

# The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia Community Outreach Annual Report

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# **Executive Summary**

The United States Attorney's Office engages in community outreach to establish an ongoing dialogue with the public we serve and to work collaboratively to build safer communities. We seek



to develop relationships with the residents, community groups, non-governmental organizations, local governments, educators, and vulnerable populations. We are committed to not only aggressively prosecuting those who violate the law, but also to understanding community needs and leading focused prevention and reentry efforts.

In this report, prevention, enforcement and reentry initiatives for Fiscal Year 2012–2013 are highlighted. The aggregate numbers of citizens impacted by the U.S. Attorney's Office participation or community outreach unit involvement are represented throughout the report. The goal of community outreach is to promote safer communities through strategic partnerships, for the nearly 6,371,675<sup>1</sup> citizens of the Northern District of Georgia.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012

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## **Prevention Initiatives**

Goal #1: Expand violence prevention by partnering with community stakeholders to reach at-risk populations.

## **High School Initiatives**

Booker T. Washington High School Street Law Program: a USAO outreach initiative, in partnership with Atlanta's John Marshall Law School (JMLS), designed to engage high school students in learning about practical legal issues, democracy and human rights. Fifteen curriculum lessons were taught by law students and USAO staff. Topics included: the intent of the law, juvenile justice system, crimes and consequences, bullying, cyber-bullying and sexting, why be a witness, alternative dispute resolution, intellectual property, civil rights and civil disobedience. USAO staff supplemented the curriculum with actual case examples. Partners from City of Atlanta Municipal Court, ATF and FBI also served as facilitators. The Street Law curriculum was followed by three weeks of Mock Trial preparation. Students were given seven civil and



criminal case options for the mock trial, and chose *United States v. Michael Davis*: a college student charged with felony rape after his girlfriend alleged that he forced her to have sexual intercourse against her will. (15 people)

- Booker T. Washington High School Mock Trial: students from the Street Law program participated in a mock trial, with the Honorable U.S. Magistrate Judge Linda Walker presiding. The students presented the case of *United States v. Michael Davis*: a college student charged with felony rape after his girlfriend alleged that he forced her to have sexual intercourse against her will. (20 people)
- Booker T. Washington High School 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Federal Law Enforcement Symposium: each year, the USAO engages our federal law enforcement partners in an opportunity to encourage Washington High School students to think about careers with their respective agencies. Partnering agency representatives from the ATF, FBI, DHS, and USMS facilitated breakout sessions to speak candidly

about their job duties, career opportunities within the agency, and how to make good decisions educationally, socially and professionally. (250 people)

- Atlanta Partners for Education (APFE) "Project for a Day" Orientation Breakfast: APFE volunteers worked with students on experiential learning projects which focused on the importance of graduating from high school and being prepared for the workforce in a global economy. The USAO partnership with Junior Achievement Career Success project is scheduled for October 24, 2013 at Booker T. Washington High School. Junior Achievement topics are the "4Cs: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity;" strong soft skills; work priorities; STEM and other high-growth industries; and job-hunting tools such as resumes, cover letters, interviews and digital profiles. (100 people)
- USAO Straight Talk Student Forum at Osborne High School: a USAO signature outreach initiative, in partnership with Communities in Schools (CIS) of Georgia, designed to engage at-risk high school students in a monthly open forum style discussion on a variety of violence prevention topics specific to their community. Straight Talk targets students who are identified by school administrators and teachers for factors ranging from poor school attendance, multiple disciplinary infractions, failing grades, grade retention, and/or gang-affiliation. Osborne High School was the first school to implement the Straight Talk program. Forum topics focused on Decision-Making and Problem-Solving, Drug and Gun Violence Prevention, and Gang Resistance. (35 people)
- USAO Straight Talk Student Forum at Villa Rica High School: met with Villa Rica High School administration and the Communities in Schools of Carrollton City and Carroll County Executive Director and Site Coordinator to substantively discuss the USAO signature outreach initiative aimed at reaching the at-risk populations of high school students. Villa Rica plans to implement the program during the 2013 – 2014 school year. (5 people)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual YELLS Networking Dinner: YELLS, Inc. is a Marietta-based non-profit organization that stands for Youth Empowerment through Learning, Leading & Serving, matching Marietta High School student mentors with Park Street Elementary School mentees for tutoring, service-learning and fun. The networking dinner allows Atlanta professionals the opportunity to engage YELLS high school students on how to become expert networkers to better their communities and future careers. (60 people)
- South Gwinnett High School Black History Month Program: upon request, served as a guest speaker to engage 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade students in a conversation about life

choices and the impact that your decisions can have on your career. The key message was violence prevention and decision-making skills. *(100 people)* 

- Meadowcreek High School Ninth Grade Success Academy Career and College Day: visited four 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes and discussed college and career choices, interviewing skills, and professional attire. Also, encouraged 9<sup>th</sup> graders to begin thinking about careers after graduation, although they had just begun high school. Overall, the students were very interested and encouraged to hear about the number of career, educational, and education funding options. (65 people)
- Career Day at North Clayton High School: served as college and career motivators for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Answered questions about various career fields, educational requirements, and career planning. Also informed students about the mission of the U.S. Attorney's Office and career opportunities. (60 people)
- Hank Stewart Foundation's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Day at Columbia High School: participated in Career Day at Columbia and spoke to 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders about the practical elements of professional development, career planning, pursuing higher education and crime prevention. (175 people)
- Atlanta Bar Association Summer Legal Intern Program (SLIP): served as a guest speaker for SLIP participants, who are high school students interested in pursuing legal careers. In addition to outlining the mission, duties, and responsibilities of the DOJ and USAO, the inspirational address emphasized the importance of hard work, diligence, dedication, and tenacity, and the need to have a diverse legal community. (40 people)

#### **Middle School Initiatives**

- College and Career Motivation Week Kick-off Assembly at Brown Middle School: invited to serve as the keynote speaker to address the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade student body population about college and career pathways to the U.S. Attorney's Office. (325 people)
- College and Career Motivation Week and Essay Contest Kick-off at Parks Middle School: addressed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade student body population about violence prevention and the importance of education. Also encouraged the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in the USAO Rep Your City 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest, explained contest rules, criteria and awards, and discussed the significance of their participation. (65 people)

- College and Career Motivation Week and Essay Contest Kick-off at Brown Middle School: visited 10 classrooms to discuss college and career pathways, and decision-making skills. Also encouraged the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in the USAO Rep Your City 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest, explained contest rules, criteria and awards, and discussed the significance of their participation. (200 people)
- College and Career Motivation Week and Essay Contest Kick-off at Kennedy Middle School: visited 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to discuss college and career pathways, and decision-making skills. Also encouraged the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in the USAO Rep Your City 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest, explained contest rules, criteria and awards, and discussed the significance of their participation. (75 people)
- Essay Contest Kick-off at Atlanta Preparatory Academy: encouraged the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in the USAO Rep Your City 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest, explained contest rules, criteria and awards, and discussed the significance of their participation. (15 people)
- Essay Contest Kick-off at KIPP WAYS Academy: encouraged the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in the USAO Rep Your City 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest, explained contest rules, criteria and awards, and discussed the significance of their participation. (40 people)
- USAO "Rep Your City" 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest: a USAO signature outreach initiative designed to engage Atlanta Public School (APS) middle school students in District 2 that feed into Booker T. Washington High School. The essay topics addressed community improvement and crime prevention topics: What would you do to make your community safer; why; and how would you get it done? What is your idea of a "perfect neighborhood" and how does *that* neighborhood compare to your current neighborhood?; and Do you plan to stay in your current neighborhood when you become an adult; and why or why not? (68 people)
- "Rep Your City" 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest Awards Ceremony: in partnership with Morehouse College, the USAO held an awards ceremony which recognized the 68 students from Atlanta Preparatory Academy, Brown Middle School, Kennedy Middle School, KIPP WAYS Academy, and Parks Middle School who participated in the essay contest. Each student received a Certificate of Recognition, 10 finalists were awarded Honorable Mention, and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place trophies for their entries. Four students were awarded an Honorable Mention ribbon, along with 6 students who received 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place ribbons for their visual presentations. Atlanta City Council President, Ceasar Mitchell; Atlanta Board of

Education Vice Chair, Byron Amos; Atlanta Police Chief, George Turner; Fulton County Commission Chief of Staff, Carole Dortch; Chick-fil-A Foundation Associate Director of External Relations, Darrlynn Brister; and AlexMax Publishing, Inc. CEO, R. Alexander Fitzhugh, were special guests who provided encouraging remarks to the essay contest participants. *(110 people)* 

- U.S. Attorney's Youth Advisory Council Meetings: USA Yates held the initial Youth Advisory Council meetings at Brown and Kennedy Middle Schools, as a follow up to the community concerns presented by students who participated in the "Rep Your City 8th Grade Essay Contest." The 8<sup>th</sup> grade participants shared specifics on the improvements they desire for their communities, expected Youth Advisory Council participation outcomes, and provided a list of speakers that they wanted to hear from. That list included Mayor Kasim Reed, APD Chief George Turner, President Barack Obama, and athletes and entertainers from the Metro-Atlanta area. The students also discussed summer plans and expectations for transitioning to high school. Many were nervous about attending high school. (30 people)
- Kennedy Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion: served as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion guest speaker, focused on the theme "Believe in Yourself," students were encouraged to always strive to do their very best and avoid troubling decisions today that could ruin their choices for tomorrow. Key messages included in the speech were "no one plans to fail, they fail to plan," and that "if you don't know where you are going, you will end up somewhere else." (150 people)
- Raising Expectations (RE) Open House: toured the program facility to meet staff, volunteers and students who participate in RE, an academic development program that offers afterschool mentoring and tutoring for students from six elementary, middle and high schools on the Westside of Atlanta. The program was held at Kennedy Middle School. (15 people)
- Renaissance Middle School "7 Deadly Sins" Presentation: served as guest speakers to provide at-risk 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders with a general overview of the crimes and consequences that distinguish the juvenile justice system from the adult criminal justice system. The presentation focused on the 7 deadly sins, which are crimes in Georgia that are considered adult offenses regardless of the perpetrator's age. (55 people)
- Youth Legal and Law Enforcement Symposium: the USAO hosted students from the Fulton County Junior DA Program, Operation P.E.A.C.E., and the Atlanta Bar Association Summer Legal Intern Program. The symposium included

presentations from ICE, DEA, FBI, and the U.S. Secret Service about their agency mission and career opportunities. Program participants also met with Judge Linda T. Walker and Judge William S. Duffey, Jr., in their respective courtrooms, for a personal conversation and discussions about their careers and job duties. *(75 people)* 

### **Elementary School Initiatives**

- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) ID Card Outreach at Pleasant Grove Elementary School: in partnership with the NCMEC Diversity Outreach Coordinator, USAO staff photographed, fingerprinted, measured for height, and weighed students in order to create identification cards, and information on safety tips were provided. (500 people)
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) Internet Safety Presentation: in partnership with the NCMEC Diversity Outreach Coordinator, the USAO hosted an excellent interactive presentation at Bethune Elementary School concerning internet safety for children. (25 people)
- Career Day at Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School: discussed college and career choices with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and encouraged them to pursue their aspirations to be judges, lawyers, doctors, police officers, wrestlers, soccer legends and "internet sensations." Also engaged students in a discussion about a recent classroom mock trial where the students (jury) sentenced both defendants to life in prison. (25 people)
- Career Day at Shadow Rock Elementary School: visited three 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes and one 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class to discuss college and career choices and the importance of staying out of trouble. (90 people)
- The Chick-fil-A Foundation's Camps for Communities Kick-Off Luncheon: attended kick-off orientation for the Camps for Communities initiative, in which, the USAO provided volunteers to serve lunch to camp participants. (40 people)
- The Chick-fil-A Foundation's Camps for Communities: provided 8 USAO volunteers to serve lunch during 2 days of camp, which was held on the campus of one of our partner schools, Kennedy Middle School, June 3-7, 2013, for children from the Vine City and English Avenue neighborhoods. The camp was a combination of sports, arts, worship, Bible study, recreation, drama, music, and more. (300 people)
- Hope-Hill Elementary School Partner & Volunteer Summit: attended the summit to learn about the goals, achievements, and needs of the school. The Principal

provided a comprehensive needs list and school data to demonstrate the student support necessary to meet their academic goals. As a result, the USAO Community Outreach Unit and the Support Staff Executive Committee will host a classroom supplies drive for grades K-5. The USAO also plans to partner with Hope-Hill Elementary School during the 2013 – 2014 school year to participate in Career Day, Fun Friday Face Painting, and a Read-A-Thon. *(50 people)* 

#### **Community Initiatives**

- 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Community Forum on Crime Victims' Rights: in collaboration with the Latin American Association and Tapestri, Inc., hosted a forum focusing on the concerns of the Latino community. (10 people)
- 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Wheat Street Crime Victims' Rights Community Forum: the USAO, in collaboration with the Wheat Street Towers senior living community, Fulton County Office of Aging, Georgia Adult Protective Services, Atlanta Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging, Atlanta Police Department's (Zone 6) Community Oriented Policing unit, and Community Prosecutors from the Office of the Fulton County District Attorney; hosted a forum to provide residents of Wheat Street Towers the opportunity to share their concerns about public safety and criminal activity, and to learn more about crime victimization services and resources available to seniors. At the end of the forum, panelists talked with residents individually, to address specific concerns. (60 people)
- Wellspring Living's "Run for One 5K": USAO staff participated in the 5K race to raise awareness about the programs and services offered to survivors of child abuse and human trafficking. Wellspring Living is a nonprofit organization that confronts the issue of childhood sexual abuse and exploitation through awareness, training, and treatment programs for girls and women who are survivors of human trafficking, prostitution, and other forms of exploitation. Run for One is a 5K race which benefits Wellspring Living restoration homes, therapy, education, and life-skills for survivors of human trafficking. (300 people)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Federal Executive Board (FEB) Federal Government Open House: the USAO spoke with high school students, parents, and teachers about the USAO mission, programs and services, career opportunities and new community outreach initiatives. The event was held at the Carter Presidential Center and provided an opportunity to network with several federal agencies including: the U.S. Marshal Service, U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau, U.S.

Department of Education, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and U.S. Selective Service. (100 people)

- Atlanta Federal Executive Board (FEB) Intergovernmental Collaboration and Community Outreach Council: set up a USAO exhibit on victim services, crime prevention, and resources on what to do if you are a victim of various crimes at Georgia Piedmont Technical College. (125 people)
- Communities in Schools (CIS) of Georgia Annual Student Achievement Month (SAM) Awards Luncheon: served as the guest speaker during the luncheon, providing the K-12 students, parents, legislators, educators, CIS staff and other guests in attendance with an encouraging message on the importance of education, succeeding in school, and assuming responsibility for selfimprovement and self-discipline. Each year, CIS honors at-risk students throughout Georgia during this awards luncheon, because they are often overlooked and expected to underachieve. (125 people)
- One Region Atlanta Partnership Meeting: met with representatives of the 62year-old non-profit foundation dedicated to building a more inclusive region by providing civic engagement and community building opportunities that connect metro Atlanta residents of all cultural and faith backgrounds. The USAO discussed potential partnership opportunities focusing on the Arab, Sikh, and Muslim communities. (6 people)
- Doubletree by Hilton, Atlanta-Buckhead Partnership Meeting: met with the Sales Manager, who also leads outreach efforts for Doubletree and has engaged his staff to participate in programs such as "Adopt-a-Block," "Adopt-a-Senior," the United Way Shoe Box Campaigns, and career days at Hope-Hill Elementary School. Also discussed partnership opportunities with Operation PEACE and Hope-Hill Elementary School. (2 people)
- Georgia-Pacific Foundation Partnership Meeting: met with the Director of Community Affairs, who manages GP's multi-million dollar foundation and community affairs budget. The purpose of the GP Foundation is to help create and fund programs and initiatives that add value to, and measurably improve, the quality of life within the communities where GP employees live and work. The GP Foundation and the USAO have agreed to diligently pursue partnership initiatives which align with the USAO Strategic Plan and GP's Foundation areas of investment, which are: education, enrichment, environment, and entrepreneurship. (1 person)

- Gwinnett County Human Relations Commission Meeting: met with members of the GHRC to learn more about their role and responsibilities, and determine how the USAO could support their initiatives. The HRC has requested USAO assistance to facilitate forums concerning human trafficking and its prevalence in Gwinnett County. (2 people)
- DeKalb County Youth Commission 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Retreat: served as the guest speaker and delivered a motivational speech to the outgoing and incoming youth commissioners about public service and the importance of youth leadership in the community. (45 people)
- Junior Achievement/Chick-fil-A Foundation Discovery Center Grand Opening: attended the grand opening event to support community partners and network with other organizations that provide programs for underserved inner-city youth. The Discovery Center is located in the Georgia World Congress Center and will provide financial literacy training to approximately 3,000 inner-city youth annually. (50 people)
- Covenant House Georgia's Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening: attended the grand opening ceremony and toured the new facility for homeless youth.
   Networked with several elected officials, community leaders and organization representatives vested in youth outreach initiatives. (35 people)

#### **Trainings, Workshops and Community Forums**

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Town Hall Call: the USAO facilitated a one hour webinar for the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG), addressing ADA implications for the deaf and hard of hearing. MAG represents more than 7,000 medical providers and physicians throughout the state of Georgia. The USAO enforcement of the DOJ Barrier-Free Health Care Initiative, designed to ensure that individuals who are deaf have full and free access to healthcare. (7,000 people)
- GACHI Meetings: met with GACHI advocates four times throughout the year to discuss our Barrier-Free Health Care Initiative for persons who are deaf. GACHI is a nonprofit serving the deaf and hard of hearing community. GACHI has partnered with the USAO by identifying numerous victims. They also assist with our civil rights investigations in this area. (4 people)
- Georgia Advocacy Office (GAO) Meetings: met with GAO staff every other month to discuss our ongoing civil rights enforcement initiatives related to discrimination against adults and children with disabilities in education, public

services, and public accommodations. GAO has partnered with us by identifying victims and other relevant public interest agencies. (8 people)

- Carter Center Meetings: met with members from the Carter Center three to four times throughout the year to discuss the USAO's civil rights enforcement initiatives related to discrimination against adults and children with mental illness in education, public services, and public accommodations. (8 people)
- Civil Rights Roundtable Discussion: in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security, the USAO made a formal presentation to a wide variety of community leaders, including several members of the Arab and Muslim community, regarding the civil rights enforcement efforts of the U.S. Attorney's Office. (35 people)
- LaGrange NAACP Town Hall Meetings: attended two (2) community meetings that focused on police misconduct and racial profiling. (75 people)
- Metro Fair Housing Services Training: met with members of Metro Fair Housing Services to discuss civil rights enforcement in the area of housing discrimination, explained the role of the USAO in this area, and conducted an informal training on witness interviewing. Metro Fair Housing is a non-profit organization that fights to eliminate housing and lending inequities. Metro Fair Housing has partnered with the USAO to identify victims of housing discrimination based on race, national origin, and religion. (5 people)
- Muslim, Arab and Sikh Communities Roundtable Discussion: U.S. Attorney Sally Yates was the guest speaker, at the Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam to address questions, concerns, issues and challenges faced by these communities. (40 people)
- Sikh Community Meeting: in partnership with the FBI outreach and community relations units, the USAO met with leaders of the Sikh community at the Norcross Gurdwara, related to issues of children being bullied in school, improving relationships with law enforcement, hate crimes, self-defense, building protection, and other civil enforcement and civil rights concerns. (20 people)
- National Sikh Coalition Outreach: facilitated several outreach calls with members of the National Sikh Coalition to discuss the USAO's ongoing civil rights enforcement efforts related to school bullying based on national origin and religion. The National Sikh Coalition has partnered with the USAO by identifying

victims and agreeing to participate in outreach/education efforts regarding this issue. (4 people)

- Human Trafficking & Child Exploitation Community Forum: in partnership with Covenant House of Georgia, DeKalb County Police Department-Special Victims Unit, and Wellspring Living, Inc., the USAO hosted a faith-based community forum at The Way, The Truth and The Life Christian Center in Decatur, Georgia, to raise awareness and responsiveness to human trafficking and child exploitation. (70 people)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual HerStory: Sisterspeak Women Empowerment Panel: served as the guest speaker on commercial sex trafficking at the request of the Clayton County-based community organization, Ladies of Favor. In addition to this presentation, survivors of bullying, child molestation, rape, prostitution, domestic violence and child sex trafficking shared their experiences in order to increase community awareness. (50 people)
- Health and Human Services Anti-Human Trafficking Forum: provided training to the National Archives. (300 people)
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Awareness Day at the Georgia State Capitol. (300 people)
- NCAA Volunteer Training: provided anti-human trafficking training to community volunteers at the Georgia World Congress Center. (140 people)
- Central Atlanta Progress & Atlanta Downtown Improvement District: provided anti-human trafficking training to law enforcement officers at Georgia State University. (50 people)
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Atlanta Suburban Alumnae Chapter: presented antihuman trafficking information to victim advocates and community members. (45 people)
- Not My Life Documentary Showing: in collaboration with Junior League of Atlanta, attended and presented anti-human trafficking information to victim advocates and community members. (180 people)
- NCAA Volunteer Training: provided anti-human trafficking training to community volunteers at Georgia Tech University. (500 people)
- Department of Education: provided anti-human trafficking training at the Carter Center. (324 people)

- Life Skills Workshop: presented a workshop to sexual exploitation survivors at Living Water for Girls. (7 people)
- Rotary Club Anti-Trafficking Forum: in collaboration with the Peachtree City Rotary Club, the USAO participated in a community forum to discuss anti-human trafficking efforts, which included local law enforcement, victim advocates and community members. (50 people)
- Glass Elephant/Shield-of-Grace Campaign: human trafficking awareness. (35 people)
- International Human Trafficking Forum: in collaboration with the U.S.
  Department of Homeland Security, the USAO made a human trafficking presentation to local prosecutors in Maputo, Mozambique. (75 people)
- Emory University, School of Law Human Trafficking Forum: in collaboration with Emory University, the USAO participated in a forum to raise awareness about federal anti-human trafficking efforts, in which a cross-section of local legislators, law enforcement, victim advocates and community members were present. (75 people)
- Philippine American Women's Association of Georgia Human Trafficking Awareness Forum: in collaboration with Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health, the USAO spoke with community members about federal antihuman trafficking efforts in order to raise awareness. (60 people)
- Dan-Fodio Law Group CLE Human Trafficking Forum on Implementing Human Rights: the USAO facilitated a CLE workshop for attorney advocates and community members interested in anti-human trafficking efforts. (20 people)
- LGBTQ Community Leaders Meeting: hosted a meeting with leaders from Georgia Equality, Lost and Found, Trans Individuals Living Their Truth (TILTT), Saint Mark United Methodist Church, and the Atlanta Police Department LGBT Liaison to discuss law enforcement issues and safety concerns unique to this community and to inform community leaders about initiatives and victims' rights services. The meeting provided insight concerning hate crimes, discrimination, and identification issues which are particularly problematic for some members of the transgender community. (8 people)
- The Consequences of Thug Life Presentation & Community Discussion: attended workshop facilitated by Attorney Mawuli "Mel" Davis of the Davis Bozeman Law Firm, which educated young people about the criminal justice system and ways

to avoid mistakes that can result in their involvement in the legal system. (150 people)

- The Atlanta Community Leaders Institute: participated in a regional 2-day leadership institute to discuss achieving healthy communities through collaborative idea sharing, the role of federal, state, and local governments, youth issues and challenges, economic development, transportation, housing, community development, and health disparities throughout the region. Other institute participants included representatives from the Small Business Administration, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Atlanta City Council, Invest Atlanta, the Georgia General Assembly, and Morehouse School of Medicine. (50 people)
- Chick-fil-A Foundation Community Leadership Speaker Series: attended the lecture series to network with agencies and organizations interested in the prevention of human trafficking and to learn more about the programs and services of Wellspring Living, Inc., a non-profit organization fighting childhood sexual abuse and sex-trafficking. Mary Frances Bowley, the founder and CEO, served as the guest speaker. (50 people)
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Atlanta Regional Forum: participated in a regional forum as a key federal stakeholder. The forum focused on regional criminal justice issues. Forum participants were a cross-section of local, state and federal representatives from the Metro-Atlanta area. (120 people)
- Voices Against Violence: A Teen Talk Show Taking a Stand Against Youth Violence: the USAO attended the community forum to observe DeKalb County's platform for empowering local youth. The DeKalb County Youth Commission helped facilitate the program. The Youth Commission is a leadership program designed to involve youth from varied socioeconomic backgrounds and multicultural neighborhoods with opportunities to have a voice in their communities via participation in civic and community activities. Teens voiced their opinions and concerns about violence and sought solutions to combat violence. (30 people)
- Conversation on Education: attended community meeting about the future of APS District 2 schools, charter schools, school closures, and parental involvement. District 2 schools include 7 elementary, middle and high schools in the English Avenue/Vine City area. The USAO worked with many of the District 2 schools during the 2012 – 2013 school year. (40 people)

# **Enforcement Initiatives**

Goal #2: Strengthen enforcement efforts by addressing public safety concerns and developing community trust.

# **English Avenue/Vine City Initiatives**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual English Avenue Neighborhood Association (EANA) Burgers and Backpacks Back to School Initiative: delivered eight (8) boxes of school supplies collected from USAO staff, in support of the back to school initiative. More than 1700 items were donated. USAO staff attended the Burgers and Backpacks event held on the English Avenue Community Campus, where neighborhood children received free backpacks filled with school supplies, door prizes, and hamburgers, and played interactive games. (200 people)
- English Avenue Fall Fest Block Party: promoted USAO community outreach and victim witness programs, DOJ Project Safe Neighborhood and Safe Childhood, and increased awareness about identity theft protection for seniors. (100 people)



- Operation Phoenix: met with the English Avenue Neighborhood Association President to discuss action items for the criminal activity and blighted properties located in the English Avenue and Vine City neighborhoods. (1 person)
- National Night Out Community Block Party: participated in three NNO events to demonstrate the partnership between law enforcement and the community, and to promote community pride and safety. The National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for local anticrime efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. (150 people)
- Westside Communities Alliance Meetings: participated in 4 quarterly meetings with WCA to engage in dialogue and coordinate outreach initiatives with community stakeholders about community interests, needs, and involvement. (100 people)

- Northwest Community Alliance Meetings: participated in quarterly meetings to network with community leaders working to coordinate outreach initiatives and respond to the needs of Georgia Tech's neighboring communities, English Avenue and Vine City. (100 people)
- Fulton County/City of Atlanta Land Bank Authority Meeting: met with the Executive Director of the Land Bank Authority, which acts as a legal and financial mechanism to transform vacant, abandoned, and tax-foreclosed property back to productive use. The LBA has the authority to selectively extinguish past due taxes for property located in the City of Atlanta and Fulton County. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss nuisance properties in the English Avenue/Vine City areas of Atlanta which may be subject to forfeiture under federal statutory authority. (1 person)

### Trainings, Workshops and Community Forums

National Advocacy Center (NAC) Training on Addressing Violent Crime in the 21st Century: Community Outreach Coordinator attended training seminar that focused on implementation of the Attorney General's Anti-Violence Crime Strategies. Pursuant to the AG's 2010 Memorandum/Directive, USAOs are required to actively participate in crime/violence prevention, prisoner reentry, and enforcement programs. The seminar highlighted the FBI's community outreach initiative and the community outreach initiative of the Southern District of Illinois, amongst others. Cleveland's Police Assisted Referral Program (PAR) and Connecticut's C3 Policing which adopted military strategies for fighting street crime were also highlighted.

# **Reentry Initiatives**

*Goal #3: Support successful ex-offender reentry through targeted programs focusing on reintegration into communities.* 

# New Beginnings Program Initiatives

 New Beginnings Reentry Program: a collaborative of federal, state and local government agencies and community-based organizations committed to assisting formerly incarcerated persons successfully reenter society. The New Beginnings initiative includes a job readiness program, second chance employer events, business clothing drives, and second chance job fairs. (55 people)



- New Beginnings Business Clothing Drive: sponsored an ongoing clothing drive to collect new and gently used business attire for the men and women participating in the New Beginnings program. Many USAO staff donated business suits, slacks, dress shirts, neckties, dresses, skirts, blouses, belts, and dress shoes for interviews, job training and other professional development opportunities. Two deliveries of collected items have been transported to the Urban League of Greater Atlanta thus far, for distribution to program participants. (55 people)
- New Beginnings Mentor-Mentee Program Meet & Greet: in partnership with the Davis-Bozeman Law Firm, the Meet & Greet served as an opportunity to provide New Beginning participants with certificates of completion/graduation, qualifying them to enter into the mentorship phase of the program, after having completed 6 weeks of job training and the life skills portion of the program. The mentors participating in the program were given an opportunity to meet New Beginnings participants entering the mentorship phase of the program. (40 people)
- New Beginnings Steering Committee: held 20 steering committee meetings with partners from the Urban League of Greater Atlanta, Atlanta Workforce Development Agency, Morehouse School of Medicine – Community Voices, Georgia Department of Corrections, State Board of Pardons and Parole, U.S. Probation, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons to provide general oversight for the collaborative effort of providing training and resources to program participants. (30 people)

- Urban League of Greater Atlanta's (ULGATL) 93rd Annual Meeting & Stakeholder Luncheon: attended luncheon in order to learn more about the outcomes and impact of ULGATL's work for 2012-2013, and the exciting and empowering initiatives being implemented for 2013-2014. During the luncheon, several New Beginnings participants shared their trials and triumphs, and thanked the Urban League and its partners for investing in the reentry initiative. (100 people)
- Fulton County Commissioner Meeting: met with Fulton County Commissioner, Joan Garner, to discuss the New Beginnings program and prisoner reentry issues. (3 people)

## **Reentry Community Initiatives**

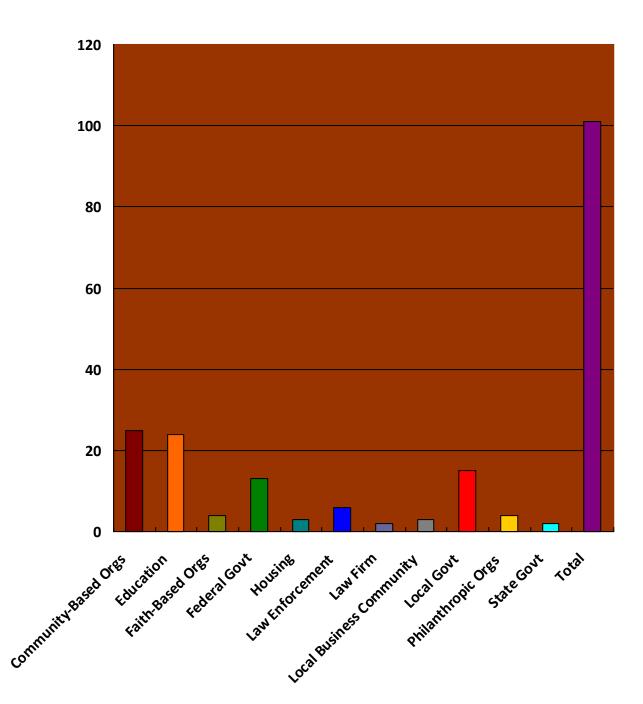
- USP-Atlanta Offender Employment Specialist Training: served as the keynote speaker for the reentry forum, for NGOs, non-profits, governmental entities, and faith-based organizations who are actively engaged in prisoner reentry initiatives. Participants learned about the DOJ and USAO commitment to reentry, and the AG's new smart on crime initiative which specifically requires each USAO to designate/assign staff as prevention/reentry coordinators. (30 people)
- Kennesaw State University Community Intervention Panel Discussion: participated in a panel discussion to provide insight on community intervention models utilized by the Department of Justice, especially in the area of ex-felon reentry. (35 people)
- Woman at the Well Transition Center: met with Pastor Donna Hubbard to discuss potential partnership opportunities to work with formerly incarcerated women in need of housing and other resources to successfully reintegrate into society. (1 person)
- It Takes A Village Today, Inc.: met with Reverend Paul Brown and BJ Blair to discuss potential partnership opportunities to work with formerly incarcerated men through a fatherhood initiative at Clayton Transitional Center. (2 people)
- Persons Impacted by Incarceration Collaborative (PIIC) Support Group: attended a PIIC meeting to learn from the impacted community as well as those seeking to serve the ex-offender population. (30 people)
- Georgia Justice Project Summer Open House: attended the open house in support of a community partner, which provides legal representation, social services, and employment support for individuals involved in and reentering the community from the criminal justice system. (50 people)

## **Trainings, Workshops and Community Forums**

- Governor's Office of Transition, Support & Reentry Informational Meeting: attended the informational meeting to learn about the newly created agency. The mission of the agency is to ensure successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and enhance public safety, in part, by collaborating with non-profit and faith-based organizations, governmental and non-governmental entities, which provide services for ex-offenders. (100 people)
- Region IV Research to Practice Policy Forum on Forging Partnerships to Support Family Resilience: A Call to Action: attended policy forum, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Georgia State University School of Social Work and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Morehouse School of Medicine, and the University of Georgia School of Social Work; in an effort to garner additional resources and network with agencies and organizations interested in collaborative reentry partnerships. Participated in forum discussions on Accessing Jobs for High Risk Populations and Examining the School to Prison Pipeline. (70 people)
- The Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Record in Georgia and the New Restriction (Expungement) Law Workshop: attended workshop hosted by the Georgia Justice Project, to learn more about the new record restriction or "expungement" law which became effective in Georgia on July 1, 2013. This law directly impacts many participants in the New Beginnings program. (50 people)
- The Real Effects of a Criminal Record in Georgia Community Forum: attended forum hosted by the Georgia Justice Project, which included a panel discussion and breakout sessions focused on individuals who are experiencing the negative effects of having a criminal record. Employment discrimination based on a criminal record, the food stamps ban for people with drug felony convictions, and immigration consequences resulting from a conviction were some of the topics discussed. Networked with several formerly incarcerated persons to inform them of the New Beginnings program and other upcoming USAO reentry initiatives. (50 people)
- Atlanta's John Marshall Law School 4th Annual Home for Good Reentry Forum Planning Meeting: discussed the format and agenda for the annual forum and resource fair for ex-offenders to learn about available community resources, discuss the social and economic disparities they face upon reentering society, and develop strategies to overcome those barriers. (15 people)

# **Partnerships**

In addition to creating a Community Outreach Contact Management Database with nearly 300 contacts listed in FY2012-2013, the USAO partnered with approximately 101 local, state, and federal organizations and agencies. As shown below, partnerships included 25 community-based; 24 education; 4 faith-based; 13 federal government; 3 housing; 6 law enforcement; 2 law firm; 3 local businesses; 15 local government; 4 philanthropic; and 2 state government.



## **Community Engagement**

During FY2012-2013, the USAO engaged approximately 15,242 community members through outreach initiatives and community involvement. As shown below, prevention initiatives provided the most youth engagement (3,120) and adult engagement (10,754). Reentry initiatives provided engagement of 716 adults, and enforcement initiatives allowed contact with 275 youth and 377 adults. The total number of youth engaged across initiatives was 3,395, while 11,847 adults were engaged across initiatives.

