

Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Ideas

On June 20, 2011, the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods Safety and Livability Team (SALT) hosted a mini-forum on youth and gang violence prevention strategies. The following actions are provided as options for actions to take in the coming months.

Actions individuals can take:

Action Options for SALT

- Advocate for funding programs that give youth opportunities- Portland Parks and Recreation summer programs, SUN Schools, funding for alternative schools (advocate at the state and federal levels), more support for parents so they can support their kids
- Provide kids a sense of community and belonging
- Organize walks in addition to the Holliday Park walks or arrange for donations to the walkers for T-shirts, food, signage, etc.
- Engage more people with their communities and schools. Provide resources for parents through the schools.
- Get the community as passionate about King School (and other local elementary schools) as they are about events like Good in the Neighborhood.
- Keep this topic on the table at meetings
- Sharing this information with Neighborhood/Community Associations and using NA/CA channels such as blogs, newsletters, websites, etc. to get the word out.

Gang Violence Task Force Meetings

When: Fridays at 10 am. Email rob.ingram@portlandoregon.gov to be added to the email listserv to know when meetings are coming up.

Where: Portland Police North Precinct, 449 N.E. Emerson

The Gang Violence Task Force is a group of committed partners who have come together to develop solutions, interventions and prevention strategies to reduce gang - related violence and crime in Multnomah County. The progress and achievements of this Task Force will be a result of our collaborative strategies, responsiveness to community priorities and our focus on the reduction of crime and the fear of crime.

Community Educator Program

The Office of Youth Violence Prevention is developing a two-part training for community members that would include in-depth information regarding gangs in hopes that community members would educate others. For more information on this program, please contact Rob Ingram, Director, Office of Youth Violence Prevention at rob.ingram@portlandoregon.gov or 503-823-3584.

Restore the Village

Restore the Village is a rolling series of community forums across Multnomah County where concerned citizens, neighbors, parents and young people can come together to openly discuss

their reactions to violence in their community and work together to find solutions. Sam Thompson, a local business owner and community leader helps facilitate the event which includes dinner, music and lively group discussion. Research shows that individuals and neighborhood blocks working together can have an impact on community safety. For information about upcoming meetings, please contact Sam Thompson at 971-340-6339 or Kate Desmond at 503-988-4999.

Connected

Connected is a group of community members determined to be a presence and positive role model in the lives of youth. This group meets weekly to walk through and around acknowledged 'hot spots,' acknowledging and engaging with young and old alike as they go about their business. Connected invites volunteers join them on walks, organize their own groups of walkers or sponsor the walks in some way. For more information, contact:

Gary Marschke at 503-412-8520 / Connected on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Connected>

Resolutions NW Neighborhood Mediation Program (NMP)

Resolutions Northwest is a unique organization in the Portland area providing a wide range of mediation and facilitation services that help community members find solutions to conflict. This is a free service to all Portland residents who are experiencing conflict and would like/need some assistance in communicating and collaborative problem solving. Resolutions Northwest - 503-595-4890 resolutionsnorthwest.org

Resolutions NW Restorative Justice in Schools Program

The Restorative Justice in Schools program is a preventative measure currently underway in Portland Schools. This program is designed to keep youth in school and engaged in the community (as well as engage the community with youth) through dialogue and meaningful accountability where there has been a crime or harm committed. The NE schools they work with include King, Beverly Cleary, Rigler, Grant, POIC, David Douglas and Parkrose.

For more information on this program, contact:

Maria Scanelli, maria@resolutionsnorthwest.org or Tobin Krell, tobin@resolutionsnorthwest.org

Volunteer with Boys and Girls Clubs

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Portland Metropolitan Area invite neighbors to get involved in their after school programs on the basketball court, in team sports, volunteer literacy and homework programs or on the fundraising side of the organization. Boys and Girls Clubs has 2 locations in north Portland. Visit www.bgcportland.org, click "Get Involved" and then follow links to the volunteer application form in order to sign up.

Mentorships with Big Brothers Big Sisters

There are currently over 2,000 kids on a waiting list looking for mentorship. Mentors can volunteer anywhere from 30 minutes-1hour for a year. Mentoring options range from having lunch with a child once a week to going with them to Timbers, Trailblazers and Winterhawks games. www.bbbsnorthwest.org/volunteer_programs