

CATEGORICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRESS REPORT NARRATIVE

Weed & Seed Grant Number: 2004-WS-Q4-0258

Progress Report Period: January 1 – June 30, 2005

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

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

The Site is in the 3rd Year of implementing the 5 Year Strategy.

1. COLLABORATIONS

- City on the Hill Fellowship, Human Solutions, Inc., the Reynolds School District, Multnomah County Library, Metropolitan Family Service, and the Latino Network all continue to be active collaborators and their interest in supporting RWS grew throughout this reporting period.
- 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. The RWS Site Coordinator has been a support to both the Lents/BD and the Albina W&S sites as both Coordinators began their 'stint' during this period.
- With the partnership support of the RWS Steering Committee, the community revitalization efforts to improve the quality of life in the Rockwood community have resulted in a regional collaborative parks effort for all of East Multnomah County. In December 2004, the children's playground at Vance Park was completed; now efforts are underway to complete Phase II: the addition of the drinking fountain and development of the basketball and volleyball courts. Due to the local Rockwood efforts, a parks community foundation has developed, called People for Parks, that will bring benefits to the entire East County area, including the cities of Fairview, Wood Village, Troutdale and, of course, the greater Gresham vicinity. The Weed & Seed structure proves to be a very successful model, easily replicated for many types of community endeavors.
- At the end of this period, RWS's authorized official (also known as the fiscal agent contact) changed departments within Multnomah County. Mr. Mitchell handed the duty over to Aimée Ortiz, Finance Specialist within the Department of Community Justice.
- RWS advocates and citizens, including Gresham Police Department Officers, attended a few conferences during this period: FY2005 Weed & Seed Application Kit and Training Workshop; Peace and Safety in the Christian Home's (PASCH) Domestic Violence Conference; Crime Prevention Association of Oregon's 27th Annual Conference and Training; Developing Community-Police Teams sponsored by the Western Community Policing Institute and the Oregon Weed & Seed sites; and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Court Coordination Program (CCP) Orientation Training Meeting. We find that these great opportunities allow for engaging more police officers and stakeholders in understanding and implementing RWS efforts.
- Due to the development of a Court Coordination Program in the Portland metro area, RWS and Wraparound Oregon became more aware of each other's services and missions. We will continue to stay abreast of Wraparound Oregon's integration initiative, building a coordinated service system for children with severe emotional disturbances and their families.
- An abundance of partners have been gathering to consider the many options and plans to help improve the Rockwood neighborhood. Rockwood-West Gresham Urban Renewal plans continue to come together. A steering committee is working to address a need for a justice facility in the Gresham area, which could potentially be sited in Rockwood. A market analysis of the Rockwood Triangle was completed – a potentially very successful commercial and business intersection in the heart of Rockwood. Under the name of the Rockwood Integrated Services Partnership, Oregon's Dept. of Human Services is discussing (with many partners) the opportunity to 'set up shop' in the Rockwood to be more accessible to those who require their services – child welfare and adult self-sufficiency. Finally, two purchases are pending; both facilities were previously used as large supermarkets. They have been vacant over two

years and are located in the heart of Rockwood. RWS hopes that both sales close in favor of the buyers to bring Rockwood a multi-service center and other basic amenities.

- RWS is in contact with the USAO and the East Portland Neighborhood Office 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 (EPH), another RWS partner, to conduct a Latino community assessment about safety issues and gun crime as well as to organize information exchanges to educate the Latino community about the legal system and the consequences of carrying guns. Two more information exchanges were conducted during this period. The D.A.’s office and EPH held 12 Latino youth focus groups (attended by 160 students) in the Rockwood area. EPH is facilitating the focus groups about topics such as: gangs, fire arms, crime, drugs and Rockwood. The goal is to reach out to 200 Latino youth in the Rockwood area through 20 focus groups. At the end of each group, the D.A. explained in Spanish to the attendees the role of the D.A.’s office in Project Safe Neighborhoods, current gun-crime and other criminal issues in Rockwood, current state and federal gun laws, the importance of complying with those laws, the importance of reporting gun related crimes in their neighborhood and the current impact of Measure 11 on youth.
- RWS assisted the Latino Network and MC Department of Health’s Community Health Workers to organize and hold a Campaña de limpieza – Cleaning Campaign – at Rockwood apartment complexes in December 2004. During this report period, these RWS partners were recognized by Governor Kulongoski and SOLV with the Best Development of Partnerships Award.
- RWS wrote a number of letters addressed to various agencies such as the Beaumont Foundation in support of various projects proposing to be implemented by El Programa Hispano, Salvation Army Gresham Corps and Michael B. Monahan & Associates. Projects include a Latino Gang Intervention Project and a Relatives as Parents Program under which support groups will be held for Latino grandparents who act as parents to their grandchildren. A developer also wishes to build some high-quality duplexes in the area.

2. STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The RWS Steering Committee met five (5) times during this reporting period: January 20th, February 17th, April 21st, May 19th, and June 16th, 2005. The Executive Committee met regularly and the three subcommittees (Law Enforcement/Community Policing, Neighborhood Restoration & Prevention/ Intervention/Treatment) met several times.

3. AWARD BALANCES*

The unobligated balance as of 6/30/2005 is \$120,677 for grant #2004-WS-Q4-0258.

*These figures DO reflect the Budget Modification Request faxed to Mark Sakaley (PM) and Charnita Robinson (OC) on January 10th, 2005.

	<u>Amount Budgeted</u>	<u>Amount Used</u>	<u>Amount Left</u>
Personnel	\$105,016	\$41,683	\$63,333
Fringe	\$13,857	\$10,338	\$3,519
Travel	\$5,995	\$4,242	\$1,753
Equipment	\$5,630	\$4,539	\$1,091
Supplies	\$5,820	\$653	\$5,167
Consultants/Contracts	\$52,524	\$25,515	\$27,009
Other	\$36,118	\$17,313	\$18,805
Indirect	\$0	\$0	\$0

4. SUSTAINABILITY

The positive 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. Rockwood/West Gresham

Urban Renewal, Gresham Police Bike Patrol Unit's efforts, the series of 'Talking It Out', introduction of the Target Zone Team and the Drug Free Zone are just some of the highlights presented by the Gresham Outlook and The Oregonian newspapers and Multnomah Community Television. Local television news (KPTV-FOX 12) presented an excerpt on The BUZZ, the Rockwood Community Access Phone Line - 503.618.BUZZ.

Funding was received through the USDA to implement a supper program every day at the PAL Youth Center. More than 50 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 FY2003-2004 and FY2004-2005. 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, last June, the Gresham Police Department received a 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. This grant has been renewed for fiscal year 05-06.

PAL donated postage and access to van transportation during this period. The Rockwood Library, Alder Elementary School, the PAL Youth Center, and City of Gresham donated access to meeting space.

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'.

During the summer of 2004, Dr. Renauer and the Steering Committee discussed how to move forward with our evaluation process. As a result, it was decided to choose a smaller target zone within the RWS boundaries to implement a 'survey, weed, seed, and survey' special project. The zone was established, a special GPD enforcement and community policing team was formed and the surveys were constructed.

During the months of January and February of 2005, five bilingual persons went door-to-door to survey residents and business community members about the satisfaction of the neighborhood and the citizens' perception of safety/crime. The Evaluator just completed the full results report at the end of this reporting period; now the GPD and seeders can address the concerns included in the survey answers and by the end of a six/eight-month period, it will be considered to survey the community again.

Of approximately 1500 doors knocked, 225 residents agreed to respond to the 24 question survey. When asked what the biggest crime problem in Gresham is, respondents could not choose one but 40.9% said 'Gangs', 48.4% said 'Drugs', 24.9% said 'Theft', 8.4% said 'Vandalism', 6.7% said 'Traffic/Parking' and 1.8% said 'Other'. When asked 'Why do you think that?', 32.9% said 'Because I have witnessed that type of crime'. 16.4% said 'Because I've been a victim of that type of crime.' 12.9% said 'Because I read about it in the newspaper or see it on the television'. When asked, on a scale from 1 to 10, 'How safe do you feel in your neighborhood?', the mean of all respondents is 5.51. When asked, on a scale from 1 to 5, 'How satisfied are you with the neighborhood?', the mean of all respondents is 3.36.

Also during this reporting period, RWS Steering Committee members completed a written process evaluation survey to address the effectiveness and success of Rockwood Weed & Seed. A full results report also just became available in June. Of the 41 surveys that were distributed to partners to complete, 24 were returned. Some responses:

- The Rockwood Weed & Seed initiative has increased my understanding of the Rockwood crime problem. 68.2% said 'Strongly agree'; 22.7% said Somewhat agree; 9.1% said 'Strongly disagree'.
- The Rockwood Weed & Seed initiative has increased my knowledge of local resources available for addressing the Rockwood crime problem. 91.3% said 'Strongly agree'; 4.3% said 'Somewhat agree' and 4.3% said 'Somewhat disagree'.
- The Rockwood Weed & Seed initiative has increased collaboration between myself/agency and the Gresham Police Department. 57.1% said 'Strongly agree'; 28.6% said 'Somewhat agree'; 9.5% said 'Strongly disagree'; 4.8% said 'Uncertain'.

6. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

CRIME ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED:

During this reporting period, there were no murders and 19 rapes. For other violent crimes (simple assault, aggravated assault), a decrease in occurrences is apparent comparing to '02, and comparing to the same time period in 2004, there's a 25% decrease. There were no shootings from July '04 to June '05. There was a 6% increase in car prowls from '03 to '04 and a 5% increase comparing this reporting period to the same time in '04. Motor Vehicle Theft increased 12% from '03 to '04 and increased 21% comparing this reporting period to the same time in '04. Despite the 7% decrease of drug arrests from '03 to '04, there was an 80% increase in drug arrests comparing January through June '04 to this reporting period. Despite 'codeine' being added to the list of drugs for which people got arrested for Jan-June '04, there were no arrests from July '04 through June '05. Despite the 18% increase in burglaries from '03 to '04, there was a 12% decrease comparing this reporting period to the same time in '04.

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 24 from January to June 2004, 35 from July to December 2004 and then 25 from January to June 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. In December 2004,

members of the Oregon Legislative Emergency Board toured through East County's gang-infected communities. Gang Officers (GPD, Troutdale, Fairview) narrated the tour and had an opportunity to really show them the problem that this community and law enforcement are facing. In April, the City Council activated a gang grant contract with the State of Oregon's Office of Homeland Security to fund the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team (EMGET). Grant funds will be used to pay salary and benefits for seven team members; Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale and the MC Sheriff's Office will each have representation. Based on available funding, the program will be in place for approximately 17 months, with a start date of May '05.

- On regular duty (not just RWS overtime), GET/EMGET made 2820 contacts between January and June. 47% of these were made in May and June when the EMGET began implementation. At least 664 were contacts with suspected gang members. They made 175 arrests, 51 of these were felony arrests; two guns were seized.
- The two Gang Violence Response Teams (GVRTs) were consolidated into one in 2004 due to infrequency of callouts, despite the effectiveness of the team(s). The Team includes four law enforcement officials and at least one is bilingual in Spanish and English. 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 once in June due to a shooting that occurred within the RWS boundaries. A 15-year old female fired a gun at an 18-year old female but missed. Investigation revealed that these were girls from rival gangs.
- 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 123 were documented January through June '05.
- The GPD GET provided several training sessions for Mt. Hood Community College staff, the four mayors of East Multnomah County, area community health nurses, Rockwood apartment managers and residents, neighborhood associations and PAL staff regarding East MC Criminal Street Gangs.
- 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.
- During this reporting period, resource tools (pocket cards) continued to be distributed to gang-affected youth for the purpose of understanding who to reach out to in order to discuss alternatives to gang affiliation. The Officers themselves are also claiming to be more aware of the services available to our residents as a result of this tool's availability. One Officer referred a high school drop-out to the RWS Site Coordinator to arrange for re-entering into school.

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

- There was roughly a 16% decrease in Domestic Violence related crimes from 2003 to 2004. And comparing this reporting period to the same time in 2004, there was a 7% decrease in Domestic Violence related crimes. However, there was an increase in aggravated assaults from 2003 to 2004.
- 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 training is being developed to present to area educators to take back to their classrooms as a tool to help students of all ages.

- In April, a CADV Member began facilitating 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.

Reduce street level crimes.

- The GPD has 28 Certified Bike Patrol Officers and we want to certify more. Few officers have had the opportunity to work overtime on Bike Patrol. With the bicycles and equipment purchased by RWS, DUIIs, traffic violations, warrant arrests, and alcohol consumption in the parks are just some of the crimes addressed by the Bike Patrol. The Patrol was also asked to make public relations contacts with various apartment complexes' residents and managers.
- 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.

Reduce juvenile crime.

- Juvenile crime arrests reduced by 12% from 249 in 2003 to 218 in 2004. Between January and June 2005, there were 140 arrests. Of those, Curfew, Runaway and Disorderly Conduct were the more predominant crimes for which the juveniles were arrested. There have already been 13 Simple Assaults involving minors during this reporting period and there were a total of 14 in 2003.
- 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.
- Officers implemented a small curfew sweep at the beginning of the summer. They made one felony warrant arrest and identified 12 curfew violations.

Community Policing:

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

- One half-time Gresham Police Officer continues to be assigned to the Housing Authority of Portland which oversees several low-income housing complexes in Rockwood.
- The Crime Prevention Specialists began, in early 2005, to gather area apartment managers and owners on a monthly basis to discuss any pertinent and/or mutual crime problems they may be facing. The CPSs have also set it up as an opportunity for education – e.g., Urban Renewal or RWS info.
- GPD Officers and Crime Preventions Specialists were present at several community events throughout this reporting period: Dia de los niños y los libros at the Rockwood Library and the Kick-Off Rally of Child Abuse Prevention Month in downtown Portland. 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.

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 GET Officers attended Apartment Watch and Neighborhood Association meetings with the Crime Prevention Specialists in order to provide support when the gang issue is addressed.

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. Mainly two presentations were delivered: 'Cultural Conflicts and Alcohol & Drug Use' and 'Gangs and Alcohol & Drug Use'. Presentation equipment that was purchased by RWS continued to be very useful. Presentations were made at one area middle school and three area high schools for six classes of about 30 youth each.
- El Programa Hispano started 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. During the reporting period, FLOAT served 20 families from the Rockwood area.

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.

- 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 2:30pm-7:00pm during the school year and Monday-Friday from 10am-5pm during the summer and school breaks. PAL had a total membership of 828 youth by the end of our school program year (June) (517 males, 311 females). This is an increase of 51% from the same reporting period in 2004. 163 of these members have special needs. From January to June, the Youth Center was open 95 days; the total duplicated attendance was 11,189. PAL averaged 117.7 youth participating in programs per day. Safe Haven activities include: basketball, soccer, playground games, billiards, ping pong, foosball, board games, computer fun, music appreciation, card games, arts and crafts, a dinner program, gym and games room tournaments and numerous local field trips.
- The increase in attendance is in direct correlation to increased on-site programs, successful recruiting methods and a partnership with Campfire USA. Campfire PALs is a program that is based in the Centennial School District and at the PAL Youth Center. Activities are offered at two elementary schools (Lynchview and Lynchwood) and Centennial Middle School. Youth are transported to the Youth Center on a daily basis from the schools to participate in activities to introduce a healthy and fit lifestyle. An average of 15 youth participated in the program each day.
- In partnership with El Programa Hispano, Janus Youth Programs, Portland Police Bureau, Gresham Police Department, Sherwood PAL, Molalla PAL, Tigard PAL, Portland Parks & Rec, Woodburn Parks & Rec and RWS, the PAL Youth Center hosted *Safe Haven Spring Break* activities where a daily average of 223 youth attended to participate in a variety of activities from March 21-25, 2005.
- The annual PAL Summer Sports Camp was held at an area high school from June 20-June 24, 2005. The camp gave Police Officers and youth ages 8-14 a chance to interact with each other in a positive

environment. The camp, while choosing from 14 different sports, also served as a recruiting device to invite youth to participate in other PAL and Safe Haven programs. There were 441 youth who participated and approximately 75 Police Officers and volunteers who helped to coach the athletes.

- Special on- and off-site programs held at the PAL Youth Center included: Science On Patrol, Junior FBI, Girls' Group, Supper Program, Homework Club, UNO/ZAP Program, Rambunctious Readers' Book Group, Movie Club, Campfire PALs and special trips to attend University of Portland basketball games and Portland Trailblazer NBA games.
- Two AmeriCorps VISTA Members joined the PAL Youth Center staff this summer to assist with additional recruitment of youth to participate in PAL programs. The RWS Site Coordinator has been a resource to them to connect with apartment complex managers, businesses and area residents.
- 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 winter and spring sessions began on January 18 and ended on June 2. 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 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. These activities include: Bike Safety Club, Book Club, Homework Club, AKA Science Club and a group for girls of color as well as culturally specific groups for youth of the Latino, Asian and Eastern European ethnicities/descents. Adult English classes were held twice weekly. During the winter session (Jan-Mar), a total of 385 students and 112 adults were served in extended day enrollment programming. During the spring session (Apr-Jun), 400 children and 119 adults were served in extended day enrollment activities. 305 people (240 children and 65 adults) were served in non-enrollment activities this reporting period. 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.
- 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 8 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 program at the HUD complex is also included on the RWS Safe Haven list.
- In April 2005, El Programa Hispano in partnership with The Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement (OCHA) and Morrison Center started LIBRE, a gang intervention service that includes drugs and alcohol treatment and employment training for Latino youth. El Programa Hispano provides intensive case management to gang involved Latino youth in the Rockwood area. OCHA also provides employment training.
- In May 2005, OCHA brought to the Rockwood area the "Proyecto Conexiones". Using funds from Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, the Latino Network and Worksystems Inc. OCHA provides employment training and opportunities to Latino youth in the Rockwood area.

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. RWS is assessing how we can make this resource more available to community members in need of this type of assistance.

Celebrate diversity and diminish discrimination.

- In early 2005, the Prevention/Intervention/Treatment Subcommittee and Steering Committee met and discussed the revision of this P/I/T goal due to the wording (Original Goal: Improve ethnic challenges

and diminish discrimination.).

- The Police Chief and an Officer read to Latino families at the Library Family Literacy Night.
- RWS partners have discussions regularly about this objective. It continues to be an important aspect of our community strategies.

Support youth and families with childcare and other critical services.

- RWS became a Community Member of the Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council early in this reporting 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.
- Loaves & Fishes opened a senior meal site in the community room of a large Rockwood apartment complex during this reporting period. 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.

Neighborhood Restoration:

Improve the business vitality and image of the business community.

- A number of community events were held during this reporting period: Dia de los niños y los libros at the Rockwood Library, Earth Day at Vance Park and the Kick-Off Rally of Child Abuse Prevention Month in downtown Portland.
- As RWS becomes more visible, those who are arranging their own events are consulting RWS for potential tie-in. Weed & Seed has been able to make recommendations of potential partnerships to avoid duplication of services and provide information on outreach needed.

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: Community Against Domestic Violence, East County Caring Community, East County One Stop, El Programa Hispano, Gresham Chamber of Commerce (and renewed chamber membership), Gresham Community Court, Latino Network, Mt. Hood Community College Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council, People for Parks, Police Activities League, Rockwood N'hood Assoc., and the Rockwood Pastors.
- The RWS Site Coordinator presented to both the Gresham City Council and the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners during this period to explain the progress of Rockwood Weed & Seed.
- 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 RWS Site Coordinator, the City and volunteers assisted with setting up The BUZZ, the Rockwood Community Access Phone Line (503.618.BUZZ). 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. It remains in working order; however, 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.
- Plans are being developed for the means of keeping the community members connected: together and to resources. RWS advocates connected with a local educational institution, Center for Advanced Learning, to ask the CAL students to provide technical support in layout and formatting Rockwood's community newsletter.

Increase community stability in Rockwood. Improve housing conditions.

- Since April, Gresham Police Department (GPD) Code Enforcement Officers have been deployed with

RWS overtime dollars to proactively address property maintenance violations within a special target area of the RWS zone. Two officers opened cases on 35 different properties and only one remains open. These code violations were identified and addressed: a) Accumulation of Debris, Garbage & Junk. b) Sidewalks in disrepair and lacking maintenance. c) Abandoned Vehicles (Private Property). d) Parking or storing more than 5 vehicles at the location. e) Home Occupation Prohibited Uses.

Most of the cases addressed items a) and c). The case that remains open had an initial inspection 3.5 months ago. The time periods between open date and close date range from 15 days to 10 weeks. The GPD Code Enforcement Unit is generally complaint driven. Therefore, having access to these dollars to pay overtime to Officers is a great benefit to the department and the community as we address how to improve the quality of life.

Develop leadership in the community. Decrease poverty/increase wealth.

- The Latino Network and MC Department of Health's Community Health Workers have been instrumental in helping to empower residents and engage them as leaders in their community through the Poder es Salud/Power for Health program.
- Making connections at neighborhood and apartment complex meetings as mentioned above is important to the development of establishing more leadership in Rockwood.
- El Programa Hispano, County Commissioner Serena Cruz' office, PSN, RWS and other community agencies organized the Latino Youth forum about the Role of Education in Gang Prevention. On February 9th, around 150 youth (around 60 from Rockwood) attended the event to discuss their issues related to education. Over 100 representatives from Multnomah County school districts attended too, including three superintendents from school districts that serve Rockwood.
- El Programa Hispano hosted meetings with Latino parents at HBLee Middle School, Reynolds Middle School and Reynolds High School. A group of parents from the Comité de Padres de Reynolds participated in the Parents summit that was held in May at Centennial Middle School.
- OCHA, El Programa Hispano and The Coalition for Latino Education organized the "Latino Parents Summit" in May at Centennial Middle School. A presentation about "No Child Left Behind Act" was part of the agenda.

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 Case Manager, a Dept. of County Human Services employee, is also assigned to the N/NE and SE (Portland) Community Courts and is funded through two other Weed & Seed sites.
- The Social Services Case Manager interviewed an average of 14 people per month and made an average of 23 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.

- Another goal is to provide a Community Service Coordinator to assist the GCC in placing defendants in community agencies that need assistance in the form of volunteer labor and also in assisting defendants in accessing social services. Both goals were implemented better than planned. Many of the agencies assisted were Weed & Seed partners and many of the defendants were either Weed & Seed residents, committed their crime in the Weed & Seed community or accessed services therein.
- The Police Activities League (PAL) continued to employ the Community Service Coordinator through June 2005. Supported by the Special Emphasis funds, she worked about five hours/week, fulfilled the duties of the Coordinator and reported to the RWS Site Coordinator.
- During this reporting period, the GCC sentenced defendants to one main community service program. From January to June, the Community Service Coordinator assigned 158 people to complete their community service in local non-profit agencies. 48 people are still in progress, 83 successfully completed and 27 were unsuccessful. Out of the 158 placements, 131 were placed at agencies within the Gresham community. A total of 1240 hours were donated to the Rockwood/Gresham community for a value of \$8,742. This program enjoyed a 70% success rate.
- 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. At the GCC, the funding of the Community Service Coordinator has greatly improved the ability of the court to place defendants in agencies that offer services that particular defendant needs. It has also been a boon to the Rockwood community agencies in need of community service help. Still the GCC could improve. Improvements from last reporting period:

- The MC Dept. of Human Services began looking into grant opportunities and other options for taking over the funding of the Case Manager position.
- GCC received a new judge approximately every three months as the judges are rotated through the Multnomah County courts that handle misdemeanor offenses. An important aspect of Community Court is maintaining consistency in sentencing and accountability for non-compliant defendants. Toward that end, regular Community Court Technical Operations Committee meetings are held at Gresham Community Court. The Community Court judge attends this meeting and receives feedback about his or her role in the project. Also the Case Manager has taken on the responsibility of educating new judges about the role of social services at Community Court and expectations of the judges in the program.
- Thanks to a Multnomah County special income tax, part of which was designated to Community Court spending, the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice took over the community service position mid-June 2005. This will free up those funds for other spending in the Rockwood community in the next grant period. This issue was listed as a primary area needing improvement in the last progress report.

Primary area that needs improvement:

- A better-funded human services system is necessary so that the GCC Social Services Case Manager can more quickly and effectively access available services for defendants.

Familiarize the offenders about the Community Court process; decrease the Failure-To-Appear rate.

- The MC District Attorney's Office estimates that the Failure-To-Appear (FTA) rate still stands at approximately 60%. A County workgroup has now formed, led by staff from the IT/Evaluation division. This workgroup, which includes GCC Project Coordinators and the DA's Office, under the influence of Weed & Seed efforts, want to work to develop a system and process to assist in decreasing this rate and simultaneously consider the liability ramifications of providing this assistance to the offenders. Various barriers exist, but the efforts led to a county-wide interest in the subject and may result in an institutionalized practice in Multnomah County courts. Main barrier: many of the Community Court defendants don't have phone numbers, and a lot of them do not have regular

addresses. How do we actually contact them? Barrier: which agency should be the contact person to make this 'friendly reminder'? Many clients are represented by defense counsel; would this mean we would have to seek permission to make contact? Barrier: any involvement related to a FTA charge may result in the contact person being required to testify; is this economically smart?

Decrease the likelihood of re-offending among GCC clients by increasing access to strength based approach to alcohol and drug treatment, reducing alcohol and drug use in Rockwood as well as increasing access to health and mental health services and supporting families with other critical services.

- The RWS Steering Committee, the Community Court Project Coordinator and the Social Services Case Manager have been actively developing a system and process for the Emergency Services Fund (ESF). We have established a piece of the system. Eight GCC defendants who are either RWS boundary residents or committed their crime in the RWS community have received financial assistance to attend "Theft Talk"™ classes. "Theft Talk"™ is a counseling service that many judges mandate for minor theft and shoplifting offenses. "Theft Talk"™ representatives also continued to offer in-kind subsidizing for such referrals.
- It is important to the Steering Committee and the court (and the offenders) that the system and fund be flexible as well as follow a path of rapid response. The ESF has also provided public transport tickets for those defendants that may need help with transportation in getting access to services; we distributed 26 tickets to nine defendants to help them access social services and treatment.
- Finally, in an effort to have resource and referral information at the fingertips of the GCC defendants, RWS purchased an Information Center display unit where the Case Manager has made available brochures and information pieces for anyone that enters the Gresham Court facility.

Special Emphasis (2): PREVENTION SPECIALTY PROGRAMS: CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Rockwood Weed & Seed repetitively hears from various sources about the lack of parent involvement in their children's lives, the increased police contact with youth, the lack of role models or support for the siblings of the delinquent youth and the fact that the juvenile criminals are getting younger and younger is apparent.

Apply above-mentioned goals and objectives to area youth and their families in order to reduce the youth's likelihood of engaging in criminal activity and increase the likelihood of the youth becoming more productive citizens in our community. The ultimate goal is to create a safer, more livable community. Create and implement a program (like diversion) for youth and their parents and families to engage in to avoid additional criminal mischief-type activity, decrease the school drop-out rate and increase the involvement of parents and families in the lives of our youth.

- RWS contracted with Janus Youth Programs and El Programa Hispano to provide three series of the family involvement course called "Talking It Out" during this reporting period. Two courses were offered in English and one was in Spanish. About 17 families attended and benefited from the courses, amounting to about 33 youth and adults.
- The referral sources varied from newspaper advertisements/briefs, OR Dept of Human Services' caseworkers, Head Start/Early Head Start staff, school district counselors, and other RWS partners.
- The SUN Coordinator at one of our Safe Haven sites agreed to host the classes at HB Lee School.
- During the registration process for the first series, parents mentioned their main challenge to be the need for child care for their younger children rather than transportation to arrive to the class location. Therefore, partners arranged to hire child care providers to watch over the youngsters while their older siblings and parents attend the classes.
- The evaluations showed that all families felt they communicated better after the series. The young people as well as parents were very interested in the Measure 11 topic. The families had fun looking at their strengths and assets and were surprised to find they had so many strengths. The parents appreciated learning about conflict resolution and natural and logical consequences. Overall the families stated the series was a positive experience.