

JDC NEWSLETTER

Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring

The problem in my community is...

"Too many guns in my neighborhood."

"A lot of killing."

"There's a lot of problems in my neighborhood from guns to drugs and negative influences, and it's mostly the adults making money selling this stuff to kids."

"I got my first gun from my old papi (old G). I guess they got [connections], also gangs."

"Drugs."

"Too much littering and damaged property."

"Too much littering, drugs, gangs, carjacking, making the neighborhood look unhealthy, [filthier], and robberies."

"Too many young thugs and wannabes."

"Robberies."

"Violence all around the city."

"Carjacking, home burglaries, murders, drug dealing."

"Kids have too much free time on their hands."

"Gangs, being in gangs, and involved [in] a lot of killings."

"Drugs."

"There is a lot of gun violence and drug dealing in my neighborhood called WYNWOOD."

"The problem is the music the kids listen to nowadays gives off a negative feedback to the youth."

"Violence, guns, crack heads, people doing cocaine with marijuana; it's crazy around there. Everybody [wants to] sell crack and weed but not me. I'm changing my life around."

"[I agree there's] guns, [young] people on dope, basers doing cocaine mixed with marijuana. And every[one] [wants to] sell dope, and lack of education."

"Crime rate, robbery, burglary, drugs."

"Violence and the love of money."

Transforming Our Community

This month, the Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring Program partnered with male teenage residents at the Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center. The group collaborated and brainstormed in a workshop exhibition to explore concepts of community problems, community solutions, and being the solution to the problems. Written responses from the young men who participated are included in this issue of the JDC Newsletter.

"Problems in my neighborhood are drugs, violence in the streets, and kids not doing good in school or not going."

"There is a lot of killing in my neighborhood."

"There is a lot of robbery and violence in our neighborhood."

"Wynwood is a very violent place."

"Violence everywhere you go!"

"Problem in my neighborhood is drugs, killing, lack of care in schools, and gang relations."

"Lack of respect / religion."

"Social [problems] / thugs / STDs."

TRANSFORMING MY COMMUNITY

Solutions to these problems are...

"If I was in charge, I would take all the guns away."

"Have a gang member meeting."

"My solution is to stay away from these guys, go to school, get involved in school sports, be occupied, get a girlfriend, and listen to my parents because they're always right. Stay away from gang recruits."

"The police."

"Community service and awareness."

"There's already enough trash cans so I'm guessing community service, tickets, better parenting, random drug testing, more jobs and benefits, lower prices. Also better communication."

"The problem is that everybody wants to be down!! EVERYONE WANTS TO BE SOMEBODY!!"

"Going to school and getting off the street [and] drugs, getting kids into a program."

"Have programs to talk to them and teach them wise thoughts, and investigation."

"Putting up cameras."

"Putting up cameras and arresting..."

"Provide positive programs to keep kids out of trouble."

"A good solution is to have a protest to stop violence."

"Get more kids to do more after school activities, and spend more time with their families and less with friends."

"Getting my life together and having a good job so I can take care of my mom and myself and my future wife."

"Move from around my neighborhood."

"Programs, more jobs, more parks."

"Go get money the honest way and stop the greedy behavior and mindset. If that stops, maybe the death rate will drop due to retaliation of others who have gotten stolen from and those who are killed in the process of trying to steal and rob."

"Solutions for all problems are to make more jobs, and more jobs for kids."

"A solution is to put all the killers in the army instead of putting them in prison. Another solution is to keep kids out of the streets and teach them the right things. Teach them how to focus in school, and help them become better and more involved in rehabs and other programs."

"For the wealthy to give back a lot more, so people won't try to rob [any] more or kill to get what they want. More mentors, better role models, different interests, gun enforcement, sports programs, get rid of the social life, use protection."



I can be involved in this solution by...

“Not get involved with friends that have guns.”

“Just go to the meeting [and] sit in ask[ing] what the pressure is about.”

“By doing all these things – start going back to school, play for my football team, stay away from negative peers and negative peer pressure, go to church, tell my friends [to] stay away from all of these things: guns, drugs, and gangs. Go back to school, because most of my friends are drop outs. So I’ll help them get their GED while I get my diploma. I could help them in school work. I made honor roll [before] and I’m going to do it again.”

“No snitching.”

“Government funding, Raise Awareness, Revise Reduce, Recycle.”

“Get involved in community service, and share the word of GOD.”

“By doing good and going to school and everything.”

“I’m not anymore but I was arm robbing people and drug dealing.”

“Tell them where to set up the cameras and help them.”

“Giving up to be a better man.”

“By being involved in youth programs and in the communities.”

“Pass the information to parents in the neighborhood.”

“Free education, more mentors, better role models.”

“Encourage kids to say “NO TO DRUGS” and “YES TO LOVE.”

“Help set up the protest stand and [write] a letter to the White House.”

“I can give good advice to younger kids.”

“Finish school, get a good job and move from around my neighborhood.”

“Volunteer for these programs, donate money to parks & programs.”

“I was always taught that we can’t change others until we change ourselves. Once I change myself, I’ll be one less at risk of being killed during a robbery or burglary. Then, I won’t be feeling hypocritical. If [I] come out, I can do good in school and try to find a job or a good way to give back to kids like me.”

“I can try to change myself first and from there try to help others to change their lives around and make them understand that doing criminal activities will only set them back and not push them forward.”

“By getting to know better people and wealthier people and convince them to give back.”

“Make an example out of the life of crime, use interesting facts to better the youth’s thinking of life, live by the way of Christ, and inspire others to live that life; cooperation, respect elders and peers.”

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