

Activities

Youth Violence Prevention Task Force

The Youth Violence Prevention Task Force at B.M.C. Durfee High School is in full swing! Members began regular meetings to discuss the issues of bullying and its connection to larger acts of violence in our world, and they are looking toward presentations in late April to their high school peers.



The Senator Charles E. Shannon, Jr. Community Safety Initiative Awards Fall River 2013 Funding

Fall River netted a \$414,500 Shannon grant toward gang and youth violence prevention for 2013! This is the 7th consecutive year the city has received the grant. The Shannon grant is a state grant program that offers communities with a demonstrated gang and youth violence problem resources to implement a multidisciplinary anti-gang strategy. The plan encompasses prevention, intervention and suppression programs that rely on law enforcement, community-based organizations and government agencies. The partners associated with the city's Shannon efforts have set a goal of providing "comprehensive, coordinated services to identified youths and their families, which will strengthen and reinforce the safety net for high-risk youth through evidence-based gang prevention and intervention programs."



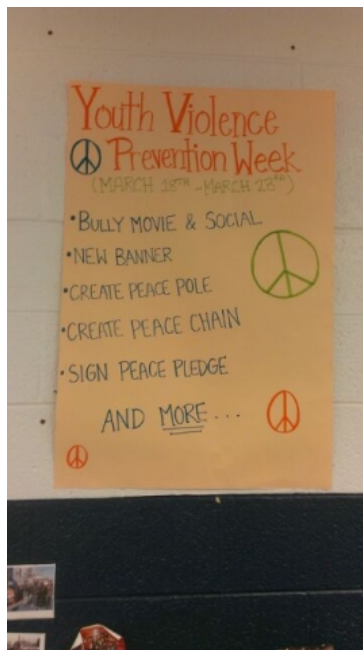
MLK Service Day!

Shannon youth, along with many other youth from BMC Durfee High School and Fall River, took part in MLK Service Day at Gifts to Give in Fall River, a community distribution center for those in need in our community. The youth did a great job recognizing the strides that were made by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and celebrated the day by giving to others!



National Youth Violence Prevention Week

Many schools and community organizations hosted exciting events and activities to celebrate National Youth Violence Prevention Week on March 18 – 22, 2013. SMILES Mentoring, Boys and Girls Club, Re-Creation, United Neighbors, Kuss Middle School, and many others jumped on board to encourage peace for the youth of our city during this special week!



Youth of the Year and 100 Best Communities for Youth Celebration

Danai Boone was chosen among 13 candidates and 5 finalists for Fall River's 2013 Youth of the Year, an award given by her by the Youth Choices Collaborative of Fall River, during a celebration at the Eagle Performing Arts Center. Other finalists included Emily Borges, Ryan Kennedy, Griffin Prescott and Jacob Veloza.

The ceremony was also held to celebrate the award to Fall River as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People, an award presented to the city by America's Promise Alliance and Fall River's 3rd time receiving this honor.

4th Annual Peace by Piece Summit

The 4th Annual Peace by Piece Summit was a huge success! Hosted by the Boys and Girls Club, youth from across Fall River and New Bedford joined to watch the film, *The Interrupters*, a documentary following gang activity in Chicago, IL and those who are trying to end the violence. Ameena Matthews, one of the film's featured outreach workers, visited Fall River's event and spoke to the youth about creating peace in their community. It was a tremendous presentation that was part of Ameena's visit to the city that included further discussion with youth in their neighborhoods and other places they gather.



Please check the website for continuous updates for upcoming events at www.frshannon.org!

****Shannon Partners:** Please remember to email Michaela Gagne Hetzler with any information for the FR Shannon website at: michaelajgagne@gmail.com. Thank you!