



THE ONS QUARTERLY

2ND Edition Volume III

(July 2013– September 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 third quarter of 2013 (July – September), **662** outreach contacts were made with **72** individuals identified as being at considerable risk for being involved in gun violence in Richmond, of which 22 individuals contacted were first time contacts with ONS in 2013. NCA’s made **49** referrals where the individual referred was walked into and through a support services opportunity (hard referral) facilitated by a local/regional non-governmental organization. The ONS also made **76** general referrals where individuals referred were directed to a support services opportunity (soft referral) facilitated by a local or regional non-governmental organization.

Additionally, between July – September 2013 the ONS supported **137** formerly incarcerated individuals who were charged with firearm related offenses with receiving community based social service opportunities. **168** of the total contacts during this period required attention intensive support and mentoring by ONS staff.

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
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are most resistant to change and/or are chronically unresponsive to the traditional 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 3rd Cohort of the Sr. Fellowship and the 1st Cohort of the Jr. Fellowship have been launched. These new 18-month Operation Peacemaker Fellowship cohorts enrolled 36 Fellows (13-27 years) since March of 2013.

Of the 36 Fellows enrolled (over the past 7 months), since becoming a Fellow:

35 are alive;

29 have no new firearm related injuries (81%);

33 have no new firearm related arrests (92%);

18 have obtained temporary employment;

13 are school ready and enrolled in school;

Additional highlights:

During the months of August and September 2013, Fellows have participated in four Fellowship Explorations (horizon broadening/Dream opportunities & Exposures):

Tallahassee Florida;
San Diego California;
Philadelphia Pennsylvania;
Washington DC;

Each of these Fellow Explorations included college tours, restorative justice exercise, meetings with city influencers, cultural/civic/educational activities and opportunities to peace talk with rival individuals from Richmond.

Between July and September 2013, the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) raised \$814,472.00 to support Regional Mentoring and Operation Peacemaker Fellowship activities.

Neighborhood Safety Director DeVone Boggan was invited to attend and share his expertise to shaping global violence prevention at the Sixth Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting being hosted in Mexico City Mexico by the World Health Organization (WHO). The theme of the meeting is "Towards Measureable

Violence Prevention Targets." The convening will focus on consolidating global, regional and national efforts to strengthen the measurement of violence prevention targets in the years ahead. During the meeting, plans will be laid to increase action, political support and funding for violence prevention worldwide.

Director Boggan will use this occasion to provide a select group of Operation Peacemaker Fellows (Richmond Youth/Young Adults) with a Peacemaker Fellowship "educational, civic and cultural exchange and engagement" opportunity. Two City of Richmond Neighborhood Change Agents will accompany the Director and the Fellows. The Richmond Delegation will use this as an opportunity to meet with other California delegation members and members of other national communities attending to discuss, learn about, and share promising violence prevention and intervention practices, including the City of Richmond Office of Neighborhood Safety and Peacemaker Fellowship models.

All travel and meeting expenses are being paid for by the World Health Organization/The California Wellness Foundation and The California Endowment Peacemaker Fellowship Fund.

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

Third Annual Summit on Preventing Youth Violence (Building Towards a Safe and Healthy Tomorrow) – National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention – Arlington VA

Children's Defense Fund "Teach-ins" – Violence Prevention Models in the Eastbay – Oakland CA