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**YOUTH CRIME WATCH OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
"SPOTLIGHT" ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER
SPRING/SUMMER 2008 EDITION**

YCW of Miami-Dade "News"

Message from YCW of Miami-Dade Education Director: Children and young people can be so vulnerable to fall for the ills of school crime. It presents itself in the form of bullying, cyberbullying, drug use, stranger danger, auto theft, gang activity, vandalism, fighting, robbery, and much more. Youth Crime Watch (YCW) of Miami-Dade County has been healing those ills throughout the last 28 years by implementing youth crime watch programs in the Miami-Dade schools. YCW of Miami-Dade County was recently selected as the National Crime Prevention Program of the Year by the National Crime Prevention Council. YCW educates students on safety skills which in turn the youth have applied those skills in their schools to promote safe school environments, educate their peers on crime prevention, and curb school crime. Close to 35,000 students per year are educated by YCW of Miami-Dade on a broad diversity of youth crime prevention topics via assemblies, presentations, and YCW club meetings. Close to 100 schools have active YCW programs (clubs). YCW provides services in nearly 200 schools on a yearly basis. The organization also provides students and faculty a multitude of crime prevention materials so the safety education can be reinforced in the classroom lessons and in YCW club activities. YCW is also the premier organization which has McGruff the Crime Dog appear and present in Miami-Dade school safety functions. These efforts are supported by the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department as our primary partnering organization.

All these wonderful initiatives are hanging on a limb because the Miami-Dade School Board may cut the entire funding for Youth Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County in the coming year due to budget crisis. The school board has funded YCW since its inception because it is an allied program of the Miami-Dade Schools and its police department. We are appreciative of their past support for so many years. The school board has allocated \$114,000 for the last 8 years to our program. Again, YCW serves close to 35,000 students a year. Do the math! Chief Gerald Darling of the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department has stated that school crime statistics and survey assessments have continuously demonstrated that schools with YCW programs have lower crime rates and safer school environments. This in turn

is a contributing factor in academic achievement. A child that is fearful of being bullied and harassed will prioritize their fear over their academics. On the other side of the “safety spectrum”, those children that feel comfortable and safe in their school environments will be more motivated & determined to focus on their academics. I have personally observed the successful productivity of YCW of Miami-Dade County as Education Director/School Coordinator of the organization throughout the last 10 years. I have experienced at first-hand the dominant factors that youth crime prevention education has in molding our future leaders to strive for success and strengthen our school communities. The students are the “eyes & ears” of our schools. They are the primary stakeholders in preventing crime at their schools by educating their peers on safety topics and anonymously reporting threats & warning signs that can lead to criminal activity. However, they cannot do this without adequate training. YCW of Miami-Dade County’s primary mission is to provide them the training & the skills to make their safety visions an observable reality. It is a mission that has been possible year after year. We are looking forward to the new school year in continuing our Mission, should the funding become available. Our cause and priority is the “safety of our students”. Wishing you a wonderful and safe summer season!

Joel Mesa

YCW of Miami Dade "School News" February-May 2008

Silver Bluff Elementary’s YCW school program (club) coordinated an extensive YCW “Stop The Violence” Blue Ribbon Week campaign on April 21-25. They decorated all classroom doors to remind students to “stop the violence” and students were encouraged to wear blue throughout the week. YCW student members presented safety tips and “Stop The Violence” speech/pledges during each day’s morning announcement. YCW student members also conducted classroom presentations to 2nd and 3rd Graders on Violence Prevention. They also aired continuous videos on Bullying Prevention in the classrooms throughout the entire week. Silver Bluff Elementary YCW school program’s superlative efforts is the prototype of a successful YCW “Stop The Violence” Blue Ribbon Week campaign. A big Blue Ribbon salute goes out to YCW School Advisor Leila Germroth and her YCW student members for their successful campaign.

Ronald Reagan/Doral Senior High’s YCW program participated in the annual Suicide Prevention “Out of the Darkness” Walk in Tamiami Park. In their YCW club meetings, the student members have discussed the importance of keeping their peers safe and of the vital link between school safety and reporting violent or potentially unsafe behaviors. They have also

discussed the benefits of keeping open lines of communication with helpful adults and authority-figures and how to look for signs of unsafe or self-injurious behavior in peers. From these discussions, the YCW school program implemented various youth crime prevention educational campaigns such as: presenting school-wide safety announcements and disseminating crime prevention informative literature, educating their peers on the fact that their school will not tolerate bullying, and instilling a 100% Bully-Free Zone in the school environment. Together with their administration, the YCW school program has targeted bullying behavior and has made every possible effort to cease its continuance so as to not allow students to turn to self-injurious and violent behaviors. YCW School Advisors Gianeris Silva & Vanessa Dager along with their proactive YCW student members are shaping the way in presenting effective safety education to our future leaders.

YCW of Miami-Dade at "Youth-Oriented Community Events"

February-May 2008

MDCPS School Board Member Ana Rivas Logan's "Be A Street Smart Family" Safety Event at Metro Zoon on Saturday, March 1 (*YCW Materials Exhibit Booth and McGruff the Crime Dog & Scruff appearance*)

Citizens' Corps "Community Safety" Event at Kendall Wal-Mart on Saturday, March 22 (*CCW-YCW Exhibit Materials Booth and McGruff the Crime Dog appearance*)

Miami-Dade College's Medical Campus "Campus Safety Day" Event on Tuesday, March 25 (*YCW Exhibit Materials Booth*)

MDPD Cutler Ridge District's "Spring Safety" Event at Hidden Grove Apartments on Wednesday, April 2 (*YCW Materials Exhibit Booth and McGruff the Crime Dog appearance*)

Team Metro's "P.R.I.D.E. Week Kickoff" Event at Country Village Park on Saturday, April 5 (*CCW-YCW Exhibit Materials Booth and McGruff the Crime Dog appearance*)

Team Metro South's P.R.I.D.E. Week "Litter Pickup/Child Safety" Event at Whispering Pines Elementary on Tuesday, April 8 (*YCW Beautification & YCW McGruff Presentations*)

Team Metro South's "Neighborhood P.R.I.D.E. Poster Contest Winner" Celebration Event at Monkey Jungle on Friday, April 11 (*McGruff the Crime Dog appearance and other YCW services*)

Commissioner Dennis Moss' "Goulds' March Against Crime" Safety Event on Friday, April 18 (*CCW-YCW services and McGruff the Crime Dog appearance & presentation*)

Commissioner Rebeca Sosa's "Safety Event" at A.D. Barnes Park on Saturday, April 19 (*CCW-YCW Exhibit Materials Booth and McGruff the Crime Dog appearance*)

Miami-Dade Public Library's Concord Branch "National Reading Month Campaign" Safety Event on Saturday, April 19 (*YCW Stranger Danger & YCW McGruff the Crime Dog presentations*)

NBC6/Telemundo51 "Health & Fitness" Expo Event at Miami Beach Convention Center on Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27 (*CCW-YCW Exhibit Materials Booth and McGruff the Crime Dog appearances*)

Health Connect In Our Schools' "Health Fair Week" Safety Event at Olympia Heights Elementary on Monday, April 28 (*YCW Stranger Danger & YCW McGruff presentations*)

State of Florida's "Safety & Career Day" Event & Parade in Downtown Miami on Friday, May 2 (*YCW Materials Exhibit Booth , McGruff the Crime Dog appearance, and coordination contributions as "Safety & Career Day" Committee Members*)

Miami-Dade Public Library's Edison Center Branch "Community Safety" Event on Wednesday , May 7 (*YCW Reporting Crimes/Personal Safety & YCW McGruff presentations*)

Citizens'/Youth Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County

"Award Winners 2007-2008"

Nicole Anderson of Ronald Reagan/Doral Senior High School
Student of the Year

Nelson Izquierdo of Carol City Middle School
Principal of the Year

Officer Brian Levy of Miami-Dade School Police Department
School Resource Officer of the Year

YCW of Miami-Dade County "Poster Contest Winners" 2007-2008

Theme: Insert Cybersafety, Delete Cyberbullying

ELEMENTARY LEVEL 1 (K- 2ND GRADE)

1ST PLACE- Tavvara Prioleau (2nd Grade) Edison Park Elementary

2ND PLACE- Austin Martin (1st Grade) Cutler Ridge Elementary

3RD PLACE- Nicole Montenegro (2nd Grade) Ojus Elementary

ELEMENTARY LEVEL 2 (3RD -5TH GRADE)

1ST PLACE- Gabriella Gonzalez (5th Grade) Silver Bluff Elementary

2ND PLACE- Barbarah Heimer (4th Grade) Eugenia B. Thomas K-8 Center

3RD PLACE- Julia Veloso (4th Grade) Eugenia B. Thomas K-8 Center

MIDDLE (6TH - 8TH GRADE)

1ST PLACE- Joseph Fermaint (6th Grade) Jose Marti Middle

2ND PLACE- Susan La (7th Grade) Howard Doolin Middle

3RD PLACE- Jocelyn Reyes (7th Grade) Jose Marti Middle

SENIOR HIGH (9TH - 12TH GRADE)

**1ST PLACE- Keith Shaw (9th Grade) William H. Turner Technical Arts
Senior**

2ND PLACE- Frantz Jean-Baptiste (10th Grade) Corporate Academy North

3RD PLACE- Darylle Salej (10th Grade) Corporate Academy North

YCW of Miami-Dade County "Weekly Award" Recipients

February-May 2008

Sponsored by WLYF 101.5 LITE FM

YCW Advisor of the Week *February 4-8*

Rita Rodriguez of William Turner Technical Arts Senior High

YCW Student of the Week *February 11-15*

Raymond Haynes of Westview Middle

YCW Student of the Week *February 18-22*

Yilian Estevez of William Turner Technical Arts Senior High

YCW Student of the Week *February 25-29*

Denorah Small of William Turner Technical Arts Senior High

YCW Student of the Week *March 3-7*

Keith Shaw of William Turner Technical Arts Senior High

YCW Student of the Week *March 10-14*

Roselor Fils-Aime of William Turner Technical Arts Senior High

YCW School of the Week *March 17-21*

Norwood Elementary

YCW Advisor of the Week *March 24-28*

Leila Germroth of Silver Bluff Elementary

YCW Advisor of the Week *March 31- April 4*

Marshall Freeman of Corporate Academy North

YCW Student of the Week *April 7-11*

Gabriella Gonzalez of Silver Bluff Elementary

YCW Student of the Week *April 14-18*

Darren Ellsworth of Devon Aire K-8 Center

April 21-25

YCW of Miami-Dade County “Stop The Violence” Blue Ribbon Week

**YCW Student of the Week *April 28– May 2*
Joseph Shomar of Oliver Hoover Elementary**

**YCW Student of the Week *May 5-9*
Omar Amaya of E.W.F. Stirrup Elementary**

**YCW Principal of the Week *May 12-16*
Douglas Rodriguez of Ronald Reagan/Doral Senior High**

**YCW Student of the Week *May 19-23*
Vivian Lora of Ronald Reagan/Doral Senior High**

**YCW Student of the Week *May 26-30*
Nicole Anderson of Ronald Reagan/Doral Senior High**

**YCW Advisor of the Week *June 2-6*
Vanessa Dager of Ronald Reagan/Doral Senior High**

Youth Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County is a program of
Citizens' Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County

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