

February 11, 2009

Dear Community Partners,

Many different factors influence how adolescents make decisions. Decision-making processes mature with age and experience and are influenced by an adolescent's brain development and acquisition of knowledge. Adolescents face a number of challenges in making healthy decisions because they:

- May see either-or choices instead of options.
- May lack experience and the knowledge to come up with alternative choices.
- May perceive their behavior as normal and lack the ability to recognize and avoid threatening situations.
- May focus more on peer pressure when deciding to engage or avoid risky behavior.
- May be influenced by their emotions and fail to use decision-making processes.

The "Peace in the Streets" Citywide Youth Crime Prevention Conference, April 1-3, 2009, will give these youth some of the foundations they need to make decisions by choosing what to do by considering the consequences of the different choices that they make. The process of decision making involves:

1. Listing relevant choices.
2. Identifying potential consequences of each choice.
3. Assessing the chances of each consequence actually occurring.
4. Determining the importance of these consequences.
5. Combining this information in the decision-making process.

You can help us to provide a solid base for which these youth can make their own decisions, building the social skills they need to encounter more choices independent of adults, thus drastically affecting not only their lives, but the lives of their peers, their families, and their communities as well.

We would like to meet with those of you who agree with us and would like to help make this a reality. Would Tuesday the 17th or Wednesday the 18th work for you? Please respond asap. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jimmie Harrington
Youth Program Director
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Email: jimmie.harrington@christamorehouse.org

Peace in the Streets, Citywide Crime Prevention Youth Conference

“United Neighborhoods Conducts Peace in the Streets Workshop”

Theme: “Smart Youth Make Safer Communities”

Applicant Agency: Christamore House Family and Community Center

Executive Director: Ms. Dionne Leslie

Email: dionne.leslie@christamorehouse.org

Address: 502 N. Tremont Avenue

City, State, Zip: Indianapolis, IN 46222

Phone, Fax: 317-635-7211; 317-635-1388

Date: April 1-3, 2009

Location: George Washington Community School

Focus group: Youth in 5th-10th grades

Contact person and Title: Jimmie Harrington, Youth Program Director

Phone: 317-635-7211x230

Email: jimmie.harrington@christamorehouse.org

Sponsoring Agency Representative _____

Printed name

Signature/Title

Date

Project Purpose

The overall purpose of this conference is to provide an introduction of the necessary skills needed to help our youth face four of the greatest challenges in their lives: (1) education, (2) economics, (3) conflict, and (4) violent and risky behaviors. Workshops in these critical areas of development will give the participants the framework to begin to concentrate on goals in education, economics, skills in conflict resolution, and responsibilities in saving their own communities. The conference will also have a recreational component, a contemporary concert each of the afternoons, and a faith-based spoken word component to conclude each daily session. An opportunity to be enrolled in a mentoring program will be extended at the end of each session. The culmination of the three-day event will be attending the Pacer game, Friday, April 3, 2009. Each day of the conference the youth will have a continental breakfast and a balanced meal for lunch.

Participants will be divided into three groups: 5-6th grade, 7-8th grade, and 9-10th grade. They will participate in a workshop incorporating each of the four skill sets each day. The first day will introduce and define the skill; second day will involve formulating a plan for success; and the final day will review and create a plan of action. Each of the three workshops will be seventy-five minutes in length, with a fifteen minute break in between. It is critical that each of the workshops is highly interactive so that the youth can be engaged in the learning process. Workshop Coaches will be chosen based on their experience as being unorthodox in their approach to share information while conducting their prospective workshops.

Depending on the response from schools, community organizations, and other youth-focused programs, the program will be made available to between 400-450 youth; those youth will be divided into 9 groups of 40-50 participants for each workshop). Each workshop will require a breakout room, a coach, and an assistant coach, totaling 9 rooms, and 9 pairs of coaches. The youth participants will be required to pay a small registration fee to get their 'buy-in' for the program, and the coaches and assistance coaches will receive a small stipend for facilitating the workshops.

The objective of the conference is to equip each participant with the foundation to begin to:

- Improve decision making skills focusing on education to determine which career is to pursue.
- Improve reasoning skills because the economy requires workers capable of making decisions at higher levels, who can think critically, and intelligently decide how to address these issues.
- Improve conflict management skills to help with decisions not to engage in violent or risky behaviors. promote positive behaviors, and prevent problem behaviors.
- Improve social skills through problem solving, self-regulation skills, refusal, resistance, and coping skills.

These results will be based on attendance, participation, and the completion of their plan of action.

Conference Daily Agenda

April 1-April 3, 2009

7-8:00am	Registration & Breakfast
8-8:45am	Invocation & Statement of Purpose*
8:45-10:00am	Workshop #1
10:00-10:15am	Break
10:15-11:30am	Workshop #2
11:30-11:45am	Break
11:45-1:00pm	Workshop #3
1-2:00pm	Lunch
2-2:15	Break
2:15-3:15pm	Concert
3:15-3:30pm	Break
3:30-4:00pm	Spoken Word
4-4:30pm	Daily Recap & Invitation to Mentorship
4:30p	Dismissal

*The Statement of Purpose on Day #1 will cover the overall purpose of the conference as well as the topics and expectations of that day. Subsequently, on Day #2 and Day #3, the topics and expectations for each of those days will be covered during this time.