

CATEGORICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRESS REPORT NARRATIVE

Weed & Seed Grant Number: 2005-WS-Q5-0248

Progress Report Period: July 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005

Name of Weed and Seed Site, City, and State: Rockwood Weed & Seed (RWS), Gresham, OR

Name of person completing this report: Brenda Butler, Site Coordinator

The Site is in the 4th Year of implementing the 5 Year Strategy.

1. COLLABORATIONS

- City on the Hill Fellowship, Human Solutions, Inc., Mount Hood Community College, Wraparound Oregon, People for Parks and the Latino Network all continue to be active collaborators and their interest in supporting Rockwood Weed & Seed grew throughout this reporting period.
- Wraparound Oregon is a community management team made up of Multnomah County leaders representing families, child welfare, juvenile justice, youth corrections, education, mental health and many more agencies. Their goal is to develop a better way to respond to and serve children with complex mental health needs and their families. A Rockwood Weed & Seed (RWS) Steering Committee Member is also a Community Management Team Member. When they begin to implement the '25 Kid Project' in January 2006, the plan is for RWS to be known as a resource specifically for the East County youth.
- RWS advocates attended, along with other Weed & Seed site advocates, the regional/Oregon Weed & Seed Site meeting with the U.S. Attorney and other regional law enforcement contacts.
- RWS advocates and citizens, including Gresham Police Department Officers, attended a few conferences during this period: CCDO's 2005 National Conference, Home for Good in Oregon re-entry conference, National Gang Violence Annual Conference, National Crime Prevention Council Conference, and the International Latino Gang Investigator's Association 18th Street Workshop. We find that these great opportunities allow for engaging more police officers and stakeholders in understanding and implementing RWS efforts.
- RWS is in contact with the USAO to understand how collaboration can be effective for Project Safe Neighborhoods. Gresham's previously-appointed Neighborhood District Attorney, a member of the RWS Steering Committee, is the D.A. for Multnomah County's PSN strategies. As the PSN prosecutor, he is assigned to conduct the vertical prosecution of juvenile gun crimes. The D.A.'s office contracts with El Programa Hispano, another RWS partner, to educate the Latino community about the law enforcement system, the criminal justice system, crime prevention and other topics related to safety. Other important partners of the Safety Promoters Program are the Catholic Charities-Immigration Services, Gresham Police Department, Gresham Emergency Services and RWS. The goal of the program is to offer four trainings during fiscal year 05-06. Each one will offer 20 hours of classes and presentations; 13 Safety Promoters completed the first training in December 2005. The ultimate goal is that at least 10 people from the community will finish each training, graduate as a Safety Promoter and go back to the community to organize one event to promote safety.
- RWS wrote a number of letters addressed to various agencies such as Safeco and Oregon Housing Community Services in support of various projects proposing to be implemented by Human Solutions, Police Activities League (PAL) of Greater Portland and People for Parks. Projects include continuing to provide the National Youth Sports Program to area youth, development of an imaginative children's garden and the acquisition, rehabilitation and preservation of a Rockwood area apartment complex.
- Because of partnerships with organizations like PAL, the Gresham Police Department, El Programa Hispano and due to offering programs such as the 'Talking It Out' classes, the RWS Site Coordinator received a number of telephone calls during this period from citizens requesting assistance or more information. Some requests and issues that were addressed include: tattoo removal, special education for challenged youth, resistance to gang involvement, community service projects, peer conflicts and a family's education of a second language.

2. **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The RWS Steering Committee met four (4) times during this reporting period: July 21st, September 20th, October 18th, and November 15th. The Executive Committee also met regularly.

3. **AWARD BALANCES**

The unobligated balance as of 12/31/05 is \$188,352 for grant #2005-WS-Q5-0248.

	<u>Amount Budgeted</u>	<u>Amount Used</u>	<u>Amount Left</u>
Personnel	\$109,310	\$15,665	\$93,645
Fringe	\$14,903	\$3,725	\$11,178
Travel	\$6,986	\$900	\$6,086
Equipment	\$12,086	\$65	\$12,021
Supplies	\$8,178	\$653	\$7,525
Consultants/Contracts	\$41,978	\$9,416	\$32,562
Other	\$31,470	\$6,135	\$25,335

4. **SUSTAINABILITY**

The positive (and some negative – related to crimes) media coverage that Rockwood is receiving has helped us to continue getting recognition as a strategy in the area and will continue to help us in achieving sustainability. Las Posadas 2005, the 188th Street Townhome Community Clean-up, Rockwood/West Gresham Urban Renewal and the series of ‘Talking It Out’ are just some of the highlights presented by the Gresham Outlook and The Oregonian newspapers and Multnomah Community Television. After a string of unrelated murders in the Portland Metro area (including Gresham), local television news (KPTV-FOX 12) broadcasted an interview with a Rockwood Weed & Seed Steering Committee Member and Rockwood resident about the grassroots coalition efforts.

Funding was received through the USDA to implement a supper program every day at the PAL Youth Center. More than 65 suppers per day are fed to low-income youth at no charge, helping ensure that youth receive three nutritional meals per day (including free breakfast and lunch at school).

In addition, PAL continued to implement a program thanks to a partnership grant through the Children's Investment Fund with Camp Fire USA Portland Metro Council to bring Camp Fire PALs program to two elementary and one middle school in the Rockwood area. The goal of Camp Fire PALs is to improve the academic development and physical/social/emotional well being of participants so they are fully prepared for the opportunities and challenges of adulthood. This program runs September – May through 2007.

The Gresham Police Department (GPD) agreed to include a portion of the Site Coordinator’s salary to fall under the ‘weed’ category of the RWS budget for FY03-04, FY04-05 and FY05-06. The GPD previously had resources to help with a small match.

El Programa Hispano (Catholic Charities of Oregon) has a significant Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program that is available to residents throughout Multnomah County. It consists of crisis/short-term intervention, case management, support groups, sexual assault trauma intervention and advocates who provide presentations to the community and other agencies about domestic violence in the Latino culture. El Programa Hispano (EPH) receives funds from Multnomah County, Oregon Department of Justice, and Oregon Department of Human Services. EPH also received a two-year Victims of Crime Act grant to provide a response advocate that works with the Gresham Police Department to offer advocacy and support to victims of Domestic Violence in Gresham. This advocate complements the Safety Advocate that EPH provides to the Portland Police Bureau as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. In addition, the Gresham Police Department continues to implement their work thanks to the Violence Against Women Act grant to work with EPH to provide advocacy to victims of sexual assault as well as to educate the community about the importance of reporting such crimes. Finally, EPH received a grant from Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services to start-up a crisis line in Spanish. Linea Unica is

working during business hours, Monday-Friday since 1/1/06 and by the beginning of the spring will be open 24 hours/day, seven days/week.

PAL donated postage and access to van transportation during this period. The Rockwood Library, Alder Elementary School, and the PAL Youth Center donated access to meeting space. The Rockwood Grange gave meeting space access for a minimal fee as well as donated space for the 2005 Back to School Resource & Supply Community Fair.

El Programa Hispano and Kaiser Permanente-Rockwood requested donations of school supplies from their staff, members, board, and patrons to distribute at the 2005 Back to School Resource & Supply Community Fair. Other partners that donated supplies for the Fair were: Altrusa International of Greater Gresham, Latino Network/Power for Health Project, Metropolitan Family Service, Sterling Savings Bank, US Bank, City of Gresham and Rockwood Weed & Seed. Walmart, Vasquez Sports and El Grande were all solicited donations and gave raffle prizes. The Rockwood Grange also gave 2 baskets of goodies to raffle. Food 4 Less (Gresham) donated a box of plastic bags for the distribution of the supplies.

In response to an effort to clean up graffiti on neighbors' fences, a local business, Majestic Eagle Insurance Agency donated one hundred dollars to our graffiti removal program.

5. EVALUATION

Evaluation has been a collaborative effort through provision of data by the Gresham Police Department (GPD) and other local data sources, when applicable, led by Brian Renauer, Ph.D. Dr. Renauer is under contract to support the Rockwood Weed & Seed effort. Dr. Renauer has assisted us with obtaining the ability to review crime statistics in a manner which we will utilize to focus more centrally on the core problems of the neighborhood.

In January 2004, Dr. Renauer discovered that data had been pulled differently than previous times when data was requested. This change exposed inadvertent omissions of some crimes and arrests that had occurred within our boundaries. Since this discovery, Dr. Renauer and the GPD have been working together to recompile data using the new method. We have reviewed the compiled data dating back to 2001 and found few, but some discrepancies. We plan to continue to compile the data with the most appropriate method to allow us to compare 'apples to apples'.

Regarding the 'survey, weed, seed, and survey' special project in the smaller target zone: when the results were released, the GPD and some seeders addressed some concerns included in the survey answers. However, the second survey round has not yet been conducted. Recently, the Steering Committee has discussed waiting until the summer of 2006 to conduct that survey. This will give more time and opportunity for both the GPD and seeders to address more problems within the target zone.

6. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

CRIME ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED:

During this reporting period, there were three murders; since we began tracking crime data in 2000, there were never more than two murders. Aggravated Assaults are also at a higher number (168) than any other year – showing a 17% increase over the next highest year – 2002. For other violent crimes (simple assault, rape and robbery), a decrease in occurrences is apparent comparing to '02 – at 27%. 2004 had been the highest year for Motor Vehicle Theft until this year – showing an 18% increase from 443 to 524. There was a 6% increase in car prowls from '03 to '04 and a 6% decrease comparing '04 to '05. Despite the 32% decrease of drug arrests from '03 (212) to '04 (145), drug arrests in 2005 just shot right back up again to 217. Synthetic Drugs (methamphetamine, etc.) and cocaine show the bigger increases. Despite the 31% decrease in DUIs from '03 to '04, there was a 20% increase from '04 to '05.

Effective July 2003, the Oregon Supreme Court changed the law of Criminal Trespass in the 2nd degree. A person who remains unlawfully upon premises can be served trespass exclusion. The GPD, especially the Gang Enforcement Team, found this statute alteration to be valuable in assuring that unwanted persons could be cited with a misdemeanor from even their homes, if applicable. As a result, Trespass crimes increased from eight in the first six months of 2003 to 47 for the last six months. There were 59 in 2004 and 46 in 2005.

Law Enforcement/Corrections/Prosecution:

Reduce violent (gang, etc.) activity.

- The GPD regularly shares gang intelligence information with the Portland Police Bureau (PPB), Multnomah County (MC) Parole and Probation, Troutdale PD and Fairview PD. The East Metro Gang Enforcement Team (EMGET) still continues its work that it began in May 2005 with the help from a gang grant contract with the State of Oregon's Office of Homeland Security. This partnership involves the police departments of Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale and the MC Sheriff's Office. More funding became available through the State of Oregon at the end of the calendar year. Therefore, instead of sun setting in September 2006, efforts will continue through at least June 2007.
- On regular duty (not just RWS overtime), EMGET made 4187 contacts between July and December. At least 669 were contacts with suspected gang members. They made 217 arrests, 101 of these were felony arrests; 11 guns were seized. These numbers are significantly higher than when there were only two officers dedicated to GET.
- The Gang Violence Response Team (GVRT) was deployed three times during this period. When the street patrol come to a call that involves gang-related crime and known and/or possible gang affiliates or associates, the Team is paged out to assist in investigations. The GVRT was activated four times between June and September 2005; three of these incidents occurred within the RWS boundaries. These three incidents, along with two others, totaled to five shootings that took place in our Weed & Seed site within four summer months. Luckily, out of the 14 fired rounds, only two people were hit – one of them being a completely innocent bystander.
- In October '03, a GPD General Order became effective to assist the OR Dept. of Justice to document all pertinent information regarding the gang members and their affiliations. The OR Dept. of Justice gang and gang member files is a statewide application that will provide officers with access to information on individual membership in known gangs. This Order also gives the GPD Officers a procedure to follow when documenting their gang contacts for local and statewide reference purposes. In February '04, over 80 gang members were documented using these OR DOJ guidelines and the entire team began actively documenting gang members. 46 more gang members were documented through the end of '04 and 259 were documented in 2005.
- Throughout the month of September, EMGET staff put in some RWS overtime on bus stop/route detail and extra school patrol. Besides just making their presence known, they also made contact with students and parents throughout these visibility patrols.
- EMGET worked a mission with Tri-Met Crimes Response Team on the light rail line that goes through Rockwood for gang and drug related crimes in October.
- Despite activity slowing down a bit on the streets in the winter, school security and School Resource Officers still requested EMGET to provide some extra presence at both area high schools for a few days in December due to an increase in gang posturing in the school during lunch time and a fight between two students having occurred recently.
- EMGET provided several training sessions for Gresham Chamber of Commerce members, Troutdale Rotary Club, Gresham Breakfast Lions Club, Fairview Apartment Managers' group, Rockwood Area Apartment Managers' group, Habitat for Humanity, Oregon Department of Justice students, Reynolds High School, Bureau of Emergency Communication and other civic groups regarding East MC Criminal Street Gangs. The RWS Site Coordinator also 'rode along' with an EMGET Officer.
- The sets of iPAQ Pocket PCs for Gang Enforcement Team Members and Gang Violence Response Team Members have proven to be very beneficial to them. They have the resources necessary to log contact with gang affiliates or associates. These systems allow officers to log information onto one

system that can then be shared by ‘hot syncing’ with their partners. Therefore, they all share the same information and the up-to-date details are at their fingertips. With these tools, they can continue effectively and expand their work in reducing violent gang activity within Rockwood.

Reduce the incidence of domestic violence, child abuse and recidivism.

- Despite only a 6% decrease in Domestic Violence related crimes from 2004 to 2005, this is the lowest crime count of Domestic Violence related crimes in the RWS area since we began tracking in 2000. 2002 was the highest at 381; in 2005, there were 296. And despite Simple Assaults being down from 176 in 2004 to 157 in 2005, Aggravated Assaults increased from 38 in 2004 to 45 in 2005.
- Distribution of resource wallet cards entitled ‘love shouldn’t hurt’ continued -- to Rockwood, Gresham and East Portland agencies, businesses and other public establishments for the purposes of information sharing and increasing awareness for community residents.
- Collaboration with the East County Community Against Domestic Violence (CADV) continues. Currently CADV is implementing a marketing approach to educate the community about the group and services available. In order to bring the issue of domestic violence to the forefront, the “grassroots” approach needs to be given a boost in order to have community members recognize or be familiar with the resource tools available in East Multnomah County. The hope is to market well enough that when anyone is touched by domestic violence they know to whom to turn for help and understanding. Plans are formulating to be able to continue to provide a set of core services to anyone who wants to utilize them when they need it. This group has also formulated sub-groups focusing on partnerships with clergy, businesses and education.
- A CADV Member continues to facilitate a weekly domestic violence women’s support group called Voice of JOY at a local church. It has been a slow start with just a couple sporadic attendees, but the facilitator also provides support via telephone.
- For Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, CADV organized a number of events to recognize it. First, on a Tuesday evening at a Gresham city park, approximately 70 people attended a Candlelight Vigil. Along with the Chief of Police, a victim, a perpetrator and some service providers addressed the community about this important issue. The Silent Witness Project, provided by the Soroptimists Club of Gresham, was also displayed. The Police Chief added to the display – just before the vigil – a silhouette of the most recent area victim, Jessica, who had lived in Rockwood.
- The Education Subcommittee of CADV organized an in-service training for area educators and was held at Cascade College free of charge. There were 18 attendees, but only one who actually teaches for a local school district. 10 people were Cascade Education Dept. students. At this day-long event, attendees learned about domestic violence and the effects on children.
- Metro Church of Christ staff organized the 7th Annual Abuse Awareness Workshop. Dr. Nancy Nason-Clark spoke about “Addressing Domestic Violence in Faith Communities”.
- After these main events, CADV members decided to focus on the development of their website. www.communityagainstdv.org will go live early 2006. The RWS Site Coordinator has been instrumental in making this goal become a realization.

Reduce street level crimes.

- The GPD has 24 Certified Bike Patrol Officers, at least eight of whom were trained and certified in October 2005. A few officers had the opportunity to work overtime on Bike Patrol during the summer of 2005. With the bicycles and equipment purchased by RWS (we purchased one more during this period), traffic violations, drug arrests, firearm felony possession and disturbances are just some of the crimes addressed by the Bike Patrol. The Patrol also made public relations contacts with various apartment complexes’ residents and managers and neighborhood watch block captains.
- As a result of the efforts mentioned under ‘Evaluation’, GPD formed a Target Zone Team, whose members fulfill their overtime only within a specific area of the RWS boundaries. The team members must commit to at least 16 hours of overtime per month to remain on the team. During this reporting period, Target Zone Team members completed some regular patrol, bike patrol, community policing detail, and stolen vehicle recovery missions. Officers made both pedestrian and traffic stops for traffic violations, drug arrests, Driving While Suspended misdemeanors and issued a variety of

warnings and some parking citations.

- One Officer, now Sergeant, focused a lot of her time on developing the plans to implement a Drug Free Zone within the RWS boundaries. When the ordinance for the 'drug free zone' is passed, RWS will support the GPD and MCDA in assuring that the zone is set-up. We plan to mark the area with signage (especially around the elementary school) as a zone that will allow Officers to exclude suspected drug offenders from this neighborhood for 90 days. Currently, the ordinance is on hold while our neighboring City of Portland makes some minor changes. The Gresham ordinance's guidelines will be aligned with Portland's as necessary. The Sergeant and Neighborhood DA worked together on this effort, especially assuring that they informed neighbors at their association meetings.
- The GPD and RWS developed a new citizen-driven graffiti removal program called 'Off The Wall'. Adult citizens can receive free kits at the GPD or a Gresham Fire Station to help them with the graffiti removal, rather than having to purchase all the materials individually. RWS has coordinated and will continue to guide youth groups who want to get involved in the clean-up process.
- A small group of volunteers through City on the Hill Fellowship help to paint over two area residents' fences in the summer of 2005. Both locations seem to remain almost untouched.
- Also during the summer, PAL and RWS staff organized a community service project for PAL youth to paint over graffiti on a wall adjacent to PAL property. The mural/bouquet of roses that replaced the tags has yet to be tampered with. 10 youth participated over a three week period.
- GPD staff continues to implement a car prowling project. During this reporting period, the Crime Prevention Specialist and a GPD Officer fulfilled some RWS overtime detail working on the implementation of this project. They distributed pamphlets entitled "How Can I Reduce the Risk of my Vehicle Being Broken Into?" onto vehicles located within shopping center parking lots, a local Park & Ride and on some smaller, pass-through/higher density parking streets. This project's materials were originally developed and permission to distribute was given by the Portland Police Bureau. Of 259 vehicles 'contacted', 60 letters were sent to the registered owners who had left obvious valuables visibly exposed in their vehicles.
- A GPD Officer, specializing in traffic patrol, developed an informational brochure for Traffic-Pedestrian Safety. It includes important rules and regulations about use of motorized scooters, crosswalks and residential and school zone speed limits. Final approval is anticipated.

Reduce juvenile crime.

- Juvenile crime arrests reduced by 12% from 249 in 2003 to 218 in 2004, but there was almost no change in 2005 – year end total equaling 217. The number of Aggravated Assaults went from its highest of 18 in 2002, down to only 3 in 2004. But in 2005, it increased almost four times to 14. Robbery also decreased marginally from 2003 to 2004, but then increased significantly in 2005, from 2 to 6. Of the 217 total arrests, Curfew, Runaway, Larceny, and Disorderly Conduct were the more predominant crimes for which the juveniles were arrested, ranging from 21 to 35 arrests each.
- The formal diversion program was reduced at the County level due to budget cuts. Informally, Gresham Police Officers are referring youth who have not yet offended, but are in at-risk situations, to alternative programs including the PAL Youth Center, SUN Schools, East County Family Service programs, El Programa Hispano and several other community-based organizations.

Community Policing:

Create an environment of mutual trust between the police and neighborhood residents.

- In early 2005, the Crime Prevention Specialist began to gather area apartment managers and owners on a monthly basis to discuss any pertinent and/or mutual crime problems they may be facing. More gatherings occurred throughout the year. The Crime Prevention Specialist has also set it up as an opportunity for education – e.g., Urban Renewal or RWS info.
- GPD Officers and Crime Prevention Specialists were present at several community events throughout this reporting period: 2005 Back to School Resource & Supply Community Fair, the Mount Hood Community College Community BBQ and Winter Fair at the Rockwood Library. Some Officers also attended RWS Steering Committee meetings. These events enabled local police to

interact with the community and make citizens aware of available resources to assist them in the prevention of crime.

- The Police Chief and the Rockwood Library Supervisor organized a Meet and Greet Gresham Police event that took place at the library in August. In addition to the Chief, the following met and greeted approximately 80 attendees: two Gang Enforcement Units/cars, one motorcycle officer and one K-9 Unit. The Crime Prevention Specialist provided some child safety activities for the kids. The kids and adults got to crawl inside the cars, interact with police, watch a K-9 exhibition, have the sirens sounded, and even use the radar gun! A lovely evening with a great time had by all.

Create positive activities for youth. Create a safer and more livable community.

- Safe Haven programming continued on a daily basis at the PAL Youth Center, SUN Schools, and through East County Family Services and El Programa Hispano.
- GPD has certified 13 apartment complexes as part of the Enhanced Safety Properties program. An 8-hour landlord training (Phase I) and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design inspections are the main components of the program. They also conducted about two Apartment Watch meetings (Phase 3) per month (less during the winter).
- GPD staff organized a National Night Out community event to take place at a Gresham city park. Close to 1000 people came from across the city to participate in the festivities. RWS and other partners staffed an information and resource tables at the event.
- The GPD/RWS Law Enforcement Liaison and GPD staff have been working on two efforts as a result of ideas and projects shared at Weed & Seed conferences recently attended. First, an Officer hopes to get approval to implement a new version of the FIR card – Field Interview Report. Some Officers feel that valuable information is not being documented if there is no report or arrest made after responding to certain types of calls. Also, a Sergeant is developing an email alert system that will go up for approval soon. This system will allow an every day citizen to sign up to receive crime prevention tips or important safety warnings. For example, there was a recent sweep of criminals changing the physical set up of ATMs in the area to steal users' identities.

Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment:

Increase availability of services related to alcohol and drug use and abuse including, but not limited to, prevention, screening, assessments and treatment for Rockwood youth and adults.

- An RWS partner and volunteer continued the development and implementation of a Comprehensive Prevention Program for area youth during this period. Development of various presentations is complete: Gangs-Spanish & English (S&E), Methamphetamines-S, Drinking & Driving-S, Inhalants-S&E, Marijuana-S&E, and 'What Parents Can Do' -S&E. Presentation equipment that was purchased by RWS continued to be very useful.
- El Programa Hispano continued the FLOAT (Family Latino Outreach for Addictions Treatment) Program in Partnership with Central City Concern. Central City obtained a five-year SAMSHA grant to work with El Programa Hispano. Through FLOAT, Latino families will receive mental health counseling for the addict and the family, treatment for A&D, case management and access to housing resources.

Among Rockwood teens, reduce the number of pregnancies and the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco; improve the outcome of pregnancies by improving health behaviors and assisting new parents in providing more competent care for their children.

- In September 2005, El Programa Hispano and the MC's Commission on Children, Families and Community held a Latino/a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Forum for area youth at a high school in Portland. 86 middle and high school students and 2 college students attended. As part of a meaningful research effort, the purpose was to hear and gather young Latinos/as candid thoughts on the issue of teen pregnancy within their community. Such qualitative information will be used to complement Best Practices work in this area. The RWS Site Coordinator observed and assisted as a recorder in a small group breakout.
- Eastside Teen Clinic and the Rockwood Neighborhood Health Access Center (both services of the

MC Dept. of Health) remain open. Eastside is not located in Rockwood, but it is directly adjacent to a major transit center in east Gresham. Services are free or reduced for the uninsured and underinsured 12-20 year olds. The Health Access Center provides preventative health services for the uninsured and underinsured. RWS continues to provide public transport tickets to the Center for distribution to the families in need of transportation assistance to other health-care appointments.

Reduce gang activity, poverty and increase the assets of and opportunities for children and youth.

Increase pro-social service and educational activities for youth and families.

- Safe Haven activities were offered Monday through Friday in the after-school hours at the PAL Youth Center, HB Lee SUN School, Davis Elementary SUN School, and Alder Elementary SUN School. Weekend and evening activities were also offered by various other partners including East County Family Services, MC Library, El Programa Hispano, and Metropolitan Family Services.
- The PAL Youth Center is a year-round recreational facility for youth ages 8-18; it is open Monday-Friday from 2:30-7pm during the school year and 10am-5pm during the summer and school breaks. PAL had a total membership of 629 youth (390 male, 239 female) from July 1, 2005-December 31, 2005. During the reporting period, the PAL Youth Center was open 116 days; total duplicated attendance was 13,063. PAL averaged 113 youth participating in programs daily. Safe Haven Activities included basketball, floor hockey, soccer, baseball, playground games, billiards, ping pong, foosball, board games, computers, art projects, homework club, card games and numerous others.
- Special activities or programs included Lego Robotics, Oregon State University extension services nutrition education program, Girls Group (supported by a W. Glen Boyd Foundation grant), Boys Group, Outdoor Club, Role Model Day, Oregon Zoo program, Chess Club, AKA Science, hip-hop class for teens, golf clinics at the Children's Course in Gladstone, teen programs in the new teen center, Lights on Afterschool fundraising silent auction, lunch program during the summer serving 75 youth per day and supper program serving an average of 65 youth per day during the school year.
- Field trips included Portland Trailblazer games, Portland Winterhawk games, swimming at local community pools, hiking in the Columbia Gorge, Oregon Zoo, Ice Caves, Ape Caves, Clackamas Aquatic Park, crabbing along the Oregon Coast, white water rafting on the Deschutes River, Sauvie Island, Enchanted Forest, soccer game at University of Portland, soccer clinic by the Portland Timbers, Oregon SOLV beach cleanup, haunted house, roller skating at Skate World, Ice Skating at Lloyd Center, sledding on Mt. Hood and others.
- The Campfire PAL program is a program based out of the Centennial School District. It currently serves 107 youth at three Centennial schools. The program is designed to encourage a healthy lifestyle through physical activity and community service work. Youth attend the program for four days/week either at the PAL Youth Center or at their individual school.
- PAL is also involved in a partnership with 21st Century Learning Center/SUN at Glenfair Elementary, just west of the RWS boundaries. PAL provides recreational activities for students participating in the SUN Program every Friday on-site at Glenfair Elementary for 30-35 youth. During the week, SUN youth also have the option of taking the activity bus to the PAL Youth Center once the SUN program concludes to continue their after school activities. Funding from SUN helps support salaries for part-time staff at the PAL Youth Center.
- A second Safe Haven within the Rockwood boundaries is HB Lee Middle School, where SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods) and MFS (Metropolitan Family Services) are organizing activities. The SUN summer session began July 5 and ended August 5; the fall session ran from September 26 through December 14. This session included various extended day activities with academic, recreational, athletic, and social service components. The SUN after school activities for children and their families were held Monday-Thursday from 2:45 – 8:00 p.m. These activities include: Bike Safety Club, Book Club, Science Club, Homework Club, Latino community Boys' and Girls' groups and a coed soccer club and a weekly group for girls of color. Adult English classes were held twice weekly and the SUN school hosted a Latino Parents' Night. A total of 311 youth and 61 adults were served this reporting period through enrollment programming. 305 adults were served in five non-enrollment activities. Davis and Alder Elementary Schools are also inside the Rockwood boundaries

and are also considered SUN Schools. Each school is on our Safe Haven list and provides similar activities. Between the two locations, a total of 52 extended day/enrollment programs were offered; 396 children and 120 adults were served through these activities.

- PAL coordinates National Youth Sports Program for the Portland-Metro area. Even though the program is held at a site outside of the RWS boundaries, area youth were bussed with RWS funds.
- Janus East County Family Services (ECFS) provided an after school tutorial and activities program two days per week throughout the school year at a HUD apartment complex in Rockwood. The program's average attendance was 10 youth/week for each activity. ECFS has served 25 gang affected/involved youth from the Rockwood area which included screening, case management, and other outreach services. ECFS has also provided outreach and education presentations to 450 youth in Rockwood and professional presentations to staff of five schools. Janus Youth Programs has also provided shelter services to 22 families in Rockwood in its Runaway Youth Project and seven youth in its Staff Secure Shelter (through MC Department of Community Justice). The ECFS (formerly Eastwind) program at this complex is also included on the RWS Safe Haven list.

Increase access to health, dental and mental health services.

- RWS continues to provide public transport tickets to the Rockwood Neighborhood Health Access Center, a clinic of the Multnomah County Health Dept. for distribution to the families in need. Tickets were distributed to patients who needed transportation assistance in arriving to other sites to receive additional medical, dental and mental health services. Because the Center is open limited hours, there were only 11 tickets distributed during this reporting period. Multnomah County Health has offered to distribute tickets from another clinic but only to the two zip codes that overlay the RWS boundaries.

Celebrate diversity and diminish discrimination.

- RWS partners have discussions regularly about this objective. It continues to be an important aspect of our community strategies.
- With the performances and presentations celebrating ethnic diversity, the annual Celebration of Cultures gave attendees the opportunity to experience some of the diverse cultural traditions within Gresham's community. (It was not held within RWS boundaries this year.) Las Posadas and Winter Fair also help us to understand the diverse traditions in celebrating during the holiday season. There were moments of building community pride in the celebration of our ethnic roots.

Support youth and families with childcare and other critical services.

- RWS continued as a Community Member of the Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council during this period. MHCC Head Start/Early Head Start offers early childhood services to Rockwood residents and MHCC's Rockwood facility, Yamhill House, is still running strong.
- The MHCC Head Start Program began a youth mentoring project in 2005. Teens from the Reynolds Learning Academy implement an after school program with the children who live in a nearby apartment complex. The program runs two times per week and involves up to 45 young people (teens and toddlers). For September-December, RWS donated one or two public transportation passes/month for the teens to have easier access to get to this volunteer opportunity.
- Loaves & Fishes continues to operate a small senior meal site in the community room of a large Rockwood apartment complex. They are facing challenges with getting the attendance necessary to maintain the site's ongoing services, but they remain dedicated to the Rockwood seniors.
- There are a plethora of free summer lunch program sites in the Rockwood area.
- RWS partners organized the fourth annual Back to School Resource & Supply Community Fair to benefit area youth. 394 (a 14% increase from 2004) students received a small bag of free school supplies; these youth represented 54 area schools within six school districts. Partners were also present to provide resource and referral information. This became an important piece to elaborate on from previous years. 22 service providers (non profits and governmental agencies) attended to distribute a wealth of information and some goodies, too. This year's raffle was organized differently

– allowing us to know that at least 535 people (adults and children) attended the two-hour Fair. It was a great success; special thanks to the donors mentioned above (‘Sustainability’).

Neighborhood Restoration:

Improve the business vitality and image of the business community.

- A number of community events were held during this reporting period: Celebration of Cultures, National Night Out 2005, 2005 Back to School Resource & Supply Community Fair, Freedom Jam 2005, Mt. Hood Community College Community BBQ, Winter Wonderland Walk 2005, Las Posadas, and the Rockwood Library’s Winter Fair.

Improve Networking with all elements of the community. [Schools, churches, health care providers, neighborhood organizations, businesses, government entities, etc.]

- As part of the goal to share the news of RWS to the community, the Site Coordinator presented to and attended meetings of the following organizations: Campfire, Centennial N’hood Assoc., Community Against Domestic Violence, East County Caring Community, East County One Stop, Gresham Chamber of Commerce, Gresham Community Court, Mt. Hood Community College Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council, Police Activities League, Rockwood N’hood Assoc., Wraparound Oregon, West Columbia Gorge Rotary and the Outreach group of the Latino Gang Violence Prevention Team.
- The RWS Site Coordinator became the Vice Chair for the East County Caring Community Operations and Planning Teams. The funding from the County was lost to help with facilitation, therefore, RWS offered to step in to assist.
- RWS continues to contract with a webmaster to oversee the maintenance of the Oregon W&S website: www.weedandseedoregon.org. RWS Steering Committee members are consistently encouraged to provide feedback on the website and its contents.
- The BUZZ, the Rockwood Community Access Phone Line (503.618.BUZZ) is still in working order. The BUZZ includes seven automated options, each presenting a different topic. The topics include: ‘What the BUZZ is about’, Events, Rockwood Projects, Volunteer/Involvement, Resource Phone Numbers, Rockwood Weed & Seed explanation, Rockwood/West Gresham Urban Renewal Activity. Updating it and advertising its existence has been a slow process. The BUZZ offers information on reporting suspicious activity as well as many other community resources. (Depending on the activity, many hotlines already exist.) Callers can leave a message on the BUZZ system and those calls are logged. The information is provided in English, Spanish and Russian.

Increase community stability in Rockwood. Improve housing conditions. Develop leadership in the community.

- It is important to note that these objectives intertwine greatly with the third Special Emphasis of RWS. We hope that we can address these efforts more during this fiscal year with through the work of the part-time Outreach Coordinator.
- One mini-grant recipient, the 188th Street Townhome Homeowners’ Association, implemented a community clean-up during this period. It was a great day on which at least 40 volunteers helped to make the area look and feel a whole lot better! The RWS Site Coordinator continues to support the families address some lighting problems on the street, around their homes and in the parking lot as well as develop a sign that will state some community rules.

Decrease poverty/increase wealth.

- A dedicated RWS partner, El Programa Hispano, was granted the opportunity to provide the two ‘Your Credit Counts™’ Adult Financial Literacy to a total of 77 Latinos/as within the RWS boundaries in October and November 2005. NCNE and HSBC funded the educational workshops.

Special Emphasis (1): JUSTICE INNOVATIONS -- COMMUNITY COURT

Gresham Community Court (GCC) is a highly collaborative program that relies on the coordination and partnership of at least nine core partners, including the Rockwood Weed & Seed site. This number does

not include the secondary social service and community organizations that receive referrals from GCC social services or community service programs. Due to this collaboration, the GCC has been able to achieve many of the law enforcement and community enrichment objectives envisioned when the program began.

Apply above-mentioned goals and objectives to area offenders and their families in order to reduce the offenders' likelihood of re-offending and increase the likelihood of the offenders becoming more productive citizens in our community. The ultimate goal is to create a safer, more livable community. Establish and maintain successful completion rates of community court while helping to 'give back' to the Rockwood community.

- During this reporting period, RWS provided Special Emphasis funding to support the work of a Social Services Case Manager (.25FTE) to perform preliminary intake interviews with GCC offenders and assist in determining recommendations for adjudication and the need for rehabilitation services and/or other applicable services.
- The Social Services Case Manager interviewed an average of 11 people per month and made an average of 17 referrals to a variety of social service agencies and resources including: employment, Hispanic services, Oregon Health Plan, food assistance, rent, utilities and other financial assistance, food stamps, emergency clothing, health and dental care, housing/homelessness, bus tickets and obtaining identification. Some defendants are aware of how to access these services, but many are not or will not access them even if they know how. The Community Court Project seeks to facilitate linkages to social services in the defendants' community.
- GCC is meeting many of its important objectives. Case processing time is shorter than in the traditional system, defendants are connecting to social services, community service crews are providing valuable labor to the GCC communities and defendants are receiving treatment and providing service to the community in lieu of the more expensive option of jail. The funding of the Community Service Placement Specialist helped to establish the program now operated by Multnomah County DCJ and has greatly improved the ability of the court to place defendants in agencies that offer services that particular defendant needs. It has also been helpful to the Rockwood community agencies in need of community service help. Still the GCC could improve.

Improvements from last reporting period:

- In the past, the judicial rotations at GCC lasted three months. Community Court planners have been talking with court administration about lengthening this rotation to establish more consistency from the bench. During this reporting period, the court administration changed the duration to six months. This is an improvement but court planners will continue to advocate for even longer rotation, ideally a year or two.
- GCC planners continue to attend the Technical Operations Committee meetings. The Case Manager and Weed & Seed Coordinator attend these meetings and are key in keeping people apprised of GCC business. This is especially important given the frequent rotation schedule at the court.
- The GCC social service and District Attorney staff designated to the project attend the RWS Steering Committee meetings to provide regular Community Court reports in an attempt to better communicate with the public.
- The Case Manager continues to work with the RWS Site Coordinator to better connect with the Rockwood community. Although many of the cases heard at GCC do not involve people or crime within the RWS boundaries, the RWS Site Coordinator and the Case Manager continue to work together to improve service to the Rockwood community.

Two goals to continue working toward are:

- Permanent funding for the Community Service Specialist position temporarily funded by the Multnomah County Special Income Tax, which is ending December 2006.
- A better-funded overall human services system is necessary so that the Community Court social services case manager can more quickly and effectively access available services for defendants.

(Special Emphasis (2) is addressed in the progress report for Grant #2004-WS-Q4-0258.)

Special Emphasis (3): NEIGHBORHOOD RESTORATION:

ROCKWOOD MAKES ME WANNA GO M.A.D. – MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In 2003, a Rockwood resident decided to put some of her ‘MAD’ energy toward something positive. She was frustrated with other community residents’ apathy and lack of pride and inspiration to help make Rockwood a better place. She designed a community involvement project called ‘Rockwood Makes Me Wanna Go M.A.D. – Make A Difference’. Residents participated in community service projects and with an opportunity fund provided by a county department, RWS was able to ‘treat’ the volunteers to MAD T-shirts which could be worn as volunteers worked on these efforts, and advertised the program each time they were worn. In October 2005, with the help of this funding, the Steering Committee began to expand on this concept to engage and involve more community residents on a broader level and include the Rockwood businesses. Ultimately, RWS’s goal for this Special Emphasis Initiative is to engage community residents to focus efforts on long term sustainability of neighborhood capacity building.

Take a business community that is economically depressed and has no cohesiveness within the community and connect their efforts to a) work with them to collaborate for more effective outreach; b) to encourage shopping within the area; c) to work with these businesses towards forming a self-sustaining business coalition.

- Natalie Mitchell, M.A.D. Outreach Coordinator, began her stint as a PAL part-time employee in November 2005. She spent the rest of the reporting period familiarizing herself with RWS and M.A.D. strategies and began the development of the marketing materials for the M.A.D. Business Incentive Program. Actual implementation of the program will begin in January/February 2006.

Enhance outreach and establish a ‘joint venture’ with the City to get the word out about Urban Renewal programs and positive changes in the community. Leverage community pride by focusing on positive efforts that are being accomplished by Urban Renewal and Rockwood Weed & Seed, and leverage Urban Renewal funds to partner on neighborhood beautification efforts.

- Before the Outreach Coordinator’s employment began, the RWS Site Coordinator met with both the City’s Urban Renewal staff and the Gresham Redevelopment Commission about the M.A.D. objectives. All are receptive to coordinating efforts and more ‘talks’ will take place in early 2006.

Reduce the number of methamphetamine labs and drug houses in Rockwood. Engage residents in beautifying the community, thus making it more livable and improving the quality of life.

- In October 2005, simultaneously with beginning the plans for the new 2005-2006 Special Emphasis projects, the RWS Site Coordinator was contacted by a Project Coordinator for SOLV. SOLV is a non-profit organization that brings together government agencies, businesses and citizen volunteers in programs and projects that enhance the livability of Oregon. They originally collaborated because they saw the need for community action to address growing litter and vandalism problems in the state.
- Together, RWS and SOLV organized two special events for the Rockwood community. The first was a Community Meeting, which allowed SOLV reps to explain the services that they can bring to the community members and the community members brainstormed about needs they see in their neighborhood. A few new (not previously engaged) volunteers participated. RWS worked hard to provide simultaneous Spanish interpretation even though it ended up not being needed.
- The second event was the Volunteer Action Team training. This hands-on leadership development workshop teaches participants how to plan successful community volunteer projects. In exchange for the training, participants are asked to lead an improvement project in the Rockwood area. Again, a few new volunteers participated and there is hope that they will organize an improvement project.
- Two of the five shootings that occurred within RWS boundaries from June to Sept., occurred just outside of business establishments. The cohesion is even more important when considering this issue.
- Discussions to address the meth lab/drug house problem in our community will begin in early 2006.