



Summer 2014 Newsletter

Fall River Youth Community Fest

The Fall River Youth Community Fest brought together over two hundred people to enjoy a fun-filled day and celebrate the importance of giving back to the community. The free event, which took place on July 19, 2014 at Britland Park, was the brain child of Jeremy Lavoie, a 2009 graduate of B.M.C. Durfee High School. Currently enrolled in Manhattan College, Mr. Lavoie was looking to give back to the community which helped him become the successful young man that he is today. He wanted to offer middle school and high school students and young adults a positive opportunity in which they could begin to achieve their own hopes and dreams. He recruited his friends to volunteer and be role models and to instill the idea that anything is possible. Mr. Lavoie used basketball to help him stay focused, graduate high school and further his education in college and he wanted to pay that forward. The hub of the day was a five on five basketball tournament with middle school, high school and open divisions. In all, over twenty teams participated. In addition, there was face painting, a photo booth and a dj.



Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

FRYouthViolencePrevention@gmail.com • 508-679-0922 • www.FRYouthViolencePrevention.org



Summer 2014 Newsletter

The Empty Chair



www.FallRiverSchools.org

Attendance matters for success, both in school and in life. When a student is absent from school, he/she misses out on opportunities to learn and succeed. The **Empty Chair** is a symbol that stresses the importance of attendance and the fact that a teacher cannot teach an empty chair. This initiative by the Mayor's Attendance Task Force is part of a strategy to develop a culture of attendance. Understanding that everyone in the community has a stake and a role in ensuring that **every** student attends school **every** day, the group is seeking to engage different sectors of the community and work together to improve attendance. For more information on what **YOU** can do to fill the Empty Chair, visit www.fallriverschools.org and click on the **Empty Chair**.

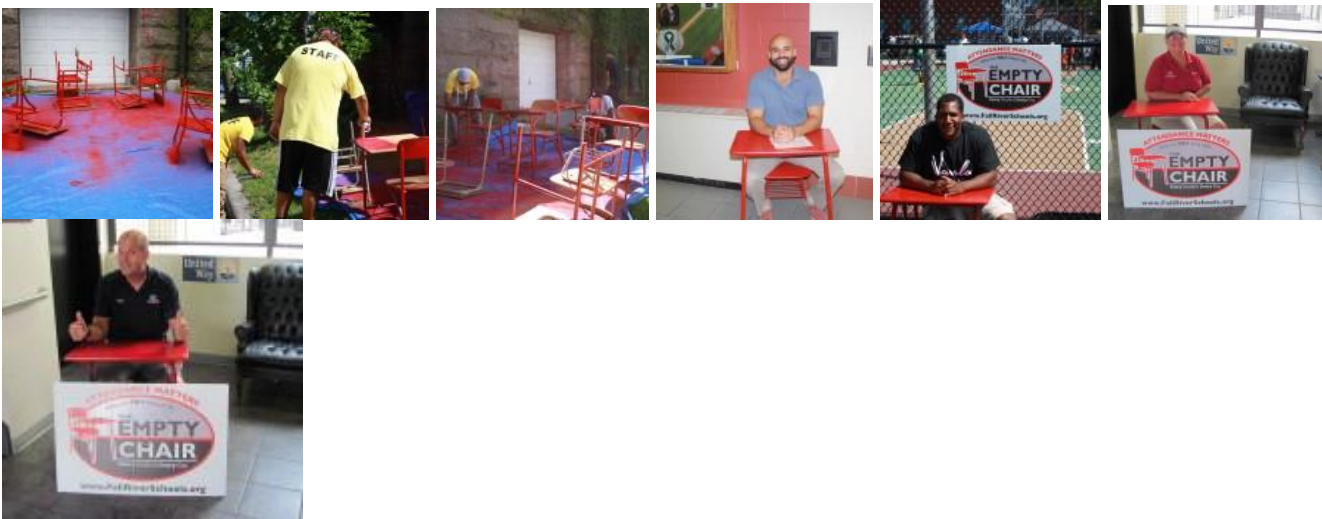
The Fall River Outreach youth have been hard at working fixing up some red desk chairs that are now being displayed in schools and community areas across our city! This symbol represents that teachers cannot teach the empty chair, while posing the question, "What Will YOU do to Fill the Empty Chair?" We all have a role to play in improving attendance in our city, from parents to community organizations, from political leaders to businesses...Get Involved!!

Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

FRYouthViolencePrevention@gmail.com • 508-679-0922 • www.FRYouthViolencePrevention.org

Fall River Youth Violence Prevention

Summer 2014 Newsletter



National Youth Violence Prevention Week a Great Success in Fall River!

Schools and community agencies participated in amazing youth violence prevention work during National Youth Violence Prevention Week 2013! Visit www.FRYouthViolencePrevention.org to see the activities that various schools and agencies did to help support this incredible day!



Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

FRYouthViolencePrevention@gmail.com • 508-679-0922 • www.FRYouthViolencePrevention.org



Summer 2014 Newsletter

SSYI Youth Presents at Boys and Girls Club and Resiliency Middle School

Javandy Mills is a 24 year old male who is a participant of the Youth Outreach Program under SSYI. Javandy has spoke to about 75 youth at the Fall River Boys & Girls Club back in March and also spoke to the students and staff at RMS in April. He addressed the struggles he endured as a youth growing up in the city. Having an absent father, drug addict mother and several brothers and cousins who were heavily, and still are heavily gang involved. He spoke about his childhood and adolescent years as a full out gang member and how he thought that selling drugs and robbing people and fast money was the life. Javandy also spoke about his run ins with DYS and probation.. He spoke about his attempted murder charge when he was 18, which landed him a 5 year bid in Dartmouth and Walpole. He spoke about the incident, which was caused by an altercation with another man at a night club, where Javandy stabbed this individual 7 times. He regrets a lot of his actions and he understands how his past affects his present and future. He strongly encouraged these youth not to follow in the same footsteps he walked. Javandy is very excited to be participating in GED programming at RE-Creation, as well as getting on track with employment programming through Outreach. He is very interested in pursuing a career in cooking but also has developed a passion in helping youth.





Summer 2014 Newsletter

School Community Partnership Kick-off

Participants in the School Community-Partnership met together on September 16, 2014 at the Tradewinds at BMC Durfee High School. Co-chairs Michaela Hetzler and Annemarie Holly welcomed everyone back from the summer and began by introducing Fall River School Student Assignment and Parent Information Coordinator Barbara Allard who spoke about the Empty Chair project. The project is looking for ways to reduce student absenteeism throughout the school system. Following her presentation and one by Fall River Police Detective John Lapointe on gang violence, participants from more than a dozen human service organizations were invited to talk with school adjustment and guidance staff as well as five school resource officers during an open discussion in order to get to know one another better. The group highlighted the value of working together and having a collaboration in order to identify available services, work toward addressing gaps in our community, contributing to the Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Master Plan, and creating stronger relationships to ultimately service the health, safety, education, and overall development of our youth.



Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

FRYouthViolencePrevention@gmail.com • 508-679-0922 • www.FRYouthViolencePrevention.org



Summer 2014 Newsletter

Back 2 School Fest

The Back 2 School Fest was a great day at Highland Park on August 30th, full of basketball, face painting, and sharing important messages with youth about saying no to violence in our lives! The value of attendance for this upcoming school year was also highlighted as students look forward to a new beginning in a few days!!



Please remember to email Michaela Gagne Hetzler with any information for the Fall River Youth Violence Prevention website and newsletter at: michaelajgagne@gmail.com. Thank you!

Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

FRYouthViolencePrevention@gmail.com • 508-679-0922 • www.FRYouthViolencePrevention.org