Solutions to Violence in our Community Research Project

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Priscilla Rodriguez
Andy Xiao

Presentation Outline

• Executive Summary
• Needs Analysis
• Solution Description
• Solution Criteria
• Solution Choice
Executive Summary

Project Goal

• To collect information and data about:
  – Citizen’s concerns and issues about violence in our community

• To create a presentation that will address:
  – The solutions to violence in our community
Research Questions

• What is the root cause of violence in our community?
• How do people in Watsonville feel we can solve violence in our community?
  – What are the key ingredients for solving violence in our community?
  – What positive energy can the community contribute to this outcome?

Responsibilities

• Luis Carrillo – Co-Leader, Needs Statement
• Oswaldo Larios – Co-Leader, Solution
• Priscilla Rodriguez – Co-Leader, Solution
• Ralph Morales – Needs Statement
• Andy Xiao – Needs Statement
• Eduardo Ramos – Needs Statement
Data Collection

- Surveyed 150 people
  - 67% female and 32% male
  - 55% are students
  - 70% were Latinos
- Age:
  - 21% between 16-20 years of age;
  - 29% between 21-30 years old;
  - 41% over 31 years old
- 56% did not vote in the last election

Data Collection

- Surveys distributed to and collected from:
  - La Placita
  - Alternative schools
  - On the streets
    - New School
    - Towers
    - Watsonville Community School
  - Career Works
  - Pajaro Assumption church
  - Shopping Centers
    - Target shopping center
    - Plaza Vigil
Needs of Our Community Regarding Solutions To Violence
By: Luis Carrillo
Ralph Morales
Eduardo Ramos

Who Is In Need?

• Youth
• Families
• Friends of family
• Community of Watsonville
• Abused women
Where Do We Find These People?

• In Santa Cruz County
  – Watsonville
  – Aptos
  – Santa Cruz
  – Capitola
• All across the country where there is violence
• On school grounds
• In our families

What Are The Needs?

• More education about alternatives to violence
• More after school programs
• More police officers
• Crack down on drug distributing
• Firearms need to be turned over to police
• More community awareness
How Do You Know It Is A Need?

- There is a lot of violence happening in Watsonville
  - 65% interviewed said they have experienced violence
  - 44% had experienced violence before they were 15 years old
- We know it is a need because many surveyed were not prepared for being productive in society
  - 24% did not have a high school diploma

When Are The Needs Evident?

- When there are gang fights in the schools
- When people are dying from violence
- When alcohol or drugs are being used
  - 31% indicated that drugs were the factors in violence they witnessed
  - 41% indicated that alcohol was the factor in violence they witnessed
- When they can’t find jobs
- When parents have their kids going to jail
Have you Experienced Violence?

- Yes
- No

What are the causes of violence in our community?

- Drugs
- Gangs
- Poverty
Why Does This Need Occur?

- Youth are not learning about alternatives to violence in our schools
- Kids don’t have after school programs
- The kids are being influenced by older peers
  - Many drugs are being distributed to our children
- Parents need to work and can’t spend too much time with their children
  - 41% have both parents working
  - 64% did not have a stay at home mother

What were the factors involved in the violence?

- Gangs
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Poverty
- Not enough Parental supervision
What Are The Consequences Of Meeting The Need?

• A safer community
  – A decrease in violence in our community
• A better life for you and your family
  – More peace among parents and their children
• High school graduates will increase
  – Kids will have an education
• Everyone will have jobs

What Are The Consequences Of NOT Meeting The Need?

• There will be an increase of violence in our community
• Our children’s schools will become more violent
  – Due to violence in the schools students will drop out and find protection by joining gangs
• There will be an increase of high risk youth
• More murders will be committed
What do we need to do?

• Develop programs to decrease youth violence
• Increase parental involvement in their children’s life to show them right from wrong.
• Target suspicious youth activity
  – Deal with the key causes to the violence in our community: Gangs / Drugs / Poverty

The Solution Statement
Oswaldo Larios
Priscilla Rodriguez
Andy Xiao
Three recommended solutions

1. Police enforced programs

2. School workshops about alternatives to violence in our community

3. More parent involvement in our schools

Solution 1: Police enforced programs

Citizens and police to develop programs to:

- Enforce curfews for all juveniles seventeen and under
- Deal constructively with domestic violence in our families
  - Requiring counseling after a domestic violence dispute
- Decrease gang activities and recruiting
- Reduce youth drug use and trafficking
**Solution 2: Workshops about violence**

- Develop alternatives to violence workshops to:
  - Teach youth skills to handle violent situations
  - Control and direct their anger
  - Channel their energies constructively
  - Feel a sense of belonging to something important
  - Help them talk about issues in their lives
  - Share the effects of violence and drugs/alcohol on youth by ex-gang members & ex-drug users
  - Involve high-risk youth in activities to build self-esteem

**Solution 3: More parent involvement**

- Workshops for parents and families to:
  - Increase effective communication
  - Build respect and trust for each other
  - Educate the youth to stay in school
  - Educate the parents on how to support their child’s needs in school
  - Address after-school activities for their children
  - Help teens have more confidence communicating with their parents
- Provide counseling support as needed
Criteria for Selecting Final Solution

1. Amount of interest within the community
2. How much it will cost
3. People needed to organize it
4. Volunteers required
5. Interest by our City’s leadership

Criteria Table

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<th>School workshops</th>
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School Workshops

Educate our youth about violence

• Develop alternatives to violence workshops to:
  – Involve high-risk youth in activities to build self-esteem
  – Teach youth skills to handle violent situations
    • Channel their energies constructively and control their anger
  – Help them talk about issues in their lives
    • Feel a sense of belonging to something important
  – Presentations about the effects of violence on youth by ex-gang members & ex-drug users
Goals

1. To make our community safe by providing alternatives to violence workshops
2. Help our youth finish school
3. Prevent teens from joining gangs and using drugs

Objectives

1. Determine with community leaders their interest in hosting alternative to violence workshops
2. Find effective curriculum
3. Develop the workshops and find workshop leaders
4. Provide these workshops to our youth
Outcomes

1. Violence in our community is reduced
   ✔ Gang involvement is decreased
   ✔ Use of drugs/alcohol is minimized
2. More students will complete high school
3. More students will continue on to college