

Palm Beach County Weed and Seed

Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission

History of Palm Beach County Weed and Seed

The Weed and Seed Program is a federal initiative that is designed to “weed out” the criminal element in a targeted neighborhood and “seed in” the area with prevention, early intervention and treatment services.

The efforts of establishing a Weed and Seed site in Palm Beach County began in 1993 when the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission approached the City of Riviera Beach. In partnership, they brought together over 50 federal, state, county and municipal governmental agencies, community groups and concerned citizens to coordinate this effort.

The initiative expanded in 1995 to include neighborhoods in West Palm Beach. Delray Beach became officially recognized in 2000 and Belle Glade followed in 2004. The Gramercy Village site, a partnership between the City of West Palm Beach and Palm Beach County, was officially



Officer Terrance Scott (Delray Beach PD) has been a Team Leader/Mentor for the Drug Education For Youth Program for over 10 years. The program has served 690 kids from Weed and Seed Sites in Palm Beach County.

recognized in 2007.

Weed and Seed is foremost a strategy - rather than just a grant program - that aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in designated high-crime neighborhoods across the country. It is sponsored financially for 5 years by the U.S. Department of Justice. After that, it is the

responsibility of local government to support the programs. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners has stepped up to the plate and provided a sustainability plan and funding for all of the sites, committing seeding funding to each of the “graduated” sites and technical support for active sites.

Big Picture Reality

It costs \$30,000 a year to house an inmate in prison. In 2008, Weed and Seed sites across Palm Beach County kept 1,600 kids out of the criminal justice system. That's a potential savings of \$48,000,000 a year. Last year the Criminal Justice Commission's (CJC) contribu-

tion to the Weed and Seed Strategy was \$300,000 of their \$3.8 million dollar budget or seven percent (7%). Crime has been reduced in many of the sites. The benefits of Weed and Seed will be seen for years to come in Palm Beach County. However, the funding is in danger. We need

your support. Strong advocates are needed so that we can continue to provide hope, opportunity and a safe environment for our youth to thrive. We are losing a percentage of the youth of Palm Beach County to ugly, violent but preventable acts.



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Did You Know.....

- Weed and Seed has been active in Palm Beach County since 1993.
- The goal of Weed and Seed is to reduce crime, provide hope and change people's lives for the better.
- Combined, the Site Coordinators have over 27 years of experience in facilitating Weed and Seed Initiatives.
- Weed and Seed focuses on four areas in distressed neighborhoods: Law Enforcement, Community Policing, Neighborhood Restoration and Prevention/Intervention/Treatment.

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Riviera Beach Weed and Seed

The Riviera Beach Weed and Seed Program saw a number of successes in 2008. Many of the programs helped to bring out creativity in children, helped them to excel in school and most importantly gave them positive options as an alternative to crime. All 195 youth that participated remained crime free. Many partners, including the police department, local agencies, funding sources and the children's parents participated in this effort. Undoubtedly, this concerted effort was instrumental in the impressive meas-



ures of success that were achieved last year. Last year 93% of the children at the Safe Haven passed the FCAT.

618 Total Residents Served in 2008

The Weed and Seed Safe Haven is located at the Lindsey Davis Community Center at 1550 W. 28th Street in Riviera Beach. A variety of activities and structured initiatives are held at the Safe Haven on weekdays from 2:00pm to 6:00pm.

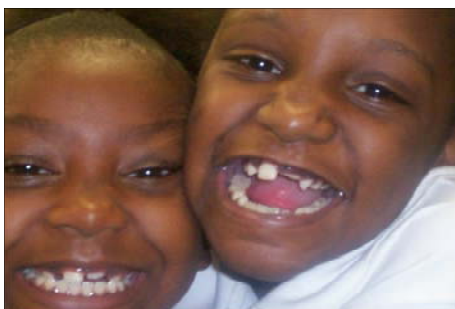


PROGRAMS

- **Tutoring**
- **Recreation**
- **Computer Classes**
- **Summer Camp**
- **D.E.F.Y (Drug Education For Youth)**
- **Praise Dance**
- **VITA Program**
- **Parenting Classes**
- **Christmas Toy Giveaway**
- **Art Classes**
- **FCAT Preparation**
- **Junior Achievement**
- **Field Trips**
- **Conferences**

Belle Glade Weed and Seed

Our program embodies the wrap around approach to mentoring and counseling. We want to provide our communities with whatever mentoring, counseling and social services they need to become productive citizens. This means that our efforts extend beyond the program dates and hours. We believe that a holistic approach to dealing with the "total community" is most important.



The vision and mission of Belle Glade Weed and Seed is to "weed out", through law enforcement, the negativity and "seed in" possibility in crime riddled areas.

There are a variety of programs that take place at the Belle Glade Safe Haven.

PROGRAMS

- **Internet Access**
- **FCAT Tutoring**
- **Home Work Assistance**
- **Life Skills Training**
- **DCF Access Site**
- **Peer Pressure and Self Esteem Building**
- **Traffic School**
- **Community Gatherings**
- **Parenting, Children and Mentoring Groups**
- **VITA Site**



West Palm Beach/Gramercy Village Weed and Seed

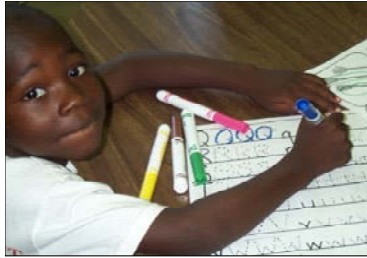
Highlights

Crime Stats- Since 2004 Part I crimes have decreased 34% in the graduated Weed and Seed site.

A **New Safe Haven-** Opened in partnership with the West Palm Beach Housing Authority in Robinson Village. When the after-school program began, 40% of the youth were not on track to be promoted. At the end of the school year, only 1 student was held back. All of the youth served remained crime free.

Music Instruction- Thirty two (32) youth participated at the Salvation Army Northwest Community Center .

Law Enforcement Stats- Nine (9) Weed and Seed Law Enforcement Opera-



tions produced 66 Felony Arrests, 22 Misdemeanor Arrests, seized 4 firearms, produced 114 Field Interview Reports (FIRs), found 1 missing child, and recovered 1 stolen car. Six of the nine operations resulted in the seizing of narcotics as well.

Ex-Offender Re-Entry 2008:

- Offenders Released – 145
- Offenders Contacted- 140
- Offenders Enrolled – 55
- Re-Offended – 5
- Job Placements – 23

-91% of participants did not re-offend

Summer Work- Fifteen teens applied for positions through Urban Youth Impact and were hired and began work in June of

2008. The teens worked for eight weeks for the city, various summer camps, and a marketing firm.

Career Month- March of 2009 was Career Month at the Safe Haven. 12 professionals from fields including Law, Medicine, Crime Scene, and Television presented to the Youth Leadership Group.

Summer Leadership Camp- Organized and funded with our faith-based partner, Crossroads Baptist Church, the Summer Leadership Camp for Teens saw an average of 66 teens attending the camp on a daily basis.

Youth to Work Ethics Program- Twenty five (25) youth enrolled in programs that took place in Dunbar Village.



Delray Beach— Coalition For Community Renewal (CCR)

Safe Haven- Educational Enrichment

Safe Haven sites continue to provide educational enrichment services to the youth residing in the area, through after-school programs. The Safe Haven sites have provided continual services to approximately 1,500 at-risk community youth from January to June 2008.

Crime Prevention Day- On May 13, 2008, officers spoke to children about the importance of not talking to strangers, what to do in the case of an emergency and the different types of equipment that are used by the department. Students were issued small keepsakes and refreshments during the event.

Delray Youth Vocational Charter School A Safe Haven site, catering to students requiring an alternative setting, serviced approximately 94 students last school year. The site was provided a grant in the amount of \$25,542 which permitted the school to hire two part-time social workers who provide counseling support services to the students.

Community Response Task Force- Two parties were held for students of Head Start.

The gatherings provided mentoring opportunities and gave the students the chance to become comfortable with a law enforcement presence.

Stop the Violence March- Held on Monday, May 12 at the National Church of God, the event was planned following a recent traffic accident where several teenage females were left injured and one died. The march encouraged youth to cease violent activities.

The **5th Annual Youth Crime Prevention Summit-** Held in July, the event was hosted by CCR in partnership with Delray Beach PD, PBC Head Start and



Achievement Centers for Children and Families. Life skills and choices sessions were held for over 700 participants (647 students and 50 plus adults). Workshop topics included: Guns, Gangs and Bullies; Hygiene & Etiquette; Maintaining My Personal Space; Cyberspace Safety; and Sexual Behavior and Consequences.

Ex-Offender Employment Fair- CCR hosted its first Ex-Offender Second-Chance Resource and Employment Fair. In accordance with our “weeding and seeding” efforts the collaborative venture partnered over 20 social- and human-services and employment providers focused on servicing the needs of our increasing ex-offender population and their quest toward successful reintegration.

IT'S PEOPLE THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE....

2008 PALM BEACH COUNTY WEED AND SEED STEERING COMMITTEE

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1st Vice-Chair- John Green
2nd Vice Chair- Denise Smith
Secretary- Michael Greene

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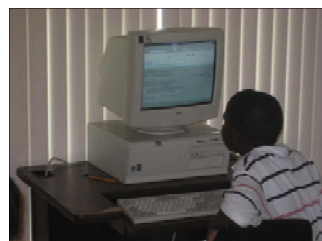
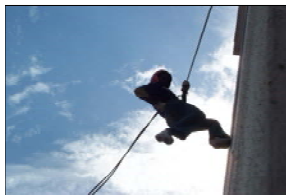
Resident
Palm Beach County Workforce Alliance
Resident
Drug Enforcement Administration
Riviera Beach Police Department
Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Palm Beach County Public Defender's Office
PBC Housing and Community Development
State Attorney's Office, COMBAT
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Community Services Planning and Research Manager
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Belle Glade
Delray Beach Police Department
Federal Bureau of Investigation
West Palm Beach Police Department

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Delray Beach Site Coordinator
West Palm Beach/Gramercy Village Site Coordinator

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