



THE ONS QUARTERLY

3rd Edition Volume II

(April 2014– June 2014)

"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 second quarter of 2014 (April – June), **454** outreach contacts were made with **75** individuals identified as being at considerable risk for being involved in gun violence in Richmond, of which **10** individuals contacted were first time contacts with ONS in 2014. NCA's made **25** 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 **36** 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 April – June 2014 the ONS supported **36** formerly incarcerated individuals who were charged with firearm related offenses with receiving community based social service opportunities. **39** individuals received attention intensive support and mentoring by ONS staff during this period.

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 (16/18 months).

Of the 40 active Fellows enrolled, since becoming a Fellow:

Of the 40 Fellows enrolled (over the past 16 months):

39 are alive;

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

34 have no new firearm related arrests (85%);

Additional ONS and/or Fellowship highlights:

Operation Peacemaker Fellows participate on panel at the “Building a Just Society – Transforming Lives & Creating Equity for Boys and Men of Color” Conference hosted by the Richmond Community Foundation.

Attachment: Letters of gratitude from Jim Becker, President and CEO Richmond Community Foundation.

Fellowship ‘Horizon Building’ Civic, Cultural and Educational Peace Building Excursions:

Dallas Texas
San Antonio Texas
New York New York
Washington DC

Office of Neighborhood Safety Director Participates as speaker at the Oakland and Alameda County Alliance for Boys and Men of Color.

See Link: <http://blog.urbanstrategies.org/>

Attachment: Urban Equity

Office of Neighborhood Safety Director participates at National League of Cities Boys & Men of Color convening in Oakland California.

Office of Neighborhood Safety Director participates as speaker at the Sierra Health Foundation Positive Youth Justice Initiative Annual Convening.

Office of Neighborhood Safety Director participates on panel at the 'This Way to a Healthy Community – Dialogue and Wellness Fair to Support the African-American Community.

Office of Neighborhood Safety Director participates in White House sponsored sessions on the 'My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Initiative'.

In his recent State of the Union address, President Obama promised "a new initiative to help more young men of color facing tough odds stay on track and reach their full potential." Today, he will unveil "My Brother's Keeper," a partnership between the White House, foundations, businesses, and other institutions that will help young men of color stay on track and gain opportunities to reach their full potential.

Director Boggan was invited to join several discussions with key policy staff from the White House to learn more about the My Brother's Keeper Initiative, specifically related to Criminal Justice and Violent Crime Interaction and Mentoring and Support Networks.

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:

Monthly ONS Trauma Protocol;

**Richmond
Community
Foundation**

James Becker
President and CEO

Board Officers:

Joshua Genser
Chair

Patricia Jones
Immediate Past
Chair

James Goins
Vice Chair,
Treasurer

Roxanne Cruz
Secretary

Directors:

Leonard Berry

Stephanie Forbes

Erica Goode

Laura Johnson

Ken Maxey

Bielle Moore

Rebecca Ross

Marsha Tomassi



May 7, 2014

Kamari Ridgle c/o Sam Vaughn
Office of Neighborhood Safety
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

Dear Kamari,

On behalf of the Richmond Community Foundation, we would like to thank you for the dynamic panel discussion at our 5th Annual Northern California Summit on Children and Youth: ***Building a Just Society - Transforming Lives and Creating Equity for Boys and Men of Color.*** The Summit brought together over 280 participants to share innovative approaches, research driven models, and best practices for developing equity for boys and men of color.

Your presentation was certainly a highlight of the summit. It effectively brought together the participants and the young men in attendance and established the basis for many thought provoking conversations. Your point about investing in the person and the relationship will last with those who came to the summit. It was an honor to have you engage with us as part of this summit.

Thank you again for the presentation and we look forward to partnering with you in the future as we work to support boys and men of color in our communities.

Sincerely,

James Becker
President and CEO

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Bielle Moore

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May 7, 2014

Juan Ochoa c/o Sam Vaughn
Office of Neighborhood Safety
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

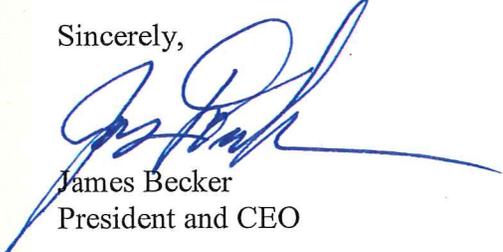
Dear Juan,

On behalf of the Richmond Community Foundation, we would like to thank you for the dynamic panel discussion at our 5th Annual Northern California Summit on Children and Youth: ***Building a Just Society - Transforming Lives and Creating Equity for Boys and Men of Color.*** The Summit brought together over 280 participants to share innovative approaches, research driven models, and best practices for developing equity for boys and men of color.

Your presentation was certainly a highlight of the summit. It effectively brought together the participants and the young men in attendance and established the basis for many thought provoking conversations. I had a chance to meet your nephew, who was in the audience during your presentation. He was very proud of you. It was an honor to have you engage with us as part of this summit.

Thank you again for the presentation and we look forward to partnering with you in the future as we work to support boys and men of color in our communities.

Sincerely,


James Becker
President and CEO

Urban Equity

Data driven, equity focused social impact. The Urban Strategies Council blog

Innovative Solutions: Richmond ONS Peacemaker Fellowship

🕒 June 23, 2014 📁 Boys & Men of Color, Community Safety and Justice, Economic Opportunity 🔒
BMOOC, Criminal Safety & Justice, Employment, oakland 👤 Calvin Williams III

Last week, the [City of Richmond Office of Neighborhood Safety](#) (ONS) was featured on Al-Jazeera's *America Tonight* two part series "[Paying For Peace](#)" on their innovative approach to violence prevention and reduction. On Tuesday, April 1st 2014 the joint tables of the Oakland – Alameda County Alliance for Boys and Men of Color Alliance welcomed Devone Boggan, Director of ONS, to discuss the development, challenges and impacts of the Peacemaker Fellowship program. This presentation informed the re-engagement program design for the [Oakland – Alameda County Opportunity Youth Initiative plan](#) submitted to the [Aspen Institute's Forum for Community Solutions](#) on June 2, 2014.

Under Mr. Boggan's leadership, the program model shifted from the previous intervention strategies focused on "hot blocks" to identifying and engaging "hot people." The program provides targeted, responsive intervention services to improve the social, emotional and economic wellbeing of those being engaged. In the three cohorts over the last 4 years, the ONS Peacemaker Fellowship engaged 68 of Richmond's most lethal, active firearm offenders who have avoided sustained criminal justice consequences. During that time, Richmond experienced a 66% reduction in firearm related homicides – with 2013 having the lowest number of firearm-related homicides on record in three decades. "The benefits of the Fellowship can be felt everywhere..." remarked a Gang Commander from the Richmond Police Department, "...nowhere is the impact more visible than in the overall reduction in violent crime in our city."

While many of the services provided by the 18-month fellowship program were linked to the successful outcomes of the young men – including Life Mapping, intergenerational mentoring, stipends and subsidized internships – Mr. Boggan identified out-of-state and international exposure trips as the most impactful part of the program. Through a delegation sponsorship from the California Wellness Foundation, Richmond ONS sent three fellows from rival turf to attend the [World Health Organization Global Campaign for Violence Prevention in South Africa](#). During the trip they met with former anti-Apartheid activists now working on reconciliation campaigns. Mr. Boggan commented that the trip gave fellows the opportunity to become culturally rooted, historically connected, and courageously hopeful that forgiveness is possible.

Alliance members and systems leaders in attendance also identified potential program alignment opportunities and challenges for implementing a similar approach for the Oakland – Alameda County Opportunity Youth Initiative. Junious Williams, CEO of Urban Strategies Council, noted that "the fellowship program model represents something that we can use with disengaged, disconnected young people." Mr. Boggan

agreed that the Opportunity Youth Initiative is primed to be a vehicle for replicating the ONS program design for young adults who are currently unemployed and not in school. However, he also urged building strategic partnerships with systems leaders at the city and county level, including law enforcement agencies. “This work is politically difficult,” he cautioned, “You have to be willing to go through the fire, do some pilot work and have your own laboratory.”

In response to this presentation, the Opportunity Youth Initiative Steering Committee approved the inclusion of a fellowship model to re-engage disconnected young adults onto pathways towards education and family sustaining, career employment.

- For the presentation on the Richmond ONS Peacemaker Fellowship Program, click [here](#).
- For more information regarding the Oakland – Alameda County Opportunity Youth Initiative, click [here](#).
- For more information on the Richmond Office of Neighborhood Safety, click [here](#)

(80) Views