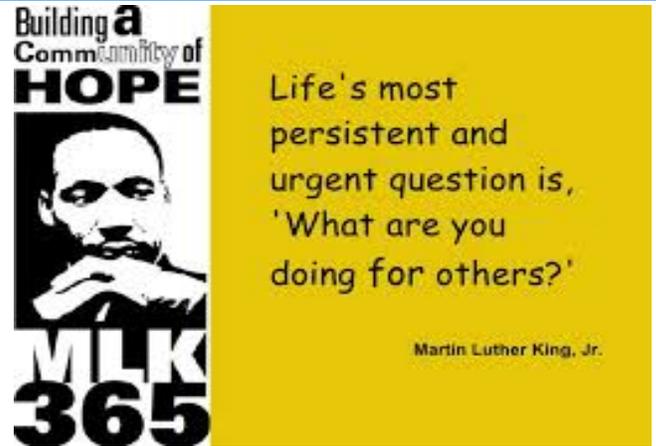


JDC NEWSLETTER



Youth Speak: Problems in Our Neighborhoods

- Too much black on black crime.
- Too much violence.
- Gang members are leading younger kids to do what they are told and that's why kids from my neighborhood end up in jail or are being killed.
- The police, drugs, theft, gangs violence.
- Kids fighting, shooting, and doing violent crimes.
- Lots of crime.
- I'm the problem in my community.
- Too much gang violence, killing, and drug dealing.
- The problem in my neighborhood is kids not going to school.
- No ways for kids to make money in good ways.
- Violence, because kids are trying to get money.
- No jobs.
- Too much crime and hate.
- Guns, drugs, violence and murder
- Crack heads, drugs, violence.
- Too many followers, not enough leaders.
- Crimes, drugs, and police brutality.
- Violence between teenagers shooting each other, drug dealing, and poverty.
- Poverty is the problem in my community right [now] besides violence.

Note to Readers: This month's JDC Newsletter was written by young men residing in Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center during a Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring session about "Transforming Our Communities." To get involved, contact info@e-stopp.org.

A CRITICAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Youth Write: Creating Solutions

- To send out a message.
- By helping each other and get[ting] along as real friends and family.
- Build more after school programs.
- More sports programs for kids.
- More police.
- We need more jobs for kids to make money.
- The community itself needs to work together.
- Everyone com[ing] together and better[ing] themselves.
- Anti-violence programs or community aids.
- Let's be leaders and go to church.
- Making jobs easier to be obtained.
- Better parenting and people breaking the cycle.
- Have a neighborhood watch.
- By meeting with each other and hav[ing] some type of communication.
- Someone needs to speak up about it.
- Have a meeting.
- A program that encourages others to do right.

Youth Advice: Getting Involved

- Get a group of people that [are] on the same mind set as me and march the streets.
- By treating others with respect and helping the ones that ask for help.
- Crime watch. Call 911.
- By helping others and telling them [to do the right thing], encouraging other people.
- By sending a message to stop crime.
- I don't [wanna] get involved cause I'll end up here again.
- I can get a job, go to school, be a good kid, and go to after school programs.
- By trying to help bring everyone together and stop violence.
- By walking with them, they might not judge a book by its cover.
- To change my life around.
- I can get a job and help friends get a job to stop stealing and stop buying guns.
- I can teach and tell my children not to be like me, help out some youth in my community with finding jobs and lead[ing] them down the right path
- Care for each other, behave better.
- I can start a neighborhood watch to make sure the young kids are behaving so the police won't bother them.
- Bikes up, guns down.

Special Thanks to Wayne Rawlins, Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring Program, Miami-Dade Anti-Gang Strategy Initiative; Dr. Debra Pane, Eradicating the School-to-Prison Pipeline Foundation, Inc. (E-SToPP); Miguel Peña, E-SToPP; Alyssa Soto-Garcia, FIU Intern; Dr. Gladys Negron, Regional Director, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice; Daryl Wolf, Superintendent, Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center; Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center Staff; Morris Copeland, Director, Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department; Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department Prevention Initiative Staff; Arielle Elizee, Ivana Rocha, and Bryan Barrientos, Florida International University students.
