

### **Comprehensive Gang Initiative Program**

**Implementing Agency:** Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office  
**Area Served:** Cabarrus County  
**Director:** Captain Phillip Patterson, 704-920-3005  
**Funding:** \$100,006

#### **Overview**

The strategies behind this project are to develop and implement a countywide attack on its gang problem which is most troubling in its school systems and community. The project uses data and intelligence gathering, enforcement strategies, and prevention and intervention activities to reduce gang activity. Officials have identified at least a dozen gangs, most of which have national affiliations such as the Crips, MS-13, KKK, Black Piston's, Brown Pride, Aryan Brotherhood and Sur13. They have been linked to many serious crimes in Cabarrus County.



**Gang graffiti showing rivalries**

A collaboration of community partners assembled by the project safe neighborhoods (PSN) Executive Committee for Cabarrus County is guiding strategy based on:

- *Investigations* – A countywide intelligence data base will be built using surveillance equipment and data management technology.
- *Prevention* – A team of law enforcement officers will be sent to the Chicago Police Department for an internship in gang prevention. Additionally, they will be trained on-site in gang awareness and prevention techniques to be able to offer community education briefings.

#### **Objectives**

The Comprehensive Gang Initiative Program seeks to provide Cabarrus County with the capability to implement effective, comprehensive gang prevention and control programs with the following goals:

- Disseminate effective gang prevention information to schools, agencies, groups, and churches.
- Identify and remove graffiti from each effected neighborhood.
- Identify programs for prevention, controlling gang-related drug trafficking, and violence.

- Create a gang database that includes entry into DCI and GangNet.

### Accomplishments

The Cabarrus County Regional Gang Intelligence Network has met monthly to discuss equipment needs to carry out best practices for intelligence gathering and to share gang intelligence information among other law entities that is gathered from schools, businesses, and citizen leads. All participating agencies have had gang investigators trained for GangNet use. Investigators are also in the process of training other agency personnel how to access read-only data in GangNet for use in the field. The Network has also disseminated a gang prevention message through gang presentations to schools, civic groups, neighborhood and community programs, churches, businesses, and service providers. Over 3,000 individuals have attended the various presentations. Prevention programs from Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT), and the Boys and Girls Club of Cabarrus County, are offered to youth at-risk and their families. Other awareness strategies are currently still in development. In particular the project has:

- Provided instructional resources to Kannapolis and Cabarrus County School systems and printed informational gang booklets to warn the public of the dangers of gangs and methods to confront gang activities.
- Noted and photographed all gang graffiti. The City of Concord has passed an ordinance to remove graffiti.
- Partnered with the Boys and Girls Club with the ‘Street Smart’ anti-gang training. Project staff have held stakeholder meetings with school systems, the parks and recreation department, social workers, and law enforcement agencies to begin a comprehensive approach to reduce at-risk youth gang involvement.
- Worked with the schools, Department of Correction, probation, and the jail to identify gang members and build a comprehensive GangNet database for the county.

***Gang Resistance and Intervention Program (GRIP)***

**Implementing Agency:** Chatham County Sheriff's Office  
**Area Served:** Chatham County  
**Project Director:** Captain Charles Gardner, 919-542-2811  
**Funding:** \$99,982

**Overview**

This project is developing a multi-jurisdictional partnership to develop a countywide system for tracking, analyzing, and reporting gang activity. The system enhances gang prevention and intervention through public and school education and specialized programs. Citizens and a coalition of community leaders are acting to build a comprehensive anti-gang strategy with associated capacity to confront gangs. They plan to do this with a three pronged plan to educate the community and prevent and intervene in gang activity.

**Objectives**

The project goals aim to fill the service gaps in the anti-gang strategy:

- Ensure that all law enforcement offices, schools and others involved with juveniles have current information on gang activities thereby enfoldng them in the countywide strategy to address gangs.
- Reduce youth participation in gangs through enhanced prevention and intervention strategies such as Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) and provide more out-of-school opportunities for youth. This strategy will require a large resources development campaign.

**Accomplishments**

Gang Coordinator, Cpl. Raymond Barrios, and the Division Commander, Captain Charles Gardner, have made 16 gang awareness presentations in churches and schools, reaching over 500 adults and 200 children. Further presentations have been given to county offices and civic organizations.

The gang coordinator and two school resource officers have been sent to GangNet and Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) classes. These officers have started GREAT in the county middle and elementary schools. Kathy Hodges, Family Violence Rape Crisis, Co-Executive Director, observed:

*"It was really important to get this information out to the community through our conference and I know that most people who attended were stunned by the extent of the problem. Family Violence Rape Crisis will continue to support the efforts of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and their gang unit in ending gang violence."*

The newly formed Chatham County Gang Task Force is employing a community approach to intervene, suppress and prevent gang activity. Chatham County anti-gang partners currently include school resource officers, the Department of Juvenile Justice, Pittsboro Police Department, Siler City Police Department, the district attorney's office, Family Violence/Rape Crisis, NC Probation and Parole, the Hispanic liaison, and Chatham Citizen Corps.

*"The gang officer with the sheriff's office has been a crucial part of the judicial process as it pertains to the prosecution of gang related crimes in Chatham County."*

Marcie Trageser, Chatham County Assistant District Attorney

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### ***Community Action***

**Implementing Agency:** City of Dunn  
**Area Served:** Harnett County  
**Director:** Lieutenant Rodney Rowland, 910-892-1873  
**Funding:** \$99,872

#### **Overview**

This project aims to reduce gang activity in Harnett County by collaborating with law enforcement, the faith community, civic groups, medical professionals, youth organizations, county agencies, and especially the citizens. Harnett County has most major national gangs represented. With this grant, the county collaboration will implement a two pronged countywide strategy of intervention and prevention.



Program graduates

#### **Objectives**

The full circle program will present alternatives to gang involved youth and those at risk of gang involvement by:

- Conducting gang identification and reporting training to sworn officers.
- Training the Community Action Committee and citizens on basic gang identification and awareness techniques.
- Teaching Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) to elementary and middle school

students.

- Having all law enforcement and the citizens identify and report gang activities.
- Involving at-risk and former gang members in prevention and intervention programs.
- Providing community action committee resources to gang involved youth.

### Accomplishments

This project started with a coalition of four local law enforcement agencies. The Dunn Police Department built its own gang task force of eight part-time and one full-time officer to document gang activity and target resources. “The Dunn Police Department is in the process of conducting its first ‘call-in’ to put hard core gang members on notice to mend their ways or suffer the consequences,” noted Lieutenant Rodney Rowland. In particular project staff have:

- Conducted training seminars, including GangNet training, for all area law enforcement officers. Basic gang identification and awareness, prevention and intervention training continues with civic and nongovernmental agencies.
- Conducted GREAT training in all elementary schools. GREAT is progressing in all middle schools.
- Documented all gang activity, which is shared with all five county municipalities. Also, citizens now have a way to report gang activity.
- Conducted a countywide graffiti cleanup.
- Involved youth at risk of gang activity in the police athletic league prevention program; 350 youth are involved in a range of programs such as tutoring and athletics.

“Harnett County will continue to build upon its gang strategy by this partnership with the General Assembly and the Governor’s Crime Commission,” stated Lieutenant Rowland.

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### ***Gang Resistance***

**Implementing Agency:** Duplin County Sheriff’s Office  
**Area Served:** Duplin County  
**Director:** Sheriff Blake Wallace, 910-296-2150  
**Funding:** \$74,964

## Overview

This grant helps pay officer overtime for anti-gang activities. Duplin County is experiencing significant increases in gang activity. For example, MS-13 is responsible for murder, home invasions, drug trafficking and armed robberies. The sheriff is heading a multi-agency task force which includes the State Bureau of Investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms agency to meet gang activity head on.

## Objectives

The increased officer presence will:

- Increase arrests of gang-related crime.
- Set up community watch programs.
- Begin primary school anti-gang education such as Gang Resistance Education and Training.



Gang members' tattoos have significant meanings

## Accomplishments

Sheriff Blake Wallace stated, "The collaboration between the Duplin County Sheriff's Office Gang Task Force, the General Assembly, and the Crime Commission has already resulted in the apprehension of several known MS-13 gang members." According to the sheriff, some of the arrested gang members came to Duplin County with the sole purpose of establishing a continuing criminal enterprise and many relocated to Duplin County from other states with extensive criminal histories and outstanding warrants at the time of their arrests. "Continued proactive measures will be utilized in an effort to eliminate and deter future illegal gang activity," commented Sheriff Wallace.

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### *Gang Intelligence and Prevention Officer*

**Implementing Agency:** Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office  
**Area Served:** Edgecombe County  
**Director:** Sheriff James Knight, 252-641-7915  
**Funding:** \$68,470

Gang graffiti can provide useful intelligence



## Overview

This project establishes a gang intelligence office under the leadership of the sheriff. The county is experiencing a sudden growth of gangs. What is most disturbing is that gang recruitment and activities are centered in primary schools, especially at county middle schools. Local community advocates, decision makers and leaders looked to the sheriff for a plan of action. He established a permanent task force to prevent gang growth and activities and educate the public about the county gang problem and what to do about it.

## Objectives

The anti-gang task force, coordinated by the new gang intelligence and prevention officer, seeks to disrupt illegal gang activities, educate the public about gangs, and lessen the negative impact gangs have on the community by:

- Identifying gangs and gang members in the Edgecombe area.
- Educating the public on the gangs operating in their community.
- Conducting gang activity disruption operations.
- Conducting detention officer gang education and identification classes.

## Accomplishments

- *GangNet*- The gang intelligence and prevention officer has been trained in and is using GangNet. He maintains files on all validated and suspected gang members in the County. Over thirty-five active gang members operating in at least nine different gangs are being monitored.
- *Collaboration* - The Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office has entered into an agreement with the Tarboro Police Department, Pinetops Police Department, and Princeville Police Department to share gang information and cooperate on gang disruption operations.
- *Community Awareness* - The gang officer has given 11 public awareness seminars to community groups, school faculty, and business organizations. These seminars have been attended by more than 550 people who also received gang awareness informational brochures. The gang officer has made contact with the managers of four housing communities in the county and counseled them on how to recognize gang graffiti and dress.
- *In-service Training* - An in-service class was given to all detention personnel on gang recognition. A system was set up that allows them to easily inform the gang officer of suspected jail gang activity.

Gang activity disruption operations began in the early part of 2008. The gang officer has set up operations that will include the narcotics division, the special response team, the Tarboro Police Department gang officer, the Princeville Police Department, the Pinetops Police Department, and K-9 officers. The gang officer has spoken to four public housing managers about community clean-up programs. Some of the managers have expressed interest in participating in such operations during the spring. "The sheriff's anti-gang initiative will continue to grow," according to Linda Powell, a member of the sheriff's staff.

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### *Gang Reduction Initiative Project (GRIP)*

**Implementing Agency:** Goldsboro Police Department  
**Area Served:** Goldsboro  
**Director:** Sgt. Dorothy Ardes, 919-580-4245  
**Funding:** \$98,144

#### **Overview**

This grant funds officer overtime to increase enforcement and a 100% zero tolerance policy on gangs and gang activity. The Goldsboro Police Department has noticed a disturbing increase in home grown gangs, which presents a unique difficulty, community fear from 'one of their own.' Under the leadership of the chief, officers will suppress illegal gang activities with surveillance and proactive patrol.



Gangs often lead to danger

#### **Objectives**

The Goldsboro PD will decrease criminal gang activity by:

- Decreasing the number of deadly assaults committed by and against known gang members.
- Identifying known gang members and their crimes.
- Making it difficult for known gang members to carry out their illegal activities by having a visible law enforcement presence in gang territories.
- Documenting citywide graffiti.



Graffiti on building

## Accomplishments

The project director, Sgt. Dorothy Ardes, commented, “Without the General Assembly and GCC supported grant, the police department would have less contact with gang members and would not be as effective in curtailing their influence in the community.” In particular, the project has:

- Successfully identified over 16 new gang members to add to the database of known gang members.
- Made it more difficult for gang members to carry out their criminal enterprises by concentrating efforts around known gang strongholds within the community. The police department has shut down five gang drug houses.
- Photographed and documented every new instance of gang graffiti within the city.

Feedback from citizens has been most positive and encouraging:

*“The neighbors of the 200 and 300 blocks of Leslie Street would like to say thank you for your efforts to clean up the streets. Your actions are proving to be positive and there is a definite difference . . . your efforts are not in vain. It’s nice to get up in the middle of the night, look outside your window and see nobody in the streets and listen to total quiet. Once again, thank you for all your efforts and hard work. Please share this with your staff and city council members.” - Milton H.*

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### Gang Project

**Implementing Agency:** Harnett County Sheriff’s Office  
**Area Served:** Harnett County  
**Director:** Major Gary McNeill, 910-893-7103  
**Funding:** \$75,662

#### Overview

This project is to establish a gang specialist within the sheriff’s office to assist the gang advisory committee in implementing a comprehensive plan to confront gangs and gang activity. Citizens and leaders are concerned that gangs are established and gang activity is on the rise in the county. The sheriff has organized a coalition of decision makers to take action to combat gangs and the problems they cause via police presence, education and awareness, prevention, intervention, and suppression

## Highlights of the 2006 General Assembly Funded Gang Programs

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strategies. The steering committee chaired by Attorney Jon Powell, Campbell University Professor, assessed the services provided in Harnett County and concluded:

- Organizations and mechanisms to affect change in Harnett County exist, but are decentralized.
- Youth residing in the Western Side of Harnett County do not have access to a local government lead recreation type program for example, police athletic league (PAL).
- Burgeoning anti-gang resources for program planning on the Western side of the county requires more time than any one member of the coalition can devote; moreover, involvement with the coalition is not priority for any one member.
- Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Middle, GREAT Families, and GREAT Summers components should be the crux of gang-prevention or intervention efforts.
- Dunn PAL is willing to expand and share resources in an effort to bring a PAL to the western side of the county.



Youth program participants

### Objectives

The coalition headed by the sheriff aims to reduce illegal gangs, gang membership and their activities by:

- Developing a countywide comprehensive gang plan.
- Establishing an intelligence database.
- Reducing gang-related crimes.
- Lessening public fear of gangs.

### Accomplishments

Since the project is still in planning and initial stages of implementation, it is too early to determine if gang crimes have been affected and that the public fear of gangs and gang activity has been reduced.

Thus far, the project has:

- *GREAT programming* - In 2006, the Harnett County Sheriff's Office began to teach the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) in the middle schools in Harnett County. During this pilot stage 12 middle school classes were served; reaching 323 students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. In

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addition, 23 elementary classes were served; reaching 542 students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The program was well received by the staff and students and was officially endorsed by the Harnett County Schools as well as the sheriff's office.

- *Collaboration* – The sheriff initiated the Harnett County gang coalition. This coalition is comprised of representatives from local police municipalities (Dunn, Erwin, Lillington, Coats, and Angier), Harnett County DJJDP, NC DOC: Probation and Parole, Harnett County Schools, Harnett County Joblinks, Harnett County Youth Services, Harnett County Board of Commissioners, DSS, District Attorney's Office, Alcohol and Drug Services, Re-Entry, NC Cooperative Extension and area churches. The Coalition then formed a steering committee consistent with the Federal OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model.
- *Intelligence gathering* – A gang data base has been started to collect intelligence from citizens, deputies, detention and other sources.

Sheriff Larry Rollins observed:

*“Gang related issues have been on the rise in Harnett County and our region for several years. Thanks to a grant from the General Assembly via the Governors Crime Commission, we were able to position one detective as our gang specialist and begin a countywide anti-gang initiative. We have conducted much training throughout the Office to familiarize all our staff with gang identifiers and gang reporting techniques. We also have mutual cooperative agreements with all our municipalities and several surrounding counties to assist each other as gang related issues arise. With this grant we developed the Harnett County Gang Coalition to make a stand and make a difference.”*

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***Henderson Gang Violence Prevention Project II***

**Implementing Agency:** Henderson Police Department  
**Area Served:** Henderson  
**Director:** Capt. Perry Twisdale, 252-431-6059  
**Funding:** \$85,286

## Overview

This project is to fund overtime for Henderson Police Department anti-gang efforts. Like all communities in North Carolina, Henderson has noted a marked increase of gang activities which requires increased policing. The officers assigned to this program will work on gang suppression.

## Objectives

Designated officers will identify and investigate gang activity and cooperate with other agencies to provide gang education and alternatives to gangs for at-risk youth by:

- Identifying at least three operating, organized 'criminal enterprise' gangs.
- Conducting Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) classes at local schools, Boys and Girls Clubs and Weed and Seed Sites.
- Conducting 'Gang At-Risk' and interdiction programs through the safe neighborhood council.

## Accomplishments

- *Intervention and Suppression* - In 2007, officers of the Henderson Police Department worked 1,690 hours of directed and proactive patrol in the Henderson/Vance Weed and Seed Designated Areas with the most gang-related graffiti and activity. During those patrols 399 uniform citations were issued, 119 warrants for arrest were served, 20 on-site felony arrests, and 46 misdemeanor arrests were made. Seven illegal weapons charges were made, 128.79 grams of marijuana was seized, 19.51 grams of cocaine and illegal prescription drugs for oxycodone were made as well. This was in addition to patrol, criminal investigation, and narcotics officer's anti-gang activities as part of their regular assignments. Drug arrests in the city of Henderson totaled 342 in 2007 as compared to 224 in 2006, 240 in 2005 and 192 in 2004. Since the middle of 2005, patrol officers have increased enforcement due to officers working overtime to cover shift shortages due to a high level of personnel turnover at the Henderson Police Department. Increased enforcement in this area has built new working relationships with several Community Watch groups in the city.
- *Collaboration* - One of the groups identified as being a continuing criminal enterprise was taken into custody following an investigation during October 2007. The investigation of this group was conducted in cooperation with the ATF and US attorney's office. Three suspects were charged in



federal court with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession with intent to distribute more than five grams of cocaine and being an armed career criminal. Investigations on at least two other groups are ongoing.

Chief of Police Keith Sidwell commented to the local press following these arrests that "With this type of prosecution, these individuals receive much longer prison sentences." This initiative will continue and more arrests are pending. The chief also mentioned that he would purchase the remaining authorized equipment, additional training for officers, public education and presentation efforts, and directed, planned enforcement efforts designed to address gang and drug related activities within the city of Henderson.

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***Henderson County Gang Prevention Partnership***

**Implementing Agency:** Henderson County Sheriff's Office  
**Area Served:** Henderson County  
**Director:** Captain Rick Davis, 828-697-4536  
**Funding:** \$99,080

**Overview**

The Henderson County sheriff is taking a proactive approach to the county's growing gang presence and subsequent problems by forming and staffing a partnership to confront gangs and gang activity. This cooperative grant will be used to hire a sworn officer and an unsworn outreach coordinator to staff the partnership of local law enforcement, courts, correction, public services, and non-governmental officials and organizations. Their purpose is to develop and implement a countywide anti-gang strategy.

**Objectives**

The gang enforcement officer will attend to gang relevant prevention, intervention, suppression and community development. The outreach coordinator will work with Henderson County citizens and especially the large Hispanic community to deter gang involvement by:



- Creating a working team
- Removing graffiti

## Highlights of the 2006 General Assembly Funded Gang Programs

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- Implementing community development and outreach
- Creating stronger relations with the Latino community
- Educating students about gangs
- Educating the community about gangs
- Increasing public awareness about gangs
- Reducing gang related violence

### Accomplishments

- *Public Awareness* – The anti-gang coordinator, Detective Hill, has conducted gang awareness classes for law enforcement, school officials, community groups and state agencies. He works closely with county school resource officers, especially in middle schools.
- *Gang Data Base* – Detective Hill has had many one-on-one interviews with gang members. A detailed data base is under construction.
- *Outreach* – A bi-lingual and bi-cultural Latino Outreach Coordinator has been hired to facilitate interaction, interpretation, and intelligence gathering with the largely Latino gang presence. The Latino coordinator also spends much time in the school system, especially at the middle school level, conducting gang awareness informational counseling and training.

Captain Charlie McDonald has watched the rapid growth of this program:

*“The success of this program is evident in the fact that our agency is now aware of the gang issue and our officers are more able to recognize gang affiliation. Our patrol now has a code for gang calls for service. This is facilitated by the working relationship Detective Hill has established parole and probation office, the district attorney’s office, and those involved in the enforcement process. We are now better able to identify and attend to individuals involved in gang activity.”*

### ***Gang Enforcement and Intervention***

**Implementing Agency:** Iredell County Sheriff's Office  
**Area Served:** Iredell County  
**Director:** Captain Mike Phillips, 704-924-4069  
**Funding:** \$90,871

#### **Overview**

This cooperative project establishes a gang data base and begins an anti-gang strategy based on prevention, suppression, and interdiction. The Iredell County Sheriff's Office (ICSO) observed the significant growth and migration of organized gangs from Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. More and more arrests are associated with illicit gang activity.

#### **Objectives**

This grant sets up four gang specialists for each of the sheriff's squads. These gang specialists will head the sheriff's office anti-gang strategies and coordinate community and stakeholder anti-gang efforts by:

- Identifying, arresting and convicting gang offenders.
- Presenting educational programs to schools and the community to increase gang awareness.
- Working with community organizations to offer alternatives to gang involvement such as athletics and the arts.

#### **Accomplishments**

- *Athletics* - The ICSO partnered with two local sports groups to help provide gang programs through a competitive baseball environment. Players between the ages of 10 and 15 were coached in baseball, leadership, and life skills. Free baseball camps will be open to all youth in Iredell County by March 2008. Athletics are one part of the anti-gang strategy which provides alternatives to gang activity.
- *Mentoring* - The ICSO established a mentoring program through the Iredell Statesville School (ISS) system. This program partners a deputy of the sheriff's office with an at risk youth. The deputy meets with his or her assigned youth at least once a week to spend out-of-school time together.
- *GangNet* - The ICSO has trained five officers and administrative staff members to input, analyze and use GangNet information. This program will continue to grow as additional officers are trained

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on the GangNet System.

- *Rodney Monroe Basketball Camp* – The ICSO partnered with the Boys and Girls Club, Appropriate Punishment, Teen Health and ISS to present the first annual Rodney Monroe basketball camp which hosted 93 participants who were taught basketball skills, sportsmanship, and attended anti-gang presentations. These same participants were also taken to a Charlotte Bobcats basketball game free of charge. This program will be an annual event.
- *G.R.E.A.T* - To date we have trained five DARE officers to teach Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) in Iredell public and private schools. Training for the remaining members of the DARE unit will be completed by summer 2008.
- *Gang Training* - All members of the ICSO received specialized gang training during the departmental in-service training week.
- *Community Programs* - ICSO staff have made more than 75 gang awareness presentations to community groups including churches, schools, civic groups and parent organizations.
- *Detention Center* – Program staff have trained a jail deputy to serve as the gang liaison for all duty squads in the detention center. This individual is responsible for the identification, interviewing and confirmation of all gang members that are arrested and brought to the Iredell County jail.
- *Surveillance Equipment* - To assist the investigation of criminal gangs, project staff are purchasing specialized investigative equipment consisting of video and still cameras equipped with infrared night vision. This equipment will help document and suppress countywide gang activity.

The project director, Captain Mike Phillips observed:

*“We were very interested in forming partnerships with other groups and agencies within Iredell County to assist us in delivering the programs and identifying participants. These partnerships will endure thanks to this grant.”*

***Gang Awareness, Training, and Education (GATE)***

**Implementing Agency:** Kinston Public Safety  
**Area Served:** Kinston  
**Project Director:** Greg Smith, 252- 939-3224  
**Funding:** \$115,000

**Overview**

The Kinston Public Safety office received a grant from the Governor’s Crime Commission to provide prevention, intervention and suppression activities to reduce gang activities by addressing the needs of youth who wish to disassociate from gangs or gang activity. The grant will be used to renovate, supply, and equip a building as a youth center where teens at risk because of gang activity can come for an array of services.



Kinston suffered a brutal gang shootout which took the lives of a young girl and a young man. The Director of Public Safety, Greg Smith, could see that suppression was not the answer, ‘The community had to own the problem and the solution.’ A coalition of community advocates, professionals from the courts, law enforcement, schools, social and mental services and especially the faith community committed to making a difference in the gang problem by declaring that all children and youth are at-risk. They started serving their young citizens with the ‘coffee house’ run by the Methodist Church which provided a safe and productive place for socialization. With this grant, they will expand the ‘coffee house’ meeting place concept with targeted services, education and training. Furthermore, the community has committed resources and funds to make the youth center permanent so they can begin making that difference in the community.

**Objectives**

The youth center will provide security and structured activities that will address contributing factors. The project also will increase suppression efforts by providing more cameras to monitor gang activity. The specific goals to be accomplished by the end of the grant.

- Reduce crime against persons committed by gang members by ten percent.
- Reduce crime against property (graffiti and vandalism) committed by gang members by 25 percent.

- Decrease the number of out-of-school suspensions by ten percent.

### Accomplishments

Project officials began serving youth in the new GATE building in January 2008. They have an array of services such as job hunting and interviewing techniques, tutoring, and mentoring. The local community college offers GED education. They also have plans to expand services as resources and need determine. GATE is an example of the best of what the community can resolve to do. As Chief Smith observed, “This (project) is not just another basketball refuge; the youth center and the community will make a difference in many young lives.”

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### *LaGrange Anti-Gang Resistance Group Effort (LARGE)*

**Implementing Agency:** LaGrange Police Department

**Area Served:** LaGrange

**Director:** Jerry Davis , 252-566-3400

**Funding:** \$65,982

### Overview

This collaborative project promotes gang awareness and enhances departmental intervention, investigation and prosecution efforts. LaGrange is experiencing the increasing debilitating effects of gangs. The most disturbing fact is that LaGrange juveniles are increasingly becoming involved with gangs and illicit activity. This grant helps establish a departmental and citywide anti-gang strategy based on education and targeted, aggressive policing.

### Objectives

The LaGrange Police Department is reducing gang related activities by educating police and the wider community and by saturating patrols in targeted areas. The police department is:

- Providing training to departmental officers on methods to combat gang growth and activities.
  - Providing gang awareness education for the community.
  - Reducing available locations for gang meetings and gathering places.
  - Building an intelligence data base on violent gang members and sharing findings with other public and nongovernmental agencies.
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- Reducing gang criminal activity via saturated patrols and aggressive enforcement.

### Accomplishments

According to the project director and assistant chief of police, Jerry Davis, this project has provided the police department with the additional man hours to increase police presence in areas where gangs are most active. With the grant, observed Assistant Chief Davis, “There has been a drastic plunge in reported incidents of gang crimes.” In particular, the project has:

- Sent three officers to specialized training in gang investigation.
- Held presentations throughout the county.
- Eliminated several condemned buildings known to be bases for gang activity.
- Conducted saturated patrols to target gang members and get them off the street.



*“The NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety (through the Crime Commission) has done a fantastic job disseminating the General Assembly funds and by the and it is grants such as this that allow towns like La Grange to start a program that has the potential to grow through local dollars in the future.”* stated Assistant Chief Davis.

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### Gang Task Force

**Area Served:** Craven County  
**Implementing Agency:** New Bern Police Department  
**Director:** Chief Frank Palombo, 252-672-4190  
**Funding:** \$96,620

### Overview

This project enables Craven County law enforcement agencies to better collaborate in efforts in dealing with the rise in gang presence and its associated criminal activity. Regular meetings provide the opportunity for timely information sharing amongst law enforcement agencies. In addition, the project educates and informs citizens, including children, about the signs and patterns of criminal activity

associated with the presence of gangs.

### **Objectives**

The task force aims to reduce illegal gangs and their activities by:

- Designating an officer in each participating agency to participate in monthly meetings at the New Bern Police Department in which information is shared concerning potential gang activity
- Using GangNet in all participating agencies
- Designing and distributing literature and video training to officers in gang prevention and recognition
- Designing and distributing literature and video training on gang recognition and prevention for the public
- Addressing gang membership to school age children in a seminar setting, as the local school system recognizes the need to address gang membership and preventive measures

### **Accomplishments**

- Monthly meetings for the task force started in June 2007. Every law enforcement agency in Craven County is represented at monthly meetings regularly, along with members from the North Carolina Department of Correction (Craven Correctional Institute and Probation and Parole) and the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Information sharing on gangs and their activities has been the focus of each meeting.
- Equipment has been procured in order to be able to utilize GangNet in all agencies throughout the county. GangNet training occurred November 27-28, 2007 for half of the task force. The second half of the task force was trained January 24-25, 2008.
- Presentations created by members of the Craven County Gang Task Force are viewed at monthly meetings as a method of information exchange and training. With advancement in gang recognition, the task force is ready to start developing literature for partnering agencies to use as a tool in identifying gang signs, symbols, graffiti and behavior in an effort to educate the public.
- The task force is working to create a video for the community and for use at public safety events to create another avenue of educating the public. By educating the public on gang recognition, a link between citizens and law enforcement is formed. This, in turn, will foster tips from individuals when they recognize gang associations in their neighborhoods.

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- The New Bern Police Department detective assigned to gang crime has been giving presentations to school age children in the community and in schools. Recently, the detective conducted a very successful teen gang violence workshop at a local non-profit group called Youth Vision, Inc. Future events are being scheduled with the Craven County Schools to reach out to more youth in the local area.
- Agencies on the task force made a combined total of 76 gang-related arrests in the second half of 2007.

*“Through receiving the grant from the Governor’s Crime Commission with a mandate to form a task force, the local agencies that have come together are committed to this project and will continue for years to come. Had the grant not directed a task force start, all participants that are involved in this effort would be missing an exceptional opportunity for information exchange. Creating the Craven County Gang Task Force has opened valuable lines of communication within local law enforcement agencies, corrections officers, and social service workers. The relationships built in the task force meetings will allow all agencies to work together on future endeavors. All participants are committed to continuing the task force and are vested in its success.”*

*- Excerpt from GCC progress report submitted by New Bern Police Chief Frank Palombo*

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### **Coalition Against Teen Gangs and Violence**

**Area Served:** Rockingham County  
**Implementing Agency:** Rockingham County Sheriff’s Office  
**Director:** Sheriff Samuel Page, 336-634-3239  
**Funding:** \$74,999

#### **Overview**

This project is a collaborative effort among agencies in Rockingham County where overtime pay is provided to officers assisting the gang investigator as they work to identify gangs and track gang members, coordinate proactive enforcement and facilitate innovative gang prevention programs in order to reduce gang violence.

#### **Objectives**

The coalition, headed by the sheriff, aims to:

## Highlights of the 2006 General Assembly Funded Gang Programs

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- Reduce the number of youth gang members in middle and high schools by 15 percent during the 2006-07 school year and by 20 percent during the 2007-08 school year.
- Reduce the number of youth gang related incidents of crime and misbehavior at middle and high schools by 20 percent during the 2006-07 school year and by 25 percent during the 2007-08 school year.
- Increase the number of individuals, both parents and at-risk youth, who are referred by law enforcement officers for gang reduction intervention services by 25 percent.

### Accomplishments

- Currently, statistics on the reduction of gang members or gang incidents in the school system have not been collected. The development of validation criteria has taken place and identification efforts are taking place. Since the grant began, 43 members, several in high school from at least 13 different gangs, have been validated.
- The sheriff's office has started working with different organizations such as the Rockingham County S.C.O.R.E. Center, an alternative school providing targeted assistance to at-risk students, and the Rockingham County Youth Services, which provides counseling and other community alternatives for school-aged youth and their families with the goal of preventing initial or continued involvement with the juvenile justice system. Through this collaboration, the establishment of future gang intervention programs can be achieved.
- The district attorney's office has been working with the sheriff's office to give validated gang members stiffer penalties when sentenced.
- The gang resource officer has attended gang training conferences both in North Carolina and out-of-state.
- Overtime pay has been used to conduct investigations on gang related crimes. Recently, four detectives were paid overtime to investigate a stabbing involving two gang members. One arrest was made and another subject is going to be indicted.
- A total of 28 gang related arrests were made in the second half of 2007.

*“Without the support of the Governor’s Crime Commission through this grant and the overtime money, we would not have identified these gangs and gang members. Being able to identify different gangs and gang members will tremendously help us in the future with preventing and solving crimes... I have been very fortunate to be able to attend some of the best training available due to the support of the*

*Governor's Crime Commission. Without funding from the GCC, I would not have been able to attend this valuable training. I will need to continue to attend this type of training in the future to stay abreast of the current gang trends. In turn, I can teach the other officers at my department what I have learned."*

*- Detective Johnny Flynn, Gang Resource Officer*

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### ***Gang Surveillance***

**Area Served:** Rocky Mount and surrounding counties  
**Implementing Agency:** Rocky Mount Police Department  
**Director:** Sergeant Allen Moore, 252-972-1475  
**Funding:** \$22,718

#### **Overview**

The project funded the purchase of a pole camera surveillance system with night vision capabilities to allow indirect covert surveillance of gang activities that occur outside in urban areas. The system eliminates the need for direct observation and helps to ensure that officers are able to see natural behavior of gang members that do not realize they are being seen. An additional benefit is that activities will be recorded to make a more credible account of events for use in the investigation and prosecution of criminal gang activity. Once installed, maintenance cost for the system is not considerable; therefore the system will be sustainable in the future without additional grant assistance. The surveillance system is used in Rocky Mount and surrounding areas.

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### ***Gang Reduction and Education***

**Area Served:** Edgecombe County  
**Implementing Agency:** Tarboro Police Department  
**Director:** Chief Robert Cherry, 252-641-4239  
**Funding:** \$36,854

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## Overview

This project allows members of the Tarboro Police Department's patrol division to work in conjunction with other county law enforcement agencies by creating a multijurisdictional gang task force. The task force is comprised of the Tarboro Police Department along with the Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office and police departments of Rocky Mount, Pinetops, Whitakers, and Princeville. A gang prevention officer has aggressively set up training to educate the community, school faculty and uniform patrol officers on how to recognize the threat of gang activity.

## Objectives

Gang activity reduction will be accomplished by:



Notebooks often reveal gang symbols

- Continuing to identify gangs and gang members that operate in the community
- Educating the community and school faculty on gangs operating in the community
- Educating patrol officers in gang identification classes
- Using special operations, such as saturated patrols in gang infested areas, to interfere with gang activity
- Working closely with narcotic investigators to target gang members involved in the sale and/or use of illegal narcotics
- Forming a gang task force

## Accomplishments

- The project has identified local persons as gang members, validating them accordingly, and monitored their activities.
- A gang education, awareness and reduction officer has been established. Local supporting evidence of gang activity has been documented and shared with the public through awareness and education presentations to civic groups, businesses and all school administrators and faculty members.
- Departmental officers have been educated on gang activity, identifiers, and methods of suppression

through training courses, conferences and local in-service training.

- Areas within the jurisdiction where gang activity is taking place have been identified through increased visibility, saturation patrols and implementation of graffiti removal ordinances.
- Pertinent information has been shared through communication with other agencies.

As a result of an increased police presence in potential problem areas, gang related activity has been kept on the misdemeanor level, as far as criminal activity is concerned, with no major gang related incidents having been documented to date. Funding has allowed the department to use greater proactive identification and suppression efforts that have proven effective in staying ahead of local gang activity within the jurisdiction.

*“Without funding from the Governor’s Crime Commission our agency as well as many others across this great state would lag behind in the ever growing issues that we face today and in the future with gangs and gang related activity.”*

*- Chief Robert Cherry  
Tarboro Police Department*

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### **Gang Violence Suppression Initiative**

**Area Served:** Wayne County  
**Implementing Agency:** Wayne County Sheriff’s Office  
**Director:** Sheriff Carey Winders, 919-222-7171  
**Funding:** \$74,058

#### **Overview**

This project enables local law enforcement to implement a collaborative strategy to suppress domestic terror and street gang violence. It focuses on educating the community, gathering intelligence, and suppressing illegal gang activity.

#### **Objectives**

The project will suppress gang violence by:

## Highlights of the 2006 General Assembly Funded Gang Programs

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- Educating the community about gangs and domestic terror
- Gathering intelligence by validating gang members
- Developing a multi-agency task force for gang interdiction
- Educating local law enforcement officers in gang identification and pertinent safety issues
- Creating a curriculum to instill discernment in youth when confronted by gangs
- Implementing a communication system for gang activity between agencies

### Accomplishments

- The project has educated approximately 2,000 members of the community, including teachers and school staff, fire departments, civic groups, and community watches, about gangs and their activities.
- The Wayne County Sheriff's Office has identified 16 gangs throughout the county and arrested roughly 30 gang members on drug or gun-related charges.
- A task force has yet to be developed. However, an open line of communication amongst agencies within Wayne County and surrounding counties exists.
- The entire detention staff for Wayne County, along with most of the Wayne County employees, has been trained on the identification and safety issues pertaining to gangs.
- A gang curriculum has been incorporated into the C.O.P.E. drug program that is taught in all Wayne County middle schools.

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### ***Gang One***

**Area Served:** Wilson County  
**Implementing Agency:** Wilson Police Department  
**Director:** Lieutenant Mark Sullivan, 252-399-2319  
**Funding:** \$86,589

### **Overview**

This project increases law enforcement awareness and intelligence of gang activity in the city of Wilson

and Wilson County and will lead to reduced illegal gang activity through increased prevention, intervention and enforcement strategies.

### Objectives

Using a proactive response to gang issues, the project aims to:

- Increase the identification and recording of gang members and associates
- Increase the number of community contacts being made through gang awareness presentations to civic groups, schools and the criminal justice community
- Increase the number of positive contacts with juveniles at risk of gang affiliation
- Establish a graffiti removal system, with the cooperation of other city departments and Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson
- Increase the number of probation revocations based on violations imposed regarding gang affiliation
- Increase the number of arrests for acts of gang related vandalism



### Accomplishments

- The Wilson Police Department identified and recorded 154 gang members and associates during 2007, compared to 51 in 2006. The department has set up a gang criminal history file to be maintained.
- The gang unit has conducted over 50 presentations, discussing gangs within the area. Two presentations consisted of more than 75 participants from the community. Eight school presentations have occurred, although classroom presentations will not begin until Spring 2008. All gang awareness brochures were printed in both English and Spanish as well.
- The gang unit has assisted with football camp and started a soccer camp for roughly 100 youth through help provided by the Wilson gang task force. In addition, 18 gang affiliated at-risk children participated in a recent Christmas outing in which they were taken to an arcade, movie and dinner.
- The Wilson Police Department juvenile/gang investigative unit and the Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson removed graffiti by painting over it. In 2007, approximately 15 children helped paint over six locations. Part of the grant paid for the supplies used in graffiti removal. A database has been established to collect a wide variety of data related to gang activity, including graffiti, was established in spring 2007.

## Highlights of the 2006 General Assembly Funded Gang Programs

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- A strong working relationship with the North Carolina Department of Community Corrections has led to countless examples of information on probationers with gang involvement. Thirty individuals were found to violate their probation in 2007.
- The unit investigated 32 gang related vandalism cases in 2007, leading to 14 arrests.