

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director
Browning Spence, Director, Strategic and Community Planning *HBS*

Requested Action

Juvenile Welfare Board is requested to allocate match funds up to \$2,000 for a community development mini grant to Family Service Centers of Pinellas County.

Options

- 1. Approve the request.
- 2. Deny the request.
- 3. Any other action the Board may deem Appropriate.

Recommended Action

- 1. Allocate match funds up to \$2,000 from FY 99-00 Community Development Unallocated Funds to Family Service Centers of Pinellas County to support the Week without Violence: Violence Prevention Contest scheduled to take place October 17th through October 23rd 1999.

Source of JWB Funds

The FY 1999-00 Community Development Unallocated Funds

Fiscal Impact

The Community Development Unallocated Funds would be reduced from \$40,000 to \$38,000

Narrative

In an effort to enhance the safety of our youth, Family Service Centers, Pinellas America's Promise, the United Way, and the Juvenile Welfare Board are collaborating with Clearwater High School, Kennedy Middle School, and Sutherland Elementary School to hold "Week Without Violence" activities in conjunction with the Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence.

A Day of National Concern is a national observance giving students throughout the country the chance to sign a voluntary promise that they will:

- never carry a gun to school
- never resolve a dispute with a gun
- use their influence with their friends to keep them from resolving disputes with guns

The Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence and national distribution of the student pledge will take place on October 21, 1999. There will be a week of activities leading up to Pledge Day. These activities will:

- raise awareness among students about the potential violence that surrounds them.
- foster opportunities for students to recognize the power they have to reverse the violence that is claiming so many lives.
- provide an opportunity for young people to envision the possibility of reversing the tide of violence and diminishing one of the greatest threats to their health and safety.

Included in these activities will be a contest entitled "*Make a Difference, Make Our Schools Safe*". The purpose of this contest is to empower students to become involved in creating a safe school environment by providing an opportunity for them to share their thoughts, feelings, and ideas about violence. These activities will compliment other activities taking place throughout the county during "Week Without Violence".

Every student or group of students attending the schools participating will be encouraged to submit a type of creative medium such as art, a short story, song, poem, video, or skit/vignette with a message about violence prevention and making their school and/or community safe. There will be age appropriate prizes awarded at each school. Every student enrolled at the participating schools will receive a small gift encouraging non-violence and strategies for conflict resolution.

The projected cost for this week-long event is estimated at \$5,000. Sponsors include:

- The United Way providing an in-kind donation of all printed materials.
- Family Service Centers providing an in-kind donation of educational materials promoting non-violence

Monies received from the Juvenile Welfare Board will be matched with funds provided by the community to purchase the prizes (gift certificates) awarded for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners at each school. These additional funds are being sought from:

- Publix Super Market Charities
- The Junior League of Pinellas County
- Palm Harbor Rotary
- Barnes and Nobles Booksellers
- Target
- Feather Sound Rotary

Each entry that wins a prize will be presented and displayed throughout the county, with the help of JWB TV, and other local media sources. They also have the potential to be used as Public Service Announcements.

This partnership with Pinellas County Schools, Family Service Centers, the United Way, Juvenile Welfare Board, and Pinellas America's Promise is an opportunity to build on, and enhance the overall community action framework that is currently being created and implemented throughout Pinellas County. At the same time, this collaboration will be coordinating together with millions of students around the country to unite our concern for young people.

Staff Resource Person: Kathleen Peters