

Rockwood Weed and Seed Steering Committee
Thursday, November 18, 2004; 5:00pm
Portland Lutheran School Library

- I. **Welcome/Introductions** – Kathie Minden, Helen Estrada, Chris Piekarski, Gloria Wiggins, Virginia Warren, Angeline Hayes, Gene Hayes, Dina DiNucci, Gayle Brooks, Rich Pierce, Kristen West, Sarada Boland, Beth Faulhaber, Pat Kunert, Cheryl Houston, Joseph Echegoyen, Ivan Cortes, Maria Avila, Brenda Butler.
- II. **Approval of October Minutes:** Chris motioned, Gloria seconded. October RWS minutes were approved.
- III. **What's Happening With You?** – *Group updates of community involvement.*
- Gloria informed us about a Low Income Tax Clinic that will start in January to help folks with their taxes. It will be Spanish oriented, but anyone who qualifies as low income is welcome. This will be paid for by the three year grant that El Programa received through the IRS. This assistance will be available all year, not just during the tax season. Call 503.669.8350 for more information.
 - Gloria also updated us on the newest members of the El Programa Hispano staff. They have a family mentor now, they are still looking for a bilingual counselor, and they just received a new safety advocate for domestic violence!
 - In November, El Programa held the grand opening of their new (additional) facility in Portland: 901 SE Oak, Suite 106 Portland, OR 97214 503 236 9670
 - Virginia shared with us the newest changes in the employment department. The new iMatch (Where employers and job seekers connect) program is now up and running. Job seekers and employers can post information on the internet. You can update your records, search for jobs, post jobs, send letters to possible employers/employees and employers can search for applicants.
 - Also Virginia wanted to remind everyone that the "Unemployment" office moved to Milwaukee but the "Employment" department is still located in Gresham. Kathie inquired about the employment outlook and Virginia said that the employment outlook has been improving a lot! It is looking very good. There are several manufacturing and clerical jobs right now.
 - Oregon Employment Department's Weekly Claim Line: 503.224.0405.
Online: www.workinginoregon.org
Questions? Call 503.661.0854 option 1.
Mailing address: METRO UI Center FO 200
PO Box 22049
Milwaukie, OR 97269-2049
 - Angie brought up her concerns for Loaves and Fishes because they are no longer going to be serving lunches at the United Methodist Church. Wednesday, 11/24/2004 was the last day. They want to continue to serve the Rockwood community, but the location is undetermined. If you would like to volunteer, Loaves and Fishes still can use extra hands out in Gresham. 503.988.4850
 - Chris McCormack is continuing to work with El Programa and the PSN efforts to gather middle school and high school students to talk about their feelings about

safety, gang involvement and access to guns. 10-15 kids are in each group, they plan to hold gatherings 2 times per month til June, to end up with about 200 kids total. The leaders of the groups will present in August.

- Beth announced that the PAL Youth Center will be open December 20th – 23rd and December 27th – 30th from 10:00AM – 5PM. “Magical Night of Giving” was held on Sunday, November 21st from 6PM – 9PM at Lloyd Center Mall. Tickets were \$5.00 each and 100% of proceeds of tickets bought from PAL, went to PAL. Also, during Thanksgiving week, they opened the center for breakfast at 8am (until 6pm) as a pilot project, to feel out the need for services during that time.
- Rich talked about a number of requests for the gang outreach presentations. The Team went to HBLee in November, Gresham High in December and the Sandy School District wanted the presentation because they have been noticing gang influences in their elementary schools.
- Rich also talked about the additional detail and evaluation that will begin soon. A team of 8 from GPD will be focusing on the section between Glisan and Yamhill from 187th to 197th. They (RWS staff) are hoping to do a survey of the area for community members’ perceptions of safety and fear of crime. They are currently so understaffed due to injuries that officers don’t/can’t work the Weed and Seed overtime. There is a plan in motion to have the 8 officers to make up for this ‘lost’ time by targeting this area, but other GPD reps will still be working OT too, just elsewhere within the rest of the RWS boundaries. They will have a schedule that is set just like regular hours. We hope to run this detail for six months, with consideration of a survey before and a survey after. Of the 8 officers there will be one gang officer who is highly qualified. The zone chosen is very high density with a range of different types of housing and business.
- Joseph Echegoyen, of El Corazon Hispano, has a non-profit that works with gang affiliated youth. Joseph notices the escalation of gangs and that there is a noticeably larger female gang problem. Female gangs are forming alliances. El Corazon Hispano’s focuses are gang prevention, anger management, conflict resolution, relative/family assistance for Latino youth. He was previously with Eastwind until their funding got cut and started his own organization 2 years ago.
- Gayle Brooks mentioned one correction that needed to be made on the report that was distributed at October’s meeting. The community service hours that were completed (16) at El Programa were combined with those done at Hispanic Access. Apologies for the mistake.
- Ivan Cortes and other staff began about 2 months ago to gather parents of gang affiliated youth to form a support group and discuss how to deal with the problems and how to help the youth. The group meets about once every 2 weeks; 10-12 families have been participating. Parents’ relations with school, parole & probation and police are discussed and they’ve talked about how to get more involved.
- Helen announced that Human Solutions is pursuing space for a new main office (which is now on 122nd) to be located in Region 6 (hoping for Rockwood area). Around June 1st, a smaller office will be in Region 5.
- Sarada Boland, from SUN/MFS (Davis & Alder), told us how she is making sure that all kids have a bed to sleep in. There is a warehouse (Oregon Community

Warehouse) of furniture that she can access, so if you know of any families in need, contact Sarada. Also if you have furniture you would like to donate please talk to her. The warehouse is in NW Portland and is a non-profit.

- Kathie announced that the playground in Vance Park is up!!! People for Parks is working with the Community Court to help get the gravel up and out. (And it's now complete in January!) There is a regional collaborative effort with a 501(c)3 called People for Parks East County. The next steering committee meeting is January 10th at the Reynolds Administration Office. There will be discussion about grant writing to fund a coordinator's position.
- Kathie also reminded everyone that December 4th is the Winter Wonderland Walk with the luminaries and the tree lighting starting at 5PM.
- Cheryl Houston announced that the first case of flue in Oregon was reported this week. If you can't get a flu shot, you can visit your health center for a nasal spray for the flu. 503.872.6900.
- The Rockwood Neighborhood Health Access Center will continue to be open for women's preventative health services Mondays and Thursdays – due to the I-tax remaining in play. Wallace also continues to help with acute adult problems on Monday and Wednesday evenings.
- The next Neighborhood Watch training session was on November 30th. For more information contact Sherry Connolly at 503-618-2546.
- Brenda distributed copies of a list of Holiday Resources, compiled by Oregon Food Bank. It can be found on our website: www.weedandseedoregon.org
- Brenda also displayed copies of Insites, the one and only Weed & Seed magazine distributed out of USDOJ. The Community Capacity Development Office is now launching this magazine via the internet ONLY. If you would like to be on the distribution list, please contact Brenda.
- RWS also has the opportunity to showcase a story in INSITES. If you have ideas of a topic that should be submitted, please contact Brenda.

IV. Schedule of Events – See Handout for upcoming events to support our partners

- 12/4/04: Cleaning Campaign, 9-1, Rockwood Landing
- 12/9/04: PAL Pacesetter's Season of Giving Reception
- 12/9/04: Centennial Community Resource Fair
- 12/11/04: Rockwood Library Winter Fair
- 12/04: Las Posadas
- 1/18/05: Gresham City Council RWS Presentation
- 1/20/05: RWS Meeting
- 1/26/05: Talking It Out class begins
- 1/28/05: RWS progress report due
- The National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise will again coordinate a Weed & Seed Youth Leadership Conference to take place in June 2005. If you have suggestions of who might participate, please contact Brenda.

V. Community Outreach

- Brenda and Kathie have met with two Center for Advanced Learning (CAL) students to discuss the opportunity for them to design the RWS newsletter. They will continue to be in contact and publication may happen in spring 2005.
- The community access phone line is also in the makings. The City of Gresham is still agreeing to provide the phone line at no cost. Anyone with an opinion on what should be included on the phone line should contact Brenda.

VI. Evaluation

- RWS (not the GPD) will be in charge of surveying the community. Dina mentioned that the neighborhood audit that she was planning should be considered for partial inclusion in the survey questions. If anyone is willing to go door-to-door to volunteer as a surveyor, please contact Brenda.
- We believe it is time to consider a process evaluation of RWS. Most attendees agreed that they would complete a survey if asked.

VII. Next Steering Committee Meeting - Thursday, January 20th 2005, 5-7PM at the Rockwood Library. Attendance is important as we will be discussing the 2005-2006 application for funding.

Happy Holidays!