



Empowering Community Peacebuilding



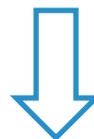
Supporting comprehensive activities and strategies in communities working to address such challenges as crime, violence, and gangs. Effective programs may include hands on street outreach and intervention, mental health services, out-of-school programs, police/community relations, and arts-based practices...

Statistical Spotlight:

In Chicago, the **Becoming a Man program**, which places disadvantaged boys from 7th-10th grade into mentoring relationships, saw this among their participants:



23%
Increase in
graduation rates



44%
Decrease in
arrests for violent crime



Diversion and mentoring programs produce **\$3.36 of benefits** for every dollar spent

Aggression Replacement Training produces **\$10 of benefits** for every dollar spent

Functional Family Therapy produces **\$18 of benefits** for every dollar spent

Overview



Community Peacebuilding activities and strategies encompass a vast number of practices that bring together youth, adults, governments, organizations and schools to help cultivate peace and healing in local communities. There are many exciting and effective fields of work in this arena. The techniques below, and others, have proven to be far more effective and life-affirming than more traditional punitive oriented approaches relied upon so heavily today. In a nation with the highest incarceration rates in the developed world, it is important, particularly in neighborhoods highly impacted by violence, that robust and comprehensive peacebuilding strategies and programs be implemented. This will help build community resilience.



Empowering Strategies and Programs, Proven Efficacy:

Prevention and Intervention: Quality prevention incorporates data collection and analysis to pinpoint populations and locations at greatest risk, to identify risk and resilience factors, to develop effective strategies that prevent violence before it occurs, and to reduce the impact of those risk factors that cause violence to recur. Community peacebuilding can utilize a **public health approach** to deal with violence that engages multiple sectors to coordinate with each other and community members. This is similar to those used to reverse epidemic disease outbreaks.

Gang Violence Prevention: Prevention and intervention approaches that have proven to be effective usually center on the idea of empowering young people to make healthier choices by providing them with systemic physical & emotional support and the resources to do so.

Trauma-Informed Child- and Family-Service System: This is an approach in which all parties involved recognize and respond to the impact of traumatic stress on those who have contact with the system including children, caregivers, and service providers. Programs and agencies within such a system infuse and sustain trauma awareness, knowledge, and skills into their organizational cultures, practices, and policies. They act in collaboration with all those who are involved with the child, using the best available science, to facilitate and support the recovery and resiliency of the child and family.

Integrated and Systemic Family/Community Support Services: This includes Multi-systemic and/or Functional Family Therapy, which are intensive family- and community-based treatment programs that focus on addressing all environmental systems that impact chronic and violent juvenile offenders — their homes and families, schools and teachers, neighborhoods and friends.

Police and At-Risk Youth Relationship Building: Through workshops and intensive retreats, some communities are finding this as a means to reduce disproportionate minority contact, to deal with mistrust in the legal system, and to bring young people together with law enforcement officers in a more positive environment.

Domestic Violence Prevention and Support Services: The services and programs offer support for families, including emergency housing, emotional support and tools to move forward.

Mentoring: Peer-to-peer or adult to youth mentoring can be exceptionally effective at empowering students to succeed in school and on their personal journeys — providing youth with guidance and support from caring and committed adults.

Community Policing: Community policing is, in essence, a collaboration between the police and the community that identifies and solves community problems. All members of the community become active allies in the effort to enhance the safety and quality of neighborhoods through communication.

Life Skills: Social and Emotional learning modalities teach self awareness, empathy, impulse control, motivation and nonviolent communication & social skills — all designed to give people tools to better deal with conflict in their lives.

Arts-Oriented Practices: Using art, music and/or performance to skill build, address conflict, deal with trauma, and encourage self-expression.

Quality After-School and Out-of-School Programming: Providing resources for youth to engage in positive activities in communities.

Mental Health Services



THE PEACE ALLIANCE