

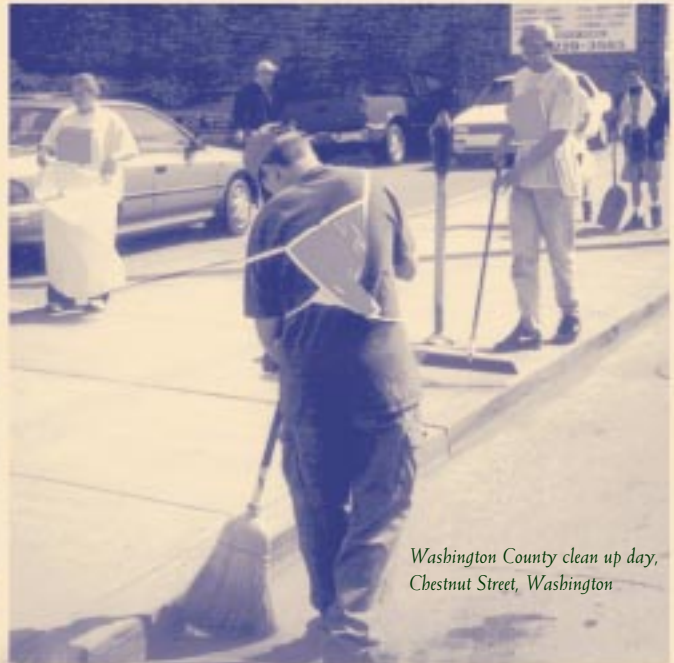
PENNSYLVANIA Juvenile Justice

Community Involvement
and Protection Edition

Fall
2003



Back to school fashion show, including youths with exceptionalities, Washington Mall



Washington County clean up day, Chestnut Street, Washington



Gift wrapping for donations to the Juvenile Crime Victims' Fund, Washington Mall



Beaded theme pins

The Community Services (CS) Program of the Washington County Court System creates meaningful involvement opportunities for juveniles to pay restitution to crime victims, work off court costs and fines or to resolve court-ordered hours while contributing to the local community and non-profit organizations. Whenever possible, attempts are made to tie projects to client interests, skills, needs, or career choices. Projects which are designed to foster community donations to the Juvenile Crime Victims' Fund are especially rewarding to all involved and have raised over \$5,000 for the fund to date.

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Patriotic Pride

Submitted by Sara Michaels, Luzerne County Probation Department

Recently the Martin L. Mattei Middle School, in the Pittston Area School District, Luzerne County, conducted a care good drive for the United States Military Personnel on active duty with "Operation Iraqi Freedom". The mascot for the Pittston Area School District is the "Patriot", with this in mind, the project was named "Operation Patriot Pride". The Martin L. Mattei Middle School students are proud to be "Patriots" and as a sign of patriotism, as a school community, the faculty and students contributed their thoughts and efforts to the men and woman serving the United States in "Operation Iraqi Freedom". This project was run with the involvement of the Veterans of the Vietnam War Inc., the local American Red Cross, Luzerne County Juvenile Probation, and the Pittston Area School District community. On the advice of the Veterans of the Vietnam War Inc., with headquarters in Pittston, Pennsylvania, a list of requested goods for the military was distributed in the Pittston Area School District community as well as the local newspaper. In addition to the actual goods that were collected, the Veterans group encouraged "generic" letters to be written to the men and woman serving our country.

This community service project was centered around the involvement of ten boys who were currently under supervision with the Luzerne County Juvenile Probation department. All ten boys were involved with the same crime and were placed on probation on the same day. To repair the harm they caused to the community the boys were required to perform a certain amount of community service hours. This project was designed to incorporate as many aspects of "Balanced and Restorative Justice" as possible. The project was meant to be a learning

experience for the boys while at the same time having an effect on the local community. In its developing stages, it was never imagined that the project would have the results that it did, not only in the attitudes of the boys involved, but in its effect on the local, national and international levels that it reached. In addition to the ten boys on probation, monitored by myself, there were two Learning Support classrooms from the Martin L. Mattei Middle School directly involved.

total there were over 100 boxes of goods that would be sent off to the men and woman of the United States Military. In addition to the goods, each boy involved with the Juvenile Justice System wrote personal messages to the troops. They also helped in making signs and posters with the students of the Learning Support classrooms who were unable to write letters themselves. With each letter and poster that was forwarded, the students enclosed e-mail addresses, hoping they may gain correspondence with one of the United States Military personnel.



"Operation Patriot Pride" at The Martin L. Mattei Middle School

The students were responsible for collecting the goods from each classroom at the end of every school day and after school. They would then divide the goods into similar piles in order to more efficiently pack the care boxes. In addition to the daily collections at the school, on Saturday April 12, 2003, there was a community drop off at the middle school that the students organized and worked. This gave the community an opportunity to show support for the United States military.

At the end of the community drop off, the boys loaded boxes with the collected goods and managed to fill three trucks. In

One aspect of being on probation is accountability to the community in order to achieve balanced and restorative justice. Since the crimes committed by the boys impacted the community, one of the major goals of their dispositions included holding them accountable for repairing the harm within their home communities. In addition, their community actions aided in the development of competencies to enable these boys to become responsible and productive members of the community. This project gave a positive image to The Juvenile Justice System within the school itself but also within the greater Pittston Area Community as a whole. These boys came together not only individually but along with their families, friends, and students and faculty of the Pittston Area School district. The boys worked eagerly on the project and saw positive results at the end of the drive. When the goods were dropped off for delivery to United States Military personnel, there were men and woman from the local reserves at the drop off site in full uniform. These men thanked the boys personally and the juveniles were able to personally thank these men and woman for serving the United States of America. ✪

The Philadelphia Youth Violence Reduction Partnership

"Supporting Community Protection"

The Philadelphia Youth Violence Reduction Partnership (YVRP) is a multi-agency anti-violence initiative serving the most violent areas of Philadelphia.

The goal of YVRP is to work with those youth (called Youth Partners) between the ages of 14 & 24 who are **most likely to kill or be killed before their 24th birthday**. The motto is "Alive at 25".

YVRP is a true collaboration between Juvenile and Adult Probation Departments, Philadelphia Safe and Sound, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, the Philadelphia Police Department, Philadelphia Anti-Drug Anti-Violence Network (PAAN), the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS), local clergy and the Philadelphia School District. In addition, the Coordinating Office of Drug and Alcohol Prevention (CODAAP) provides treatment, support and assistance to the Youth Partners. Public/Private Ventures (P/PV) monitors the project, assesses progress and provides operational guidance.

The partners have weekly operational meetings to review day to day details of the project. In addition to daily business, one Probation Officer and PAAN Street Worker team is scheduled to present each case to the board. During that time, comments and advice is given. There is a management team that meets monthly and a Steering Committee that meets bi-monthly.

From a Juvenile Probation perspective, this type of probation, clearly represents the principles of the Mission of Juvenile Justice in Pennsylvania. Each individual Youth Partners' probation plan reflects the Balance and Restorative Justice (BARJ) philosophy which includes:

- Community Protection
- Accountability
- Competency Development

All Youth Partners are required to attend school, seek employment or attend other support programs as needed. These programs include but are not limited to, job development and drug and alcohol treatment. They are also required to pay any court ordered restitution, pay court costs and complete court order community services.

YVRP is an intensive, cooperative form of probation providing supervision and services for the highest risk youth and young adults in the areas in which the program operates. Maintaining close contact and establishing a strong presence in the community ensures that the conditions of probation are honored and also make the Youth Partner aware that they can no longer disregard those terms without legal consequences. Probation Officers work closely with Police Officers. One component of the program is **Targeted Patrol**. This is where Probation Officers visits the Youth Partners during non-traditional hours (usually from 4:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.) with Police Officers who are not in uniform and they are in unmarked cars.

Targeted patrol is usually done four to eight times a month. Probation Officers meet at the police district and they debrief (review their caseloads) to plot the patrol. A determination is then made as to who needs immediate supervision. During the patrol, both the Probation Officers and the Police Officers visit the home to make contact with the Youth Partner and their families. Hot Spots (areas of concern) or drug corners are also visited to make sure Youth Partners are not there and curfew checks are regularly done. Youth Partners who may be on Bench Warrant status are also looked for and sometimes taken into custody during these patrols.

The PAAN Street workers are also a vital component of the project and are very important partners. Their function is similar to that of an Aftercare Worker. They also have contact standards of eight

successful home visits and eight successful 'out of home' visits.

The five major elements in YVRP are:

- Identification of high risk youth
- Surveillance through the Probation, Police and Street Workers
- Graduated Sanctions such as area and association restriction or curfew checks, etc.
- Positive Supports from drug treatment to job placement and educational assistance
- Gun Suppression (zero tolerance for gun charges)

The combination of the above five elements, the collaboration of the partners, the commitment of the line staff, the ability to "Fast Track" cases through Juvenile Court for violations of probation and the accountability of all to the program, the Youth Violence Reduction Partnership has definitely made its mark in the area of community protection. ✨

For more information, contact Tina Marie Coley, Assistant Supervisor, YVRP 215-683-8228

Editors Note:

The goals of the Juvenile Justice System in Pennsylvania include holding juvenile offenders accountable for offenses committed, to protect the community from known offenders, and to assist juvenile offenders in developing competencies so that they are more capable of being productive and responsible members of the community.

This special edition of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice newsletter focuses on community protection and involvement. The articles in this edition illustrate the successful collaboration between the juvenile justice system and community organizations in taking an active role in juvenile crime prevention services and activities. The editorial review board of this edition thanks the authors of the articles for sharing their views and experiences in their work.

Community Mediation

An Innovative Approach to Balance and Restorative Justice

Submitted by Kelly Tuma, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Officer

On Labor day Weekend, 2002, three juveniles vandalized and stole thousands of dollars in property from Beach Wood Elementary School in Allegheny County. The impact of this crime had the students, teachers, faculty and community emotionally and financially devastated. These youth appeared in juvenile court and were ordered by Judge Robert Colville to formally apologize to the students of the school. As the probation officer assigned to the case, I felt that this was very appropriate. It would provide the victims the opportunity to face the juveniles and hear the reasons why they committed such a heinous act.

I first contacted Principal Patricia Kupec and she was very open and accepting of this innovative approach. She felt that her students would receive closure and be able to put the incident behind them. I was provided with copies of the victim impact statement after the juveniles appearance in Court. With the help of Probation Officer Christine Lisko we reviewed hundreds of impact statements. All were thoughtfully written by the elementary students who were effected by this crime. Copies of several of the statements were then given to juvenile offenders to review while they were in placement at the Allegheny Academy community treatment program. One youth was sent to the VisionQuest residential program and he was also required to read these copies as well.

Initially, the juveniles were to attend a student assembly to meet with the students effected by this incident, however, upon deliberation with the school officials it was determined that the juveniles would apologize to members of the PTA board on February 16, 2003. The PTA consists of faculty members, community members, parents, teachers, and students. It was felt that this would register a more appropriate impact for the juveniles than speaking before all the youth in the school.

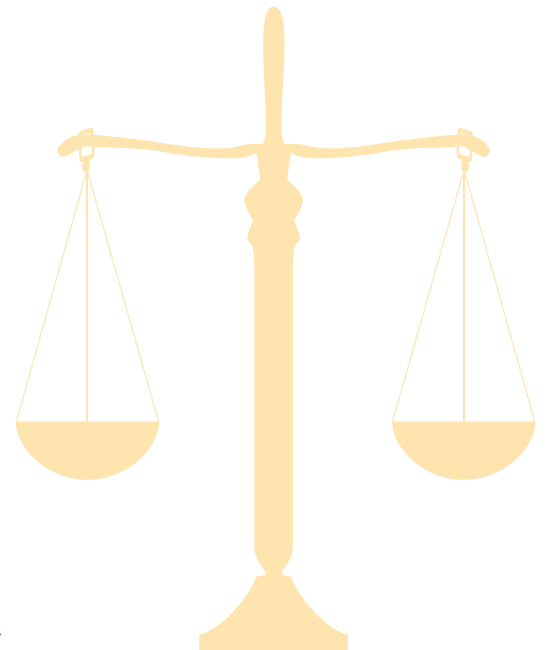
In addition, there would be more representation from the community through this arrangement. However we did have one concern. We had no idea how the community would react to seeing the youth who destroyed

their school. These youths are now coming back to the school, the scene of the crime, and we were not sure how the school officials and community would accept their apology or would there be any animosity present during this meeting towards the juveniles or towards the juvenile justice system.

The juveniles were met by probation officers and staff from the Allegheny Academy to review how they would present their statements and apologies. The goal was to make sure the boys knew how much their crimes had affected an entire community. The staff at the VisionQuest Program also worked with the youth committed there.

The day of the meeting, Judge Colville was present as well as representatives from juvenile probation department. The youth stood in front of approximately twenty-five PTA members as well as court staff and VisionQuest staff and apologized. The apologies were nothing fancy and not long winded, but they were honest. Of course the boys were nervous but they handled themselves as young men. After the brief, yet heartfelt apologies were done, the room was silent for a moment. The emotional impact was evident on everyone's face. After what seemed like an eternity a man in the audience stood and asked to respond. Apprehension best describes the next moment. Was he about to lash out at the boys? No one knew what to expect at this point. He did express his disappointment in the boys but offered forgiveness. Two more community members and another teacher offered similar sentiments. After the meeting which lasted about 30 minutes, a valuable service was provided for the community. Both healing and disappointment were expressed and it was a growing experience for all who were involved. The community received closure and the juveniles were held to a new level of accountability and maturity. It also provided myself as a probation officer great job satisfaction to see these youth learn a lesson in life by having to face their victims. It is my hope that other probation officers and probationers will have an opportunity to participate in such a rewarding experience.

After all, life is full of emotions, some good, some bad. If this opportunity would present itself again, I would certainly accept the challenge and encourage others to do the same. ✨



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Mary Gaspari – Chester County Probation Department

Articles & photos pertaining to Balanced and Restorative Justice are welcome and may be submitted via e-mail to andrewdeangelo@lehighcounty.org

or by mail to

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NCJRS hosts one of the largest criminal and juvenile justice libraries and databases in the world (http://abstractsdb.ncjrs.org/content/AbstractsDB_Search.asp). The collection, with holdings from the early 1970s to the present, contains more than 180,000 publications, reports, articles, and audiovisual products from the United States and around the world. These resources include statistics, research findings, program descriptions, congressional hearing transcripts, and training materials.

The abstract record for each item in the NCJRS library includes the title, author, sponsoring agency, purchasing address, journal citation, and indexing terms, as well as a 100- 200-word summary of the document's contents. Keyword and index term searches of the database are easy. With the search capabilities offered, you can quickly retrieve all the citations relevant to your question or area of interest.



Mission of the Juvenile Justice System

"Juvenile Justice: Community Protection Victim Restoration, Youth Redemption."

Community Protection refers to the right of all Pennsylvania citizens to be and feel safe from crime.

Victim Restoration emphasizes that, in Pennsylvania, a juvenile who commits a crime harms the victim of the crime and the community, and thereby incurs an obligation to repair that harm to the greatest extent possible.

Youth Redemption embodies the belief that juvenile offenders in Pennsylvania have strengths, are capable of change, can earn redemption, and can become responsible and productive members of their community.

Furthermore, all of the services designed and implemented to achieve this mission and all hearings and decisions under the Juvenile Act — indeed all aspects of the juvenile justice system — must be provided in a fair and unbiased manner. The United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions guarantee rights and privileges to all citizens, regardless of race, color, creed, gender, national origin or handicap.

Lehigh County Adopts Geographic Information System

A Powerful Tool in Resource Development and Deployment

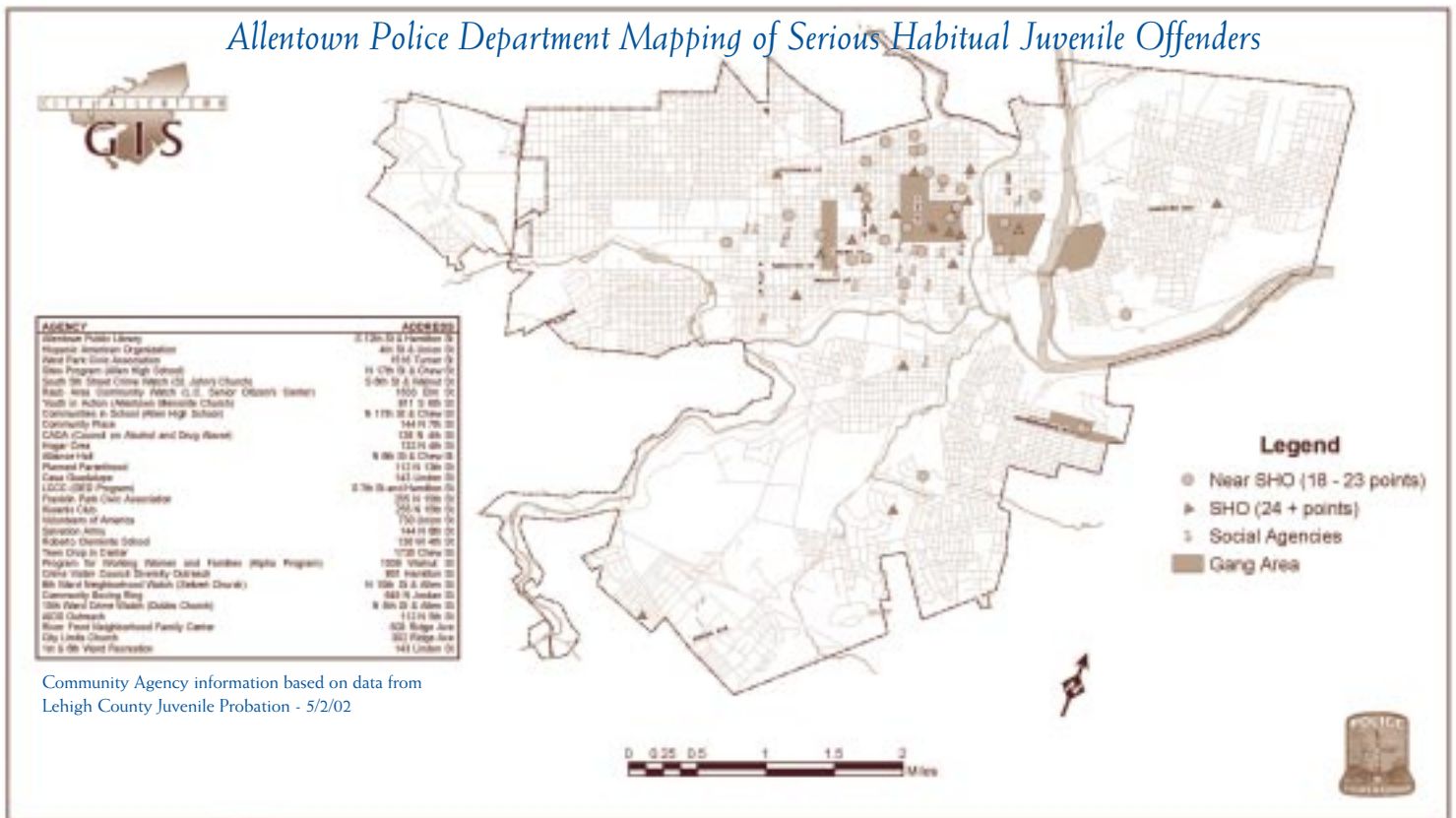
Submitted by Andrew J. DeAngelo, Lehigh County

As a result of the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice being adopted into the Juvenile Act of Pennsylvania there has been increasing attention and services provided by the Juvenile Justice System for community protection and involvement. Many juvenile probation departments have implemented community supervision services in order to be more visible and

of the Lehigh County Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program, SHOCAP.

The Juvenile Probation Department and Allentown Police have formed a partnership to provide both surveillance and intervention services within the community for this specific population. Modeled after the successful Boston

Elisa Rybak, Matt Leibert and Doug Heivly of the Geographical Information Systems department prepared a geographical analysis of the serious habitual offender juvenile population and gang locations. The Juvenile Probation Department, through its asset mapping project provided information concerning the resources that are located in the neighborhoods in which these youth live. Thus, through this visual



active in their respective communities. In the city of Allentown juvenile crime and gang activity has been increasing during the last several years. The police and the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department have accumulated information on seven known gangs in the Allentown area, most of which are located within the center city area. To combat the growing crime rate the Youth Violence Reduction Committee was formed consisting of representatives from county and city agencies. This coalition has brought about the creation

NiteLite Program, probation and police officers go out during the evening and weekend to ensure that youth on probation are at home and not on the streets. Most of these youth are also involved with intensive home based services such as multi-systemic therapy and community agencies that provide constructive activities and services such as after school programs.

In order to keep track of the trouble spots in the city, Julia Kocis, a systems analyst with the City of Allentown and

analysis, probation and police officers can readily see where the trouble spots are within the city as well as the resources. Through this technology we are able to determine where we need to channel our efforts to involve the community and its resources in reducing criminal activity within their neighborhoods. This is an ongoing project which is updated on a six month basis in order to obtain current information concerning gang activity and the SHOCAP population. ✨