

Accomplishments 2008

Gang Violence Prevention

Safer Chatham Project

- **Hiring GVP:** October 08, 2008 GVP Coordinator was hired by the GVP Committee and has been trained to coordinate with gang prevention strategies of the project, and coordinate with other law enforcement, parents, schools, and human services agencies.
- **Public Awareness :** January 27, 28 2009- The Gang Violence Prevention Coordinator has coordinated classes through Central Carolina Community College in Pittsboro, NC for law enforcement, school officials, community organizations, court officials, state officials, business owners, clergy, Probation and Parole officers, The State Highway Patrol Officers, The State Park Rangers, and Detention Officers also.
- **Data Base:** GangNet (December 09, 2008 and December 10, 2008) is the data base that all law enforcement agencies are testing out.
- **GangNET data base:** (this is the sustainable system used for monitoring, analyzing and reporting gang related activities in Chatham County.)
- **Local law enforcement personnel** are currently testing the GangNET system with little to no errors with the system. They are using the system for tracking, monitoring, gathering intelligence in regards to gang members. A gang database has been started to collect intelligence from citizens, deputies, detention officers and other sources.
- **GangNET:** the gang intelligence officers and gang coordinators have attended training in regards to viewing, using, entering data and more. They maintain files on all validated and suspected gang members in Chatham County. All participating agencies have had gang investigators trained for GangNET use. The investigators are in the process of training other agency personnel how to access data in Gang NET data base for use in the field.
- **Worked with the schools, Department of Correction, probation, and the jail** to identify gang members and build a comprehensive GangNet database for the county.
- **Parents present at First Baptist Missionary Church** during the presentation commented, "Thank you for the presentation today. I was unaware of the reasons for outside gang members relocating to our area."
- **Pastor Gray stated,** "The handouts are full of great information and he will disseminate it out to the congregation, and he wants the GVP Coordinator to conduct a workshop in January 2009. And in February 2009 he wants the GVP Coordinator to conduct an all day presentation for 25 to 30 churches that will be attending the conference at the church in Siler City NC.

- **Collaboration :** The Siler City Police Dept, Chatham County Sheriff's Office , Pittsboro Police Department , The State Highway Patrol Officers, The North Carolina State Park Rangers, District Attorney's Office, Court Officials , Schools, and organizations that work with parents and juveniles have developed communications and networking with the Gang Violence Prevention Coordinator. They have started a subcommittee, and they meet twice a month on progress or gang violence initiative and continue to collaborate about gang violence. The first meeting was held on December 17, 2008 with the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Gang coordinator who also gave a hour and a half presentation on Gang Awareness to the subcommittee.
- **Outreach:** Bilingual lay personnel and Bicultural personnel will be accessible to facilitate, interact, and interpret gang surveys door to door.
- **GVP Coordinator** has made presentations to School officials, Clergy, Public Forums, YMCA , BGCA, Church Organizations and Grass roots agencies on the status of gangs in the community
- **Program Success:** The success of this project is evident in the fact that all law enforcement agencies are now aware of the gang issues and the officers are able to recognize gang affiliation with ease. The patrol officers now have codes, and a simple pocket booklet created by The Gang Violence Prevention Coordinator for all agencies to use. The Chatham County Sheriff Department has been using the pocket guide for several months and they love it. .
- **Successfully identified over 10 new gang members** to add to the data base and how the gangs initially started in Pittsboro North Carolina.
- **Made it more difficult for gang members** to carry out their criminal enterprises by concentrating efforts around known gang territories and the holds they may have over the communities.
- **Feedback from the citizens** at the open forum of the Boys and Girls Club of America has been positive that they thanked me for "the efforts to help prevent gang violence and keeping the streets clean of graffiti, your actions are proving to be positive and there is a definite difference since October 2008. Your efforts are not in vain.
- **Community Awareness:** The GVP Coordinator has given over twenty presentations and has 10 presentations to community groups, school facility, and business organizations, church groups planned for the month of January 2009.
- **Partnered with the Boys and Girls Club** with the 'Chatham Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant initiative to form Gang Prevention, Intervention and Suppression.
- **GVP Coordinator** has held stakeholder meetings with school systems, the parks and recreation department, social workers, and law enforcement agencies to begin a comprehensive approach to reduce at-risk youth gang involvement.
- **In-service Two Day Training:** An in-service two day class was given to all available detention officers, law enforcement officers and judicial officials in December 2008.

Submitted by: Fredericka Carver, "Safer Chatham" Project Coordinator