



THE ONS QUARTERLY

2ND Edition Volume IV

(October 2013– December 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 fourth quarter of 2013 (October – December), **574** outreach contacts were made with **68** individuals identified as being at considerable risk for being involved in gun violence in Richmond, of which **15** individuals contacted were first time contacts with ONS in 2013. NCA's made **33** 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 **92** 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 October – December 2013 the ONS supported **141** formerly incarcerated individuals who were charged with firearm related offenses with receiving community based social service opportunities. **128** 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
440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804-1630

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.**

Currently, the 3rd Cohort of the Fellowship is operational (10/18 months). In the 4th quarter one additional individual was identified and accepted the Fellowship opportunity. Of the 37 active Fellows enrolled, since becoming a Fellow:

Of the 37 Fellows enrolled (over the past 10 months):

36 are alive;

34 have no new firearm related injuries (92%);

35 have no new firearm related arrests (94%);

Additional highlights:

During the months of October and December 2013, Fellows have participated in six Fellowship Explorations (horizon broadening/Dream opportunities & Exposures):

Los Angeles California;

San Diego California;

Pasadena California;

San Francisco California;

Washington DC;

Mexico City Mexico (World Health Organization Meeting);

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.

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

Monthly ONS Trauma Protocol;

The California Wellness Foundation Annual Violence Prevention Conference and California Peace Prize;

Violence Prevention, Trauma Response, Solution Based Training;