

## CATEGORICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRESS REPORT NARRATIVE

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

Progress Report Period: July 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004

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

- Human Solutions, Inc., the Reynolds School District, Multnomah County Library, My Sister's House, 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.
- 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.
- A report, "Healthy Communities: A Youth Gang Prevention Strategy for Gresham and East Multnomah County", was released. It was prepared with support from the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council for Multnomah County and various partners. Gresham's Chief of Police wrote this statement at the time of its release: "This report reflects the work of a strong community that has organized for a common purpose: *Healthy Communities: Safe, Productive and Violence-Free*. We recognize that the solution is not the responsibility of one entity; rather it is the responsibility of all. Working together we have established the trust, reciprocity and commitment to mobilize for the action that will lead to change."
- In December, 2004, Eastwind Community Center was re-aligned within its parent organization, Janus Youth Programs, to better reflect the needs and mobility of East County residents. Eastwind Center was re-named East County Family Services (ECFS) and its management was shifted to allow greater opportunity for partnerships with Multnomah County's Runaway and Homeless Services and Multnomah County's Department of Juvenile Justice. ECFS staff members are now able to directly access 24- hour crisis response, housing, and other services that will allow greater linkage of Rockwood youth and families into other services offered throughout Multnomah County. ECFS staff are also partnering with Oregon Youth Authority, Oregon Dept. of Human Services, and other programs that serve at risk youth. Programs that are offered by ECFS and its parent organization include Youth Gang Outreach, 24-hour crisis response, tutoring and skill building groups, parent and youth education groups. Janus also offers services in alternative education, homeless youth shelter and services, transitional housing for youth, Oregon Youth Authority correctional services, and residential programs for many at-risk populations.
- RWS advocates, including Gresham Police Department Officers, attended a few conferences during this period: National Gang Violence Conference in Anaheim, CA; Home for Good in Oregon Reentry Conference in Bend, OR; and Mt. Hood Coalition Against Drug Crime's Mentoring Training Connection in Welches, OR. We find that these great opportunities allow for engaging more police officers and stakeholders in understanding and implementing RWS efforts.

- 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. Citizens were invited to provide input on the development of the Rockwood Triangle – 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.
- 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 six Latino youth focus groups (attended by 83 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.
- The *Spirit of Portland* Awards are given annually to outstanding individuals and organizations that give back to the community. Morrison Center, a RWS partner, was recognized as the Portland Nonprofit Organization of the Year for the *Latino Drug and Alcohol Program*. The award honored the work that three staff persons do with teenage Latinos with addiction issues. The therapy includes a heavy dose of cultural education as well as mental health treatment.

2. **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The RWS Steering Committee met five (5) times during this reporting period: July 15<sup>th</sup>, August 19<sup>th</sup>, September 16<sup>th</sup>, October 21<sup>st</sup>, and November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Committee also met regularly.

3. **AWARD BALANCES\***

The unobligated balance as of 12/31/04 is \$187,160 for grant #2004-WS-Q4-0258.

\*These figures do not reflect the Budget Modification Request faxed to Mark Sakaley (PM) and Charnita Robinson (OC) on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

	<u>Amount Budgeted</u>	<u>Amount Used</u>	<u>Amount Left</u>
Personnel	\$105,016	\$18,328	\$86,688
Fringe	\$13,857	\$3,464	\$10,393
Travel	\$5,995	\$280	\$5,715
Equipment	\$5,630	\$3,115	\$2,515
Supplies	\$5,820	\$380	\$5,440
Consultants/Contracts	\$52,524	\$5,807	\$46,717
Other	\$32,518	\$5,526	\$26,992
Indirect	\$3,600	\$900	\$2,700

#### 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 Rockwood International Marketplace and the first series of 'Talking It Out' are just some of the highlights presented by the *Gresham Outlook*, *The Oregonian*, *El Hispanic News*. Also, "La sombra de la cocina" or "The Shadow of the Kitchen", a video documentary produced by two Reynolds High School students (who are also Rockwood residents) with support from RWS, was included in the 'line-up' at the Northeast (Portland area) Youth Film Festival as part of the Crossroads of Communities Celebration.

Funding was received by the Police Activities League (PAL) of Greater Portland for the National PAL Youth Enrichment Program through USDOJ during the prior report period, however, it continued to be implemented at the PAL Youth Center during this reporting time concluding in August 2004. Funding was also 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 received word in June 2004 that it would receive 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.

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 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.

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

El Programa Hispano and Kaiser Permanente-Rockwood requested donations of school supplies from their staff, members, board, and patrons to distribute at the Back To School Fair 2004. Other partners that gave money to the effort to purchase supplies were: East County Family Services, Morrison Center, MC Department of Community Justice and Rockwood Weed & Seed.

#### 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 plan to review data back to 2000.

For this report, unfortunately, not all crime and arrest statistics from December 2004 were available due to circumstances beyond our control.

Early in this reporting period, 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. By January 2005, the surveying of residents and business community members began and some GPD team members did some 'knock and talk's. Once the initial survey is complete (asking questions about the satisfaction of the neighborhood and the citizens' perception of safety/crime), the GPD and seeders will address the concerns included in the survey answers and by the end of a six-month period, it will be considered to survey the community again.

The RWS Steering Committee members have agreed to complete a process evaluation survey to address the effectiveness and success of Rockwood Weed & Seed. Plans are being finalized to implement this.

RWS and GPD partners decided to improve the tracking method of overtime hour deployment. The Syracuse Police Department (NY) offered some advice on this at the Coordination Workshop in Buffalo, NY in May 2004. During this reporting period, changes were made to the generic Daily Activity Report (DAR) used by all GPD staff and a Weed & Seed DAR was created. Officers now provide more detail about their work on the street while being deployed on Weed & Seed overtime, including number of gang or community policing contacts made, number of arrests made for felonies or misdemeanors and they also provide more specifics about location of patrol and warrants served.

## 6. **STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **CRIME ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED\*:**

\*Crime and arrest data from December 2004 were unavailable due to circumstances beyond our control.

During this reporting period, there was one murder and 14 rapes. However, for other violent crimes (simple assault, aggravated assault), a decrease in occurrences is apparent comparing to 2002, but there seems to be little change from 2003 to 2004. There were no shootings from July to November. There was a definite increase in car prowls from 2003 to 2004 but larceny crimes decreased about 7%. The number of drug arrests decreased 7% compared to this same period of 2003. Despite 'codeine' being added to the list of drugs for which people got arrested for Jan-June 2004, there were no arrests from July through November. There was at least an 8% increase in burglaries from 2003-2004.

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 and 32 from July to November 2004.

## **Law Enforcement/Corrections/Prosecution:**

*Reduce violent (gang, etc.) activity.*

- The Gang Enforcement Team (GET) of the GPD has continued with their efforts. It includes three full-time officers and six half-time (other half on regular patrol) officers who have been trained to support anti-gang missions and combat gang violence and crime.
- On regular duty (not RWS overtime), GET made 1654 contacts between July and October. At least 409 were contacts with suspected gang members. They made 81 arrests; two guns were recovered.
- GET Officers were scheduled on RWS overtime for mostly enhancement of patrol and also two gang-related missions. Enhanced Patrol results included making contact with known and associate gang members as well as non-affiliated community contacts; arresting menaces with weapons; curfew or criminal trespass violations. Team members also attended area high school football games.
- Members of the GPD/RWS target team (mentioned in the Evaluation section) ran a 'Warrant Service Mission' in December 2004. This detail allowed for arrests of two gang members/associates.
- The two Gang Violence Response Teams (GVRTs) were consolidated into one 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.
- In October 2003, a GPD General Order became effective to assist the Oregon Department of Justice in identifying gangs and gang members 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 2004, over 80 gang members were documented using these OR DOJ guidelines and the entire team began actively documenting gang members. 34 more gang members were documented through July 2004.
- The GPD regularly shares gang intelligence information with the Portland Police Bureau (PPB), Multnomah County (MC) Parole and Probation, Troutdale PD and Fairview PD. Due to unforeseen local budget cuts, a fully activated task force has not yet been formed. However, the effective collaborations among these agencies are listed throughout this document. 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.
- The City of Troutdale still arranges, on a regular basis, for a police officer to work with Gresham's GET on the street enforcement level related to gang crime. Fairview Police Department joins the efforts when coverage allows.
- The GPD GET provided several training sessions for area elementary, middle and high school administration & staff, citizen groups, city administrators, and Bureau of Emergency Communications regarding East MC Criminal Street Gangs.
- The Gang/Graffiti Tip Hotline continues in full implementation. The GPD receives an average of two calls per week, increasing to four or five in the summertime. If a concerned community member has information regarding graffiti or gang-related crimes or issues, he/she can call the GPD to leave a message giving details of those concerns either anonymously or provide contact information. The Community Safety Specialists of the GPD also assisted with some graffiti clean-up in Rockwood.
- A Drug Activity Tip Hotline also continues in full implementation. Those tips are referred to the Special Investigations Unit, a MC Sheriff's Office entity to which one GPD Detective is assigned.
- 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.

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

- There was roughly a 15% decrease in Domestic Violence related crimes from 2003 to 2004. However, there was at least an 8% 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 in the second year of a three-year 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 our educational service providers. We plan to develop trainings for interested parties related to dealing with DV in the workplace, etc.

*Reduce street level crimes.*

- The GPD has 28 Certified Bike Patrol Officers – two of these officers are members of the GET. With the bicycles and equipment purchased by RWS, 10 Officers had the opportunity to work a total of 51 hours of RWS overtime throughout this reporting period. DUIIs, traffic violations, warrant arrests, and alcohol consumption in the parks were 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. A minimum of 40 citizen contacts made, at least 10 were with suspected gang members.
- GPD staff continues to implement a car prowling project. During this reporting period, the Community Safety Specialists 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, several apartment complexes, a local Park & Ride and the Rockwood Library. This project’s materials were originally developed and permission to distribute was given by the Portland Police Bureau.
- A few GPD Officers and Explorers completed alcohol stings (Minor Compliance Program) within the Rockwood area. Out of 26 businesses, nine sold to minors.

*Reduce juvenile crime.*

- Juvenile crime data for this reporting period was not available at the time of submission of this report.
- 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.*

- One half-time Gresham Police Officer was assigned to the Housing Authority of Portland which oversees several low-income housing complexes in Rockwood.
- GPD Officers and Community Safety Specialists were present at several community events throughout this reporting period: the Rockwood International Marketplace, PAL Role Model Day, the annual Celebration of Cultures, Mt. Hood Legacy Health & Safety Fair and the 2004 Cleaning Campaign. 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 Community Safety Specialists in order to provide support when the gang issue is addressed.
- GPD staff organized a National Night Out community event to take place at a Gresham city park. Gresham residents came from across the city to participate in the festivities. GPD staff also assisted Ceasefire Oregon in organizing two gun turn-ins at a local fire station in the Rockwood area.

### **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. Presentations were made at two area middle schools and one high school for three classes of 30 youth each, mostly concerning alcohol & drug education.
- At the end of the reporting period, 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.

*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.*

- The FACTS Abstinence Curricula was presented at two local middle schools, through the partnership of El Programa Hispano and Northwest Family Services. Classes were held weekly and average attendance was 13 per session, 70% female. Thirty-five parents attended a meeting at each school plus one high school; the purposes were to explain the program, discuss the importance of this topic and how to address their children's questions and behavior.
- 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 521 youth from July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>

(322 males, 199 females). This is an increase of 167 youth over the same time period in 2003, an increase of 32%. 127 of these members have special needs. During this report period, the Youth Center was open 110 days; the total duplicated attendance was 10,052. PAL averaged 91.4 youth participating in programs per day. Safe Haven activities include: basketball, flag football, soccer, playground games, billiards, ping pong, foosball, board games, computer fun, music appreciation, movies, card games, arts and crafts, a dinner program, gym and games room tournaments and several local field trips.

- The increase in attendance is in direct correlation to increased on-site programs and a new 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.
- Special on-site programs held at the PAL Youth Center included: Oregon State University Extension Services Nutrition Education program, AKA Science, UNO/ZAP program, The National PAL Art Contest, Role Model Week (in which PAL's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated), Lego Robotics, Girls' Group, Rambunctious Readers, Supper Program, Homework Club and Campfire PALs. Special off-site programs included Portland Trailblazer games, swimming at community pools, hiking in the Columbia Gorge and at Mt. St. Helens, sledding at Mt. Hood, Rockwood Library field trips and trips to the Oregon Gardens and Zoo.
- 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 6 and ended August 10; the fall session ran from October 4 through December 17. 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 – 7:30 p.m. These activities include: Bike Safety Club, Book Club, Art Club, Chess Club, Homework Club, Drama 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 Parent Involvement Night as well as a Latino Parents' Night which 102 people attended. A total of 282 youth and 25 adults were served this reporting period through enrollment programming. 112 adults were served in two 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 70 extended day/enrollment programs were offered; 434 children and 181 adults were served through these 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 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.
- PAL coordinates NYSP (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.
- RWS has been involved with the Outreach group of the Latino Gang Violence Prevention Task Force to help plan a Latino Youth Forum which will take place in February 2005. The forum will give about 50 youth an opportunity to express their feelings about being Latino and influenced by gang crime to a group of school/education administrators in order to consider ways the educational system can improve and increase the high school completion rate among Latino youth.

*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. In six months, about 35 tickets were distributed to patients who needed transportation assistance in arriving to other sites to receive additional medical, dental and mental health services. In August, RWS purchased more tickets.

*Improve ethnic challenges and diminish discrimination.*

- The RWS Steering Committee and P/I/T Subcommittee are interested in editing the wording of this goal. We will note any minor change that may be made in the next progress report.
- With the performances and presentations celebrating ethnic diversity, the Rockwood International Marketplace, the Celebration of Cultures and the Mexican Independence Day festival gave attendees the opportunity to experience some of the diverse cultural traditions within Rockwood's community. There were moments of building community pride in the celebration of our ethnic roots.

*Support youth and families with childcare and other critical services.*

- Multnomah Early Childhood Program and Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) Head Start offer early childhood services to Rockwood residents and MHCC's new facility, Yamhill House, is still running strong. An area church's youth group, Ortem Sneet (Metro Teens), provided a day of community service at the Yamhill House in the summer of 2004. They assisted with special clean-up projects of the facilities and in the community garden and led art projects for the youngsters.
- Loaves & Fishes opened and closed a senior meal site in the Rockwood area during this reporting period. Due to circumstances beyond the control of Loaves & Fishes, they will have to go back to the drawing board to set up another similar facility to meet the need of the Rockwood community. RWS will continue to be a link for them as the planning develops.
- RWS partners organized the third annual Back To School Fair to benefit Rockwood youth. 345 students received a small bag of free school supplies; these youth represented 43 area schools within five school districts. Partners were also present to provide resource and referral information.

### **Neighborhood Restoration:**

*Improve the business vitality and image of the business community.*

- A number of community events were held during this reporting period: Rockwood International Marketplace, Celebration of Cultures, Mexican Independence Day Festival, National Night Out, Back To School Fair 2004, Freedom Jam 2004, Worldwide Day of Play, Ceasefire Oregon Gun Turn-In, Centennial Community Resource Fair, Winter Wonderland Walk 2004, Las Posadas, Campaña de limpieza (Cleaning Campaign) and the Rockwood Library's Winter Fair.
- The Rockwood International Marketplace premiered in 2004 as a new outdoor bazaar featuring arts, crafts, food and music from many cultures. It was created to give Rockwood residents and others a new venue for supplemental household income as well as a safe, family friendly place to gather and play. The RWS Steering Committee, Rockwood Neighborhood Association, City of Gresham and the East County One Stop Career System have all contributed to the successful development of the marketplace. The Verizon Foundation assisted with a generous grant to help provide marketing materials. Over 70 low-income vendors and new businesses participated in the first season which featured five weekend events. The 2005 season will kick-off the third weekend in May and continue for 19 consecutive weekends. The public market is bringing new energy and social capital to the Rockwood community. Fresh produce will be added to the 2005 product selection. The produce will be grown on the campus of two correctional facilities, contributing to Oregon's Prison Industry program and generating fresh organic produce for local residents.
- 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: Centennial N'hood Assoc., 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, Human Solutions, Latino Network, My Sister's House, Police Activities League, Rockwood N'hood Assoc., Rockwood Pastors and the Outreach group of the Latino Gang Violence Prevention Team.
- RWS continues to contract with a webmaster to oversee the maintenance of the Oregon W&S website: [www.weedandseedoregon.org](http://www.weedandseedoregon.org). RWS Steering Committee members are consistently encouraged to provide feedback on the website and its contents.
- Plans are being developed for the means of keeping the community members connected: together and to resources. Newsletter and community information phone lines are options that are being discussed. The City of Gresham agreed to provide a telephone line free of charge for RWS to set up Rockwood's Community Access Phone Line. The script and the marketing plan are being developed and information will be provided in English, Spanish and Russian. (503.618.BUZZ)
- 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. When the 'BUZZ' is live, the newsletter will be on the list of marketing strategies.

*Increase community stability in Rockwood. Improve housing conditions. Develop leadership in the community. Decrease poverty/increase wealth.*

- RWS partners have been formulating plans to gather the managers of area complexes to ask them to discuss the issues they are facing within the properties.
- Making connections at neighborhood and apartment complex meetings as mentioned above is important to the development of establishing more leadership in Rockwood.
- El Comite de Padres de Reynolds (Reynolds High School Parents Association) continued efforts during this period. El Programa Hispano and El Comite held a meeting in October to present "No Child Left Behind Act" so parents can learn more about this topic. Eduardo Angulo, leader of the Coalition for Equality in Salem was the presenter. About 100 parents attended the meeting.
- RWS assisted the Latino Network and MC Department of Health's Community Health Workers to organize and hold a Campana de limpieza – Cleaning Campaign – at Rockwood complexes. Residents and volunteers spent the day cleaning their parking lots, walking and green spaces and laundry rooms to help make the environment more livable and safe.

### **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 28 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 needed 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) continues to employ the Community Service Coordinator. Supported by the Special Emphasis funds, she worked about ten hours/week and continues to fulfill the duties of the Coordinator and reports to the RWS Site Coordinator, also an employee of PAL.
- During this reporting period, the GCC sentenced defendants to one main community service program. Since July, the Community Service Coordinator assigned 196 people to complete their community service in local non-profit agencies. 20 people are still in progress, 134 successfully completed and 46 were unsuccessful. Out of the 196 placements, 175 were placed at agencies within the Gresham community. A total of 2376 hours were donated to the Rockwood/Gresham community for a value of \$16,750. This program enjoyed a 67% 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. The other two Weed & Seed sites that fund this position are in their last fiscal year of funding so finding an alternative funding source will be necessary for this position to continue.
  - The GCC received a new judge during the reporting period and most agree that accountability has improved for non-compliant defendants.

Primary areas that need improvement:

- Permanent funding should be found for the Community Service Coordinator position temporarily funded by RWS Special Emphasis funds.
- 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. Seven 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.
- 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.*

- Last reporting period, RWS had submitted a proposal for designation of an AmeriCorps Member; however, the application was denied. Therefore, the RWS Site Coordinator agreed to be the main contact for setting up the referral system. Contacts were made with the Gresham Police Department, Oregon Dept. of Human Services, Multnomah County Department of Community Justice and area prevention program coordinators and school counselors.
- Janus Youth Programs finalized the contract with RWS and the curriculum that they will be presenting for the family involvement course called "Talking It Out".
- 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 first series will begin January 2005 as well as the planning to provide the next series in Spanish.