



Aim4Peace News

"Increase the capacity of the community to handle its own disputes nonviolently. Aim4Peace is the movement to stop the shooting and the killing!"

Volume 2, Issue 4 • Oct. 2011

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Aim4Peace sponsors Second Annual Peace Ride

Aim4Peace's Second Annual Peace Ride will be held on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011 from noon - 4 pm at Blue Valley Park, 2301 Topping Ave. The Peace Ride will include free food, entertainment, giveaways and much more. African-American motorcycle clubs, antique car clubs, Aim4Peace volunteers and a crowd of concerned residents will be rallying to raise awareness about the senseless homicides and violence plaguing Kansas City.



"This peace ride is all about promoting values, something that some of our youngsters have lost," said Chris Pace, president of Redline Riders, a predominantly African-American motorcycle club.

Park near the intersection of 23rd Street and Topping Avenue. The route will ride down many prominent streets in Kansas City's east side, including Truman Road, Troost Avenue, 71 Highway, Prospect Avenue and Van Brunt Street. It will end at Blue Valley Park around 1:45 p.m. The ride will be followed by a peace rally featuring speakers who will discuss the peace movement, why black motorcycle clubs exist, and a bit about the history of the Motorcycle Roundup tradition.

Pace was instrumental in planning and successfully implementing the first Peace Ride event last year. He is working to connect with neighborhood church and community leaders, as well as other local black biker clubs, such as Street Savage, Crusaders, Oncuts and the Dragons to garner their participation in the Peace Ride.

Attendees can enjoy free food, music from a DJ., hot rod motorcycles and antique cars, along with community vendor displays. There will also be horses, a moon walk and other activities for the kids. The event will be free and open to the public.

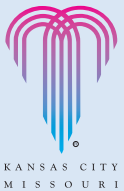
"Last year we were going off all hope," Pace said. "This year we have more groups, and it will be even more successful."

This year's Peace Ride will cover about 24 miles - more ground than last year's event. The ride will begin at 1 p.m. at Blue Valley

For more information about the Second Annual Peace Ride, contact Aim4Peace at 816-513-7902.

www.kcmo.org/aim4peace
Phone: 816-513-7902
Fax: 816-513-7928
aim4peace@kcmo.org

Thank you for your continued support!!!



Public Health



Who is Aim4Peace?

The Aim4Peace mission is to increase the capacity of the community to handle its own disputes and empower citizens through community mobilization to peacefully resolve their conflicts. The group is based on Ceasefire, an anti-violent crime organization in Chicago.

Aim4Peace is a community-based violence prevention program that uses data-driven interventions to reduce retaliatory and gang-related violence.

How I became an Aim4Peace volunteer

by Abdul Malik Lamar Jamil

By definition, a volunteer is a person who “renders aid, performs a service, or assumes an obligation voluntarily”. This may seem like an easy task for someone who has lived a life of empathy and concern. For someone like me, the act of willingly and selflessly helping others used to be a foreign concept. This all changed the day my acts of selfishness landed me a 25-year prison sentence.

For most people, a 25-year prison sentence might seem like a death sentence, especially for a young adult. Instead, it changed me, enriched my life, and ultimately gave me not just a sense of obligation to help others, but a sense of desire to help others.

During my prison term in Cameron, Mo., I worked with several troubled teens and young adults. I showed them the things I wished I had been shown as a young man: compassion, understanding and care. Soon volunteering was not only an act of giving to others, but it, in turn, gave great gifts to me. I was filled with a sense of self-worth. I mattered in these young kids’ lives. I could actually see a change in their spirits and self-esteem. It was a change that I had helped to imprint upon them.

After my release from prison in June, I decided I wanted to continue my commitment to be a volunteer as a free man.

Finding Aim 4 Peace was a blessing for me. This organiza-

tion embodies the fiber of changing young people in our community through acts of peace and tolerance. I found it was easy to become a volunteer. I called the volunteer coordinator, and he invited me to the next training for volunteers. I attended a one hour session on a Thursday night and learned more about what Aim4Peace is, what Aim4Peace does, and what I could do as an Aim4Peace volunteer. At the training, we filled out some paperwork and signed a Commitment to Peace Agreement. We learned about the rules and guidelines to follow as volunteers. It was an informative meeting, and I became more eager to volunteer.

I truly thank Aim4Peace for giving me an opportunity to volunteer and make a positive difference in my community. But being an Aim4Peace volunteer is making a difference in my life as well. I’ve learned more about the principles of unity, conflict resolution and acceptance. But most importantly, Aim4Peace strives to train and empower volunteers to make a difference in the community. It “renders aid and performs a service.” In other words, it is the place for devoted volunteers. And I have also found, it is the place for me.

Aim4Peace Volunteer Training
Vineyard Neighborhood Association
4301 E. 43rd St.
(all trainings are from 6-7 p.m.)

October 5 and 19
November 3 and 17

Please call 816-513-7902 to sign up!

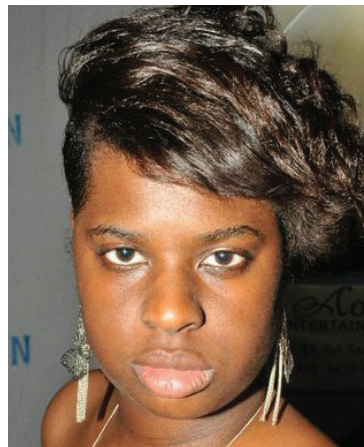
Volunteer Spotlight: Elaine Sanders

This summer, Elaine Sanders found herself wanting to do more to help her community. She was looking for a way to use her love of photography to help others. She also wanted to speak out against the use of aggression that has become more common among her peers. Fortunately, she found a solution with Aim4Peace!

On a Thursday night in July, she accompanied her mother, Arlene Jacob, to an Aim4Peace Volunteer Training session at the Vineyard Neighborhood Association. She learned about the mission of Aim4Peace to “Stop the shooting and killing in Kansas City!” She also found out about the many volunteer opportunities that she could participate in – from working in the office to attending neighborhood events and talking to people about the purpose of Aim4Peace and getting others involved. Elaine also offered to become the volunteer photographer for Aim4Peace.

Since that evening, Elaine has helped with two other training sessions, assisted with office paperwork, and taken photographs

at many of the neighborhood events and community affairs. Elaine was instrumental in documenting the Walk4Life event at Central High School on Aug. 19, 2011.



Elaine truly has found a way to blend her desires and her talents into a community service that touches the lives of others and makes an impact! There are more than 130 people just like Elaine who have taken the Volunteer Training class and found new ways to make a change in their community! Will you be the next volunteer?



Silence the Violence

Sign a Commitment to Peace Agreement

Turn on the local news and if it's like most days in Kansas City, there will be a story about some act of violence in our community. What you probably won't see in the story are the residents who are fed up with the violence.

Aim4Peace is trying to change that! Aim4Peace is giving a collective voice to neighborhood businesses,

churches, organizations and the concerned residents through our Commitment to Peace Agreement. By signing this form, an individual or organization is making a pledge to handle disputes in a non-violent manner and joins the movement to bring peace to our neighborhoods and communities.

Aim4Peace representatives meet with the signer(s) of the agreement to work on neighborhood specific answers to address violence prevention.

Asking community members to sign the Commitment to Peace Agreement was recently highlighted at the Walk4Life event at the Central High School track on Aug. 19.

Mayor Sly James signed a Commitment to Peace Agreement prior to speaking at the Walk4Life event.

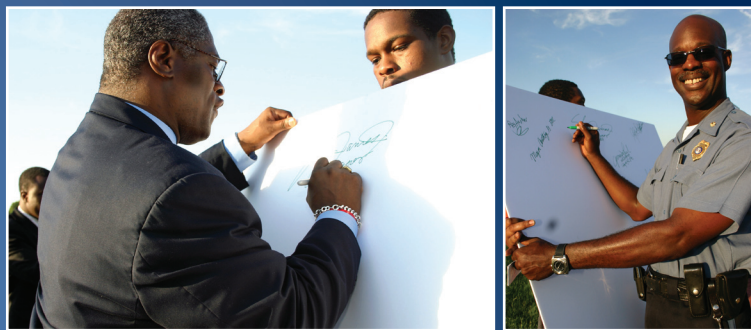
"Walk4Life brings concerned residents and community partners together to show that we want an end to the shootings and killings," said Mayor James. "We are committed to bringing peace to our streets."

"Walk4Life challenges residents to sign a Commitment to Peace Agreement that fosters and promotes a healthy lifestyle," said

Rex Archer, MD, MPH, director of the Kansas City, Mo., Health Department. "We ask every concerned resident to speak out and take action about the problem of violence affecting our city's neighborhoods, in remembrance of those who have lost family members and friends to violence."

More than 2,000 individuals and community partners have also signed a Commitment to Peace Agreement. The hope is that by having more individuals publicly committed to peace, community norms will begin to change. Neighborhoods will mobilize together to say no to violence and instead peacefully resolve conflicts.

If you or your organization, church or business is interested in taking a stand against violence and signing a Commitment to Peace Agreement, please contact Aim4Peace at 816-513-7902.



Calendar of Events

October

Second Annual Peace Ride

Noon to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 8

Blue Valley Park – 23rd & Topping

November

**Town Hall Meeting on the
Commitment to Peace Agreement**

(Check facebook.com/aim4peace for date/time)

December

3rd Annual Holiday Celebration

Dec. 17, 2011

(Check facebook.com/aim4peace for date/time)

Aim4Peace Volunteer Training (ongoing)

Vineyard Neighborhood Association

4301 E. 43rd St.

(all trainings are from 6-7 p.m.)

October 5 and 19

November 3 and 17

Please call 816-513-7902 to sign up!

Job, Health and Education Fair

Aim4Peace wants to put Kansas Citizens back to work.

To help with this goal, Aim4Peace held a Job, Health and Education Fair on Thursday, Sept. 22 at the Brush Creek Community Center. The event was co-sponsored by the United Services Community Action Agency and the Brush Creek Community Center.

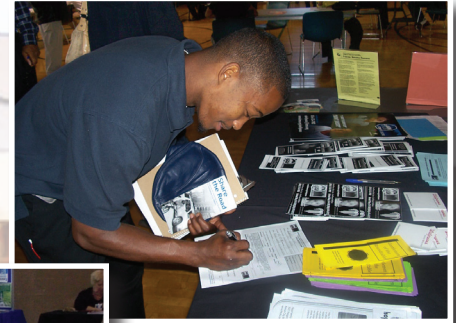
More than 30 vendors participated at the fair, offering employment opportunities, health services or educational assistance to the hundreds of participants who showed up.

“The Job, Health and Education Fair was a rewarding opportunity for the urban core of Kansas City,” said Carrie Randle, executive director of the Brush Creek Community Center. “By attending

this event, residents were given opportunities that some may not know exist for finding employment in the Kansas City metro area.”

About 300 community residents participated in the Job, Health and Education Fair. As a result, one thing is certain – those in attendance were afforded job, health and educational opportunities and services that they didn’t have before.

The next Job, Health, and Education Fair is planned for spring 2012. For more information about upcoming events, please contact Aim4Peace at 816-513-7902.



DeVry University education discount

Plan for your educational future now! Enroll in school at a discounted rate!

Plan for your educational future now! With Aim4Peace, you can enroll in school at a discounted rate.

Did you know that Aim4Peace and DeVry University have an educational agreement that provides students with benefits that include tuition savings and waived fees?

One goal of Aim4Peace is to motivate high-risk offenders to change their behavior.

“We want to get them off the streets and into a job or school,” said Tracie McClendon-Cole, Aim4Peace director. “The partnership between DeVry University and Aim4Peace assists those who are ready to make a change by lowering educational costs.”

How do you get a discount? Simply state that you are an Aim4Peace referral on your university application at the time of enrollment and DeVry University will waive the application fee that is normally required to process the form. In addition, the student will receive a 5 percent discount off the current tuition rate applicable to that student’s chosen program and location. The tuition reduction begins during the first full semester after the effective date on the application.

DeVry offers associates, bachelors and masters degree programs in business, technology and health care. Classes can be attended onsite at two locations, one in southern Kansas City, Mo., at 11224 Holmes Road and the other in the heart of downtown at 11th & Main streets. DeVry also offers classes online. Classes begin every eight weeks.

For more information about the Aim4Peace educational tuition discount, please call Joe DiGirolamo at DeVry University at 816-943-7435.

