



Community Partners Join Safe & Sound: Boost Crime-reduction Impact

Safe & Sound Partners with Faye McBeath Foundation, KaBOOM!

Safe & Sound sponsored a workshop on September 19th with the Faye McBeath Foundation and KaBOOM! The free workshop, open to the community, showed how to locate, finance and build neighborhood play spaces. KaBOOM! is a Washington, DC-based organization that, “envisions a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America.” ■

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Community Partners became Safe & Sound’s Community Partners this June. The program had operated as part of the Safe & Sound crime-reduction initiative since 1997. The addition of the Partners as employees has enhanced the program and allows them to better serve the city of Milwaukee.

Safe Places, funded by Safe & Sound, are able to attract youth to their sites during high-crime hours. By providing a mix of anti-crime activities, Safe Places tailor their youth programs to the needs of the community and the staff’s expertise.

The Partners utilize their

Community Conferencing at Safe Place Helps Youth Accept Responsibility, Choose a Better Path

Scenario A: A 17-year old steals a car, gets caught, convicted of a felony, goes to prison

Scenario B: A 17-year old steals a car, gets caught, meets with the victim, charge reduced, stays out of prison

Community Conferencing is a way for some youth to avoid the first option. It holds adjudicated youth accountable in non-violent crimes without sending them to prison. It also gives victims the chance to interact directly with the offender, in a safe environment, and tell how the crime affected their lives, while having a role in determining the punishment of the offender.

Recently, a 17-year old male in this very situation took part in a court-ordered community conference with the victims, a facilitator (Joe Kubisiak, Safe & Sound’s Community Partners’ Manager), a
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strong relationships with residents, law enforcement, the city’s Department of Neighborhood Services, elected officials, and community- and faith-based organizations. This allows them to engage youth in positive activities in their

neighborhoods, where youth are able to use skills that they learn at their Safe Places. Working cooperatively with the Community Partners and residents to address neighborhood concerns, Safe Place youth

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Safe & Sound Honored as Eppstein Uhen Foundation’s First Grant Recipient

Safe & Sound received a check for \$50,000, becoming the first grant recipient for the new Eppstein Uhen Foundation.

“In the selection of our first recipient, it was very important to us that we select an organization that works directly to improve the quality of life in Milwaukee’s most impoverished areas,” said Eppstein Uhen Foundation board member and EUA Vice President Rich Tennesen.

Eppstein Uhen Architects’ foundation was created in 2007 in recognition of the firm’s 100th anniversary. The celebration included a fundraising bike ride from Madison to Milwaukee, ending at Miller Park. ■



Safe & Sound receives a check for \$50,000. Shown l. to r. Sam Eppstein, former EUA President and Foundation member; Danae D. Davis, Safe & Sound Board member; Barbara Notestein, Executive Director of Safe & Sound; and Greg Uhen, President of EUA and its Foundation.



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**Community Partners Join Safe & Sound Staff,
Strengthen Collaborative Work of Initiative** *(cont'd. from page 1)*

design and implement initiatives such as graffiti removal campaigns and fall leaf raking for the elderly, utilizing existing resources.

Together, Safe Places and Safe & Sound's Community Partners' program provide city of Milwaukee youth with the development programming and guidance they need to explore interests and opportunities to grow.

The Partners also help connect youth with neighborhood-based initiatives in-

cluding neighborhood walks with other residents, ultimately helping them build pride and ownership of their community. ■

Safe Place Like Second Home
by Chaz Gary, age 17

The Silver Spring Neighborhood Center Safe Place has been my second home for many years. Having a place like this in my own community has been a blessing. The great staff of the center has

helped me reach goals I never dreamed of. My Safe Place gave me my first job and the tools to get jobs at other places. Because of this place, I am college-bound.

The staff pushes me to do my best and improve my weaknesses. This shows me they care about the youth at the Safe Place, which is why I love it here.

I plan to give back, help others like me who need guidance and support while they are growing up. ■

(Editor's Note: The Safe Place at SSNC is funded by Safe & Sound.)

Community Conferencing Helps Youth

(cont'd. from page 1)

co-facilitator, and three community members. All shared the impact this crime had on each of them. Community Partner Aaron Edwards arranged for the conference to be held at the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center (SSNC), a Safe Place which is in the neighborhood where the crime occurred. Edwards



L. to r.: Community Partner Aaron Edwards; Chaz Gary, a Safe Place youth; foreground, Helen Hamilton of SSNC.

Chaz Gary, the 17-year old community participant, felt he could relate to the young car thief better because they are the same age. Gary sees his role in the conference as a, "great opportunity to give back to the community, and to give the young man feedback." He believes the community conference is a good idea for youth with lots of potential, but who made a mistake.

Helen Hamilton, Safe Place site coordinator at SSNC's program at Northwest Secondary School says, "I like the idea that youth, in certain cases, are given an alternative to [jail]. She thinks follow up to ensure compliance with the directives of the conference is important for closure. ■

says, "The purpose of the conference is to break down the youth so he grasps that what he did affects everyone in the community." He added that the victims didn't want the youth to go to prison. He had already been ordered to make financial restitution.

(Editor's Note: This poem was written by three teens participating in Summer of Peace activities funded by Safe & Sound.)

I Dream of a Summer of Peace

By Mariah, Maria and Carmen

*No gangbangers on the street
telling girls they look so sweet
A fun summer where I can walk
down the street
without a gun in my hand
a green van creeps up
it's a man asking me
"Do I need a ride home?"
I hide my face
trying to keep a fast pace
I dream of a summer of peace
where my little brother can cross
the street
without getting hit by a car
a summer where we can walk past a
bar
without fearing for our lives.
That's why I dream of a summer of
peace. ■*