

## **GROUP REPORTS FROM JULY 8, 2008 LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT MEETING VISIONING A HARMONIUS, NON-VIOLENT COMMUNITY**

The following points were captured from small group presentations:

### **FROM TEENS:**

Parents need to know what their kids are doing

Parents need to create a safe place for their kids to share with them

Parents need to know that it is okay to say “no” to their kids

Extend HS Peace Builders beyond the Football Team

Revitalize Friends of Rachel Program

### **GENERAL**

Establish Teen Council at HS

Peace Builders at all three elementary schools

Mentors

Common Ground – New support group of parents of teens and friends of parents, also teen component

Address with honesty the drug/alcohol abuse issue in our community

Emotional integrity – if you are burdened with emotions you have not dealt with, your light cannot shine

Early intervention (pre-school & elementary) for children with therapists

Working security cameras strategically placed

Teach people to recognize warning signs of children/people in distress, i.e. depression, substance abuse

Clinics to teach forgiveness

Prevention – Teach conflict resolution from preschool on

Support groups for parents

Volunteerism opportunities for youth

Training for adults on how to recognize bullying and how to respond

Team building/Ropes Course experiences for youth

Safe, fun places for kids to be

All adults in the community take personal interest in youth – extend ourselves

Differences in people need to be respected – teach tolerance and teach it at an early age

As adults, LIVE respect, LIVE honor

Use alert systems – know your neighborhood norms and take action when you notice something unusual

“Cowboy Values” – inspirational presentations on values

Outside speakers re: importance of good decision making

Community Celebrations of Good Citizenship

Youth Action Council

Mentorship Opportunities

Law Enforcement as Sports Coaches, Tutors, etc.

Continue to push for alternative activities to sports

We are our brother’s keepers

Make ‘WE TIP’ accessible to HS kids

Peer-to-peer mixed settings, predicated on respect, compassion

Freedom Writers – A great film with thought provoking discussion questions.

## TRANSCRIBED FROM INDIVIDUAL NOTES

Maybe at the high school someone should be anonymously appointed as the “go to” person for kids

Adults are so involved with each other talking about the kids that we’re not spending enough time with the kids

How do we bring together the kids who are on opposite sides of the track (as in this instance)/

The kids need to tell us what we need to do to help them because we’re ignorant and disconnected

Presentations by James P. Owen, Author, “Cowboy Values”

News releases on same topic

Library involvement

“Rachel’s Challenge” Clubs

Outside speakers with practical expertise and experience

Community awareness of all school exceptional accomplishments – not just sports

“OSCAR” Program in Torrance (example)

Youth Action Council with representatives from each school

Sherriff’s Department involved with schools

Park & Rec more involved in schools as well

Kid’s input/alternative activities for kids other than sports

Kids need to teach us what is needed

Have to let them be who they are. Not so many restrictions!

Kids need outside influences other than parents (mentors)

Crisis Response Team – DOVES & HS Collaboration in the works w/County

Increase Teen Center size & hours

Friends of Rachel @ HS (meet & eat with students you don't already know)

Teen Council @ HS (Peer group to accept problems, discuss solutions)

Have other 2 elementary schools adopt Peace Builders

Mentoring a child in need

Parents need to know what their kids are doing – ask them!

Parents should create a safe place for their kids – we need workshops for parent education for how to have better communication with your kids

Say “no” – don't be afraid to give your kids boundaries

Kids need to let parents know what's going on and how they are feeling

Expand programs like Peace Builders beyond the Football team (more diversity of peer Groups for positive, healthy role models)

Important for the “Lighthouse Project” to pull the expulsion list from the schools

Resurrect BVUSD program of 2 campus safety officers (dropped in 2005) Great program and the HS kids would “tip” regarding parties, drug/alcohol use to the juvenile probation officer and/or police department.

Ask Sherriff dept if they have a “School Resource Officer” who could visit BB and arrange a connection with the kids and on into adulthood after HS

Local phone kids could call/trust in to report pending fights, problems

Personal interest by adults – extend – look for opportunities

Teach that differences need to be respected through general assemblies, guest speakers, at an early age, Peace Builders

Use alert systems – know your neighborhood norms

We tip

Self esteem programs/clinics

Teach forgiveness to community groups

Peer groups @ school similar to Rachel's Challenge

Improve parenting skills along with MOMS project

Make We Tip # accessible to kids w/cell phones, post 800-78-CRIME fliers at BBHS, mention in bulletin periodically

Mixed peer-to-peer in a group setting to garner respect, compassion. Bring in other peers to tell of 1<sup>st</sup> hand consequences.

Implement “Freedom Writers” (book/DVD) techniques in school setting, assembly

Intervention with therapist in MS, HS & CT

Parents watch more, care more

Parenting skills classes – affordable

Alliance dedicated to providing resources, support and inspiration for families of troubled teens (Common Ground)

Teen to teen alliance – a place to talk with appropriate guidance (Common Ground)

Emotional integrity & Walking Our Talk – being honest and dealing with our emotions, living with integrity, being the change, to truly learn and teach how to deal with emotions so that our collective “lighthouses” can shine

As a community, honestly address the drug & alcohol issues in our community with our youth