

CEASEFIRE COMMUNITY DISPATCH

Scientifically proven to reduce shootings and killings.

SUMMER 2010

MAYWOOD: A YEAR WITHOUT MURDER

CEASEFIRE BY THE NUMBERS

Maywood celebrated a tremendous victory on June 14, 2010 after making it a full year without a homicide. In 2003, the Chicago suburb had a homicide rate of 74.1 per 100,000 residents and was editorialized as being the "murder capital" of the United States. Public outcry demanded response to the 20 killings and 57 shootings that year. Activists, organizers and residents took action. State Representative Karen Yarbrough, a resident of Maywood, led the charge in an effort to secure state funds. Thanks to community efforts CeaseFire Maywood was launched.

Maywood represented the first replication of the CeaseFire model outside of Chicago. CeaseFire has long been recognized for producing quick results in a short period and replication in Maywood was no different. In the first year, homicides were nearly halved to 11 killings (a rate of 40.7) and by 2005 they the killings had dropped to 6 (a rate of 22.2). Achieving no homicides for a full year that is truly a remarkable achievement!

"This is a historic achievement," Tio Hardiman, Director of CeaseFire Illinois stated, "When you can get the number of killings in a community to zero that is truly a success!"



538

High-risk CeaseFire clients

151

Job referrals made

84

High-risk clients back in school

34

High-risk clients in anger management and life skills training

CEASEFIRE WEEK

The 8th Annual CeaseFire Week cut against the stigma of "bad neighborhoods" with more than 50 events across 18 communities bringing out over 7,000 residents. A diverse range of events including a basketball tournament, midnight BBQs, marches, prayer vigils, a motorcycle rally and more. CeaseFire Week focused on engaging residents in a positive way and raising awareness that violence is not an answer!

"The event was a tremendous success," Tio Hardiman, Director of CeaseFire Illinois stated, "we brought out elected officials, faith leaders, community representatives and even members of opposing gangs to break bread in peace and harmony."

Throughout the week, an educational component was woven into all the festivities emphasizing non-violent alternatives to resolving conflict. In an effort to promote peace, members of rival street organizations from both Latino and African American communities, were brought together throughout the week to discuss grievances and brainstorm solutions that would end the killing. CeaseFire has been proven effective for reducing shootings and killings by an independent U.S. Department of Justice study, preventing more than 350 conflicts in the past year that could have resulted in violent acts.

