



## THE ONS QUARTERLY

*2<sup>ND</sup> Edition Volume I*

(January 2013– March 2013)

*“Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process – gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures. And however un-dramatic the pursuit of peace, that pursuit must go on.” – JFK*

### STREET OUTREACH

The primary strategy of the Office of Neighborhood Safety (“ONS”) is its **Street Outreach Strategy**. Each day the city’s street outreach team (Neighborhood Change Agents or “NCA’s”) directly engages those on a face-to-face basis who are most likely to commit gun violence in Richmond (aka -“the ONS population”). NCA’s work to build healthy and consistent relationships with identified individuals, serving as their mentors and credible messengers who provide examples of healthy lifestyles. The ONS also works to expand access to quality opportunities, exposures, resources, and services that build on the identified populations strengths in an effort to reduce their involvement in gun violence.

In the first quarter of 2013 (January –March), **690** outreach contacts were made with **156** individuals identified as being at highest risk for being involved in gun violence in Richmond, of which 61 were first time contacts with ONS. NCA’s walked **37** of these individuals into and through a support services opportunity (hard referral) facilitated by a local/regional non-governmental organization. The ONS made **50** referrals to a support services opportunity (soft referral) facilitated by a local or regional non-governmental organization.

Additionally, the ONS facilitated the delivery of social services to **110** formerly incarcerated individuals who were charged with firearm related offenses between January and March 2013. **81** of the individuals contacted received attention intensive support and mentoring by ONS staff this quarter.

### OPERATION PEACEMAKER FELLOWSHIP

An extension of the ONS street outreach strategy is the **Operation Peacemaker Fellowship program**. “The Fellowship” is a Transformative Mentoring Intervention designed for those most likely to be involved in gun violence. This intervention works to transform the attitudes and behaviors that have given rise to the selected individual’s involvement in gun violence. The Fellowship is representative of those individuals who are most resistant to change and/or are chronically unresponsive to the traditional

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range of services offered or available in the Richmond community. In addition to the public safety concerns that these individuals pose, they are among the most expensive population to serve in policing, incarceration, hospitalization and social services. Enabling them to right their life trajectory will have a collateral and positive effect on their communities, families and peers, in addition to saving tax payer dollars.

The Fellowship provides program incentives for participation and positive behavior as a gateway to developing intrinsic motivation that arises from internal and not external rewards. **All Fellow stipends, supportive services and exposures costs associated with the Fellowship are funded by grant and private resources.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Cohort of the Sr. Fellowship and the 1<sup>st</sup> Cohort of the Jr. Fellowship will begin in June 2013. Between January and March potential Fellowship participants were identified for each Fellowship opportunity.

**An additional highlight:** in January 2013 the Office of Neighborhood Safety's (ONS) Operation Peacemaker Fellowship program, staff and Fellows attended the National Mentoring Summit 2013 in Washington, D.C. While in the nation's capitol Fellows attended the second Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama and met with Congressman George Miller. Fellows also traveled to New York where they participated in meetings at the United Nations (General Assembly), and at the Council on Thought and Action (COTA).

### **CALIFORNIA GANG REDUCTION, INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION [CalGRIP V] - Status**

The Office of Neighborhood Safety through its 5<sup>th</sup> California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Grant (CalGRIP V) funds the **West Contra Costa Mentoring Partnership (WCCMP)**. Funding allows partners to implement an evidence-based practice pioneered by the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America Program (BBBS). Mentoring was selected as a strategy for its proven ability to impact at-risk youth.

To date, the WCCMP has facilitated a total of 40 one-on-one mentor/mentee matches for youth between the ages of 11 and 18. Many of these youth will be provided work readiness services and 120 hours of subsidized employment through RichmondWORKS Summer Youth Employment Program.

The partners include the City of Richmond Office of Neighborhood Safety, the City of Richmond Employment & Training Department/RichmondWORKS, Be A Mentor, Boys and Girls Club of El Sobrante, Richmond Police Activities League, and the RYSE Center.

### **BEYOND VIOLENCE PROGRAM EXPANDS INTO RICHMOND COMMUNITY**

The Beyond Violence program was launched and piloted in the city of Richmond in 2010 with the collaboration of the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS), John Muir Health's Trauma Department, Contra Costa County Health Services and the Richmond Police Activities League (RPAL). The Beyond Violence program is modeled after the Youth

Alive Caught in the Crossfire Hospital-Linked Violence Intervention Program. The current Richmond Beyond Violence effort identifies trauma patients between the ages of 15-25 who are victims of firearm assault and reside in the city of Richmond. The primary goal of Beyond Violence is to reduce recidivism and retaliation in Richmond. Over the period of three years the ONS served 63 patients from Richmond that met the program criteria.

As part of the Office of Neighborhood Safety's role to identify best practice based violence intervention programs and to advance community capacity to facilitate such vital programs, with Youth Alive, the ONS supports the identification of community based organizations to further expand the Richmond Beyond Violence program to include other intentional injuries (e.g. knife assaults, physical assaults, and gunshot assaults etc.) and to increase the programs coverage to include additional West County areas such as North Richmond, the Cities of San Pablo and El Cerrito.

In this spirit the Youth Alive organization developed, circulated and managed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to identify a Richmond community-based organization to begin to facilitate the expanded Beyond Violence work. As a result, five Richmond community based organizations applied through the RFQ process developed and facilitated by Youth Alive. The organizations included the Ryse Center, Bay Area Peacekeepers, Familias Unidas, Richmond Police Activities League and Men and Women of Purpose.

We are excited to submit the **RYSE Center** as the organization chosen to further advance and institutionalize the Beyond Violence work and its expansion within the evincommunity of Richmond and other West County jurisdictions. On behalf of Youth Alive and the program partners, we thank each of the applicant organizations for their work, commitment and ongoing partnership to making the city of Richmond a healthier place to live, learn, work and play. The RYSE Center will begin its new role in this endeavor on April 1, 2013, under the new program name **RYSE Restorative Pathways Program (R2P2)**.

For more information about Hospital-Linked Violence Intervention Programs please go to: [www.youthalive.org/nnhvip-technical-assistance](http://www.youthalive.org/nnhvip-technical-assistance)

### **Children's Defense Fund (CDF) - Community and Schools Safety Forum**

ONS Staff presented at the CDF Community and Schools Safety Forum held in Oakland California. ONS Director DeVone Boggan provided remarks as a participant of a panel discussion entitled "**The Role of Policy and Systems Change.**" The goal of the panel was to share current strategies in the East Bay that have been successful at either institutionalizing violence prevention or addressing changes to the systems around community and school safety. The panel was moderated by Rev. Michael McBride of PICO's LifeLines to Healing Campaign.

The ultimate outcome for the Forum was for key decision-makers to understand: 1.) community and school safety does not just equate to law enforcement – there are more effective ways that are less harmful to communities of color; 2.) this is not a new issue – there are organizations and individuals that have been working on this issue for a long

time and they need to be further invested in rather than recreating the wheel, and 3.) provide service providers and advocates with learning points from which to draw from to encourage replication of strategies where appropriate in other East Bay communities.

### **ONS STAFF TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING**

The Office of Neighborhood Safety staff members are provided ongoing training opportunities that allow them to increase their knowledge base and skill levels associated with the work they facilitate in order to maximize their output and increase their effectiveness.

In the first quarter of this year, ONS staff participated in the following trainings:

**National Mentoring Summit & Training**

**Monthly Trauma-Informed Care & Coaching**