

FIFTH WARD ENRICHMENT PROGRAM, INC.

2006 Annual Report





MISSION STATEMENT:

The Fifth Ward Enrichment Program, Inc. is designed to empower boys to become responsible men and productive members of their families and community.

VISION STATEMENT:

The Fifth Ward Enrichment Program is a community supported organization that develops and nurtures resilient, self-motivated, self-reliant young men. Program participants are committed to education, healthy living, and a stable lifestyle. By engaging participants in family, community and economic life in a multi-cultural environment, FWEP helps ensure a safe and vibrant community with an improved standard of living.

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Fifth Ward Enrichment Program, Inc.



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Letter from the Executive Director

The Fifth Ward Enrichment Program (FWEP) was founded on the simple principle of involving positive, male adults in the lives of at-risk boys. Twenty-three years later, that principle is still at the core of this agency's mission to provide tools that "empower boys to become responsible men and productive members of their families and community". Each year, the faces of the youth participants change. Staff members and volunteers will periodically change. The "faces" of the surrounding neighborhoods and the diverse, shifting population of the Fifth Ward are changing. However, the social-services needs haven't changed and seem to grow ever more prevalent, more insidious, and more debilitating for the youth.

In 1984, FWEP was conceived as a deterrent to teen pregnancies, rising dropout rates, and adolescent substance abuse. As we enter 2007, our youth are plagued with teen pregnancy, fatherless families, a huge dropout rate, reduced after-school programs, school closings, a rising incidence in STI and HIV/AIDS cases, and a "hip-hop" culture that seemingly breeds more drugs, more illicit sex, and more violence. With these growing challenges, the "simple principle" has evolved and FWEP recognizes that more is now required than just "positive men and strong role models". The engagement and intervention strategies of today demand strong men (and women) who are not only compassionate, but also educated, sensitive, and culturally-competent. The FWEP project manager / site coordinator is mentor, advocate, educator, counselor, role model, and surrogate guardian to the youth he interacts with on a daily basis. FWEP continually seeks and retains the service of individuals who are worthy of this service and represent the values and standards this agency has exemplified.

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ernest McMillan, has announced his retirement, effective March 6, 2007. His legacy of leading FWEP in continuous service to the youth of Fifth Ward is intact and will remain a strong model for replication and expansion. We pray that it is this history of consistency and unyielding service that will continue to carry this agency through the 2007 transitional period and beyond.

Marian Wright Edelman, noted children's advocate, says "Service is the rent we pay for living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time". FWEP's mission is as clear and needed today as it was in 1984. With the aid of community stakeholders, our many cherished and supportive business partners, a hardworking board of directors, and a growing list of competent and professional staff, FWEP enters 2007 with the focused tenacity to serve our youth and aid them along the path towards maturity and positive growth. We will continue to pay the "rent for living". It is our full-time job.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Savage
Executive Director



Fifth Ward Enrichment Program, Inc.
Houston, Texas

Agency Overview
2006

Introduction

The Fifth Ward Enrichment Program (FWEP) is a private nonprofit agency located within the geographical community for which it provides services. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of this economically distressed area, which lies within a five minute drive just northeast of downtown Houston, Texas, is 19,340. The residents are predominately African American and Hispanic, with 67% describing themselves as non-Hispanic blacks. The target population is low income, at-risk males, ages 12 to 19, who attend middle and high schools in the North Region of the Houston Independent School District (HISD). The city of Houston and its inner-city neighborhoods is a major source of youth offenders processed through the Texas Juvenile Justice system. The School-based Project is FWEP's core program for intervention and engagement of male students and provides an array of services and activities in formal, and non-formal, classroom settings during and after school. After-school activities are also conducted and convened at local churches, parks, and community centers. The Adolescent Family Life Project (AFL) is the key component in the school-based project and FWEP's holistic approach to male youth development. The primary focus of delivering abstinence education to youth is directed at negating sexual risk-taking behavior and postponing sexuality until marriage. FWEP enhances this education by also focusing on abstaining from the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and inappropriate dress and speech, as these relate to other risk-taking behaviors that threaten the healthy development of the individual. This education is folded into FWEP's life-skills curriculum and delivered to youth along with other core program components, activities, and support services that provide constructive and alternative options aimed at dropout prevention, gang participation, personal accountability and responsible citizenship.

Engagement and Intervention

Life-skills and Curriculum

Male youth participants are engaged in the eight-month school-based project and a seven-week summer program and are case-managed by assigned project managers and peer mentors (part-time, male college students) who coordinate daily activities. Assigned project managers conduct pre-post surveys, the setting of goals, one-on-one and group counseling sessions, attend teacher/parent meetings, plan and chaperone field trips and leadership retreats and, most importantly, oversee the delivery of the life-skills curriculum and its related modules. The curricula "Sex Can Wait" is used as the resource for abstinence education and related life skills topics. Youth are encouraged to participate in role-playing skits and to accept leadership roles in workshop and panel discussions. Youth are continually challenged to communicate the impact of abstinence education on their attitudes and relate this knowledge to their intentions and abilities to make important personal decisions. Other life-skills modules delivered during the school year include personal goal setting, interpersonal skills development, anger management and conflict resolution, career awareness, and team building.

FWEP has long embraced youth-led projects with strong themes of antiviolenace and peacekeeping and civic engagement via community service. The curriculums “Co/Motion” and “Counteract” are used as reference material to support this mission. The “Co/Motion: Guide to Youth-led Social Change” curriculum is a reference for engaging and training students who are involved in, or are planning, community service projects. “Counteract – A Blueprint to Violence Prevention for Schools and Community Groups” was a curriculum developed in 1997 by FWEP and other community collaborators to train youth leaders to become effective mediators for peace. With the support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this educational guide was completed, published and made available to the public.

Project Sites

Project managers were assigned to four (4) schools in HISD’s north region: Wheatley and Barbara Jordan high schools, Smith Educational Center and Fleming Middle School. FWEP activities at Kashmere High School were discontinued. Kashmere was one of three schools in this district cited for low student test scores and possible school closure. As HISD began reorganizing and assigning new administration at the school, it became apparent that FWEP was no longer a valued community partner, despite FWEP’s history and contributions on this campus. Budget cuts and staff reductions aided in FWEP’s decision to reassign its best project manager from Kashmere to the E.O. Smith Educational Center.

Wheatley High is the historic center of “old” Fifth Ward and draws students from the Smith and Fleming Middle schools. Smith Education Center, unlike Fleming Middle, is composed of Kindergarten through 8th grade students. Jordan High, the area “Career and Technology Education” magnet school, attracts many students from the Wheatley feeder-pattern schools and also accepts students from the entire HISD area. The majority of case managed students have come from these schools.

Activities

The after school and weekend schedules are coordinated to expose the youth to as many enrichment, educational enhancement, recreation, and community-service activities as possible. The life-skills workshops are scheduled twice weekly. Tutorials, tutoring, current events, guest speakers, field trips and supervised recreation are added when appropriate.

Other agency components - the Teen Enterprise Center, the Youth Council, the Multicultural Youth Action Project and the Parent/Family Liaison - interact with the core program.

The Teen Enterprise Center (TEC) is an extension of the after-school program and is the entrepreneurial training component of FWEP. Twenty-five students are screened and assigned to one of five TEC businesses and given instruction on business etiquette, product creation, product sales, teamwork, and business management. These business activities are T-shirt printing, computer repair, photography, filmmaking, and visual art. Candidates for TEC must display leadership abilities, have good grades, and show strong attendance in FWEP activities.

The FWEP Youth Council is composed of representatives from each of the project sites and is coordinated by the FWEP executive director. Council members elected by their peers. The Youth Council is chartered to recommend and advise on all aspects of FWEP programming, including special events, retreats, community projects, and improvements.

The Multicultural Youth Action Project (MYAP) was established on the Wheatley High School campus in the fall of 2004 as a result of months of dialogue (initiated and fostered by FWEP) between Hispanic and African American community leaders. Dubbed the “Black and Brown Conversations”, these sessions focused on interracial conflict and “turf battles” in the rapidly transitioning Fifth Ward community and at Wheatley High. The goal of the project is to engage a diverse group of teens, develop their skills as group facilitators and have them actively promote

better understanding and cooperation amongst Wheatley's student body. MYAP youth are trained in nonviolent dispute resolution, public speaking, and human rights advocacy. MYAP and its cultural arts arm, "Voices of the Future", were quickly sanctioned by the school and received support from the Superintendent of the HISD North Region. MYAP sponsored group bonding exercises, multicultural art performances, creative visioning workshops, youth-led town hall meetings and youth conferences. MYAP officers presented a seminar and workshop entitled "Building Multicultural Bridges through Youth Leadership" at the U.S. Human Rights Network Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, November 11 – 13, 2005.

Peer Health Educators

The Peer Health Educators project has been an ongoing activity since the inception of the AFL abstinence project. The Peer Health Educators are six (6) Jordan High male students who receive training in reproductive health, male and female anatomy, abstinence education, HIV/AIDS and other STDs. These teens were graduating seniors and members of the schools early release, co-op program. Their early release from school allowed them to receive health training and program instructions during the early afternoon periods. These instructional periods enabled them to better prepare for health education projects that occur mainly in the weekday evenings and weekend afternoons. Peer Health educators are responsible for outreach and creating skits and short vignettes relating to issues affecting teen health and the "need for abstinence". They are highly visible at teen conferences, youth summits, community health fairs, church socials, PTA/PTO meetings, and many other community activities in the Houston and Harris County area. The Peer Health Educators formed a focus group to the Fifth Ward Emergency Task Force in, September '05, to address positive strategies for youth. In December '05, the Peer Health Educators (PHE) hosted a candle light vigil honoring World AIDS Day at Mickey Leland Park. In February '06, the PHE presented a 30-minute program, with a "Q and A session" on abstinence, violence, and peer pressure to 85 students at Barbara Jordan High School, receiving a standing ovation from students and teachers.

Summer Project

The summer program is a seven-week, capsule version of the eight-month school-based project format. Youth were assigned to either community service projects or TEC projects during the morning sessions and participated in life-skill workshops, recreation, and special field trips in the afternoon. Youth received stipends for consistent attendance and positive interactions. These stipends, \$350.00 per youth, are designed to aid in the purchases of school supplies and clothing for the coming school year.

Collaborations and Community Partners

The impact of the FWEP program on the youth and the surrounding neighborhood is bolstered by the support of a strong network of community collaboratives, coalitions, and partnerships. Many of these inter-agency relationships are governed by memorandums of understanding, or other written agreements, which are periodically reviewed to gauge the continued mutual benefits to all the contributing partners. Daily program operations, for example, are supported by HISD, Target Hunger, Lyons Avenue Health Clinic, the Salvation Army, Junior Achievement's Exchange City, Boys and Girls Club, the Urban Scouting Program of Boys Scouts USA, Finnegan Park Recreation Center, Houston Area Women's Center, Houston Community Health Centers, the Julia C. Hester House, the Sandra Organ Dance Studio, the Holocaust Museum, and the Mayors Anti-gang Task Force Weed and Seed program, to name a few.

The Teen Enterprise Center (TEC) continues to thrive with a strong support network that includes the Southwest Alternate Media Project, Talento Bilingue de Houston, B Bad Sportswear Inc, Shakespeare Outreach of the University of Houston, Dragon's Gate, United Way Gifts-In-Kind, Eagle Electronics, Exxon-Mobil, Marshall Photography, and Anheuser Busch, Incorporated.

Special events, youth-service projects and community development projects receive great cooperation and support from YMCA Success-By-Six, Families Under Urban and Social Attack (FUUSA), Outreach Aftercare Ministry, Brentwood Community Foundation, Children's Defense Fund, Children-At-Risk, Bread of Life of St. John Methodist Church, Southwest Key Incorporated, Southwest Juvenile Justice Defender Center, Harris County Head Start, La Roca Church, French Town Civic Center, and the Greater Fifth Ward Super Neighborhood Group.

Program effectiveness is also greatly supported by a cadre of guest speakers who visit FWEP site locations. These speakers recognize the great leverage they have with young, inner-city males and make themselves available as their schedules permit. For this project period, the list of speakers included visiting actor and author Hill Harper, Precinct County 6 Constable Victor Trevino, professional basketball player Mike James, Texas state representatives Harold Dutton and Sylvester Turner, HIV survivor and activist Beneva Nyamu (as a young girl, was focal point in desegregation of HISD in the 1960's), Mayor Bill White, Houston city councilmen Ron Green, Peter Brown, and Jarvis Johnson, and Stephen Williams, director of Health and Human Services for the City of Houston.

Engagement of the youth in a daily, relaxed atmosphere, coupled with the constant exposure to the FWEP schedule of events, continues to be the best strategy that allows youth to receive important information which will aide in their own decision-making process.

The Year in Review: 2006

JANUARY

The year began with promises of arduous external challenges and a corresponding pan- agency inner determination to attain unparalleled heights for the FWEP ahead. The Board of Directors is setting the tone. For example, the Fund Raising Committee is incubating novel approaches, preparing for fresher, more effective fund raising methods. The Strategic Planning Committee is exploring new relations and possible inroads for leveraging our work, maximizing positive outcomes. The Communications Committee is designing new formats-for the newsletter and website especially- and methods for generating greater public awareness and community partnerships.

McMillan announced his plans for retirement, effective 1/15/07. He submitted a proposal for executive transitioning, providing a reorganization plan for achieving strategic goals, maintaining progression and attaining sustainability which was accepted by the Board.

The core youth program thrust revolved around several noteworthy programmatic activities. They include a Youth Leadership Retreat (Facilitator Skills Training Course), the Annual MLK Day “Stop the Violence” Conference, our traditional “Fellowship Day” and several cultural outings. Moreover, the Peer Health Educators began their spring semester outreach campaign with two educational presentations within the community (at the Fifth Ward Community Black History Program and an All-Night Bowling Bash). The Houston Women’s Area Center began a collaborative effort to generate knowledge and social skills for building healthy male/female relationships by conducting a series of workshops among FWEP participants.

ACTIVITIES

- Liz Chapman, UTSPH conducts parent survey with 10 FWEP parents, 1/12
- Youth Leadership Retreat, 1/14-1/15.
- MLK Day Conference at Westbury High School, 1/16.
- Odessa Knowles, Houston Area Women’s Center begins Dating/Relationships workshop, 1/18.
- Field Trip to Rice University’s Music Department, 1/24.
- Black History Celebration (peer health presentation), 2/11.
- Field Trip to Sandra Organ Dance Concert Performance, “Sojourner to Odyssey” Talento Bilingue de Houston, 2/12.
- Field Trip to play “Color Me dark” at Ensemble Theater, 2/16.
- “Fellowship Day” at Sunshine Baptist, 2/19.
- All Night “Bowling Bash” (peer health presentation), 2/25.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Receipt of an unsolicited \$5,000 grant award from the Houston Endowment.
- Hiring Ms. Wanda Carrington as the Fund Development Director.
- Connie and Mike’s wedding (1/21); Thelma and Rey Morales’ new family addition, Angelina (1/22).

MARCH-APRIL

The period reported within reflects activities within Spring Break! Easter Holidays, also, the season of HISD's standardized test taking and our own early transitioning to summer. FWEP youths within the school projects were mobilized by HISD for the all- important standardized tests through a frenzy of "TAKS camps", Saturday tutorials, special drills and a wave of notices to parents. Many schools were randomly placed on lock downs, i.e. special drills to test crisis response methods.

Meanwhile the FWEP youths were engaged in a Youth Day Camp, Career Day, cultural exposures, Spelling Bee/Heritage bowl (educational competitions), a Community Youth Town Hall Meeting, and post surveys. The post surveys were problematic as the Area Superintendent's office had to intervene in at least one case to provide logistical avenues for FWEP staff to conduct or own surveys.

Internally, the agency addressed the search for fulfilling key staffing positions, for meeting the Texas Workforce's employee definitions as well as responding to the pressures from the Texas Regulatory agency to qualify for either child care licensing or an exemption.

ACTIVITIES

- FWEP Spelling Bee, 3/2.
- Peer Health Educators presentation at Shrine of the Black Madonna's Youth Conference, 3/3.
- LIGHT, Leadership Houston Seminar at United Way, 3/4, 4/8, and 4/29.
- Peer Health Educators presentation at Houston Area Women's Center, 3/8
- Field trip, Tour of Houston Port! Ship Channel, 3/14.
- Field Trip to Houston Rockets/Dinner outing, 3/15.
- Field Trip to Miller Outdoor Theater-"Soweto Gospel Choir"/dinner outing, 3/16.
- MYAP youths to TBH "Raiz" exhibit and Rice Media Center film on "Palestinian Youths", 3/23.
- LIGHT, Leadership Houston Seminar at United Way, 4/8
- Health Fair! Talent Extravaganza at Fleming, 4/8
- FWEP heritage Bowl, 4/13
- Youth retreat,, Camp Pine Tree, 4/14
- Field Trip to Houston International Festival, 4/22
- FWEP Career Day (City hail, UT School of Public Health, Houston Community College), 4/24
- MYAP Sponsored Community Youth Retreat (Youth Throw Down") at E. O. Smith, 4/29.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Several youth exposures to multi culturalism were experienced throughout this period. FWEP youths conducted presentations within their own Heritage Bowl, attended the Houston International Festival, as well as the exhibit at TBH on African- Mexicans, the Soweto (South Africa) Gospel singers, the Houston Rodeo, and a film on the lives of Palestinian youths in refugee camps. • Mobilizing new personnel resources to address crucial programmatic and funding needs, i.e., the fund developer, the lead manager and two site coordinators.
- Heart of Houston Luncheon contributions are coming in, from new and returning corporate sponsors, at an excellent clip, promising to surpass our \$30,000 target goal substantially.

- Houston Endowment awards FWEP \$50,000 a year for two years.

MAY-JUNE

These two months were set apart, made unique by ranging from the highest of highs to the lowest of ebbs all within a highly compacted period of time. The ‘highs’ consist of the successful holding of the Heart of Houston Awards luncheon, the launching of the 2006 Summer Project and life impacting travel experiences (to D. C. and San Antonio). At the HOH, new friendships were forged, excellent, emotionally connecting presentations were made and record breaking revenues generated. This year’s Summer Project is arguably the most comprehensive designed undertaking in the long history of FWEP projects. Each of the youth tours- in terms of responses by participating youths, the overall good will/ public relations generated and the costs for each occasion having been graciously underwritten- exceeded all expectations.

Youth activities covered a wide range of cultural, educational and fun events. They adequately reflect the consistently holistic processes active within the agency’s programmatic thrusts. The May-June activities ranged from community services (food drive and senior citizens’ support), to leadership promotions and cultural exposures (the Juvenile Justice hearings, LIGHT seminars, Essence Festival and the Close Up tour) to the clean and rewardingly fun (movies, professional basketball, swimming and “fun day” in the park).

The low point or the apparent ebb is precipitated by of the lapse in funding caused by a reliance on revenue (expected from two foundations in May) which were not realized. The Board of Directors’ Executive Committee called an emergency meeting to develop effective contingencies and policies to recommend to the Board as a course of action.

ACTIVITIES

- Field trip to Houston Comets game, 5/7.
- Prudential Food Drive at Target Hunger, 5/10.
- All-FWEP Field Day, 5/11.
- FWEP youths to Leadership Houston’s LIGHT program at United Way, 5/13.
- Close Up Tour, Washington, D.C., 5/14-5/20.
- Youth interviews for Summer Project ends, 5/23.
- Medical Exams for FWEP summer project finalists at Denver Harbor Clinic, 6/1-6/9.
- Family Orientation for Summer Project, 6/5.
- Field trip to Movie Premiere, “Cars”, 6/9.
- Summer Project begins seven week program, 6/12.
- Fun Day, Swimming at Finnegan Park, 6/16.
- Youth and Senior Citizens’ Social Mixer, 6/16.
- United Way promotional Photo shoot at the TEC with FWEP youths, 6/20.
- Field trip Texas Legislature’s Juvenile Justice Committee’s Interim Hearings in San Antonio, 6/28.
- Field trip to “Kids Day” at Essence Music Festival, 6/30.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Ten FWEP youths participate in “Close Up” Tour of Washington, D.C. thanks to Bridgeway Fund’s generous support.
- The “Heart of Houston” Awards Luncheon, in terms of attendance, program content quality, corporate sponsorships and friendships, an all-around success
- Publication of the new look FWEP Newsletter, the “Nickel Nugget”
- Addition of a dynamic new mix of complimentary creative expressions’ workshops-dance, drama, and music composition- to the 2006 Summer Project.
- An effective FWEP-led, intergenerational youth advocacy collaborative to participate in the Juvenile Justice hearings in San Antonio was supported and 100% underwritten by Children At-Risk, the Texas Collaboration Advocating Justice for Juveniles (TCAJJ), District B City Councilman Jarvis Johnson and the French Town Civic Association.
- Donnell Frazier’s painting unveiling at the Heart of Houston and subsequent feature interview (6/14) on Fox TV 26’s Father’s Day special.

JULY-AUGUST

These two closing months of summer were very eventful. They featured traditional program implementation activities, and a new outreach project. July was highlighted by our full scope of youth activities (regular, daily summer programming routines, special outings, and formal closing ceremonies), and the re-designed point of entry tours (fund raising and marketing). August was characterized by our traditional preparations for the new school year through staff development activities (in-services and planning seminars as well as the spate of administrative and Board level activities to develop agency wide emergency contingency plans.

ACTIVITIES

July

- TEC youths (Mural Artists and Photographers) attend Neighborhood Market at Essence Festival, 7/3.
- Teen “Free and Clear” Summit, 7/7.
- “Get to Know You” tour, with Washington Mutual, KBR/Halliburton, 7/7.
- Community Service Project, Houston Food Bank, 7/10.
- Community Service Project, Denver Harbor Service Center, 7/14.
- Day at the Movies, Tinsel Town Cinema, 7/21.
- End of Summer field Trip, Fun Plex, 7/27.
- Summer Awards Ceremony, 7/28.
- Dads Day, with Houston Texans, 7/29.

August

- Community Service Project, National Nigh Out, 8/1.
- “Get to Know You” agency tour with Shell Oil Foundation, 8/3.
- Community Service Project at Fifth Ward Community Health Fair, 8/5.
- Bowling with the Variety Club, 8/6

- “Get to Know You Tour, with Capitol One, Wells Fargo and HUD, 8/10
- Back to School Clothes/Shoes vouchers distributed, 8/12
- Houston Astros’ Game, “Family Night”, 8/12
- Planning and Development Conference (staff in-services), 8/14-8/27
- HISD school year begins (FWEP meets and greets), 8/14
- “Get to Know You” tour, with Pastors Martinez and Barksdale, 8/29
- “Get to Know You” tour, with Bridgeway Fund, 8/30
- Wheatley Open House, 8/30

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Grant award from UH (Downtown) for community development.
- FWEP youths’ participation in Legislatures’ Interim hearings on Juvenile Justice with 100% of the expenses underwritten by community leaders and agencies.
- Initiation of the newly formatted, “point of entry” agency tours (five conducted in two months).
- Standing room only attendance at the FWEP Summer Awards Ceremony, featuring youth “products” and two elected officials as speakers.
- FWEP staff conducts community tour for E. O. Smith faculty.
- All agency response mobilization to threats presented by funding shortfall.
- Anheuser-Busch makes donation to the Teen Enterprise Center.

SEPTEMBER

FWEP successfully began the 2006-07 School year program phase with a Family Orientation on September 18th. Parent enthusiasm is noteworthy as turn out attendance indicates and volunteer enrollment for parent workshops reflect. Despite the termination of the Kashmere Project, the number of youth applications is on a projection to exceed contractual goals.

The existing dilemma and predominant challenges for maintaining quality programming, high staff morale and good administrative supports is noticeably evident. The most recent lapses in funding revenue and the consequential cut backs in operating expenditures require extraordinary flexibility and creativity from all personnel. Anticipated relief through new funds and other needed resources must materialize by mid November or newer more stringent changes will be required.

ACTIVITIES

- Rice U. vs. UH Football game/Tailgate party (as guests of Children at Risk), 9/2.
- FWEP booth at Fleming Middle School’s Open House, 9/6.
- Wheatley Football game, 9/14.
- FWEP- led All-Boys Assembly at E. O. Smith, 9/15.
- UNCF Walkathon (community service project), 9/16.
- Parent Orientation/School year program kick off, 9/18.
- Legacy Clinic Grand Opening (community service project), 9/30.
- College Expo with Wheatley participants, 9/30.

- Talento Bilingue, Theatrical performance of “Anhelos”, 9/30.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- UH Community Development grant awarded
- CDBG Juvenile Delinquency Prevention contract renewed
- Savage, Richardson and Peters make presentation at the AFL national conference on “Successful Male Involvement Programming”
- Ten FWEP parents sign up for FWEP- coordinated leadership development course with TSU.
- Music Composition, TEC’s newest youth enterprise, kicked off for 2006-07 school year.

OCTOBER

FWEP school year programs begin to settle in with all regular school- based aspects at Fleming, Smith and Wheatley in full operations and one new component, Music Composition being conducted at Target Hunger. TEC youths filmed a well attended Fifth Ward Cultural Festival and 24 FWEP youths, taking advantage of a HISD “holiday”, went crabbing and fishing at Sheldon Lake.

Outreach activities were accelerated this month with “Point of Entry” tours (3), promotional booths (3) and United Way speaking engagements (2) and news articles (2) in Houston Chronicle.

Two important round tables were held this month, each jointly sponsored by Children At Risk, UH’s Juvenile Justice Defender Center and the FWEP. One (10/5) was a forum held at United Way featuring Legislators, Judges and Law Enforcement officials exchanging ideas with mental health professionals, youth advocates and probation officers. The other (on 10/25) was a conversation among over 15 community based organizations on the need for community intervention and wrap around models.

ACTIVITIES

- Fishing trip, Lake Sheldon, 10/2
- Houston Dynamos’ Soccer Game, 10/14
- Parent Support Group meeting, 10/14
- Fifth Ward Youth Rally (with Greater Mt. Olive), 10/14
- Fifth Ward Cultural Arts Festival, 10/21
- Walk for Success, Community Service Project, 10/21
- FWEP youths attend Halloween Party at Hester House, 10/31.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- FWEP co-hosted Community Forum on Juvenile Justice (attended by Legislators (Turner, Dutton), Juvenile Judges, HCJP officials, Precinct VI officers and other CBO representatives, 10/5.
- Capitol One awards FWEP \$51,000 grant.
- Bridgeway Fund awards FWEP, \$100,000 grant.
- FWEP collaborates with the Boy Scouts of America’s Urban Scouting with registering 34 FWEP

youths from Fleming and Smith.

- Initiation of FWEP Music Composition workshop (meeting twice/week with five participants).

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

The year has flown at a super accelerated rate it seems, and 2006 is drawing to the end. The School Project numbers are at a good level with 111 of the 150 targeted (for the 2006-07 school year) case load youths enrolled. Reaching this (currently acceptable) level has not been easy. On the contrary, this has been one of the more problem soaked, plagued filled years within our 21 year history. We are on the rebound from a near devastating financial crunch. Since August however, we have raised \$ 80,000 in new, *untabulated* funds to date. Two of the three Site Coordinators/School Site Coordinators are virtually “rookies” while the other Site Coordinator has been reassigned due to unprofessional conduct at his school site (Wheatley). (We are in the process of filling that slot, with a goal of doing so by the beginning of next week at the earliest). Savage is very capable of guiding the agency on a positive pathway, and we ARE bound for new heights. There are five primary transitional issues which need to be tackled within the next 30 days. They are:

- Conducting skillful and relevant team building exercises
- Reinforcement of the agency methodologies, principles, goals and objectives measures.
- Securing new vibrant funding streams (special events, an annual giving campaign, and funding center creations), while not letting up on grant initiatives and refining data retrieval/reporting systems.
- Successful recruitment of 3-4 new Board members (who reflect commitment, diversity and skills’ needs).
- Transmission of positive, concrete, reassuring public messages regarding our transition.

The year ended on a strong, upbeat note with the All-FWEP personnel conference (12/28). The moment can best be described as a clear, candid, and passionate presentation by the FWEP Board Chairman and an open dialogue among the agency persons gathered.

Other year ending highlights include:

- -Agreement and acceptance by the McReynolds Middle School administrators for activation of the school as a FWEP project site.
- -Adoption of the FWEP Board Executive Committee for an agency three year budget plan.

- - Combined activity featuring Smith faculty, Target Hunger, Music World (Beyonce Knowles' Family business), and FWEP to actualize an esteem building Christmas festival for approximately 300 E.O. Smith students.
- -End of the year funding from Bridgeway, Capitol One, Houston Endowment and Randle's.

ACTIVITIES

- United Way Organizational Review (on site with 20 students 3 alumni, four parents, three Board members), 11/1.
- Houston Peace and Justice Awards, (3 students/two parents/one volunteer) 11/3.
- Family Thanksgiving Celebration, (30 youths/15 parents) 11/16.
- FWEP Scouts to Camp Strake, (26 youths) 11/17.
- Mitzvah Day with Temple Emanuel at Sports Palace, (eight youths) 11/19.
- Thanksgiving Turkey Give Away with Congresswoman Lee and Houston Texans' Mario Williams, (10 families), 11/21.
- "Keep Five Alive" Community Service Project-20 youths, 12/2.
- Texans Football game-4 youths, 12/10.
- Christmas Giving Project at Target Hunger-15 youths, 12/14.
- Leadership Retreat at Camp Pinetree-28 youths, 12/15-16.
- Christmas Outing to Music World-15 youths, 12/16.
- Christmas Giving Outing by Councilman Johnson-10 youths, 12/18.
- Pizza and Movie (award for Camp MVP's)-10 youths, 12/21.
- Gospel Christmas play at Ensemble Theater-10 youths, 12/30.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

➤ NOVEMBER

- TEC computer refurbishing group donate two computers to two deserving/needy families.
- United Way Organizational Review was exceptionally effective with constituents amply represented before a full panel of United Way volunteers and staff. The testimonies were moving and on point and UW initial feedback was markedly favorable. Mr. Dotson and Benson Tillman were simply and profoundly eloquent.
- Bridgeway Fund Awards FWEP \$100,000. (What a blessing!)
- Capitol One awards FWEP with \$52,000 (another blessing indeed!) and staged a great announcement venue at Houstonian Hotel (through Pierpoint Communications).
- This just in...\$15,000 award (for general operations) from Simmons

Foundation, \$2,000 from the Houston Community Foundation (unsolicited), \$4,000 from Mike Whipple/Bridgeway (a complete surprise blessing!).

- A special page in our Winter Edition of the Nickel Express, compliments of Fiesta Mart.

➤ **DECEMBER**

- Capitol One hosts awards presentation to FWEP and other new Grantees, 12/1.
- FWEP participates in 10 consecutive year of “Keep Five Alive” campaign.
- Bridgeway Fund awards FWEP \$100,000 award for general operations/capacity building.
- Mr. Arredondo, principal McReynolds Middle School awards FWEP \$10,000 for a support services contract with the FWEP.
- Chairman Dotson effectively dialogs with agency personnel on FWEP transition.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2006 Board of Directors

Alfred J. Calloway, **Board Chair**
(**Chair Term Expired May 2006**)
Community Advocate

Jimmie Dotson, **Board Chair**
Community Advocate

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Bridgeway Funds

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Attorney At-Law/Community Advocate

Benson Tillman, Board Member
FWEP Alumni/Community Advocate

FWEP STAFF ROSTER

2006 Staff Roster

Ernest McMillan
Chief Executive Officer / Founder

Charles Savage,
Chief of Operations

Connie Johnson
Fiscal Manager

Frank Richardson,
Lead Manager

Maria Smithers,
Administrative Assistant

Rey Morales,
Information Manager

Marvin Owens,
TEC Instructor/Coordinator

Daiman Johnson,
Site Coordinator – Wheatley

Marquise Elder,
Site Coordinator – Fleming

Jezer Urena,
Site Coordinator – E. O Smith

Shawn Owens,
Health Educator

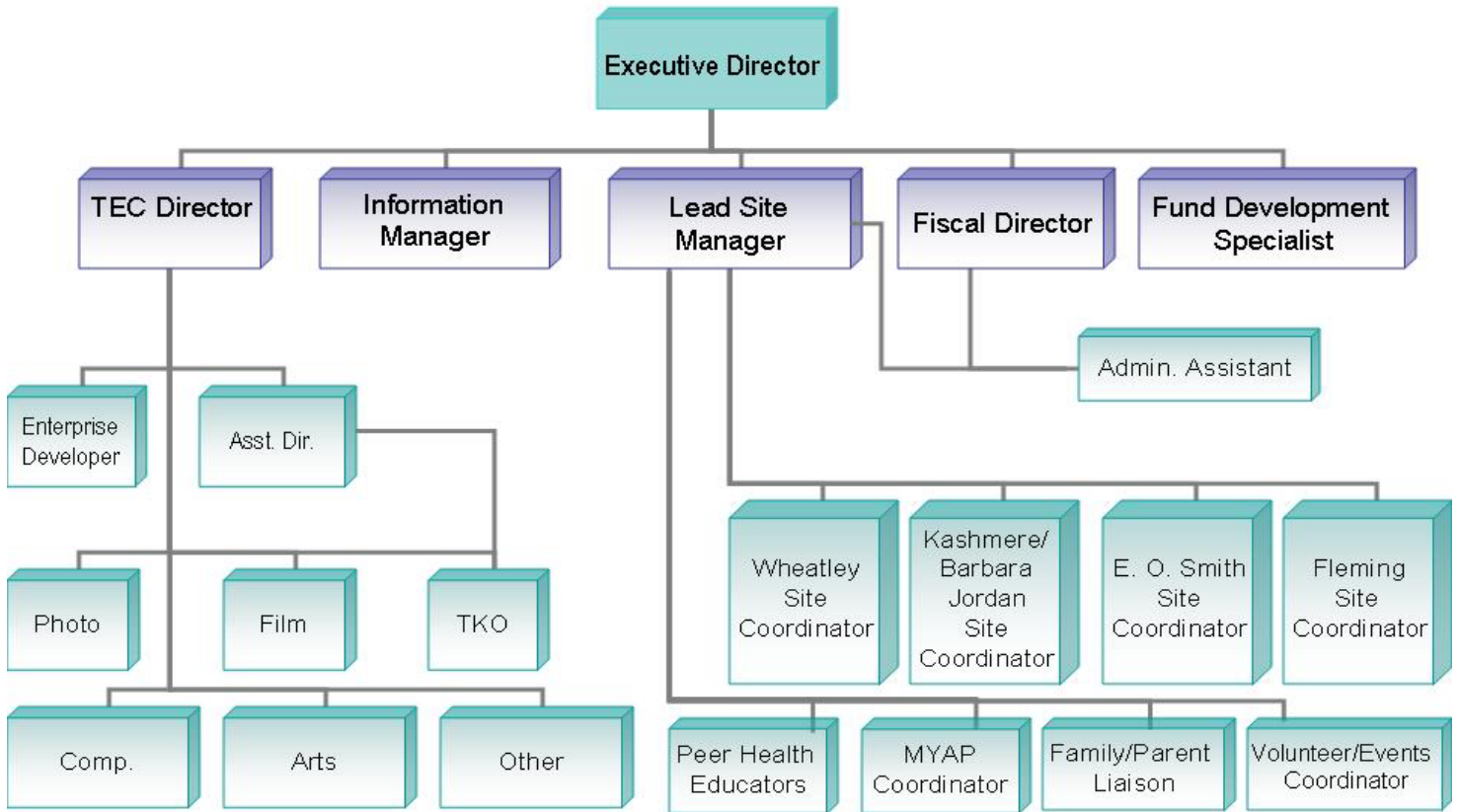
Gunjen Mittal-Goswami,
*Special Events/Volunteer
Coordinator*

Trevor Palacios,
*MYAP (Multicultural Youth
Action Project)*

Kelvin Martin,
Peer Mentor – Wheatley

Lorenzo Guerrero,
Peer Mentor – E.O. Smith

2006 FWEP ORGANIZATIONAL CHART:



Donors and Contributors - 2006
(A Partial List)

Anheuser Busch
Axion Logistics
Aztec Facility Services
Bridgeway Capital Foundation
The Brown Foundation
Decision Information Resources
Capital One
ExxonMobil
The Houston Foundation
The Houston Endowment
The Farish Fund
Prudential Foundation
The Simmons Foundation
University of Houston
United Way
Veritas Geoservices, Inc.
Wells Fargo