

1. What's going on?

The situation in Milwaukee

Like many cities its size, Milwaukee is facing a critical juncture in its battle to control gun violence in the city's most impoverished areas. The good news is that non-fatal shootings declined in 2007 by 22%. The bad news is the number of homicides in Milwaukee continue to hover around 100 while homicides remain the leading cause of death among 15 to 24-year-old males in Milwaukee.

At the core of the gun violence problem are many serious societal issues, ranging from teen pregnancy and low graduation rates to high child poverty and domestic abuse. The connection between problems like child abuse and crime are stunning. For instance we know that 90% of imprisoned male felons were abused as children. And more than 50% of violent female criminals were sexually or physically abused as children. (Prevent Child Abuse America, 2006 Annual Report.)

So in order to produce the kind of societal change necessary to reduce these stressors, a broad, coordinated community effort is required. An effort that includes the kind of community leaders and groups that specialize in each of these issues, as well as those that specialize in crime prevention, intervention and enforcement.

1a. Statistics

In 2007, Milwaukee reported 105 homicides in the city, up slightly from 2006. ⁵

In 2006 Milwaukee had 622 non-fatal shooting victims compared to 485 in 2007. ⁵

Between 2004 and 2006 there was a 15% decline in homicide in MHRC review districts (2,5 and 6) and a 44% increase in Districts 1,3,4 and 7. ⁵

In 2005 and 2006, 11% of homicide suspects and 13% of homicide victims were under 18. ⁵

In 62% of homicides, the suspect has known the victim. ⁵

Nearly 40% of homicides are the result of an argument. ⁵

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Roughly 80% of the homicides in Milwaukee are firearm related. ⁵

Of the 236,408 children living in Milwaukee County in 2005, **2,265 were the victims of abuse and/or neglect.**¹

These Sources should be listed @ bottom of Stats page

Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report, 2005 Data

⁵ Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission

2. Why should I care?

2b. Why it's everyone's problem

While gun violence directly affects the most disadvantaged African American and Hispanic families, it also has a significant impact on the greater Milwaukee community by way of increased taxes, as well as the reputation and growth of the Greater Milwaukee Business Community. Businesses, residents, and social service organizations are all impacted by the problem of gun violence and its effects are wide-ranging.

And while the solutions to reducing the gun violence problem differ from neighborhood to neighborhood and one ethnic group to the next, one thing is clear. Cops can't do it by themselves. Schools can't do **it** by themselves. Community based organizations can't do it by themselves. Responsibility for solving the gun violence problem needs to be shared by everyone, regardless of race, income level, age or zip code. It will take a community effort.

For improvement to occur, several key elements need to be in place, including; adequate funding, strong leadership, community-tailored programming, unified commitment, media campaigns and elevation of the issue to the public policy level.

2c. Related media Stories

Early morning shooting claims 1 life [http://](http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=721934)

www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=721934 link 2

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City's gun violence goes beyond murder

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=529910link4>

MPS violence intensifying

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=601170>

Costs of Incarceration Vs. College

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=646208>

2. What's being done?

3a. Finding Common Ground

There is a shared desire in Milwaukee to make our city safer and stronger by reducing crime. That shared desire was the catalyst for **Common Ground (make "Common Ground" a link, this link would take visitors to the rest of the info on common ground (I included that info on a separate word document))**– the idea that we could begin to rebuild our community and reduce violence by finding one place where law enforcement, the faith community, prosecutors, elected officials, residents and community-based organizations could stand together and work from.

Under this effort, gun violence programs have begun working and are gaining more and more traction every single day. This is in no small part due to the tireless, behind-the-scenes work of a dedicated (and growing) group of local law enforcement, political, non-profit, religious, educational, business and philanthropic leaders.

Their coordinated efforts have curbed violence in targeted districts, high schools and neighborhoods. A sign of hope that gun violence in Milwaukee can be reduced in the coming years if we all work together as one community.

3b. Programs That Work

3b1. Milwaukee Safe Streets

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Milwaukee Safe Streets is a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary initiative involving all sectors of the Milwaukee community. With a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Milwaukee Safe Streets is one of only a few pilot projects in the U.S. aimed at curbing gang violence and assisting gang-involved offenders in returning to the community through a comprehensive, neighborhood-based effort.

The project works in the 2nd (south side) and 5th (near north side) police districts of Milwaukee where gang crime has plagued disadvantaged neighborhoods for generations. Under the initiative, police officers target the most violent gangs and gang members for arrest and prosecution. At the same time, prosecutors and police officers identify gang-involved youth and low level drug dealers in these same area neighborhoods who do not need to be incarcerated and who can be directed to community and faith-based agencies for redirection away from the gang life and back into school and employment.

Milwaukee Public schools and Milwaukee businesses work with law enforcement and community-based agencies to integrate targeted youth back into schools, work life, and their neighborhoods. Businesses, faith and community groups work with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections to integrate gang-involved offenders returning to neighborhoods from incarceration into productive employment and their communities.

3b2. Homicide Review Commission

Leaders in Milwaukee, including the Mayor, District Attorney and Police Chief assembled the Homicide Review Commission, a working team of professionals charged with reducing homicide in Milwaukee through the development of a homicide review process. Since its inception, the multi-level, multi-disciplinary and multi-agency Homicide Review Committee has reviewed over 150 homicides and

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developed over 100 recommendations for organizational, individual, system and policy-level changes.

**Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission,
Interim progress Report May 2007.**

Related Website:

<http://www.cuph.org/projects/61/material/81/>

3b4. Violence-Free Zone Initiative

Violence-Free Zone Program Reduces School Disruptions by 25%

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=711107>

The Violence-Free Zone (VFZ) was created by the **Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE)** (link to http://www.cneonline.org/pages/home_page%5B1%5D%5B1%5D) to address youth violence in schools and communities. Through a unique partnership with the Latino Community center and Running Rebels, VFZ puts youth advisors into select high schools to prevent violence, resolve conflicts and motivate students to responsible behavior. Because these Youth Advisors are actually young adults from the same neighborhoods and who have overcome many of the same obstacles as the students, they are able to gain students' trust and confidence. They ultimately become role models to other students, demonstrating how individuals can overcome their environments.

VFZ is currently working at South Division, Marshall, Bay View, Custer and Washington High Schools. The community-based organizations (Running Rebels and the Latino Community Center) hire, screen, train and supervise the youth advisers at each school. These Advisors act as hall and cafeteria monitors, mentors, counselors and role models to students. Groups of at-risk students are assigned to the Youth Advisors

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who meet with them at lunch or other times to discuss and work out issues that trouble them. Seven Youth Advisors are assigned to each school, including a Supervisor.

More info

www.cneonline.org/files/MR-MilwaukeeFactSheet.pdf

3b4_1. Running Rebels

Running Rebels Community Organization is a community partner of the Violence-Free Zone (VFZ) initiative. This vital nonprofit organization helps children ages 8-18 develop mentally, physically and spiritually. RRCO offers youth an alternative to gang activities and drug use by involving them in positive programs and developing genuine, caring relationships with those they serve. Located in the central city, Running Rebels uses mentoring, recreation, entrepreneurship, and various programs such as The Firearms Monitoring Program to address serious problems children have experienced in their families, schools and community. Most youth are referred to Running Rebels through the Milwaukee County Delinquency Division and Childrens Court System. Founded in 1980 by Executive Director Victor Barnett, Running Rebels consists of 80 full and part time members as well as a volunteer Board of Directors.

More info

www.runningrebels.org

Donate

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<http://www.runningrebels.org/html/donations.html>

REMOVE FIREARMS PROGRAM FROM THIS SECTION

3b4_2. Latino Community Center

Since its founding in 1999, the Latino Community Center (LCC) has grown from one small after-school program to ten fully-developed programs serving more than 500 community members of all ages. Unique in the city of Milwaukee, Violence-Free Zone street outreach and gang prevention workers go out on the streets where kids hang out in the afternoon and evening when activity is greatest. LCC also uses hip-hop and other culturally specific references to draw youth into its building where they are then connected to fun and safe academic, recreational, social, and cultural activities. Director Ramon Candelaria and other staff members come from the same neighborhood LCC serves. LCC has substantially reduced suspensions and increased safety in South Division High School, where LCC has been implementing the VFZ for the past two years, supported by private funding raised by the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise. For the 2007-2008 school year, LCC will implement the VFZ in South Division High School, and partner with Running Rebels Community Organization in Bay View, Custer, and Washington High Schools.

More info

www.latinocommunitycenter.com

onemilwaukee.org

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[http://](http://www.latinocommunitycenter.com/help/index.html)

**[www.latinocommunitycenter.com/
help/index.html](http://www.latinocommunitycenter.com/help/index.html)**

3b5. Running Rebels

3b5_1. What is it?

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More info

www.runningrebels.org

Donate

**[http://www.runningrebels.org/html/
donations.html](http://www.runningrebels.org/html/donations.html)**

3b5_2. The Firearms Monitoring Program

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The Firearms (FA) Program is a post-dispositional program funded by Milwaukee County through Milwaukee County Children's Court Center. This program is designed to give extra supervision, above and beyond that of the probation department, to youth who have a non-violent gun offense. Firearms offenses are among the most serious crimes heard in Children's Court and therefore the youth who committed these crimes must be monitored more closely in the community.

FA youth must notify their monitor every time they leave the home and when they arrive back home. Curfew checks are made for each youth in the program every night to insure they are where they are supposed to be. Youth are held to intense guidelines in order to help them become more responsible for their actions and start taking responsibility for their own lives. They will be in the FA program the entire time they are on probation. When the youth successfully complete their probation they are treated to a graduation attended by the staff and all other youth in the FA program. The graduation ceremony includes dinner, recognition for each graduate's monitor and a certificate of completion. The FA program has been in existence for nine years and has an 80% success rate among the youth served. This is quite an accomplishment considering the intensity of the services provided.

More info

<http://www.runningrebels.org/html/firearms.html>

3b5_3. A True After Care (ATAC)

A True After Care (ATAC) is a youth development program that reaches out to siblings of serious offenders growing up in the same multiple risk factor households. The

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program helps youth engage in social activities at school and in the community, which leads to positive attitudes and behavior.

3b5_4. Violence Free Zone

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3b5_5. Youth Advocate Program

The focus of the Running Rebels Community Organization (RRCO) Youth Advocate Program is to connect participating youth with an advocate/mentor or an advocate team with the goal of providing 36 chronic serious youth offenders a last-chance alternative to correctional placement. To remain in the program, the youth must comply with conditions of the court order, must refrain from committing any other violations of the law, must attend school, and must participate in productive community involvement or, if the youth is old enough, in constructive

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employment. Conditions of the court order may include requiring youth to attend meetings and to meet with his or her advocate/mentor, among other mandates. A youth begins with RRCO upon referral and remains until end of probation, typically 1-2 years.

The underlying premise of the program is that even the most troubled youth have compensating strengths and capabilities that can be developed and enhanced with the use of intense supervision, structure, and support.

RRCO advocate/mentors provide up to 13 hours of face-to-face contact with each youth on a weekly basis. This contact includes counseling, discussions on issues facing the youth, sharing life experiences, sharing recreational activities, and leisure time friendship. Advocate/mentors also spend additional time on collateral contacts such as meeting with parents, probation officers and meeting with school officials.

Desired Goals and Outcomes

- To provide highly structured and intensive monitoring of participating youth, including school, home and free time activities.
- To provide each youth with an advocate/mentor who lives within the same zip code as the participant, when possible.
- To provide each youth with up to 13 hours of face-to-face contact.
- To provide the youth's parent/legal guardian with support and crisis intervention.
- To make individual and/or group counseling available to youth at RRCO.
- To provide each youth with assistance in meeting the terms of their court order, including any community service.
- To provide age-appropriate youth with job readiness training and to assist them in securing employment.

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- To make computer skills training, tutoring and other academic support available at RRCO for the youth, as needed.
- To provide each youth with exposure to activities which can assist in keeping the juvenile out of trouble (i.e. group sessions on court conditions, AODA education, gang prevention, job readiness, life skills training, Choice Program, How to Improve & Comply with Rules in School, Trips to Ethan Allen Wales).

3b6. Latino Community Center

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More info

www.latinocommunitycenter.com

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<http://www.latinocommunitycenter.com/help/index.html>

3b7. Safe & Sound

Safe & Sound develops supports and facilitates collaborative approaches to measurably reduce violent crime in Milwaukee's 21 highest crime neighborhoods by blending law enforcement, neighborhood organizing and youth development. Neither a service nor a program, the initiative mobilizes the resources of neighborhoods to fight crime. It brings together adults, youth, churches, youth serving organizations, businesses, elected officials, Police, Community Prosecutors and city services to develop strategies to rebuild neighborhoods and reduce crime.

Safe & Sound is Milwaukee's only non-profit whose mission is crime reduction.

They create synergy among after-school Safe Places for youth, door to door community organizers called Community Partners, and law enforcement including the Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee District Attorney's Community Prosecution Unit, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department, and the Milwaukee HIDTA. **(added period)**

Safe & Sound funds 34 after-school Safe Places for youth (over 23,800 in 2007) which offer positive youth development activities, and focus on preventing drug use, gang affiliation, arrest, violence and crime. They support youth in developing youth-led crime reduction strategies and neighborhood improvement projects in cooperation with the Community Partners and the police. The youth led strategies help develop leadership skills, build relationships with police and elected officials and empower them with a sense of responsibility for their neighborhood.

The Community Partners organize resident's door to door, building block watches, promoting the Safe Places, fostering positive relationships between youth and police officers, and connecting residents with services needed to

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fight crime and rebuild the neighborhood such as the City Department of Neighborhood Services, the Milwaukee Police Department and the District Attorney's Office. Together they rid the neighborhood of drug houses and open air drug markets, gang graffiti, abandoned cars used for drug dealing and prostitution, garbage and other refuse, and they work to correct housing code violations.

Antonio Hobson, Safe Place Youth

"If there were no Safe Place, I probably would have been in the streets with the wrong crowd. The most important thing I get from coming to a Safe Place is survival. The male role models here helped me out along the way with male things I couldn't express to my Mother."

Captain James Harpole, Milwaukee Police Department District Three Commander:

"The Milwaukee Police Department and Safe & Sound have forged a very strong partnership in our efforts to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in the City. Community Partners and police officers working together at the grassroots level have strengthened the efforts to make our neighbor-hoods safer. Neighborhoods benefit from this collaboration in many ways. Community Partners are able to earn the trust and respect of the residents, who may be unwilling to provide information to a police officer for fear of neighborhood retribution. This is a program that has offered our community another resource for making our city a great place to live."

More info

www.safesound.org

Donate

<http://safesound.org/donate.htm>

3b5_1. Safe Places

2008 Safe & Sound Safe Places

Agape Community Center

COA Youth & Family Centers – Goldin Center

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COA Youth & Family Centers
Riverwest/Harambee
Daniels-Mardak Boys & Girls Club
Don & Sallie Davis Boys & Girls Club
Fitzsimonds Boys & Girls Club
Boys & Girls Clubs @Grand Avenue
CLC
Hillside Boys & Girls Club
Boys & Girls Clubs @ John Marshall
CLC
Hmong American Friendship
Association
Journey House
Latino Community Center
Latino Community Center @South
Division CLC
LaVarnway Boys & Girls Club
Mary Ryan Boys & Girls Club
Merrill Park Neighborhood Association
Summer-only program
Milwaukee Christian Center
@Kosciuszko Community Center
Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
Neighborhood House
Neu-Life Community Resource
New Beginnings Are Possible
New Concept Self Development Center
@ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Community Center
New Concept Self Development Center
Summer-only program
Next Door Foundation
Northcott Neighborhood House
Pearls for Teen Girls
Running Rebels Community
Organization
Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
@Northwest Secondary CLC
True Skool
United Community Center

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Wisconsin Community Services –
Project Excel

YMCA John C. Cudahy Branch

YMCA Holton Youth Center

YMCA Northside Branch

YMCA Parklawn Branch

3b8. Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee is to inspire and empower all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

The Milwaukee Clubs fulfill this mission by providing after-school programs to Milwaukee's youth. Their diverse and developmentally appropriate programs engage youth in activities with adults, peers and family members and are based on the physical, emotional, cultural and social needs/interests of its members.

More info

www.boysgirlsclubs.org

Donate

<https://secure.groundspring.org/dn/index.php?aid=11515>

3b9. TABS Targeted Outreach Program Summary

TABS Targeted Outreach (TTO) is a program of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee in partnership with the Milwaukee Public Schools, the Milwaukee Police Department, and the District Attorney's Office designed to intervene with at-risk youth with the ultimate goal of deterring them from gang membership or involvement. It is a prevention program intended to target youth who may be exhibiting early signs of risky behaviors such as poor school attendance, low academic achievement,

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disciplinary problems at school, little or no positive involvement in the community, family or peer relationship problems, and other possible risk factors such as being a resident of a known gang area. The program builds upon the strengths and interests of the youth in order to connect them with positive activities and people in the community.

TTO serves six MPS schools that have been targeted by the program due to their location in high crime or gang areas of Police Districts Two and Five. TTO employs three bachelor's level case managers who work with the youth and their families to identify their strengths, interests, and needs. They then link them to resources and provide monitoring throughout the 2008-2009 school year. TTO is a free, voluntary program aimed at providing additional services to families in order to avoid court involvement for truancy related concerns.

More info

<http://www.boysgirlsclubs.org/howchange/tabs.html>

Donate <https://secure.groundspring.org/dn/index.php?aid=11515>

3b10. Passport to Manhood

Passport to Manhood is a program of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee that promotes and teaches responsibility for boys ages 11 to 14. The program consists of 14 sessions, each of which concentrate on a specific aspect of manhood through highly interactive activities. Each member who participates in the program is issued his own "Passport" to underscore the notion that he is on a personal journey of maturation and personal growth. At the close of each module, the member's Passport is stamped and signed by the Group Leader as a way to recognize the achievement of another milestone in the passage to manhood. The final session is a

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graduation ceremony during which the participants, their family members, Club officials and others can celebrate the completion of the boys' preparation to enter manhood.

3b11. Safe Schools/Healthy Students

The goal of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative is to promote safe and healthy environments in which America's children can learn and grow.

The Milwaukee Public Schools district is the largest public school district in the State of Wisconsin, with an enrollment (September 2007) of 87,360 students.

In 2006 MPS applied for the Safe Schools/Healthy Student grant to provide intervention resources and programs for 24 MPS schools and six local non-public schools.

In 2007 an \$8.5 million grant was awarded. By terms of the Department of Education, Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice, the funding for Safe Schools/Healthy Students is spread out over four years. The schools will utilize these resources through the 2010-2011 school year.

Violence and substance abuse in schools compromise the educational climate and endanger teachers and students. The U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice are collaborating to provide federal grant funding to schools and to communities such as Milwaukee. With this funding, it is our responsibility to work together and provide comprehensive educational, mental health, social, law enforcement and juvenile justice services that promote healthy child development in school environments that are safe, disciplined and drug free.

More info

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www2.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/sshs

3b12. Restorative Justice

There are two separate programs in Milwaukee that have shown success and great promise in rehabilitating offenders by using the restorative justice process. Restorative Justice is a holistic approach to dealing with crime and its aftermath that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior through a cooperative processes that include all stakeholders. Ultimately this process transforms the traditional relationship between communities and their governments in responding to crime.

3b12_1. Community Conferencing Program (District Attorney's Office)

The Milwaukee County District Attorney's office implements the Community Conferencing Program (CCP) in order to reduce crime, restore relationships, and address public policy in the area of criminal justice.

CCP brings together the victim, offender, and affected community members to discuss the facts and impact of a particular crime. During this process the victim can ask questions and express directly to the offender how the crime has impacted his or her life.

There are Three Stages of a Community Conference:

1. Discussion of the facts, from the victim and offender's point of view.
2. Exploration of the impact on affected parties.

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3. Decision on how to hold the offender accountable for the harm he or she has caused the victim and the community.

The program is run by David Lerman, an Assistant District Attorney in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.

3b12_2. Restorative Justice Initiative (Marquette University)

Restorative Justice is a victim-centered response that has shown great success and promise in repairing the harm caused by crime. Restorative Justice focuses on healing for victims and the community, while requiring the offenders to take responsibility for their actions.

Spearheaded by Distinguished Professor of Law and former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Janine P. Geske, the Restorative Justice Initiative features:

- Resources for victims, communities, and restorative justice organizations.
- Law classes focusing on the history and theory of the restorative justice movement.
- Restorative justice clinical experience for law students.
- A clearinghouse and center for scholarship, research, and dialogue on restorative justice.
- Collaboration on special projects with Dr. Mark Umbreit, Director of the Center for Restorative

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Justice & Peacemaking at the
University of Minnesota.

The Initiative is committed to supporting victims and communities in the healing process by providing information and training resources, and by facilitating communication.

**More info [http://
law.marquette.edu/cgi-bin/
site.pl?2130&pageID=1899](http://law.marquette.edu/cgi-bin/site.pl?2130&pageID=1899)**

**Donate
[http://law.marquette.edu/cgi-
bin/site.pl?
2130&pageID=1932](http://law.marquette.edu/cgi-bin/site.pl?2130&pageID=1932)**

3b13. Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

3b13_1. Introduction

Guns and domestic violence are a lethal combination—injuring and killing women every day in the United States and that a gun is the weapon most commonly used in domestic homicides. In fact, more than three times as many women are murdered by guns used by their husbands or intimate acquaintances than are killed by strangers' guns, knives or other weapons combined. Contrary to public perceptions, many women who are murdered are killed not by strangers but by men they know.

In Wisconsin between 2000 and 2005, 118 people were murdered with a gun in domestic violence related homicides. This is more than those killed by knives, other weapons, beating, strangulation, and other methods of killing combined (99). Children were also among the victims. Two children and two fetuses were

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killed with their mothers and in a third fetal death the mother was severely injured. Many children were on or near the scene of the domestic homicide and many, many more witness non-fatal family violence every day.

Sources:

Family Violence Prevention Fund: "The Facts on Guns & Domestic Violence."

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence: "Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report."

3b13_2. About The Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

The Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (formerly the Common Council Task Force on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence) was created by City of Milwaukee ordinance in 1979 in response to community concerns over the treatment of victims of sexual assault.

Its formation provided Milwaukee with a team of experts and community leaders joined to address the issues of family violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Commission members work cooperatively with area agencies and institutions, the media, and government.

Commissioners and the organizations they represent educate the community, upgrade the skills and knowledge of professionals, and assist with policy development and legislative efforts on issues affecting victims and perpetrators of abuse and assault and their families.

Professionals in the fields of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse are available for consultation, training and presentations to

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school, agency and neighborhood groups. To request a speaker, call the Milwaukee Commission office at **286-2997**.

For a free brochure with more information, download **You Are Not Alone. (pop up pdf---attached in email)** En Español, **Uste no esta Solá. . (pop up pdf---attached in email)** This brochure supplies names and phone numbers of organizations that can help if you have experienced sexual assault, family violence, or child abuse, or if you know someone who has.

3b13_3. Members

Current Commission members represent the following agencies and organizations:

Sexual Assault Treatment Center (Aurora Hospital)
<http://www.aurorahealthcare.org/services/sexual-assault/index.asp>

The Healing Center
<http://www.thehealingcenter.org/>

Milwaukee County District Attorney
<http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/DistrictAttorney7715.htm>

Department of Corrections – Community Corrections

Sojourner Truth House
www.sojournertruthhouse.org

Task Force on Family Violence
www.tffv.org

Asha Family Services
<http://www.ashafamilyservices.com/>

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Community Advocates

www.communityadvocates.net

Daystar, Inc.

<http://www.daystarinc.org/>

Latina Resource Center

The Counseling Center of Milwaukee, Inc.

<http://www.tccmilw.org/>

Child Protection Center – Children’s Hospital

<http://www.chw.org/display/PPF/DocID/20618/router.asp>

Legal Action of Wisconsin

<http://www.badgerlaw.net/Home/PublicWeb/LAW>

Black Health Coalition

<http://www.bhcw.org/>

Hmong American Friendship Association

<http://www.hmongamer.org/>

IndependenceFirst

www.independencefirst.org

3b14. The Planning Council

The Planning Council for Health and Human Services, Inc. (Planning Council) is an independent information, education, research and consultative resource to the community. They are committed to working with their partners to improve health and human service systems in Southeastern Wisconsin. In 2005, at the request of Mayor Tom Barrett, the Planning Council identified anti-violence initiatives in the community and developed a directory listing 27 initiatives. This resource can be found by visiting their website at www.planningcouncil.org. Please contact the Executive Director, Dr. Kathleen Pritchard, at (414) 224-0404 if you are interested in learning more about this project and their other work.

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3b15. Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort Educational Fund (WAVE)

Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort Educational Fund is Wisconsin's only statewide grassroots organization solely dedicated to reducing gun violence, injuries and deaths.

Through research, education and advocacy, WAVE Educational Fund raises awareness about firearm violence throughout the state, provides up to date information to the public and to policy makers, and promotes common sense measures that will bring our state to the forefront of gun violence prevention.

More info
www.waveedfund.org

Donate
<http://www.waveedfund.org>

3b17. Project Safe Neighborhoods

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a nation-wide commitment to reduce gun crime by networking existing local programs that target gun crime. The Office of Justice Assistance serves as the fiscal agent for Project Safe Neighborhood's initiatives in both the Eastern and Western Federal Judicial Districts within Wisconsin.

REMOVE THIS LINK: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/psn.html>
Instead use this:

More info
<http://www.psn.gov>

3b18. Million Mom March

Million Mom March is a national network of 75 Chapters around the U.S. that work locally, yet stand together, in their fight against gun violence and the devastation it

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causes. As part of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, the Million Mom March Chapters believe that:

- All Americans have the right to be safe from gun violence in their homes, neighborhoods, schools, and places of work and worship.
- All children have the right to grow up in environments free from the threat of gun violence.
- Gun violence is a public health crisis that harms not only the physical, but also the spiritual, social, and economic health of our families and communities.
- The availability and lethality of guns make death or severe injury more likely in domestic violence, criminal activity, suicide attempts, and unintentional shootings.
- It is possible to reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused by gun violence with reasonable, common sense policy.

More info

<http://www.millionmommarch.org>

Donate

<http://www.millionmommarch.org/donate/>

3b19. *Guns, Grief and Grace in America*

Guns, Grief and Grace in America is an award-winning media activism project that offers two feature length documentary films as well as school and community education packages.

These are proven to be invaluable tools to convene non-polarized discussion through screenings, community discussions and workshops in a diverse range of Milwaukee venues including: Healthcare, law-enforcement, prisons, churches and education - from middle school to university levels.

They also share a joint fund with the Firearm Injury Center of the Medical College of Wisconsin at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

More info

<http://www.newmoononline.com/outreach/doorcounty1.php>

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3b20. WI Anti-Gang Prisoner Reentry Initiative

The goal of the Anti-Gang Prisoner Re-entry Initiative is to reduce criminal behavior and ensure public safety, by improving the transition of former prisoners from confinement to their release to the community. The prisoner reentry component of the Attorney General's Comprehensive AntiGang Initiative will address pre- and post-release services and supervision for high impact gang members returning to police districts 2 and 5 in the City of Milwaukee after a period of confinement in the Wisconsin Department of Corrections adult facilities.

The WI Department of Corrections and Division of Adult Institutions supervise thousands of inmates that return to Milwaukee County upon release from incarceration. They feel very strongly that finding appropriate and proper employment can reduce the significant obstacles that these inmates face. The Department of Corrections feels that employment for these returning offenders provides stability and positive connections to their community and family members.

Incentives for employers to hire ex-offenders

- Increased monitoring and on-going agent contacts
- This is a volunteer program and the offender must be motivated
- Increased monitoring of offender through electronic monitoring and law enforcement contact and involvement
- Drug Testing under the supervision of the Department of Corrections
- Proper Identification upon release
- Skills/Education/Training that they will be able to obtain from this project
- Bonding (**REMOVE LINK**)
- Tax Credits (**More info**) link to <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/jobservice/taxcredit/wotc.htm>

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- Intensive Case Management and treatment opportunities
- Proper Assessments and tools to find the correct areas of work/training for our gang affiliated offenders
- Positive Mentoring while in custody and in the community

Please contact **Kristine Kehoss** **Pop up email? Click on her name and an email pops up for someone to write to her?**

Kristine.Kehoss@Wisconsin.gov with the Department of Corrections if you are an employer interested in learning more about hiring a formerly incarcerated person or volunteering as a mentor.

4. What can I do?

4a. Businesses

4a1. Hire Formally Incarcerated NEW TITLE REPLACING "CAREER TRAINING"

One of the most critical aspects of whether a formerly incarcerated individual can return to become a productive member of society is whether they can find gainful employment. Without a job, many individuals simply return to a life of crime. That's why it is imperative that more businesses step up to the plate and participate in the Wisconsin Anti-Gang Prisoner Re-entry Initiative.

WI Anti-Gang Prisoner Reentry Initiative

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Milwaukee after a period of confinement in the Wisconsin Department of Corrections adult facilities.

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4a1_1. Related articles

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=562797>

4a2. Hire a Youth

One of the most important things we can do to improve our city is to create hope in the lives of young people and teach them skills that will prepare them for their futures. Consider hiring Milwaukee high school students for summer or year-round jobs where they can learn about careers they might be interested in, earn spending money and connect with mentors.

More info

<http://www.mkedcd.org/earnlearn/JobConnection.html>

4a3. Job Opportunities

Please contact **Kristine Kehoss** **Pop up email? Click on her name and an email pops up for someone to write to her?**

Kristine.Kehoss@Wisconsin.gov with the Department of Corrections if you are an employer interested in learning more about hiring a formerly incarcerated person or volunteering as a mentor.

4a4. Contribute Funding

Make a corporate contribution to gun violence prevention and intervention initiatives that are showing positive results on the front lines in Milwaukee. Click [donate now](#) to give directly to the organizations that are fighting gun violence on a daily basis and working together to make Milwaukee a safer community.

4a4_1. Safe & Sound (MOVED TO 1ST OPTION)

<http://safesound.org/donate.htm>

4a4_2. TAKE OUT VIOLENCE FREE ZONE

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4a4_3. Running Rebels

<http://www.runningrebels.org/html/donations.html>

4a4_4. Latino Community Center

<http://www.latinocommunitycenter.com/help/donations.html>

4a4_5. Restorative Justice

<http://law.marquette.edu/cgi-bin/site.pl?2130&pageID=1932>

4a4_6. Million Mom March Chapters

<http://www.millionmommarch.org>

4a4_7. Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee

<https://secure.groundspring.org/dn/index.php?aid=11515>

4a4_8. Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort Educational Fund (WAVE)

<http://www.waveedfund.org>

4b. Individuals

4b1. Mentor a Youth

4b1_1. Success Stories

Mentor helps shape Strong Kids in city

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=709148>

Mentors can change a community one person at a time

<http://www.mkeonline.com/story.asp?id=313696>

4b1_2. Our Next Generation

Through Our Next Generation, mentors meet on-site with youth ages 6-18 to focus on achieving academic success. Mentors work one-on-one with a given child, helping with homework, building a relationship, and participating in recreational activities.

Visit www.ongkids.org for more information.

4b1_3. Kinship Program

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Kinship volunteers work with youth from single-parent homes. Mentors meet with their matches in the community to provide life-enriching experiences and support while serving as positive adult role models.

Visit www.lsswis.org for more information

4b1_3. Youth Advocacy Program

Since January 1998 Running Rebels has received funding from the Office of Justice Assistance (through Milwaukee County) to implement a community-based mentoring program called the Youth Advocacy Program (YAP). It was designed to serve up to 45 youth a year labeled by the court as serious chronic offenders. Each youth is at least 12 years old and is court-ordered into the program. Goals of the program include reducing the number of minority youth in corrections, helping each youth to fulfill his/her court conditions, to avoid all law violations, to improve school attendance and GPA, and to engage in positive alternative activities.

Each participant is assigned an advocate who works a minimum 13 hours a week to provide support and guidance, and regular group meetings address anger management, life skills, AODA education, and positive alternative activities. The underlying premise of the Youth Advocacy Program is that even the most troubled youth have compensating strengths and capabilities that can be developed and enhanced with supervision, structure, and support. Success is defined as a positive program completion, not re-offending, and not having to be placed in corrections.

4b1_4. Mentoring Connection (through New Concept Self- Development Center)

Mentors work one-on-one with youth ages 4-15 who have an incarcerated parent.

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Mentors meet weekly with their matches in the community to assist in improving school attendance, academic performance, and self-esteem.

(Can be contacted via Milwaukee Mentors)

4b1_5. Milwaukee Mentors

Milwaukee Mentors is a group of nine youth-serving programs working to promote quality youth mentoring and to increase the number of adult mentors for Milwaukee youth. The program was established in 1996 with the support of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and is currently managed by the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee.

For more information about various mentoring opportunities in Milwaukee visit

www.milwaukeeementors.org

4b1_6. YMCA Programs

4b1_6a. One on One

The One on One Program, through the YMCA, matches urban middle school students with caring adult mentors recruited from the community and from corporate sponsors. Mentors serve as role models, coaches and friends as they help their students develop their fullest academic and personal potential.

4b1_6b. Sponsor a Scholar

The mission of this program is to provide academic, personal and financial support to disadvantaged students who wish to pursue post-secondary education.

To find out more information on either One on One or Sponsor a Scholar visit:

<http://www.ymcamke.org/site/>

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4b1_6c. Big Brothers Big Sisters

This organization serves youth by offering community-based mentoring and site-based mentoring. Both involve a one-on-one friendship between a caring, adult volunteer and a child aged 6-17.

Find out more at:

www.bbbsmilwaukee.org

4b2. Help keep illegal guns off the street

Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort Educational Fund is Wisconsin's only statewide grassroots organization solely dedicated to reducing gun violence, injuries and deaths.

Through research, education and advocacy, WAVE Educational Fund raises awareness about firearm violence throughout the state, provides up to date information to the public and to policy makers, and promotes common sense measures that will bring our state to the forefront of gun violence prevention. Find out what you can do to help:

<http://www.waveedfund.org/events>

4b3. Safe Neighborhood Reporting

Block Watch

Milwaukee Police Department Community Services Division

<http://www.milwaukee.gov/CommunityServiceDivi15333.htm>

4b4. Volunteer

The Milwaukee **Volunteer Center** connects volunteers with agencies in the community who work directly with youth. Programs that may have a long-term effect on the rate of violence, especially involving teens, include volunteer engagement in educational, recreational and mentor-based programs.

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4b5. Make a donation

[Make a donation to Violence Prevention/Intervention Programs](#)

Make an individual contribution to gun violence prevention and intervention initiatives that are showing positive results on the front lines in Milwaukee. Click [donate now](#) to give directly to the organizations that are fighting gun violence on a daily basis and working together to make Milwaukee a safe community.

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4b5_7. Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee

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4b5_8. Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort Educational Fund (WAVE)

<http://www.waveedfund.org>

4c. Faith Based Organizations:

Community faith institutions can help reduce violence and gang activities by guiding youth toward a spiritual path and providing programs that promote non-violent conflict resolutions. Through preaching ethical and moral values, faith institutions can provide congregants with a well-rounded understanding of what is right and wrong. By

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creating a connection between youth, community members, faith leaders and law enforcement, faith organizations can take major steps in resolving gang activities and youth violence. The following list provides a few ways in which faith based organizations can help reduce and prevent youth violence.

- Keep the doors of faith institutions open at night so neighborhood children can use common rooms and/or the grounds for supervised activities after school.
- Open and maintain a dialogue in each congregation regarding issues of youth violence through newsletters, sermons, study groups, in a youth group setting, or otherwise. Use examples from your faith to show that patience, understanding, and non-violence are preferred and effective means of achieving one's goals in life.
- Incorporate anti-violence and anti-gang education and training in the congregation's education programs for both youth and adults.
- Sponsor family-oriented and youth activities that strengthen families and educate them about violence in the family (i.e., how to detect it, prevent it, intervene in it, or take legal action to end it).
- Become familiar with the network of youth-serving agencies in the community that may be used in efforts to reduce violence and gang behavior and, when needed, refer congregation members to them. Encourage your faith institution leader and congregants to serve on the board of one or more of these agencies.
- Provide a safe and caring atmosphere for youth who need to reveal their personal difficulties with violence in the home, school, or other setting. When needed, offer referral to an appropriate community-based service.

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- Develop a series of seminars in which a different family dealing a specific problem is spotlighted. An audience for this event consists of families who have faced this same problem and dealt with it successfully.
- Neighborhood clean-up and beautification projects contribute to the overall good of the community as well as create a sense of pride among residents.
- Sponsor a program that raises money to support youth-serving agencies in the community. A bake sale, car wash, garage sale, festival, or other event can generate income annually for the agencies.
- Adopt an agency that promotes non-violence among youth (as an entire congregation or smaller groups such as a men's or women's group).
- Collaborate and coordinate efforts with other faith institutions in order to maximize the faith community's impact on reducing gang activity and youth violence. Adopt a community-wide theme for such efforts.
- Pair congregants who are experienced parents with newly pregnant congregants for mentoring prior to and following the birthing experience. The impact of such a program on reducing violence at home and increasing parenting skills and confidence can be significant.
- Some children get into trouble because there are no meaningful or enjoyable alternative activities available or because they don't have the money, transportation, or clothes necessary to participate in some of the community's activities. A congregation can offer free events for these children. If not, they can help by transporting these children to, and pay the entry fees needed for,

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events (i.e., the circus, horseback riding, a faith-based concert, Bible camp).

Source provided by: http://faculty.missouristate.edu/m/MichaelCarlie/SOLUTIONS/INSTITUTIONS/what_your_local_faith_community_.htm

For more information regarding faith based organizations visit:

<http://www.godnotguns.org/>

http://faculty.missouristate.edu/m/MichaelCarlie/SOLUTIONS/INSTITUTIONS/what_your_local_faith_community_.htm

<http://www.ceasefirechicago.org/clergy.shtml>

5. View PSA