



# WEED & SEED IN-SITES

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## Weed & Seed In-Sites

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## From the Director



As perhaps the biggest worldwide celebration any of us will see in our lifetimes, the arrival of the year 2000 provides a framework for reflecting on our past and considering our future. Reflecting back to 1992, we should all feel a sense of accomplishment and pride inspired by the success of the Weed and Seed program. Under the leadership and guidance of Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson, Operation Weed and Seed has spread across the country into more than 250 communities, including 220 Officially Recognized sites and a growing number of expansion sites.

We learned recently that Laurie will be leaving her post at the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) after 6 1/2 years of service. Laurie's tenure exceeds that of any head of OJP throughout its 30-year history. So many of our sites have welcomed Laurie to their communities and have shown her firsthand the challenges they face and the accomplishments they celebrate. On behalf of the entire Weed and Seed family, EOWS wishes Laurie and her family the very best.

As a tribute to the efforts of each Weed and Seed community and the bureaus and program offices of OJP, EOWS offers this Millennium Issue of *In-Sites*. Throughout the year, *In-Sites* promotes the achievements of individual Weed and Seed sites. We consider this special edition an opportunity to look back at 1999, highlight our achievements, and promote the success of special Weed and Seed-supported initiatives such as Kids House and Visual Voices and federally supported efforts such as Millennium Green, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Day of National Concern. Each of these efforts is coordinated to make our communities and lives better today and in the future.

EOWS welcomes your feedback on this Millennium Issue and wishes each of you a very prosperous 2000.

*Stephen Rickman*  
Director, EOWS

Photo of Stephen Rickman © 1999, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corp.



"I've had the chance to do a great deal of what I set out to accomplish—with the wonderful backing of Janet Reno, the creative partnerships we've had with State and local leaders, and the dedication of OJP. I'm proud that OJP has grown so tremendously during my tenure—not just in budget and staff, but, most tellingly, in stature and in the impact our work is having in communities across this country."

—Laurie Robinson  
Assistant Attorney General





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Now Available!

## Weed and Seed Best Practices Fall 1999 Edition

The latest edition of *Best Practices* highlights effective initiatives in law enforcement, neighborhood revitalization, community policing, and prevention through the arts programs. To order a copy, call 1-800-421-6770 and request NCJ 179139.

## Philadelphia Community Service Project

William R. Hausman

Forfeiture Program Manager

U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania



From left: Assistant U.S. Attorney Nancy Winters, Philadelphia Police Sgt. Tom Gleason, and U.S. Attorney Michael Stiles lend a helping hand to the restoration project.



Megan Rice (right) uses some muscle to help out at the Philadelphia Community Service Project.




On May 22, 1999, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Michael R. Stiles and his staff participated in a joint community service project in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The day's activities were centered at a site where 20 homes had been demolished as part of the Philadelphia Police Department's "Operation Sunrise." The demolition had left a vacant lot in the North Philadelphia Weed and Seed neighborhood, and it turned into a dumping ground for trash and abandoned automobiles. The lot, located at the intersection of Mascher and Somerset Streets, lies in the midst of a neighborhood that has long been plagued by trash dumping, violent crime, and heavy drug trafficking.

Project participants included 30 Assistant U.S. Attorneys and support staff from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, members of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, staff from the city of Philadelphia Managing Director's Office, representatives from Safe and Sound (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), AmeriCorps and United Neighbors Against Drugs volunteers, college students from several universities, staff from the Lighthouse Community Center, members of the Philadelphia Police Department, and neighborhood residents.

On that clear Saturday the volunteers planted trees, shrubs, and flowers and built garden boxes, a playhouse, a slide, and benches. Seven truckloads of mulch and 10 truckloads of wood chips were used. By the end of the day children were playing in the new sandbox and playhouse while their parents were planting seeds in their garden boxes. Neighborhood residents, excited and overjoyed by the restoration project, will work together to maintain this area and keep the neighborhood clean, safe, and beautiful.



The volunteers all left with uplifted spirits for having helped renovate a section of their neighborhood. This is the second project that Stiles and his staff have undertaken (their first effort was profiled in the December 1998/January 1999 issue of *In-Sites*). 

# “Two Sites, Two Cities, Two States . . . One Goal”

*Donna Copeland*

Law Enforcement Coordinator

U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Arkansas



eed and Seed sites come in all sizes and configurations to best implement the Weed and Seed strategy in each location. The Texarkana Weed and Seed sites are a good example of the flexibility and success of the

Weed and Seed program.

Sometimes it is hard to explain Texarkana to visitors. Texarkana, located on the border of Texas and Arkansas, comprises two cities with the same name. The State line that runs through the center of downtown Texarkana connects the cities. The two cities are routinely referred to as the State Line Cities because the main thoroughfare, State Line Avenue, is the Arkansas-Texas border.


The Texarkana Federal Building sits in the middle of a city street, with half of its courtrooms and offices in Arkansas and the other half in Texas. The Texarkana Post Office is one of the most unique in America because it straddles State Line Avenue, placing it in both Texas and Arkansas. A display, constructed especially for visitors who delight in capturing a unique photo opportunity of standing in two States at once, is located in front of the post office that serves both cities.

The motto “Twice As Nice” appropriately conveys the political structure of the cities of Texarkana. There are two of almost everything: two city mayors, two city governments, two police departments, and two fire departments. Naturally,

when Texarkana coordinated a Weed and Seed strategy, two separate Texarkana applications were submitted.

“At first, we [EOWS] tried to work with both sides to coordinate one application, for the two applying agents to work together under one strategy. It soon became very clear that each side of Texarkana was dealing with a completely different set of circumstances, and the proposed strategy emphases for both were entirely different,” explained EOWS Program Manager Robert Hendricks.

The Arkansas Weed and Seed adopted the working acronym T-BON, which stands for Taking Back Our Neighborhood, whereas the Texas Weed and Seed's motto is “Putting the Neighbor Back in Neighborhood.” Together, both sites publish a joint newsletter; they also attend each other's Steering Committee meetings.

Both Texarkana, Arkansas, and Texarkana, Texas, were awarded Official Recognition in 1999. Representatives of the two Weed and Seed sites attended the Weed and Seed 1999 National Conference in Houston, Texas. Alexis Owens, representing the Arkansas Weed and Seed's Youth Committee, participated as a speaker in the panel session “Involving Youth in Weed and Seed.” Site representatives displayed their ongoing spirit and partnership to help conference participants see and understand the unique nature of the cities of Texarkana. Their group's theme was “Two Sites, Two Cities, Two States . . . One Goal.” 

## Grand Rapids Combats Truancy

*Bethanie Archibold*

Grand Rapids Weed and Seed Coordinator



ruancy is a growing problem for communities across the country. The strategies to address and prevent this problem vary with each community.

The Westside Weed and Seed site in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is taking a collaborative approach. To address the

growing number of truant students who are registered to attend Grand Rapids public schools, community members joined forces and created the Truancy Coalition. Representatives of the Grand Rapids Police Department, the Kent County Independence Agency, Community Mental Health Agency, the 17th

Circuit Court Family Division, the Kent Intermediate School District, Michigan State University, and the Grand Rapids public school system pooled their resources to fight truancy.

This collaboration marks the first time key agencies dealing with children joined together for one cause in Grand Rapids. During the first quarter

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## Drug Education for Youth: 1999 Recap

**T**he success of the DEFY program continues to grow. The 1999 DEFY Camps served approximately 200 more youth than the 1998 season. With 75 Weed and Seed sites offering the DEFY program in their communities, more than 2,600 children were given the opportunity to participate in this increasingly popular mentoring program.

The U.S. Navy and EOWS will host a DEFY Train-the-Trainer Conference in Reno, Nevada, March 7–9, 2000. This annual DEFY conference will provide new materials, resources, and training to persons interested in coordinating local DEFY programs for the 2000 season. Details and registration materials are available at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows) or by calling Louis Lucas, EOWS DEFY Coordinator, at 202–616–3454 (e-mail: [lucas@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:lucas@ojp.usdoj.gov)).



Youth at the Oxnard DEFY camp gather for a group photo.



Members of the Melbourne Police Department Dive Recovery Team show DEFY campers the basics of diving techniques.



This photo was sent to *In-Sites* by the U.S. Navy's 1999 DEFY camp in Sigonelle, Sicily, Italy.

## COMMITMENT STEPS TO BECOMING A YEAR 2000 DEFY SITE

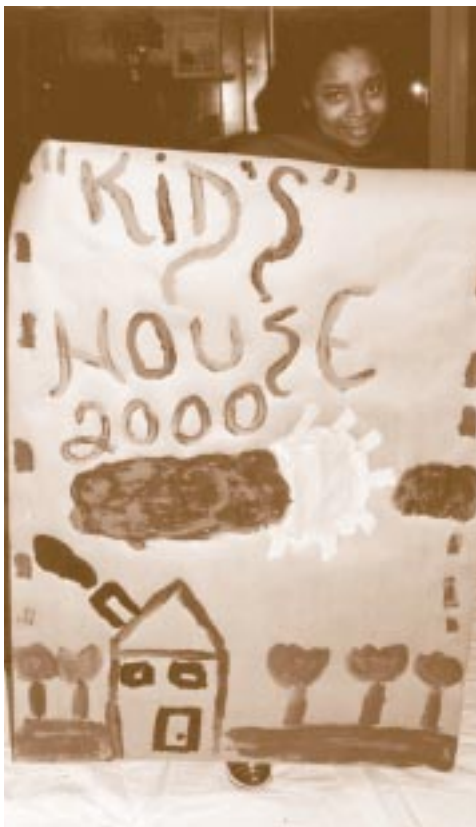
1. Locate a military partner and designate a military point person.
2. Designate a DEFY coordinator and assistant coordinator.
3. Register the DEFY coordinators and the military point person for the March 7–9 DEFY Train-the-Trainer Conference workshop by February 21.
4. Execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to outline the roles and responsibilities of each of the supporting parties.
5. Coordinate funding with the administrative officer and budget officer in your agency.

Visit [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/defy.htm#Information](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/defy.htm#Information) for details on DEFY Commitment Steps and a sample MOU, or call Louis Lucas at 202-616-3454.





## Urban Family Institute and Kids House



Artwork from an inspired youth in the Visual Voices Project at Carver Terrace Kids House in Washington, D.C.

**I**n 1998, EOWS extended resources to the Urban Family Institute (UFI) for a program called Kids House to assist Weed and Seed communities in creating a safe, family-like environment for children during afterschool hours in which they can learn, create, and grow under the supervision of nurturing adults. Run by volunteers, Kids Houses operate in homes, churches, schools, and public housing developments.

Founded more than 7 years ago by Kent Amos of Washington, D.C., UFI works with Weed and Seed site coordinators to prepare adult volunteers from the community for their Kids House experience. UFI provides the technical expertise and training to site staff and volunteers, who then go on to manage “house operations.” Each Weed and Seed site coordinator is responsible for monitoring the activities of Kids House staff and volunteers. After training, the daily responsibility shifts to the volunteers and the “house” operates within the Weed and Seed site independent of UFI.

The first two Weed and Seed sites to coordinate a Kids House were the Northwest Austin (Chicago, Illinois) Kids House, serving 15 children in a church basement, and Carver Terrace (Washington, D.C.) Kids House, serving 70 children in subsidized housing. Both opened in 1998. In 1999, EOWS awarded UFI a second year of funding to expand to six additional Weed and Seed sites. A Kids House opening celebration in Wichita, Kansas, in January kicked off the 1999 Kids House efforts. The New Orleans Kids House, which opened in 1999, recently expanded its facilities to accommodate 60 children. And expanding their original Kids House program (started in 1999), Lakeland, Florida, staff recently coordinated three new satellite sites.

The Fifth Annual Kids House Conference in Orlando, Florida, in November 1999 wrapped up the year’s efforts. Attendees participated in challenging discussions, informative workshops, and networking activities. For more information on Kids House, call Meredith Neilsen at EOWS, 202-616-1152. 🏠

## Kids House: One Site’s Year in Review

Carrie L. Jones

Wichita/Sedgwick County Weed and Seed Coordinator

**T**he Wichita/Sedgwick County, Kansas, Weed and Seed places special emphasis on involving the community’s children in its efforts. As a result, in 1999 the Wichita Metropolitan Family Preservation Agency, Inc., administrator of the Weed and

Seed project, joined the nationwide Kids House program, coordinated by the Urban Family Institute.

In the past year, the Wichita/Sedgwick County Kids House participants have been involved in many community events. First, Weed and Seed site staff organized an “Open House” to introduce the Kids House program

and its services to the community. Staff also coordinated an effort to recruit more than 40 children and 14 community volunteers, including local Wichita police officers, for the program.

In October 1998, children participated in the local Harvest Fest and were

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## Visual Voices: Uniting Youth



n EOWS-supported project receiving much acclaim in 1999 is the Visual Voices Project, created and coordinated by Michael Yonas, the Kids House project's original Director. An 86-foot section of the Visual Voices Project was displayed at the Weed and Seed 1999 National Conference in Houston, Texas.

Visual Voices is an educational and artistic experience designed to bring children of all ages and backgrounds together. Positioned on the floor with large squares of brown paper and numerous cans of paint, youth are given paintbrushes and encouraged to express themselves. Yonas asks the children to paint scenes of their homes, schools, community centers, families, or any other aspect of their lives. During interactive painting and writing sessions with children from a community, Yonas places great emphasis on cultivating the uninhibited creative energy within each child rather than directly teaching drawing skills.

In addition to the painting activity, children participate in a writing experiment in which they are asked to write about their favorite places, favorite people, and visions of the future. These writings are composed on

plexiglass that is hung in front of the paintings to provide a layered effect. Not surprisingly, many children express in their writings that their favorite person is "Mr. Yonas."

"There is a tremendous amount of media attention directed toward youth violence, gang activity, and the prevalence of illegal drug use in the Nation's

inner-city communities. Despite this attention, the true, honest, and uninhibited views of children living with these communities often go unnoticed—leaving many positive messages unheard," Yonas said.

When asked to share the most common themes in the children's work, he answers, "It depends more on the age group, but

overall the themes are very positive—bright suns, beautiful rainbows, butterflies, families standing together . . . and little boys like sports a lot. What is most interesting [is what they have in common:] these kids are just incredibly resilient."

In its entirety, the Visual Voices Project is more than 1,000 feet long and has involved more than 550 children. The project continues to grow and schedule exhibits across the country. In the year 2000, Visual Voices will continue to collect paintings and writings from children in various cities, including Weed and Seed sites. Yonas plans to add another "layer" to the project by incorporating audio recordings of children expressing themselves vocally as they create their writing and painting pieces. When on display, sensors will trigger the audio portion of the Visual Voices exhibit as viewers walk by.

The Visual Voices Project is designed to become a nationwide effort that will bring together the expressions of children of various ethnicities and cultures and grow to embrace and exhibit the energy of today's youth. For more information on this project and how to become involved, send an e-mail message to Michael Yonas at [myonas1@aol.com](mailto:myonas1@aol.com). 🏠



*Above and upper right:* youth at the Syracuse, New York, Kids House participate in Visual Voices. *Center:* Visual Voices founder Michael Yonas encourages youth as they paint.

# Euclid Children Hand Over Gun

Ruby Lee Gamble  
News Herald Staff Writer

WILLOUGHBY, OH, July 13, 1999.—A gun in the hand of any child is a tragedy waiting to happen, but six Euclid youths showed that some kids are responsible enough to make the right decision.

Tyeje Worthington, 7; Jevon Worthington, 12; Chayneil Brandon, 9; William Brandon, Jr., 8; and Jarrell Minor, 7, all were playing last Wednesday near their home, in the southeast quadrant of Euclid, by the Community Policing Mini-Station, when they spotted a gun in the bushes.

Jarrell said that is when he remembered what he was taught in school about guns and took action.

"I ran in the house and had someone call the police," Jarrell said.

The youngsters reported the weapon to their 13-year-old baby-sitter, Andrea Mann, who said she immediately called the police. By the time the police had arrived, another unidentified young person had placed the gun in the trash.

"As soon as Jarrell told me that there was a gun outside, I called the

police," Andrea said. "I believed him immediately because I knew he wouldn't play about something like that."

Jarrell said he told the other children not to touch the gun, because that is what he was taught in his Eddie Eagle training at school.

"The officers taught us if we see a gun we are to stop, don't touch, leave the area, and tell the cops," Jarrell said.

Chayneil, William and Jarrell all had taken the Eddie Eagle class at their elementary school. The course is taught by a community policing officer who trains the students in gun safety.

Jevon said he was scared when the other child picked it up because he thought he would fire it.

"I told him he should leave it alone and we all ran to the baby-sitter," Jevon said.

The children were honored for their heroism Monday afternoon at the mini-station. All of the young people, including the baby-sitter, received certificates of honor as well as ice cream sundaes.

Charles G. Eduardos, community policing specialist,



Euclid police officer Anthony Medved stands with the Euclid youth who turned over a gun they found while playing. From left: Andrea Mann, Jevon Worthington, Tyeje Worthington, Chayneil Brandon, William Brandon, Jr., and Jarrell Minor.

said what made these children so special was the grave danger they all faced at the moment they found the gun.

"That gun was loaded," Eduardos said. "That situation could have been a lot worse, but because of the quick thinking of those children, things worked out."

Eduardos said police are continuing their investigation to determine where the gun came from and how it got in the bushes.

"I am proud of the children," said Karen Minor, mother of Jarrell. "They reacted so quickly which was the right thing to do. They didn't wait around. They have been taught if there is a gun problem to call 911. I have tried to teach them right from

wrong so they will know what to do in a crisis."

Marqueda Worthington, mother of Tyeje and Jevon, said when she first heard the news about the gun, the thought of what could have happened scared her.

"I was frightened by the thought that a gun could be laying around in the area where they play every day," Worthington said. "The thought that they can come across something like that—I am just proud that they knew what to do."

Mayor Paul F. Oyaski said the children's actions are an example of the fine work the Weed and Seed Program is accomplishing in Euclid.

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*News Herald.*





**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WEED & SEED**  
*NOWS the time. This is the place. We are the ones.*



The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and EOWS have entered into a partnership to form the nonprofit National Organization for Weed and Seed (NOWS). The mission of NOWS is to strengthen and support collaborative Weed and Seed strategies through resource development, networking, advocacy, training, and technical assistance. In early 1999, eight representatives from Weed and Seed sites formed an advisory group to draft goals and objectives for the developing organization.

Many advisory group members had been interested in and working toward establishing a national organization for the past few years. They understood the common need for a forum through which sites could connect with each other to share experiences and resources and sustain the Weed and Seed movement in the future.

The advisory group, which has become the NOWS Organizing Board, consists of Chairperson Marisol Lopez, Mayor's Office, Rochester, New York; Vice Chair Dick DeLaRosa, Gang Policy Manager, San Jose, California; Vice Chair Franklin Simpson, Weed and Seed Coordinator, Las Vegas, Nevada; Secretary Roberto Friez, Weed and Seed Coordinator, Phoenix, Arizona; Calvin Bird, CDC Executive Director, Cape Girardeau, Missouri; Gwen Bolden, Executive Director, Gwen Bolden Youth Foundation, and Safe Haven

Coordinator, Los Angeles, California; Sean Cruz, Victory Outreach International Church, and President and CEO, National Association of Safe and Drug-free Workplaces, Portland, Oregon; and Beverly Watts-Davis, Executive Director, San Antonio Fighting Back, San Antonio, Texas.

The work of NOWS and its Board is being supported by NCPC, a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to prevent crime and build safer, more caring communities.

With the hard work of the NOWS Board members and support from NCPC, a vast array of services and products have been made available to Weed and Seed communities in the 6 months that NOWS has been in operation. To ensure sites have up-to-date information, NOWS has sent out a number of ALERTS—briefings on issues of particular relevance to Weed and Seed sites. These briefings are sent by e-mail or fax to all site contacts (more than 1,200) listed in the NOWS membership database. NOWS sent a Congressional Briefing Kit to sites in early May, providing information on how to contact members of Congress and how to involve them in Weed and Seed work in local communities.

NOWS has also issued Program, Practice, and Policy Briefs that focus on creative approaches or critical issues for Weed and Seed members. The first four Briefs were:

- ◆ “The Jason Network,” featuring the Winston-Salem Police Department’s response to repeat juvenile offenders.
- ◆ “The Boston Gun Project,” focusing on the model and successes of the Boston Gun Project, a collaborative effort between Harvard University, the Boston Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Suffolk District Attorney’s Office.
- ◆ “Partnership for a Safer Cleveland,” describing this independent nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing safety through collaborative educational and programmatic efforts.
- ◆ “Drug Courts,” describing the use of drug courts as an alternative to criminal courts to provide supervised treatment, drug testing, and transition programs for drug offenders.

NOWS took over the Weed and Seed Best Practices publication for fall 1999, writing articles on community policing efforts in San Jose, California; law enforcement in Salt Lake City, Utah; neighborhood revitalization in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; the Prevention Through the Arts program in Syracuse, New York; and examples of the benefits of networking across sites.

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# Northwest Austin's Weed and Seed Gang Task Force Scores a Big Success

P.J. Brand

Supervisory Special Agent  
FBI Joint Task Force on Gangs

**D**uring the late evening hours of May 7, 1999, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Joint Task Force on Gangs (JTFG) and members of the Chicago Police Gang Investigation Section executed a search warrant on a second-floor apartment and garage in the Austin District of Chicago, Illinois. This cooperative law enforcement action resulted in confiscation of 41 kilograms of cocaine, with a street value in excess of \$4 million, along with approximately \$440,000 in cash. Also recovered were two handguns—a semiautomatic Intratec 9 mm Luger and a Ruger .44 magnum revolver. Arrested and charged with numerous Federal drug violations were three residents of the Austin District, ranging in age from 25 to 42. All were suspected street gang members.

This was not the first successful investigation conducted by JTFG in Austin. JTFG also conducted the 1995–1999 “FlySwat” investigation of the Traveling Vice Lords and their ties to seven corrupt police officers, which had a great impact on the Austin community. The Task Force was the recipient of the local Ida B. Wells’ Weed and Seed

## JOINT TASK FORCE ON GANGS & CHICAGO POLICE



Asset Forfeiture Funds, which resulted in the 1994–1997 “WellCap” investigation of Lawrence McCarroll, leader of the Gangster Disciple gang in control of heroin distribution at the Wells housing complex; eight members of his organization were federally convicted of conspiracy and drug-related charges, and McCarroll was sentenced to 33 years in Federal custody.

Chicago’s Austin District Weed and Seed is a sponsor of the FBI’s JTFG, comprising gang specialists from the Chicago Police Gang Unit, police officers from the Chicago Housing Authority Police Department, and FBI agents. 🏠

## Grand Rapids Combats Truancy

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of 1999, Coalition members met to discuss their concerns and make suggestions for addressing truancy in Grand Rapids. The Coalition aimed to identify children with chronic attendance problems, the needs of truant children’s families, and possible remedies for each case.

Although State law calls for the prosecution of parents failing to regularly send their children to school (under State compulsory attendance law), the Truancy Coalition aims to partner with parents to fight truancy. The Coalition hopes to work with each parent to realize the needs of

each child and, working together, resolve the cause of the truancy.

On September 20, 1999, just 7 months after the formation of the Truancy Coalition, the Grand Rapids Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt the Coalition’s proposal for a pilot program in the Weed and Seed target area. School officials, parents, and the Coalition will work together to implement the process in the three elementary schools in the target area. *In-Sites* will report on their efforts throughout the year 2000. 🏠

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 1999

### Congratulations Houston/ Harris County, Texas!

Houston/Harris County was selected as the top-ranked Category 1 Area (population ≥ 250,000) and received the SC Johnson National Night Out 1999 Award.

The Houston/Harris County National Night Out drew 61,685 people, including more than 100 attendees of the Weed and Seed 1999 National Conference, **Communities of the New Millennium**.

For highlights of 1999’s grand event, visit [www.natw.org](http://www.natw.org). Planning for National Night Out 2000 on August 1 is under way!



## HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo Awards Honolulu Weed and Seed

**A**ndrew Cuomo, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), presented the Weed and Seed initiative in Honolulu, Hawaii, with 1 of 100 “Best of the Best” Best Practices Awards at a special ceremony on July 24, 1999, in Kansas City, Missouri. Honolulu’s Weed and Seed initiative, recognized for its outstanding and innovative uses of community resources, was selected from more than 3,000 Best Practices submissions from across the country. U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii Steven Alm accepted the award on behalf of the community. Present were Weed and Seed partners from the police department, city management, and the target community. “The Best Practices Awards are HUD’s equivalent to the Academy Awards, given for an outstanding performance in service to American people,” said Cuomo.

A HUD Best Practice is defined as a program or project, management

tool, or technique that generates a significant positive impact on those it is intended to serve; can be replicated in other areas of the country, region, or local jurisdiction; demonstrates the effective use of partnerships among government agencies, nonprofit organizations, or private businesses; and displays creativity in addressing a problem and demonstrates effective leveraging of resources.

The Weed and Seed initiative focuses on providing a safer environment for residents and businesses in the Kalihi-Palama/Chinatown area of Honolulu and has been successful in reducing crime by more than 50 percent in one of Honolulu’s highest crime areas. Weed and Seed partners include HUD’s Honolulu field office, the local U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii, the city and county of Honolulu, Aloha United Way, and the Honolulu Police Department. Honolulu



HUD Deputy Secretary Saul Ramirez (far left) presents Best Practice Award to U.S. Attorney Steven Alm, Honolulu Police Department Sgt. John Kauwenaole, Weed and Seed Coordinator Maile Kanemaru, and City and County of Honolulu’s Managing Director Benjamin Lee.

was awarded Weed and Seed Official Recognition in 1998. Visit [www.HUD.gov/bpawards/index.html](http://www.HUD.gov/bpawards/index.html) for more information on HUD’s Best Practices Awards and a listing of 1999’s Best Practices winners. 🏠

## San Antonio Resident Wray Hood Wins National Award

*Norma Rabago*  
Director of Communications  
San Antonio Fighting Back of United Way

**W**ray Hood may not have been the Publishers Clearing House van that pulled up to Wray Hood’s door, but it was just as exciting. Neighbors and friends gathered on the front lawn of Hood’s home to officially notify her that she was the recipient of a reputable national award.

“We are just so proud of Wray Hood and the Coliseum/Willow Park Neighborhood Association for their successful crime prevention efforts,” said Willie Mitchell, San Antonio Fighting Back (SAFB) Board Chairperson. “Wray Hood is truly a crime prevention hero.”

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## Students Make a Pledge Against Gun Violence

**S**tudents in a growing number of school districts today enter school through metal detectors, are banned from carrying book bags, and are monitored by sophisticated video systems. Many schools are doing away with lockers altogether. In Houston, Texas, an elementary school now requires visitors to use a doorbell to enter the school.

Sadly enough, we closed this century with gun wounds being the second most common cause of death among 10- to 24-year-olds and 13 percent of our Nation's students saying they know a student who has brought a gun to school. Despite heightened public attention following a surge in gun violence in America's schools, overall school crime rates are declining, according to the *1999 Annual Report on School Safety* prepared jointly by the U.S. Departments of Education (ED) and Justice. The number of firearms found in U.S. schools dropped by 30 percent in 1997-1998 compared with the previous school year, according to a recent ED report.

"I am pleased that crime has gone down in schools across the country and that students continue to be safer in school than out of school," U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno said. "We need to continue these efforts which have contributed to this decline and take further steps to address those areas where improvement is necessary. There is nothing more important than making sure

**"I will never bring a gun to school;  
I will never use a gun to settle a dispute;  
I will use my influence with my friends to keep them  
from using guns to settle disputes.**

**"My individual choices and actions,  
when multiplied by those of young people  
throughout the country,  
will make a difference.**

**Together, by honoring this pledge,  
we can reverse the violence and grow up in safety."**

that our schools provide our young people with safe learning environments."

While school districts across the country and Federal and State agencies study the causes of violence in schools, students themselves are making strides in increasing participation in their own resolution. The fourth annual Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence, held October 21, 1999, brought heightened awareness to the cause of securing safety in America's schools. Thousands of school districts nationwide participated in this prevention effort by dedicating the day to activities focused on the community.

In 1998, the effort was celebrated by 1 million students signing the "Student's Pledge Against Violence" (above). While the number of school slayings decreased in 1999 (24 total in 1999, down from 40 in 1998), the number of student pledges almost

doubled. Close to 2 million students signed the pledge in 1999 (compared to 1 million in 1998) and many schools extended the awareness-building tradition from 1 day to several weeks.

The first Day of National Concern was in 1996, established by a Presidential Proclamation urging all Americans to commit themselves to helping the Nation's youth avoid violence. Each year increasingly more students make a strong collective statement renouncing the violent use of guns by signing the pledge. The Day of National Concern initiative is certain to maintain its momentum. For more details about 1999 activities and information on how to participate in the year 2000 effort, visit [www.pledge.org](http://www.pledge.org) or send an e-mail to [mlgrow@microassist.com](mailto:mlgrow@microassist.com).

The *1999 Annual Report on School Safety* is available by calling 1-877-4ED-PUBS. 🏠



# CHIP Enrolls More Than 1 Million Children



The U.S. Department of Justice, in cooperation with other Federal agencies and non-profit groups, has made a commitment to provide health insurance to as many eligible children as possible. Recent efforts supported by the Federal Government such as 5 Goals for Kids and the Back to School Campaign are broader initiatives stemming from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) law passed by Congress in 1997. Surveys reveal that since 1998 close to 1 million children have acquired health insurance through CHIP in 43 States and U.S. territories. However, much work remains to be done in 2000. In an

## Children's Health Insurance Program



October 1999 address, President Clinton announced that more than 10 million children remained uninsured nationwide. Today many families are not aware that their children qualify for free or low-cost health insurance.

*continued on page 19*

# The Millennium Green Project



Weed and Seed cannot take credit for dreaming up the name "Millennium Green." However, EOWS is joining numerous Federal offices and agencies to participate in the Millennium Green project, a national, interagency initiative of the White House Millennium Council to encourage the creation of healthier, more livable community environments for the year 2000 and beyond.

Millennium Green is a national project of the White House Millennium Council, led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Department of Justice. Millennium Green will highlight the many worthy environmental endeavors already in operation and foster the creation of many new efforts across the country to preserve our Nation's treasures.

For the Millennium Green project, a coalition of citizens, businesses, and nonprofit and government


organizations will embark on community and environmental improvement activities over the year 2000. EOWS will provide information about activities that Weed and Seed neighborhood residents can participate in to improve the quality of life in their communities, including planting gardens where vacant, debris-ridden, and dangerous lots now stand. One activity, coordinated by the nonprofit America the Beautiful Fund, will provide flower and vegetable seeds to plant 2,000 Millennium Gardens at schools, community gardens, parks, and libraries and along roadsides, riverbanks, and main streets in all 50 States.

### Goals of Millennium Green

In 2000–2001, Millennium Green will strive to:

- ◆ Plant or adopt one tree for each person in the United States.
- ◆ Establish 2,000 Millennium Gardens across the country.

- ◆ Encourage corporate America to plant, adopt, and/or protect one tree or community garden for each employee and client during 2000–2001.
- ◆ Encourage corporate America to work with national, State, and local tree planting, garden, and conservation groups.

Free seeds are available to make the millennium green through the America the Beautiful Fund. During the millennium year (January 1 to December 31, 2000), the White House will lead a national millennium program with the theme "Honor the Past—Imagine the Future" that will engage Americans in a wide variety of activities and initiatives designed to highlight our heritage, celebrate our creativity, and shape our future. For more information and to order seeds for your community, contact America the Beautiful Fund at 202-638-1649. 

# Weed & Seed Photo Gallery

For the Millennium Issue of *In-Sites*, EOWS sorted through hundreds of photographs submitted by Weed and Seed sites in 1999 and selected unpublished photos that portray the spirit of Weed and Seed. They are the images from our community. Whether the photos capture the concentration on the face of a young man serving in the color guard at a Mobile Community Outreach Police

Station (MCOPS) ceremony in Washington, D.C., or a woman jumping up in excitement at a rally in Arkansas, they are images portraying the diversity, spirit, strength, and accomplishment that emanate from the Weed and Seed community. We hope that you enjoy these photographs as much as we do and that you will send us new photos in the coming year. 🏠





## San Antonio Resident Wray Hood Wins National Award

*continued from page 13*

Hood was one of seven winners of the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Ameritech Awards of Excellence in Crime Prevention. Winners were chosen from more than 100 nominations submitted to NCPC from across the country. Hood was the only winner from Texas. SAFB Executive Director Beverly Watts-Davis was notified 2 weeks prior to the official announcement that Hood was a recipient of the award and was asked to plan a surprise announcement that included family, friends, and colleagues.

SAFB nominated Hood for the successful efforts of the Coliseum/Willow Park Neighborhood Association under her leadership from 1993 to 1997. The Association worked with city and State agencies to have more than 50 abandoned duplexes torn down and replaced with a new subdivision, Coliseum Oaks. Hood now serves as the community liaison for the Association. The Coliseum/Willow Park neighborhood is part of the San Antonio East Weed and Seed target area.

“Thank you so much, everyone. I just want to say that this award means that we just have to roll up our sleeves and work that much harder,” Hood said after Mitchell presented her with a bouquet of roses, two plaques, and a dozen balloons.

Ameritech Awards guidelines require that winners be successful in at least four of the following crime prevention areas: overcoming hardships or limitations to prevent crime; creating a crime prevention policy or program that has endured; developing a novel crime prevention policy, program, or funding strategy; forging crime prevention partnerships; spurring citizen action; demonstrating results of crime prevention efforts; and influencing community, State, or national policy.

“Ameritech is proud to honor these winners,” said William Boag, Director of Corporate Contributions for Ameritech.




Wray Hood (center) accepts congratulations from friends and neighbors after learning that she has won the Ameritech Award of Excellence, the National Crime Prevention Council award.

“These seven individuals represent the best in our communities.”

NCPC and Ameritech established the Ameritech Awards of Excellence in Crime Prevention in 1997 to honor ordinary individuals who have done extraordinary things to prevent crime and build safer, more caring communities.

In a letter of endorsement sent to NCPC as part of Hood’s nomination, District 2 Council Member Mario Salas wrote, “I am not only proud of her accomplishments but more importantly I am grateful for her efforts. It has been a great honor to know Ms. Hood and to work with her as we strive to maintain the peace and tranquility of our community.” An awards program to recognize the winners was held November 4, 1999, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

For more information on the Ameritech Awards of Excellence call 202-261-4165 or visit [www.ncpc.org/power99/amtech.htm](http://www.ncpc.org/power99/amtech.htm). 

The **Ameritech Awards of Excellence** and the **Mac Gray Award** will be presented during the 2000 National Conference on Preventing Crime, September 26–30, 2000, in Washington, D.C. Nominate a crimefighter in your community! Deadline for nominations is March 31, 2000. Visit the NCPC Web site at [www.ncpc.org/power2000](http://www.ncpc.org/power2000) for details.

## Kids House: One Site's Year in Review

*continued from page 8*

treated to old-fashioned hayrides. The following month, Kids House participants and their families helped prepare a Thanksgiving feast for the community. These Kids House efforts have served to reinforce the importance of family while providing support for children who otherwise have little support in their life.

In December 1998, a holiday party was organized and enjoyed by Kids House participants. Children enjoyed plenty of food and beverages donated by area restaurants. Officers from the Wichita Police Department's North Station dressed up as Santa's helpers to distribute wrapped presents to each child. Gifts were provided through a donation from the Boeing Company's Wichita office.

Kids House kept its efforts and spirit going through 1999. By summer the program assigned two youth workers as assistants to the Kids House coordinator. Summer activities included free swimming sessions through the City of Wichita Parks and Recreation Department, free tennis lessons by the Centre Court Community Tennis Association, Inc., a tour of artist/photographer Gordon Parks' exhibit at the Edwin A. Ulrich Museum of Art on the campus of Wichita State University, and an exploration into the world of science at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson, Kansas.

The Kids House daily schedule is designed to cover a range of life skills and educational activities, including tutoring in subjects such as math, English, and science. Children are surrounded by loving adults who teach them respect for themselves and others, problemsolving and proper decisionmaking skills, table manners, and how to control or handle their everyday environment.

Since its inception, the Wichita/Sedgwick County Kids House has affected the lives of more than 100 children and families. Adults in the community have come to recognize the benefits of the program and rely on the services provided by Kids House. As the Kids House program enters its next year, Program Coordinator Sandra Woodberry anticipates even higher numbers of volunteer participants. For more information about the Wichita/Sedgwick County Kids House, please call 316-269-0488. 🏠



*A Seamless Web of Care*

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## NOWS

*continued from page 11*

Additional "hands-on" work NOWS has done with Weed and Seed sites includes participating in the Northeast Regional Weed and Seed Meetings, connecting Oklahoma vicinity sites with a free Youth As Resources training opportunity, and conducting a pilot training of "Community Wealth Enterprises" with 14 Weed and Seed sites in central Florida, which developed ways to link citizens and/or corporations with the Weed and Seed mission. Early in the year 2000, Weed and Seed sites will have the opportunity to obtain training on the topic of teens, crime, and community works. This train-the-trainer workshop will be offered free of charge to Weed and Seed site teams in five regions.

Thanks to the linkage between NOWS and NCPC, all Weed and Seed sites have become members of the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, a nonpartisan group of more than 125 national, State, Federal, and community-based organizations united to encourage individual citizens

and citizen groups to take action to prevent crime. It is hoped that this membership will help Weed and Seed sites strengthen the alliances and working relationships they may have with their State-level crime-related associations and will link sites more closely with national partners.

Who can join NOWS? Any and all Weed and Seed sites. Simply call Marilyn Morey at the NOWS office, 202-261-4174. Multiple representatives from a Weed and Seed site may be listed in the NOWS database. Every person in the database will receive information, ALERTS, articles, and briefings distributed by NOWS.

NCPC will manage NOWS at its headquarters:

National Crime Prevention Council  
1700 K Street NW., Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20006-3817 🏠

# The EOWS Community Training Broadcast Series: "Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse"



Domestic violence is a serious crime that often results in severe injury and even death.

In the United States in 1996, women were the victims of 840,000 incidents of rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault at the hands of an intimate partner, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The percentage of female

victims killed by intimate partners has remained steady at about 30 percent since 1976.

As domestic violence awareness has increased, it has become evident that abuse can occur within a number of different types of relationships. Laws in many States cover incidents of violence occurring between married couples, as well

as abuse of children and elders by family members and abuse between roommates, dating couples, and those in lesbian and gay relationships. EOWS's satellite broadcast on Thursday, February 17, 2000, explored these issues and their impact on community health. Special attention was given to what communities can do to prevent domestic violence.

This broadcast is Part III of the EOWS Community Training Broadcast Series. On Thursday, April 20, 2000, EOWS will broadcast Part IV, "Community Policing: Experts Speak Out." To order free tapes of Weed and Seed satellite broadcasts, please contact your EOWS Program Manager. 🏠



## Satellite Broadcast Series

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### CHIP Enrolls More Than 1 Million Children

*continued from page 15*

The Children's Health Insurance Program is the most significant improvement in access to health care for children since the creation of Medicaid in 1965. CHIP is a State-Federal partnership program that gives States three options for covering uninsured children: designing a new children's health insurance program; expanding current Medicaid programs; or a combination of both strategies. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has now approved CHIP plans for all 50 States, 5 U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. Additionally, 28 amendments to CHIP plans have been approved to enroll even more children. It is estimated that more than 2.6 million children will be covered by September 2000. To help State and local outreach efforts, President Clinton and the National Governors' Association recently launched

the Insure Kids Now Hotline, 1-877-KIDS-NOW, and the Insure Kids Now Web site, [www.insurekidsnow.gov](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov).

The Insure Kids Now Hotline is a national toll-free number that parents or other interested persons can call and be automatically routed to the proper agency in their State for information about free or low-cost health insurance for their children.

The Insure Kids Now Web site offers information on children's health insurance coverage in each State or territory, information on how to apply for coverage, and guidelines for determining whether families qualify for a free or low-cost plan. For a more detailed review of CHIP, see the HHS Web site [www.os.dhhs.gov/news/press/](http://www.os.dhhs.gov/news/press/). 🏠



## CONFERENCE CORNER

### Weed and Seed Regional Meetings: Late 1999 to March 2000

EOWS is holding a series of 12 regional meetings to help sites develop FY 2000 budgets and begin or continue regional peer-to-peer

coordination. These meetings will replace the grant application meetings sponsored regionally in the past and are intended to help attendees prepare their FY 2000 funding applications in accordance with U.S. Department of Justice requirements and discuss issues pertinent to their

geographical area. The regional meetings are designed to be small, intimate gatherings for information sharing and networking.

For each regional meeting EOWS will handle all hotel logistics. Site representatives are responsible for payment of hotel and travel-related expenses. The National Organization for Weed and Seed (NOWS) will provide program support in planning each meeting.

EOWS will provide support for one regional meeting per year. If regions wish to coordinate additional regional, State, or U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) district meetings, they must be funded by resources outside EOWS.

The Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys' Weed and Seed fund will cover air travel and hotel room charges for USAO staff and developing sites with USAO support. Contact your USAO representative for more information.

## Meeting Program

Each regional meeting will cover core topic areas, including grant budget development and management, asset forfeiture funds budget development and management, and training and technical assistance. Additional topics will be covered at the request of each regional meeting coordinator. Presenters experienced in specific practices, such as coordinating with Federal agencies, or in trends, such as community-oriented lawyering, are available for regional meetings on request. Questions should be directed to the EOWS Program Manager.

The first regional meeting for FY 2000 was held in Albany, New York, October 19–21, 1999. The meeting for the Northeastern Region (comprising Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island) began at 1 p.m. on Tuesday

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Program Manager	States	Date	Location
Sharron Fletcher 202-305-2358	Alabama, Georgia	January 10–12, 2000	Savannah, Georgia
Robert Hendricks 202-305-1909	Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas	January 19–20, 2000	Houston, Texas
Faith Baker 202-305-2586	Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands	February 9–11, 2000	Tampa, Florida
Stacy Larsen 202-616-3556	Alaska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington	February 16–18, 2000	Rapid City, South Dakota
Romia Ray 202-307-6031	Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, D.C.	February 16–18, 2000	Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Eric Chin 202-305-2723	Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia	February 22–24, 2000	Indianapolis, Indiana
Sharron Fletcher 202-305-2358	Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee	February 22–24, 2000	Chattanooga, Tennessee
Ila Blue 202-305-2713	California, Hawaii	February 23–24, 2000	San Diego, California
Eric Chin 202-305-2723	Illinois, Michigan	February 27–28, 2000	Detroit, Michigan
Robert Hendricks 202-305-1909	Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah	February 27–29, 2000	Albuquerque, New Mexico
Ila Blue 202-305-2713	Minnesota, Wisconsin	March 6–7, 2000	Minneapolis, Minnesota



also works to reduce local costs of hiring and training new officers. The Police Corps Web pages, located at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/opclee](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/opclee), provide information on funding provisions and eligibility requirements. OPCLEE also provides scholarship funds to dependent children of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. For OPCLEE application information, visit [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/opclee/applicationkits.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/opclee/applicationkits.htm).

Community-oriented policing, a fundamental part of the Weed and Seed strategy, is a valuable resource for many communities. Sites will want to visit the Web page for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services at [www.usdoj.gov/cops](http://www.usdoj.gov/cops). The site features news and press releases, information about current funding opportunities, a grantee list, and career opportunities.

In November 1999, CrimeStat was released and made available for free through the National Institute of Justice's Crime Mapping Research Center. This computer software provides statistical tools to aid law enforcement agencies and criminal justice researchers in their crime mapping efforts. Visit [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/cmrc/whatsnew/welcome.html](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/cmrc/whatsnew/welcome.html) to download a free copy. While there, check out The Beat Book, mapping software designed for officers to use on laptops in their cars or at substations. 🏠



**I**n recent months the U.S. Department of Justice has updated and redesigned its Web site to offer a more user-friendly gateway to the resources available from the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). EOWS recently surveyed Weed and Seed site coordinators to discover how they use the Internet and what resources they search for. Many coordinators stated they wanted more information on funding opportunities; below are a few Web sites that may be of interest.

The Office of the Police Corps and Law Enforcement Education (OPCLEE) is an OJP program office designed to increase the number of community police officers with advanced education and training. OPCLEE

## Weed and Seed Regional Meetings: Late 1999 to March 2000

*continued from page 20*

and commenced at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday to provide 2 full days for meetings yet accommodate morning and afternoon travel (eliminating extra nights' lodging expenses). Coordinators of upcoming regional meetings may want to make similar schedule arrangements. Regional coordination for the Northeastern meeting was provided primarily by Peter Laun of the U.S. Attorney's

Office for the Northern District of New York and Nancy Kronen of Syracuse Weed and Seed, both of whom can be reached for guidance at 315-448-0672. Please direct general questions regarding the regional meetings to Bob Samuels at 202-307-1357. 🏠

## JUST ANNOUNCED

*Mark your calendar! The EOWS Law Enforcement and Prosecutors Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, May 30-June 2, 2000. Information will be posted at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/EOWS](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/EOWS) as it becomes available.*



## Weed & Seed

### Congratulations

EOWS would like to congratulate all of the sites awarded Official Recognition this year (see below). We welcome new sites to the Weed and Seed family and look forward to seeing your efforts culminate in a positive change for your community. We also thank our veteran sites for their continued efforts to make Weed and Seed successful in their communities and for mentoring developing sites.

### Farewell

The entire Weed and Seed community will surely miss EOWS Program Manager Susan Tashiro. Susan worked closely with sites in the Western United States for 2 1/2 years. In November 1999, Susan left EOWS for the Justice Management Institute (JMI) in Washington, D.C. She will relocate to Colorado, her home State, with JMI in early spring 2000. EOWS wishes her much success in her new position.

## EOWS Welcomes the Following Sites Awarded Official Recognition in 1999

### **Alabama**

Montgomery  
Selma

### **Alaska**

Anchorage

### **Arizona**

Flagstaff  
Winslow

### **Arkansas**

Texarkana

### **California**

Compton  
Oxnard (Second Site)

### **Connecticut**

Stamford

### **Florida**

Alachua County  
Homestead  
Orlando (Expansion Site)

### **Georgia**

Albany  
Cobb County  
East Point  
Macon

### **Illinois**

Village of Washington Park

### **Louisiana**

Algiers-Bywater  
La Fourche Parish  
Queensborough/Ingleside

### **Maryland**

Salisbury

### **Massachusetts**

Brockton

### **Minnesota**

Frogtown

### **Mississippi**

Tupelo

### **Missouri**

Independence

### **New Jersey**

Orange

### **New York**

Jamestown  
Poughkeepsie

### **North Carolina**

High Point  
Southeast Raleigh

### **Ohio**

Cincinnati  
Toledo-Lagrange  
Youngstown

### **Pennsylvania**

Homewood (Pittsburgh)  
West Philadelphia

### **Rhode Island**

Providence

### **South Dakota**

Rapid City

### **Tennessee**

Humbolt  
Memphis

### **Texas**

Aldine (Harris County)  
Ferguson Road Initiative  
Richmond  
South Dallas  
Texarkana

### **Virgin Islands**

Estate Bovine  
St. Croix

### **Wisconsin**

Racine

*The Weed and Seed Grant Application Kit is now available.  
Contact EOWS at 202-616-1159 to order a copy.*



# Mark Your CALENDAR



## MARCH

25–28

The **13th National Youth Crime Prevention Conference** will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. This annual conference is organized by the National Crime Prevention Council and Youth Crime Watch of America to educate youth and adults about preventing crime, violence, and drug use and to provide youth with a forum to express their visions as today's and tomorrow's leaders. Visit [www.ncpc.org/youthcon](http://www.ncpc.org/youthcon) for more information, or call 202-466-6272.

29–Apr. 2

The National Center for Women in Policing will hold **Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century: Opportunities for Women in Law Enforcement** in Baltimore, Maryland. Approximately 6,000 individuals are expected to attend to learn about innovations in policing, increasing and empowering women in policing, and professional development. Exhibitors will include Office of Justice Programs representatives from the National Institute of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Office for Victims of Crime. For more information, please call 323-651-2532.

## APRIL

20

The next segment in the EOWS Community Training Broadcast Series, **Community Policing: Experts Speak Out**, will be broadcast. EOWS Director Stephen Rickman and leaders from law enforcement agencies across the country will present guidelines for community policing to a live national audience. Contact Jeni Cox, 972-309-4609, at the Law Enforcement Training Network for information on how to connect to this live broadcast.

See Conference Corner on page 20 for a complete calendar of EOWS regional meetings. Another conference resource is the recently launched National Criminal Justice Reference Service Calendar of Events conference database ([eventcalendar.ncjrs.org](http://eventcalendar.ncjrs.org)), which offers a comprehensive list of conferences, workshops, seminars, and other events relating to juvenile and criminal justice and drug control policy. Use the calendar to identify events to attend or to avoid scheduling conflicts with your own events.

### ***Congratulations to Weed and Seed Recipients of the 1999 Director's Community Leadership Award***

Awarded by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Justice

Donald Dade, Executive Director  
Coalition for the Redevelopment of Unified  
Community Involvement and Leadership, Inc.  
(C.R.U.C.I.A.L.)  
Buffalo Weed and Seed  
Buffalo, New York

Robert H. Harrison, Chief of Police, City of Texarkana  
Texarkana Weed and Seed  
Texarkana, Arkansas

Wayne E. Rawlins, Executive Director  
Miami/Miami-Dade Weed and Seed  
Miami, Florida



# Mailbox

EOWS receives hundreds of queries from the field each month. Our Mailbox section provides a forum in which to answer questions and share comments. Via this shared line of communication, Weed and Seed sites can keep themselves informed and up-to-date—so we need you to participate! E-mail your questions and comments to [askeows@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:askeows@ojp.usdoj.gov) or mail them to EOWS, 810 Seventh Street NW., Washington, DC 20531.

## Weed and Seed Listserv

*"I understand there is a listserv that distributes news and updates about Weed and Seed to subscribers. How do I get my name on this distribution list?"*

Donya Phillippe  
Query sent to [askeows@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:askeows@ojp.usdoj.gov)

To join the listserv, send an e-mail to [melina@ilj.org](mailto:melina@ilj.org). The e-mail must be sent from the address to be added to the distribution list and the subject line in the header must contain the words "Weed and Seed Listserv." Subscribers to the Weed and Seed Listserv will receive information about Weed and Seed electronically.

## Weed and Seed Promotional Materials

*"Does EOWS have any informational pamphlets on Weed and Seed that sites may distribute to businesses in the target area to inform them about Weed and Seed?"*

Dow Croyle  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Dallas, Texas

Sites should contact their EOWS Program Manager and request a copy of the overall strategy Fact Sheet or reference the EOWS Web site ([www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows)). It is recommended that each site create a Fact Sheet or brochure reflective of its own strategy. EOWS can provide details on the overall history and implementation of the Weed and Seed strategy, but it is important for sites to highlight the unique aspects of their individual strategies to the members of their communities, including local businesses. In the past year, sites have been very creative in tailoring information to suit the mission of their marketing plan. EOWS now presents these materials in its exhibit at conferences across the country to give sites examples of the possibilities of self-promotion.

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Office of Justice Programs  
*Executive Office for Weed and Seed*

*Washington, DC 20531*

Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300  
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