

The C.R.I.M.E. Times

Pass on the Peace!



C.R.I.M.E. Strategic Plan: Goals for 2011 and Beyond

By: Tevin Ratcliff

Our main goals for the 2011-year are to go global. If we go global we will be helping more people around the world, not just Chicago. Next would be to get more teen participants to help get our information out about violence and how to stop it. We as C.R.I.M.E. think if we give more speeches then there would be more people trained in violence prevention. One of our main goals is to expand our curriculum. If we expand our curriculum, we would be solving more problems. We are also looking forward to the possibility of writing a new book this year to continue to help teens and people that work with them.

C.R.I.M.E. is a youth led group who want to stop violence. C.R.I.M.E. never stops working on this goal in forms of presentations, writing, and working in the community. In C.R.I.M.E., the “C” means *compassion*, the “R” means *respect*, the “I” means *inspiration*, “M” means *motivation*, and “E” means *empathy*.

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Youth in Action – C.R.I.M.E. Teens 2010 Year of Advocacy
Special Announcements and Acknowledgements**

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Fall Speaking Engagements

The teens go to different groups in the Chicago area to try to teach others how to live a peaceful life, since we have started C.R.I.M.E.; we have expanded our presentations to elementary, middle school students, and professionals.

Chicago Youth Center

August 2010

By: Larissa Wells

When the C.R.I.M.E. Group went to the Chicago Youth Center it was a great experience for me because that was actually my first time presenting with the group. There, we vibe with the kids; some of the things they went through we could relate to it, like violence in the neighborhoods, gangs, school, and etc. In my opinion it seemed like they felt safe talking to us and safe opening up about different situations. Some of things we talked to them about were... Anger management, Bullying, Self-esteem, and Conflict resolution. We broke it down as far as what the four situations meant, how to solve the problems, and different ways to react to the situation, but the kids were very interested in our performance, they participated on a level I cannot even put into words. I believe it was huge success.



IVPA TRIP

Bv: Kevin Ratcliff

Some of the C.R.I.M.E group went to Joliet for a youth summit. The facilitators that were in charge of the summit were teenagers. The summit had different kinds of groups that people went to. Other crime prevention groups were there too. Each group that we went to talked about aspects of the community and ways we can improve the community as well. Also we were able to tell other groups about C.R.I.M.E. In my opinion I think the trip was a big success. Also I learned more things that would help our future presentations. The summit also talked about some organizations that help teenagers that go to jail. They talked about helping them get out of gang life and to teaching them how to deal with anger. Jeff was proud of us for coming with him to the youth summit.



Hyde Park Health Fair

By: LaShunda Martin

On Saturday October 2, 2010 C.R.I.M.E. took a trip to the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club, a health fair put on by Senator Kwame Raoul. We did not know exactly what we would run into that day. We started the day by selling our book *C.R.I.M.E.* and handing out pamphlets about violence prevention. Later we decided to move downstairs when we heard there was a basketball game taking place. To our surprise, Secretary Arne Duncan was on one of the teams playing! We decided to stay and watch. Eventually, we noticed that Secretary Duncan stopped to take a break. My co-worker and I were able to stop and speak with him about C.R.I.M.E. This experience was surreal and exciting, especially for me and my co-worker Kenyatti Hellum. After we approached Secretary Duncan and introduced ourselves, he asked what our purpose for being there was. We explained to him that we are a teen operated violence prevention group. He told us that we should be very proud of ourselves and that we have bright futures ahead of us!

Youth Development Presentation at UIC

Thoughts from C.R.I.M.E. Keynote Speakers

By: Daria Siler and Desiree Tellis

Presentation Occurred November 6, 2010

Daria Siler:

When I presented at UIC I felt the presentation was very effective. We talked about how education, advocacy, and research are all important aspects to our program and how they played a major role in publishing our book. Initially, things were a little nerve wrecking because I was in a new setting, presenting to various educators, program supervisors, and other adults working to end violence in our communities. I remember the room being dead silent, which really made me nervous because I was used to younger children being energetic and very excited to answer questions. Whereas, adults were more observant. However, I finished the presentation. I was proud because I had been successful in presenting despite my bad case of butterflies. At the end of the day I also knew the presentation was successful because the audience had a lot of questions concerning the presentation and a lot of them told us they enjoyed listening to and learning about what we do. We also met a guy who was interested in imitating our curriculum on the West Side of Chicago. The presentation altogether left me proud of the movement I am a part of. I felt like a proud parent of a very successful child! It made me appreciate C.R.I.M.E. all the more.



Desiree Tellis

When I presented to the educators, board members, and policy makers at the University of Illinois in Chicago, I felt that my presentation was very effective and enlightening. The aspects of C.R.I.M.E. that I talked about were education and our book.

When talking about education, I told the audience some things to remember when presenting to youths. Some of the advice I gave was to keep things simple and another was to encourage youth participation. The next part that I talked about was the book and its content, so I discussed the different quotes within the book, the different chapters, and the purpose of the book, which is to decrease youth and community violence.

At the end of the presentation I reached the last chapter entitled, *Where do we go from here?* This chapter discussed how we as the C.R.I.M.E. teens don't want this book to collect dust and be pointless. **We want it to change lives.** The last sentences express how it is up to us to solve these problems of violence within our neighborhoods. We need to stop being silent and speak out!

I felt these presentations were effective because at the end I received various questions from the audience. One of the questions was what advice would I give to help children and adolescents. I told the audience that as teachers your job is not just to teach, but it is to change lives. In order to do this you need to be involved in the lives of those whom you are teaching. You also need to make sure that you lead by example. Most youth observe your actions rather than listen to what you have to say. This presentation was a huge success!



Loyola University Chicago Presentation

By: Kenyatti Hellum

My fellow crime members and I presented to over 100 college students, social workers and, other professionals at Loyola University. This was one of my favorite presentations. I say this because the college students that we talked to were so interested in what we as teenagers had to say. To me it was a privilege to speak.

We got to talk about the motives of crime, what our purpose is and the future of crime. The part I especially liked was when we got to explain how C.R.I.M.E. changed us. I enjoyed this because C.R.I.M.E. changed me and the other members in so many ways for example being in C.R.I.M.E. made me actually pay attention to how I appear to younger youth as a role model, I also began to not only feel more comfortable doing public speaking but I also now enjoy it. This section of our presentation seemed heart warming; one of the audience members even began to cry. It seemed amazing to me what the outcome of this small group turned out to be. When giving my speech and showing the PowerPoint I felt that C.R.I.M.E had more of an impact that I could ever imagine. We went from about 5 members discussing different subjects of violence in a room to having the privilege to talk to over 100 college students and professionals and sell our book. We also got to talk about our success stories such as our first member going to college this year and one of our members writing her own book. I'm very proud to be a member of C.R.I.M.E., it has taught me many different values. We have much more success to come and will continue to give presentations and spread the message of violence prevention among youth and adults.



University of Chicago Presentation

By: Monique Ratcliff

At the U of C presentation we went to different workshops. There were many to choose from. My brothers went to a workshop for the organization Umoja that was about different types of gangs and videos about crime and how it affected people. There were scenes shown on how to prevent some things from happening. I went to a workshop that dealt with jail and different schools that had gun violence. During the workshop I was in, a girl and I talked to the group about what we can do and took charge because it was a very important topic. The best one part of this day was the C.R.I.M.E. workshop because I was in it. My C.R.I.M.E. partners and I talked about how to use compassion, respect, inspiration, motivation and empathy. I feel that we did a good job! It felt good presenting in front of a nice amount of people. We also got good feedback. I would like to do more workshops it was fun.

Presentation at Salazar School

By: Monique Ratcliff

My experience at Salazar was really challenging! We presented to over 300 kids throughout the school day. It was fun because we got to present to a diverse group of kids who had different backgrounds and got to hear their perspectives on topics that affect kids. I enjoyed doing ice breakers the best with the students because that is when both the kids and adults in the room got excited! I know that the students held on to what we taught because when they saw us again in the hallway they said they were going to tell their parents and other family members about what we presented, and many also said they really liked what we knew and presented to them!



Hyde Park Book Fair:

In September 2010 C.R.I.M.E. was part of the Hyde Park Children's Book fair where we were able to sell our book, talk to the community about the program, and meet other artists and writers. It was a great day to give back to the community and get a chance to tell other neighborhoods about the C.R.I.M.E. Project!

Presentation at Donoghue Charter School

By LaTierra Wells

On November 20, 2010 I presented at Donoghue school to a selection of boys. They were smart, intelligent young men. The boys were kind of talkative but they were paying attention. When it came down to questions they were anxious to participate and gave good answers. Feedback I gave the students was to allow everyone to get a chance to answer, however the same 4 or 5 kids always seemed to want to participate! If I could give them good feedback it's that they were really smart and I'm very glad they were into our presentation!

C.R.I.M.E.

Sneak PREVIEW of our Children's Book!

C.R.I.M.E. is excited to share a sneak peak of our upcoming Children's Book starring our one and only mascot Suluhu! We would also like to thank our amazing teen artists

Madeline Finn, Victoria DeLeon, and Leslie Villagrana and ChiArts for helping make our vision come true!



C.R.I.M.E. Also wants to thank Donoghue Charter School for

Hosting us over the Winter Months to finish out our 2010 year of success!

A Year of Thanks!

The C.R.I.M.E. Project wants to thank all those who have supported us this year and helped our vision of a peaceful world: **Loyola University Chicago, University of Chicago, UIC, Roosevelt University, Project Nia Salazar School**; for letting us present the C.R.I.M.E. Project, **Donoghue Charter School** for giving us a place to learn and work, **West Point Church**, for the awesome summer, and great team members, **ChiArts**, for providing amazing artists and talent, **Kimberly Svevo** for her insight into C.R.I.M.E.'s Future and helping support global partnerships ... and of course the youth for their perseverance and dedication!

C.R.I.M.E. IN COLLEGE!
C.R.I.M.E. wants to recognize its three C.R.I.M.E. Seniors who are off to college Fall, 2011 and moving on to make change in their new communities: Aaron Shannon, Daria Siler, and Desiree Tellis
Pass on the Peace!

To continue to support C.R.I.M.E. or want to get in touch please do the following:

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