

Safe Takoma

Report, February 2009

Prepared by Safe Takoma, Incorporated
P.O. Box 5629
Takoma Park, MD 20813
Contact: Ronnie Miller, Operations Manager, 202-722-7122

Funds Expended

Washington DC, prior expenditures: \$32,730.24
Washington DC, current month expenditures: \$3,163.30
Washington DC, unreimbursed expenses (liabilities): \$24.00

Takoma Park MD, prior expenditures: \$28,230.20
Takoma Park MD, current month expenditures: \$3,163.29
Takoma Park MD, unreimbursed expenses (liabilities): \$16.00

Funding Balances (February 28, 2009)

Washington DC funding balance: \$39,082.46
Takoma Park MD funding balance: \$43,590.51

Status

The Safe Takoma program undertook the following organizational and programming steps in February 2009:

- Board meeting held 2/10/09. Items discussed:
 - 1) Finalize locations and recruitment efforts of all programs.
 - 2) Outreach activities and fundraising efforts.
 - 3) Collaboration with CSAFE to possibly conduct community awareness fair.
 - 4) Mini forum and advisory meetings.
 - 5) Whistle giveaway.
- Outreach efforts continued. Four additional organizations contacted and have agreed to assist with recruitment for youth programming, as well as refer their clients to STI. Four churches have also been contacted and are interested in partnering with STI on projects and helping with recruitment efforts.
- Continued attendance and participation in CTC Ward 4 Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and Coolidge Truancy Task Force.
- Continued research on funding sources. Located five possible RFPs. Board members and Operations Manager agreed to apply to two. The first is a community-based grant funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service to provide youth with service-learning activities during out of school time, that directly address community needs to build a healthier community. This RFP also requires the development of partnerships at the local level that include

well-defined roles for public or non-profit organizations and adult volunteers engaged in service-learning programs. The second is from the ESA Foundation requesting non-profit organizations provide youth programs in two or more states that address social skills and personal development. Also registered with Grants.gov and the Foundation Center to receive information on available RFPs.

- Programming:
 - **Conflict Resolution Training** dates finalized for April 17-18 and 24-25. Recruitment and flyer distribution conducted. Training will take place at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church. Announcements placed in the Takoma Gazette and Star, the TP Voice and the TP Newsletter.
 - **Rites of Passage program** continued at DC Dept. of Parks and Rec. Program will end on March 11, 2009.
 - **Pre-Apprenticeship** Recruitment and flyer distribution conducted. Interest Meeting held on 2/25/09. Five young men attended who seemed excited about the program and eager to start. Another Interest Meeting is scheduled for March 11th. Location finalized to hold "Get Ready to Work" (employment readiness). Sessions will begin March 23rd and run through April 30th. They will be held at the Seeker's Church every Monday from 6-8pm. Announcements placed in the Takoma Gazette and Star, the TP Voice and the TP Newsletter.
 - **Whistle Giveaway** scheduled for April 7th at the Takoma metro station from 5-6:30pm. Announcements placed in the Takoma Gazette and Star.
- Meetings attended:
 - Met with Mary Kendall of CSAFE on 2/3/09. We had a very productive meeting as we exchanged ideas for collaborations and she also provided me with other resources in the area. She has also offered to assist with recruitment for our youth activities. Possible collaboration ideas include coordinating a community awareness fair that would display different community organizations and resources. A location within the STI focus area would have to be determined.
 - Met with Tom Barrett of the Carpentry School on 2/24 to finalize details. They have our group scheduled to begin the week of May 11th and run through the 15th of June. Participants are expected to attend from 8am-2:30pm Monday through Friday, and they require that there be a representative from STI present as much as possible to deal with any issues that may arise. Mr. Barrett would prefer a smaller group of 10 because it's easier to manage but realizes that we would like to get the most for our money. He shared with me an analysis he conducted from last years' 500 program participants. He found that of the 500 who attended the pre-apprenticeship program, only 3% succeeded (still gainfully employed after becoming an apprentice). He believes the low success rate is because there is no follow up support systems in place once they begin work. He also provided me with some information booklets on the programs that can be distributed to participants.

- Met with representatives at the following to secure rental space for upcoming programs: Washington Theological Union, TP Presbyterian Church, and Seekers Church.
- Mini Summit Meeting held on Tuesday 2/17/09 with all three police departments (MD, DC and WMATA) to address safety concerns expressed by respondents of the Safety Perceptions Survey. All departments were appreciative of information provided. MPD4 has been collaborating with both WMATA and MD at different stations. Chief Ricucci believes that the results of the survey are based on perceptions rather than reality because crime has been down in area. All agreed to follow up with a public summit in April or May in which all three departments would present what is being done in their respective areas.
- Follow up meeting held with TPMD Community Center Teen Coordinator Faye Wright, regarding status of request to conduct Rites of Passage program in the spring. She is still getting acclimated to position and youth but believes we should be able to hold program. She will get back to Operations Manger.
- Continuous meetings held with Christopher King of Takoma Park Community Action Group to discuss details for Employment Readiness and Pre-Apprenticeship programs.

March 2009 Plans

- Conduct pre-apprenticeship program recruitment, hold interest meeting, finalize rental of space at Seekers Church and begin "Get Ready to Work" program.
- Conduct recruitment for Conflict Resolution and secure location to hold trainings.
- Continue fundraising efforts and begin application process for appropriate grants. Provide draft to board.
- Purchase supplies for Whistle Giveaway.
- Continue outreach efforts.
- Coordinate Advisory meeting for April 5th.
- Carry out regular planning, administrative, and reporting tasks.