by Law: *Brown v. Board* at 50," commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that struck down laws segregating public schools. OJJDP joined 40 other national partners to support Law Day activities, which included minigrants of \$250 to 25 youth courts to fund court tours, mock trials, and other educational programs designed to raise public awareness of the nation's legal system.

For additional information about Law Day, visit www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday. ■

Missing Children's Day (continued from page 5)

Investigation (FBI); and Assistant U.S. Attorney Joan E. Meyer, U.S. Attorney's Office, Western Michigan.

- **2004 National Exploited Children's Law Enforcement Award winners:** Detective James E. Smith, Connecticut State Police; Postal Inspector Martin Vega, Jr., U.S. Postal Inspection Service; Special Agent Supervisor Jeffrey Mackanin, accepting on behalf of the California Department of Justice; Special Agent Reginald K. Ogata, accepting on behalf of the FBI; Assistant U.S. Attorney Laurel White, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern California; Postal Inspector Steven Sadowitz, U.S. Postal Inspection Service; and Senior Special Agent Perry Woo, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The ceremony also featured remarks from Ed Smart, a missing children's advocate whose daughter Elizabeth was abducted and safely recovered. Elizabeth Smart received the National Courage Award. Assistant Attorney General Daniels, who is the AMBER Alert National Coordinator, presented the first-ever AMBER Alert Citizen Award to Al Joy and Jason Roden for their role in the recovery of three children abducted by a suspected murderer. The AMBER and Missing Children's Media Award went to John Walsh on behalf of the television program *America's Most Wanted*. Ms. Daniels also presented a special plaque to Ernie Allen, President of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), in recognition of NCMEC's 20th anniversary. Mr. Allen, joined by

Mr. Walsh, presented the Corporate and Volunteer Awards.

Families of missing children were among the guests at the ceremony. Other guests included representatives of child advocacy organizations, federal agencies, and corporate programs to recover missing children.

The ceremony closed with presentation of the 2004 National Missing Children's Day Art Contest award to Harris Elizabeth Fyfe of Memphis, TN, and songs from members of the Bells of Love, a children's musical group from Syracuse, NY. ■



News From the Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention brings together representatives from youth-serving federal agencies and youth-focused disciplines to coordinate federal programs related to delinquency prevention, missing and exploited children, and the detention/care of unaccompanied juveniles.

The Council's March 2004 meeting provided Council members and the public with information on preventing and responding to truancy. Presentations focused on truancy reduction and improving the lives of disadvantaged youth:

- Catherine Cross Maple, Strategic Planning Officer, Albuquerque, NM, Public Schools, described how the Albuquerque Community Partnership for Preventing Truancy has improved school attendance by implementing a framework of early identification/prevention, intervention, and response.
- Phelan Wyrick, Social Science Program Specialist, OJJDP, discussed OJJDP's Strategic Planning

Tool, which is being developed to help federal agencies and communities better address the problem of gangs and, potentially, other juvenile justice issues through integrated application of proven practices and programs.

- Karen Morison, Staff Director, White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth, described the Task Force's final report, which proposes a Disadvantaged Youth Policy Initiative and recommends ways to develop and coordinate policy, maximize inter-agency collaboration, coordinate federal research, and evaluate effective program models.

Council meetings are held quarterly in Washington, DC, and are open to the public. Mentoring was the focus of the June 2004 meeting (for details, see the next issue of *OJJDP News @ a Glance*). The next meeting is scheduled for September 2004. For additional information, visit the Council's Web page at ojjdp.ncjrs.org/council/index.html. ■





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The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

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