

PeaceBuilders Program Implementation



case study – affordable housing

Hope Through Housing Foundation

Two years of data show PeaceBuilders impactful in housing-based programs

Problem:

In 2007, the Hope Through Housing Foundation in Southern Calif. was looking for a program to reduce violence and increase pro-social behaviors of youth living in National Community Renaissance's affordable housing communities. They were awarded the Edward Byrne Justice Memorial Grant to develop and pilot a violence prevention program at ten of their sites. They identified and selected PeaceBuilders as a science-based, research-validated violence prevention program for out-of-school organizations.

Solution:

Staff at participating sites was trained and supported by PeaceBuilders professionals to implement strategies to prevent the onset and escalation of children's behavior associated with crime and delinquency. The practical experience gained at the pilot sites provided expertise to replicate successful PeaceBuilders implementation at other Hope Through Housing sites, including a 9-12th grade high school program.

Results:

Compared to untrained sites, PeaceBuilders sites scored better on the School Age Care Environmental Rating Scale (SACERS), attendance improved, and students reported feeling more positively about school. These outcomes led to the training of more HTH sites. Director of Youth Development Services, Susan Neufeld, says, "PeaceBuilders is changing the tone of our after school programs. Many of our children have numerous challenges. PeaceBuilders gives our staff tools they need to positively manage kids and help them develop skills they need to meet challenges. This program is flexible, fits in well with our after school model, and is as important to helping our kids succeed as academic support." Second year results show a statistically significant relationship between PeaceBuilders implementation level and perceived program quality.

"Hope's program emphasizes giving youth the skills and tools needed to get back on or stay on the path to positive developmental outcomes."

About PeaceBuilders:

PeaceBuilders is the science-based, research-validated character education and violence prevention youth program approved for the federally funded Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act. It is a culture/curriculum hybrid program that shifts the entire climate to a peaceful, productive and safe place for children, parents and the community. Our experienced corporate team manages the PeaceBuilders program to work seamlessly with any organization seeking peaceful solutions.

Contact:

Toll-free 1-877-4-peacenow
E-mail info@peacebuilders.com
www.peacebuilders.com

Year One results:

- PeaceBuilders sites met attendance goals more than non-PeaceBuilders sites (50% vs. 40%).
- PeaceBuilders sites achieved better scores on the SACERS (50% in both interactions and program structure).
- Students at PeaceBuilders sites showed a significant increase in positive feelings about school, teachers and learning.

Year Two results:

- Sites with higher implementation had significantly higher attendance (75% vs. 62%).
- SACERS scores increased significantly (15%) with higher implementation showing improved program quality.
- Sites with higher implementation report higher levels of trust and more positive relationships with program staff.