

The United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of Georgia



2015 Community Outreach Annual Report



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LETTER FROM THE U.S. ATTORNEY



Over the past five years, the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia (USAO-NDGA) has strengthened our relationships with our citizens and enhanced the safety and vitality of our communities through our ongoing community outreach initiatives. Each year, the program continues to expand, reaching thousands of people throughout the District.

Dozens of attorneys and staff members from the U.S. Attorney's Office have volunteered their time and talents to the programs and initiatives that are described in this report. Our experiences helped expand our familiarity with residents in the communities we serve, and our awareness of the strengths they possess and the challenges they face. Participating in these events and programs not only help communities throughout the District, but also helps shape our perspectives as prosecutors and public servants.

We are proud of the strategic partnerships we have developed and maintained with residents, community groups, state and county government agencies, non-governmental organizations, educators, and state and local law enforcement agencies. Together, we will continue to build safer communities for the approximately 6.5 million residents of this District.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The USAO-NDGA engages in community outreach in order to maintain open communication with the public we serve. In addition to prosecuting those who violate the law, we are also committed to understanding community needs and leading crime prevention and ex-offender reentry initiatives.



In 2015, the USAO-NDGA engaged approximately **2,011,814** community members. We have also maintained relationships with more than 100 partners, while constantly building upon newly established connections. As a result of tremendous media coverage and annual programming, the USAO-NDGA's community outreach efforts reached more than 2 million residents throughout the District.

The prevention, enforcement, and reentry initiatives highlighted in this report cover January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2015.

PREVENTION

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

USAO-NDGA Signature Programs

- Booker T. Washington High School Street Law & Mock Trial Program: The USAO-NDGA partnered with Atlanta's John Marshall Law School to host the 3rd Annual *Street Law and Mock Trial Program* at Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta, Georgia. Eleven Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSAs) and dozens of law students from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School taught weekly courses during the spring semester on torts, conflict resolution, crimes and consequences, juvenile justice, cyberbullying and sexting, civil rights, and encountering police.

Following the substantive legal courses, the high school students were instructed on trial techniques in preparation for a mock trial demonstration at the United States Federal Courthouse. The Honorable U.S. District Judge Eleanor L. Ross presided over the mock trial. Students argued the civil case of *Billings v. Pearson*, in which plaintiff Alex Billings sued her fellow classmate, C.J. Pearson, and the school district for intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligent supervision related to cyberbullying that occurred on school property. After great legal arguments and robust jury deliberation, the jury (made up of USAO-NDGA staff) awarded both economic and non-economic damages to the Plaintiff. **(10 youth/15 adults)**

- Ronald E. McNair High School Street Law & Mock Trial Program: The USAO-NDGA partnered with the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office to expand the *Street Law and Mock Trial Program* into a second school, McNair High School in DeKalb County, Georgia. Throughout the school year, four AUSAs and two USAO staff paired with a number of Assistant District Attorneys and staff to co-facilitate weekly courses during the fall semester on crimes and consequences, juvenile justice, cyberbullying and sexting, resolving conflicts, the U.S. court system, and encountering police. **(25 youth/13 adults)**



- Youth Legal and Law Enforcement Symposiums: For the fourth year, the USAO-NDGA hosted two youth symposiums at middle and high schools throughout the District, to raise awareness about the mission, function, and career paths in various law enforcement agencies. Partner agencies included the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), U.S. Secret Service (USSS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), Social Security Administration (SSA-OIG), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD-OIG). **(88 youth/5 adults)**



<i>No. of Students</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Grade(s)</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Location</i>
47	Centennial High School	10 th – 12 th	Roswell	Fulton County
41	McNair Middle School	6 th – 8 th	College Park	Fulton County



The USAO-NDGA also hosted its 3rd Annual *Youth Legal and Law Enforcement Symposium* in July 2015. The goals of the symposium were to provide students with a basic understanding of the criminal justice system, foster relationships between law enforcement and the community, and inform students of career opportunities in law enforcement. U.S. Attorney John Horn provided an overview on the USAO, followed by presentations from SSA-OIG, BOP, HSI, FBI, DEA, and the Secret Service. After lunch, students, chaperones, and special guests visited the courtrooms of United States District Court Judge Richard W. Story and United States Magistrate Judges Russell G. Vineyard and Justin S. Anand.



The judges shared information about the structure and function of the court system and their judicial responsibilities. The judges also gave inspirational messages and encouraged students to consider legal and law enforcement careers. Students in attendance ranged from middle school to high school and included young adults. Participating organizations involved: the Fulton County Jr. DA Program, Fulton County Jr. Deputy Clerk Program, DeKalb County Juvenile Court Journey and Youth Achievement Programs, Atlanta Bar Summer Law Intern Program, Operation P.E.A.C.E., Urban League of Greater Atlanta and Neighborhood College Programs, Cascade United Methodist Church, and Russell Management Resident Services.

(150 youth/20 adults)

- Real Talk about the Law: For the second year in a row, in collaboration with the Greater Atlanta Black Prosecutors' Association (GABPA), the local affiliate of the National Black Prosecutor's Association (NBPA), the USAO-NDGA hosted *Real Talk About the Law* panel discussions for freshmen males at two (2) area high schools. Since its inception, the Real Talk initiative has reached nearly 5,000 students. The program began in 2014 to commemorate the death of Trayvon Martin, and was specifically designed to engage high school-aged African



American males by facilitating positive interactions with law enforcement, broadening their knowledge of the criminal justice system, and increasing their exposure to positive role models. Young men were provided with information about common criminal scenarios and realistic consequences, Georgia laws regarding the "seven deadly sins," and gang resistance. Participants were also provided with a copy of the USAO-NDGA "Know Your Rights Safety Wallet Card." After the *Real Talk About the Law* presentation took place, one of the schools requested the presentation again for their female freshmen students. **(498 youth/15 adults)**





No. of Students	School	Grade(s)	City	Location
163	Frederick Douglass High School	9 th (males)	Atlanta	City of Atlanta
175	Langston Hughes High School	9 th (males)	Fairburn	Fulton County
160	Langston Hughes High School	9 th (females)	Fairburn	Fulton County

- **Straight Talk Student Forum:** In 2013, the USAO-NDGA Community Outreach team developed the *Straight Talk* program to engage at-risk youth in positive discussions concerning education, leadership, and decision-making. In collaboration with Communities in Schools of Carroll County/Carrollton for the second year, Straight Talk engaged at-risk high school students (who were serving in-school suspension) at Villa Rica High School in monthly open-forum discussions about violence prevention. Students in 9th through 12th grades discussed topics specific to their community and school culture that included: Decision-Making, Problem-Solving, Life Skills, and Leadership. **(21 youth/4 adults)**
- **Voices of Youth/Straight Talk Symposium at McNair Middle School:** The USAO-NDGA collaborated with Communities in Schools of Atlanta and the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office to implement a *Straight Talk* program entitled "Voices of Youth" for the 2014-2015 school year. Four AUSAs from the USAO-NDGA joined the DA's Office staff and other partnering organizations to engage at-risk 8th graders in open dialogue about challenging topics. The three one-hour monthly symposiums were also designed to break down some of the barriers between youth and law enforcement. Spring 2015 topics included Human Trafficking, Life Skills, and Leadership Skills. McNair Middle School is the third school to implement the *Straight Talk* program in the District. Following the completion of the program, the USAO-NDGA and DeKalb DA's Office sponsored an End-of-the-Year Pizza Party for the students, their parents, and session facilitators. At the celebration, students performed a skit based on what they learned throughout the school year. **(25 youth/5 adults)**



- High-Five Fridays!:** In 2014, the USAO-NDGA initiated the *High-Five Fridays!* program to recognize elementary students who improved attendance, academic performance, and behavior during the previous month. In collaboration with the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Coordinator at Bethune Elementary School, the USAO-NDGA plans a celebration for students from each class per grade level on the first Friday of each month. Classroom teachers select five students from their class to send to the celebration, for a total of 20-25 students. After the program was piloted during the Spring semester of 2014, the principal agreed to implement the program for the entire 2015-2016 school term because of the program's unique focus on rewarding student improvement rather than addressing only students who are not performing well. In addition to food treats (such as ice cream, cupcakes, and pizza, donated by USAO-NDGA personnel), students were presented with a Certificate of Recognition from the USAO and prizes for trivia games. Additionally, parents were invited to celebrate their child's accomplishments.

(134 youth/150 adults)

2015 Spring Semester			
April	25 Students	4 th Grade	Ice Cream Social
2015 Fall Semester			
September	20 Students	2 nd Grade	Cupcake Celebration
October	22 Students	3 rd Grade	Ice Cream Social
November	22 Students	4 th Grade	Pizza Party
December	25 Students	5 th Grade	Hot Wings Celebration
December	20 Students	1 st Grade	Holiday Party



- Special Emphasis Programs: The USAO-NDGA hosted a Black History Month Program and Hispanic Heritage Month Program at the U.S. Attorney's Office. Personnel from the USAO-NDGA also attended various other Black History Month programs across the District.

During the month of February, the USAO-NDGA hosted a Black History Month Program that featured a guest speaker and an art contest by Brown Middle School students. Professor Hank Klibanoff, Director of the Georgia Civil Rights Cold Cases Project at Emory University, served as the guest speaker. Professor Klibanoff discussed the history of the project and its focus on racially motivated murders that occurred in Georgia's modern civil rights history. He also discussed investigative techniques and provided case updates. Five students from Brown Middle School submitted artwork themed, "What Does Black History Month Mean to Me?" The Community Outreach Team attended Brown Middle School's Black History Month program and recognized all participants, as well as first, second, and third place winners of the artwork contest. **(110 youth/90 adults)**

During the month of October, the USAO-NDGA invited the Executive Director of Ser Familia, Inc., and the Atlanta Office of the Mexican Consulate to be guest speakers for an office-wide Hispanic Heritage Month Lunch & Learn. Speakers increased awareness about the language, perception, and cultural barriers to serving and working with Hispanic communities. Public safety concerns, partnership opportunities, and the growth rate of Hispanics in the District were also major topics of discussion. The event culminated with a delicious variety of Latin dishes for lunch. **(43 adults)**



Youth Empowerment

- College and Career Motivation: The USAO-NDGA participated in twelve (12) career day events in eight (8) cities throughout the Northern District of Georgia. Students were informed about the variety of career fields within the Department of Justice. Staff also discussed college majors, internships, and the importance of networking. **(1,958 youth/55 adults)**

<i>No. of Students</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Grade(s)</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Location</i>
60	Columbia Elementary School	5 th	Decatur	DeKalb County
170	Shadow Rock Elementary School	3 rd – 5 th	Lithonia	DeKalb County
160	Bethune Elementary School	3 rd , 5 th	Atlanta	Atlanta Public Schools
127	Rock Chapel Elementary School	1 st , 4 th , 5 th	Lithonia	DeKalb County
175	Clements Middle School	7 th , 8 th	Covington	Newton County
216	Stephenson Middle School	7 th , 8 th	Stone Mountain	DeKalb County
200	Snellville Middle School	6 th – 8 th	Snellville	Gwinnett County
55	Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy	6 th – 8 th	Atlanta	Atlanta Public Schools
180	Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy	6 th – 8 th	Atlanta	Atlanta Public Schools
60	Centennial High School	9 th – 12 th	Roswell	Fulton County
75	North Clayton High School	10 th – 12 th	College Park	Clayton County
180	Towers High School	9 th – 12 th	Decatur	DeKalb County
300	Shiloh High School	9 th – 12 th	Snellville	Gwinnett County



- Junior Achievement (JA) Chick-fil-A Foundation Discovery Center:** Soon after the Discovery Center opened its doors in the fall of 2013, the USAO-NDGA began volunteering there in the spring of 2014. Every year more than 30,000 middle school students from Atlanta Public Schools, DeKalb County Schools, Fulton County Schools, and Marietta City Schools visit the Discovery Center. Located in the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia, the Discovery Center relies on over 40 volunteers a day to operate its two interactive marketplaces, JA Finance Park and JA BizTown. The two marketplaces are designed to simulate “real world” business activity in industries such as financial services, media, telecommunications, utilities, manufacturing, entertainment, housing, and the automotive industry. Eleven (11) USAO-NDGA staff volunteered over the course of nine days throughout the school year, facilitating the Finance Park or BizTown simulations for hundreds of students. The simulations give students an opportunity to make financial decisions by managing a household budget and management decisions by operating a business. During 2015, USAO-NDGA volunteerism at the Discovery Center impacted more than a thousand students from school districts throughout the District. **(1,136 youth)**

No. of Students	School	Grade	City	Location
126	Druid Hills Middle School	6 th	Decatur	DeKalb County
150	Webb Bridge Middle School	7 th	Alpharetta	Fulton County
115	Sequoyah Middle School	6 th	Doraville	DeKalb County
118	River Trail Middle School	6 th	Johns Creek	Fulton County
272	Henderson Middle School	6 th , 7 th	Atlanta	DeKalb County
130	George Walton Academy	7 th	Monroe	Walton County
147	Northwestern Middle School	6 th	Alpharetta	Fulton County
78	M.D. Roberts Middle School	6 th	Jonesboro	Clayton County

- Annual Work-Based Learning Success Seminar:** In partnership with the Atlanta Public Schools Office of Career, Technical and Agricultural Education, the USAO-NDGA hosted the 2nd Annual Work-Based Learning Success Seminar for high school juniors and seniors. U.S. Attorney John Horn provided the opening remarks before students transitioned to three breakout sessions that included discussion of Getting Hired & Fired, HR Student Intern, Behind the Application Process, and Interview Skills. During the breakout sessions, ten (10) USAO-NDGA staff members conducted brief mock interviews with the students. Another partnering agency, Kamileon's Kloset Professional Development, provided a "Dress for Success" presentation that provided the students with relevant tips for making a positive impression in a professional environment. Students also participated in group tours of the Richard B. Russell Federal Building, including visits to the Ceremonial Courtroom, Grand Jury, and the U.S. Marshal's Command Center for a behind-the-scenes look at federal courthouse operations. *(175 youth/35 adults)*



- Covenant House Georgia "Prepare and Share a Meal" Program:** For the second year in a row, the USAO-NDGA partnered with Covenant House Georgia in the Prepare and Share a Meal program. Covenant House offers a crisis shelter and transitioning housing to homeless, trafficked, and abused youth, as well as food, clothing, shelter, counseling, job search assistance, and life skills training. Programs such as Prepare and Share a Meal, save Covenant House about \$300,000 annually, which can be used on other programming necessities. During 2015, thirty-three (33) USAO-NDGA staff participated in four different Prepare and Share a Meals by donating and/or serving healthy and nutritious meals. During the meals, USAO-NDGA staff also engaged the residents in discussions about topics such as career paths, educational opportunities, hobbies, decision-making skills, military service, and the duties and responsibilities of the USAO. *(150 youth/10 adults)*



- Gwinnett County Public Schools' Career Connections Exhibition: The USAO-NDGA participated in the Career Connections Exhibition for the second year in a row. The expo was designed to prepare 8th grade students for a smooth transition from middle school to career academy high schools. This year, the exhibition featured approximately 200 companies from construction, health science, hospitality, marketing, as well as law and public safety, and a host of other professions. Approximately 4,800 students from eleven (11) Gwinnett County middle schools attended the exhibition throughout the day. Staff members from the USAO-NDGA shared information about preparing for a legal career, common career challenges, and educational and occupational requirements. **(155 youth/15 adults)**



- Everybody Wins! Atlanta "Power Lunch" Program: For the third year in a row, the USAO-NDGA partnered with Everybody Wins! Atlanta for the Power Lunch program. Power Lunch is a literacy mentoring initiative that allows volunteer mentors the opportunity to read to students who are performing below grade level, during their lunch hour on a weekly basis. The goal of the program is to improve the students' reading skills and foster a love of reading. During the Spring 2015 and Fall 2015 semesters, fourteen (14) USAO-NDGA staff members served as Power Lunch Reading Mentors at Bethune Elementary School. A total of 189 hours of service were contributed to 1st through 5th graders at Bethune Elementary. **(28 youth)**

In addition to weekly reading, staff members participated in an on-site Power Lunch Year-End Celebration for Everybody Wins! Atlanta. During the event, one of the USAO-NDGA reading mentors arranged for 35 IdBids kits to be donated to 1st and 2nd graders in the program in honor of Earth Day. The IdBids kits included a small book and three plush toy characters, one for water, air, and the earth. The kits were designed to help teach young children about ways in which they can take care of the environment. **(35 youth/50 adults)**

- Mayor's Summer Reading Club (MSRC): For the second year in a row, the USAO-NDGA partnered with City of Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and other local entities to implement summer reading activities throughout Atlanta for the Summer Reading Club. The MSRC is designed to improve vocabulary and literacy skills for children ages birth to eight, while engaging the community in encouraging children to continue reading and learning during the summer break. The MSRC program also encourages families to instill literacy as a core value in the home, and raises family awareness of the importance of reading with their children on a daily basis. In June 2015, nineteen (19) USAO-NDGA staff traveled to The Warren/Holyfield Boys & Girls Club for an interactive reading of the book "Dad, Jackie, and Me" to groups of 5 to 8-year-old boys and girls. Each child was provided with a copy of the book at no cost on behalf of the City of Atlanta. Approximately 90 students participated in the Reading Club, received books, and entered into a raffle to win Atlanta Braves Baseball tickets. **(90 youth/6 adults)**
- Real Men Read Day: The USAO-NDGA participated in "Real Men Read" at Columbia Elementary School in Decatur, Georgia, for the second year in a row. The event was designed to inspire students to become lifelong readers, foster a love of reading, and provide positive male role models for students. In addition to reading, USAO-NDGA staff encouraged 2nd and 3rd grade students to respect their teachers and fellow students and avoid fighting, bullying, and other forms of violence. **(50 youth/5 adults)**



- DeKalb Alliance on Youth: The USAO-NDGA continued its partnership with the DeKalb County Office of Youth Services by participating in bi-monthly stakeholder meetings and planning various initiatives. Along with other Alliance partners, the USAO-NDGA-NDGA has helped to plan a back-to-school resource fair and develop marketing strategies to impact youth throughout DeKalb County. The DeKalb Alliance on Youth was launched in 2014 to bring community, educational, business, faith-based, governmental, and non-profit entities together to address the local challenges of DeKalb County's youth. *(40 adults)*
- Student Achievement Month (SAM) Awards: For the third year in a row, the USAO-NDGA participated in the Communities in Schools (CIS) of Georgia Student Achievement Month Awards. AUSA/Community Outreach Coordinator Loranzo Fleming served as a judge for the written expression and public speaking contest for the 2014-2015 State Competition. Each year, CIS of Georgia honors at-risk students across the state, who are often overlooked or expected to underachieve. The students participate in a variety of competitions and are rewarded with laptops, school supplies, gift cards, and an all-expense paid trip to the awards ceremony held in Atlanta, Georgia. *(50 youth/100 adults)*
- Atlanta Public Schools (APS) Initiatives: The USAO-NDGA participated in two APS initiatives with Superintendent, Dr. Meria Carstarphen, and school board members. APS hosted a student town hall meeting at Brown Middle School, entitled, "No Decisions About Us, Without Us!" The forum allowed student representatives from all APS high schools to voice their concerns to the school superintendent and board members. Topics of discussion included: School Culture & Climate; Safety & Discipline; The Education Experience; Teachers, Staff & Principals; Parent Participation; and Curriculum Offerings. Students were very candid about their longstanding concerns, desire for more rigorous classes, high staff turnover, and disproportionate suspensions. The second initiative was a Workforce Development Symposium, hosted by the APS Office of Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE). The Symposium was designed to engage and educate the business community about partnership opportunities through various CTAE programs that enhance the career-readiness skills of APS students. *(60 youth/185 adults)*



- Bethune Elementary School Winter Clothing Drive: The USAO-NDGA collected and contributed five boxes of undergarments, scarves, hats and gloves for those 1st graders at Bethune Elementary School, who currently reside in homeless shelters. Approximately 40% of the student body at Bethune lives in shelters. *(100 youth)*
- Mission to the World Afterschool Tutoring: Several USAO-NDGA staff members began serving as tutors for an afterschool program for international elementary school students two days a week in Clarkston, Georgia. Many of the students are from Burma, Iraq, Eritrea, Nepal, Sudan, and Somalia, and need assistance with homework assignments and projects. The program assists approximately two dozen students three days per week. *(50 youth/12 adults)*



- The Elite Gentlemen Afterschool Club: The USAO-NDGA was invited to participate in an afterschool session for male students involved in The Elite Gentlemen Club at Campbell High School in Smyrna, Georgia. The program assists young boys with academic and social development, mentoring and positive leadership, and cultural awareness. Four male AUSAs from the USAO-NDGA discussed leadership, college and career preparation, and good citizenship with the teenagers. *(14 youth/5 adults)*

Collegiate Outreach

- Atlanta's John Marshall Law School (AJMLS): As previously discussed, the USAO-NDGA partnered with AJMLS to facilitate the Street Law and Mock Trial Program at Booker T. Washington High School for the third year in a row. The Street Law program also served as a mentorship opportunity for law students to learn directly from practicing attorneys. **(25 adults)**



- Strayer University: AUSA/Community Outreach Coordinator Fleming was a guest presenter during the Spring semester to discuss the mission and purpose of the USAO, DOJ, and career opportunities in federal law enforcement. **(20 adults)**
- Georgia State University: AUSA/Community Outreach Coordinator Fleming served as a panelist for the Black Law Student Association at Georgia State University. The panel consisted of attorneys, teachers, a law professor, and an administrative law judge. Panelists discussed the various roles that attorneys play in ensuring competent legal representation, criminal and civil prosecutions, and crime prevention through education and intervention programs. **(25 adults)**
- University of Georgia: The USAO-NDGA Victim Witness, Community Outreach and LECC Programs partnered with the University of Georgia, Gwinnett Campus, to host a one-day Victim Advocates Training, entitled *Victim-Centered Responses to Contemporary Issues*. The training was attended by students, faculty, and a variety of practitioners. The three training sessions included topics such as Ethical Challenges in Victim Services; Human Trafficking Prosecutions from a Victim Centered Approach; and Exploring Our Cultural Assumptions. **(160 adults)**

Community Engagement

- My Brother's Keeper Initiatives: During 2015, the USAO-NDGA participated in two *My Brother's Keeper (MBK)* initiatives. President Obama's MBK initiative challenges local stakeholders and community residents to help eliminate opportunity gaps, barriers, and challenges facing youth, including boys and young men of color, in order to ensure that all young people are positioned to succeed. The USA-NDGA Community Outreach team participated in an MBK community luncheon with faith leaders entitled, *A Collaboration of Great Minds*, hosted by My Brother's Keeper Fulton County (MBKFC) and African American Churches Transforming Society (AACTS). The collaborative was spearheaded by Fulton County Chairman John Eaves and Pastor Jasper Williams, for the purpose of bringing community leaders, government, and clergy together to strategize and develop programs to transform the African-American Community. The second MBK initiative was a local collaborative symposium hosted by the Community Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc. The symposium focused on collaboration between government, business, community, and faith leaders to assist young boys and men of color with succeeding academically and professionally and avoiding the criminal justice system. **(150 adults)**
- YoBoulevard! Back-to-School Block Party: The USAO-NDGA participated in the YoBoulevard! Back-to-School Block Party for the second year. Eight (8) USAO-NDGA staff members distributed information about the USAO and crime prevention and gave school supplies to students. The school supplies were donated by USAO-NDGA staff. YoBoulevard! is a joint effort between Councilman Kwanza Hall of the Atlanta City Council and Commissioner Joan Garner of the Fulton County Commission to ensure that community residents in the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood of Atlanta have access to all of the resources and services provided by community, state, county, and federal agencies. Over 1,300 community members and seventy (70) local organizations and agencies participated in the back to school block party held at the In Town Academy. **(60 youth/150 adults)**



- 32nd Annual National Night Out (NNO): USA Horn and seven (7) AUSAs and staff participated in the annual National Night Out hosted by the English Avenue Neighborhood Association and Street Smart Youth Project. NNO is an annual community event which occurs the first Tuesday in August that is designed to strengthen police-community relationships, raise awareness about crime and drug prevention, generate support for local anticrime efforts, and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. As part of the overall DMI efforts, the USAO-NDGA distributed information about the office and enjoyed games with local residents. Additionally, staff members were able to speak with residents about neighborhood improvements as a result of the ongoing USAO-NDGA Drug Market Intervention (DMI), discussed later in this Report. **(15 youth/50 adults)**
- 2015 Rally for Prevention and Recovery: The USAO-NDGA was invited to participate in the 2015 Rally for Prevention and Recovery, sponsored by Street Smart Youth Project, English Avenue Neighborhood Association, Friends of English Avenue, Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition, and the Atlanta Police Department. Hosted in the heart of the English Avenue neighborhood, the Rally brought together local residents, community leaders, service providers, law enforcement, and the recovery community to commemorate National Recovery Month and promote drug treatment and recovery. The USAO-NDGA provided information about the DMI and signed up several attendees to participate in the New Beginnings Reentry Program, facilitated by the Urban League of Greater Atlanta, one of the DMI program partners. **(40 adults)**



- 7th Annual Festival of Lights: The U.S. Attorney and staff attended the annual community event in support of our DMI partners, the English Avenue Neighborhood Association and the Historic Westside Cultural Arts Council. The festival included a parade, live music, vendors, health screenings, games, food, a historic tour of the area, and more. The Festival began in 2009 as a means to build a stronger community. The event is known for celebrating the amazing talent, creativity, longevity, and beauty of the people who live in English Avenue, Vine City, and the surrounding communities that make up Atlanta's Historic Westside. USA Horn and other staff engaged festival attendees and residents who provided feedback about the ongoing DMI in the English Avenue neighborhood. **(70 adults)**
- Neighborhood Association Meetings: USAO-NDGA staff regularly attended neighborhood association meetings on a semi-monthly basis in the English Avenue community. The English Avenue Neighborhood (EANA) worked closely with the USAO-NDGA during planning, implementation, and maintenance phases of the Drug Market Intervention (DMI). DMI updates were routinely provided to the residents in attendance. Neighborhood association meetings were extremely useful in providing insight about community concerns, public safety, and blighted properties, as well as a means to strengthen relationships within the communities being served. **(40 adults)**
 - Westside Collaboratives: Recently, the Westside of Atlanta has experienced an uptick in outreach and redevelopment efforts over the past year. That said, the USAO-NDGA has been working closely with Westside neighborhoods since 2001 with implementation of the Weed & Seed Program. Because of our longstanding commitment in these neighborhoods, the USAO-NDGA was asked to take part in four specific initiatives with key stakeholders and community members vested in making a difference in Atlanta's Westside communities: specifically, the *Westside Problem Property Working Group*, the *Westside Community Court Initiative*, the *Westside Education Forum*, and *Westside Transformation Summit*.

The *Westside Problem Property Working Group* includes representatives from the Atlanta Police Department, Code Enforcement, City of Atlanta Solicitor's Office, Invest Atlanta, the Land Bank Authority, Habitat for Humanity, Quest Community Development Organization, and several others. Hosted by the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, the Working Group allows each representative to share current initiatives and potential opportunities for collaboration and coordination, in efforts to restore blighted properties and revitalize Westside communities. The DMI has been the focal point of USAO-NDGA involvement this year. **(25 adults)**

The *Westside Community Court Initiative*, spearheaded by Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard, consists of plans to establish a community court on the Westside of Atlanta. The community court would encompass the DMI and Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) neighborhoods of English Avenue and Vine City. Community courts provide court supervised alternative sentencing programs for non-violent offenders and criminals who suffer from chemical dependency. The goal of community courts is to return program participants to the community as model citizens. A cross-section of law enforcement officials, faith leaders, and community service providers were invited to an initial meeting to discuss implementation and best practices. **(30 adults)**

The *Westside Education Forum*, hosted by the Washington High School Cluster Support Planning Team, Raising Expectations, Atlanta Public Schools, Westside Communities Alliance, the Atlanta University Center Consortium, and Georgia State University, galvanized stakeholders to increase wrap-around services in support of local schools on the Westside. The USAO-NDGA was invited to participate in the Forum because of involvement in prevention programs within the Washington Cluster elementary, middle and high schools over the past five years. **(75 adults)**

The *Westside Transformation Summit*, hosted by the Westside Future Fund and the Chick-fil-A Foundation, consisted of biweekly summits designed to facilitate collaboration among the variety of agencies, entities, and organizations also working to revitalize Atlanta's Westside communities. Hosted at the City of Refuge, a shelter for homeless men, women and children on the Westside of Atlanta, the Summits provided opportunities for the USAO-NDGA to continue establishing relationships with public and private entities striving to accomplish similar goals throughout the Westside of Atlanta, and to expand partnerships and engagement opportunities. **(100 adults)**

- Inter-Faith Meeting on Education: USA Horn and Community Outreach staff participated in the *Inter-Faith Meeting on Education*, hosted by Rabbi Peter Berg of The Temple; Dr. Raphael Warnock, Senior Pastor of the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church; and Comer Yates, Executive Director of the Atlanta Speech School. The meeting included a lively discussion about generational lack of access to educational opportunity and the illiteracy plaguing a large percentage of children who attend Atlanta public schools. The meeting, presentation, and discussion were followed by a call to action for the small group of clergy, law enforcement and education stakeholders present. **(64 adults)**

- Arab, Sikh and Muslim Engagement: The USAO-NDGA significantly increased its efforts to engage the Arab, Sikh, and Muslim communities throughout the metro Atlanta region. By participating in the following events and meetings, USA Horn and other USAO-NDGA staff have been able to address public safety concerns and strengthen community trust:

USA Horn hosted the first *Arab, Sikh, and Muslim Community Leaders Meeting* to provide an overview of DOJ and USAO-NDGA law enforcement priorities and hear from faith leaders from those religious communities about community safety concerns and upcoming events. The meeting also provided faith leaders with an opportunity to meet and hear from USAO-NDGA criminal and civil rights AUSAs and Community Outreach staff.

(18 adults)

The 10th *Annual Atlanta Arab Festival*, sponsored by the Alif Institute, provided an opportunity for USA Horn to share greetings on behalf of DOJ and the USAO-NDGA to all of its attendees. The Arab Festival featured educational displays about Arab culture and Arab Americans, live musical performances, folk dancing, a traditional Arab costumes show, various activities for children, and authentic Arabian food. **(250 adults)**

The *Khalsa Day Celebration* is an annual community-wide event hosted by the Sikh Study Circle, Inc., in Stone Mountain, Georgia. AUSA and Civil Rights Coordinator Aileen Bell-Hughes and Community Outreach Specialist Dr. Danielle Sweat Whyllly addressed attendees and provided information about the USAO mission, programs, and priorities related to public safety and community engagement. This outdoor cultural and religious celebration is a unique display of faith, fellowship and food, and an opportunity to educate the community on Sikhism. Khalsa Day, or Vaisakhi, marks the beginning of harvest season and is one of the most important days on the Sikh calendar. Khalsa celebrations around the world promote the Sikh belief in peace and harmony. Both AUSA Bell-Hughes and Dr. Whyllly were presented with 2015 Vaisakhi Awards in recognition of their dedication and service to the community through civil rights and outreach initiatives of the USAO-NDGA.

(100 adults)



The *Interfaith Open House* was held at the Roswell Community Masjid, and invited community residents and stakeholders to learn about Islamic culture and meet members of the Masjid. Law Enforcement Coordination (LEC) Manager Didi Nelson attended on behalf of the USAO-NDGA. **(50 adults)**

The *Atlanta Muslim Young Professionals* (AMYP) invited USA Horn to provide the welcome address at the AMYP Annual Professional Development Conference. AMYP is comprised of a diverse group of Muslim professionals (ages 22-35) from various industries and professions throughout the metro Atlanta area. AMYP's mission is to empower Muslim professionals by providing opportunities for success. **(40 adults)**

The *Islamic Leaders Meeting* was held at the 14th Street Mosque to discuss issues facing Muslim citizens in the Northern District of Georgia. U.S. Attorney Horn, accompanied by the Community Outreach, Civil Rights, and Law Enforcement Coordinators, met with Islamic leaders to address concerns and reassure the USAO-NDGAs commitment to the community. **(15 adults)**

USAO-NDGA staff attended the *Roswell Community Masjid Islamic Art Exhibit* entitled, "Inflections." The Islamic Arts exhibit featured songs by children, recitations of the Koran by students from the Al-Bayan Institute at the Masjid; and several different types of artwork that highlighted the principles that shape Islamic Art. The event also showcased a variety of ethnic foods, scents, and activities that promoted interactive learning among the community members and stakeholders in attendance. **(50 adults)**

USA Horn was invited to attend the *Islamic Speakers Bureau Building Bridges Dinner* to discuss diversity and inclusion in Atlanta. **(100 adults)**

USA Horn attended the *Al Farooq Mosque Luncheon*, alongside the FBI Special Agent-in-Charge, to discuss current events impacting the Muslim community throughout the metro area and the United States. **(20 adults)**

- National Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony: USAO-NDGA staff participated in the statewide 2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony in Forsyth, Georgia. At the ceremony, the USAO-NDGA provided information about federal victim witness services, identity theft, internet safety, and other crime prevention information. Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week has been recognized as a public awareness campaign advocating the rights of victims across the country. Each year, communities participate in programs, ceremonies, and events that raise awareness about victimization, victim empowerment, and crime prevention strategies. **(200 adults)**

- Somalian Community Engagement: The Multicultural Center for Health, Education and Community Development (MHECD), Inc., request a meeting with the USAO-NDGA to discuss growing concerns about Somalian youth in Clarkston, Georgia, being targeted by domestic terrorist groups for enrollment. USA Horn and staff from Community Outreach and Law Enforcement Coordination met with MHECD representatives and discussed countering violent extremism programs funded by the federal government, and plans to host a partnership meeting in Clarkston. Five months after the initial meeting, a partnership meeting was held at Georgia Piedmont Technical College. The USAO-NDGA invited community organizations, school administrators, and local, state, and federal government representatives to attend the partnership meeting in order to collaborate with Somali elders, mothers, and community leaders on community-based approaches to countering radicalization of Somali youth in Clarkston. **(31 adults)**



- 2nd Annual Latino Summit: The USAO-NDGA and other federal government agencies participated in a roundtable forum designed to address a variety of concerns within the Latino community. Hosted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, LaAmistad, Inc., and Ser Familia, Inc., the Summit aimed to provide organizations, agencies, and faith-based service providers with information about federal resources and programs. This year's Summit focused on mental health issues in the Latino community, disparities in access to services, preventative health services, and community-based programs for building, sustaining, and strengthening healthy children, families and communities. USAO-NDGA staff disseminated information about human trafficking, internet safety, identity theft prevention, and the DOJ Smart on Crime initiative. **(55 adults)**



ENFORCEMENT

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

Public Safety Initiatives

- Protecting Houses of Worship Summit: In partnership with the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice, the USAO-NDGA hosted the *Protecting Houses of Worship Security Summit* at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia. USA Horn provided opening remarks and Civil Rights AUSA Brent Gray served as one of the presenters. The Summit was held in the aftermath of the tragic shooting at “Mother” Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and in response to disturbing incidents occurring at churches, mosques, and synagogues around the country. Religious leaders from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh communities gathered to learn more about hate crime trends and prosecutions in the region, responses to active shooter situations, and security team and emergency action planning. The Summit also included an interfaith panel discussion on do’s and don’ts, security strategies, and lessons learned from incidents that have occurred at houses of worship throughout Metro-Atlanta. **(70 adults)**



- 4th Annual Health Summit: The USAO-NDGA Economic Crime Deputy Chief Glenn Baker served as a panelist at the Health Summit hosted by the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority. The Summit’s theme, “*Violence: America’s Challenge*,” sought to raise awareness about the physical, mental, and economic consequences of violence that millions experience each year, while providing resources to empower communities to address violence at the local, state and national levels. The Summit drew nearly 650 stakeholders, service providers, and concerned citizens. **(120 adults)**



- MindMATTERS DeKalb County Forum: USAO-NDGA staff attended the Forum, hosted by The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority. Among the variety of topics discussed by a panel of mental health practitioners was the issue of reentry and mental health. Given the growing number of individuals involved in the criminal justice system who have mental illness challenges, the Forum discussed the increase in mental health courts for low-level offenders, as well as new state programs that offer peer support by sending ex-offenders with manageable mental illnesses into the prisons to assist inmates with reentry planning. Approximately fifty (50) community members attended the forum to gather resources for addressing mental health in DeKalb County. **(50 adults)**
- At-Risk Adults/Elder Rights Team Committee Meetings: USAO-NDGA staff continued participation in quarterly committee meetings hosted by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Committee partners participate in the meetings to learn of upcoming events geared toward elder abuse prevention, updates regarding the Elder Justice Act and its impact in Georgia, and potential collaborations. **(15 adults)**
- Gang Violence Symposium: USAO-NDGA Community Outreach staff attended a gang violence community forum, hosted by the DeKalb District Attorney's Office, at Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia. The forum was attended by community members and law enforcement agencies to discuss increased gang activity in the county and ways that residents can make a difference. **(80 adults)**
- National Human Sex Trafficking Conference: An AUSA from the USAO-NDGA participated as a guest speaker at the I Am Her Voice Foundation's *National Human Sex Trafficking Conference*. **(100 adults)**
- Human Trafficking, Faith + Community Initiative: USAO-NDGA staff attended the Trafficking forum, hosted by the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives (FDFI), at Big Bethel AME Church. Faith-based and community leaders gathered to learn more about collaborating with other non-profits, governmental, and law enforcement agencies to develop a human trafficking response protocol specifically for faith institutions in Georgia. FDFI is an Atlanta-based public charity whose founders include the direct descendants of both Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington. FDFI has developed and implemented human trafficking education programs in U.S. schools since 2008. **(50 adults)**



- Coca-Cola Human Trafficking Awareness Day: The USAO-NDGA facilitated a human trafficking workshop at Coca-Cola headquarters, in Atlanta, Georgia. **(60 adults)**
- Atlanta-Fulton County Chapter of League of Women Voters Human Trafficking Talk: An AUSA from the USAO-NDGA spoke to members of the League about the prevalence of human trafficking in Atlanta. **(60 adults)**
- Daughters of the American Revolution-Fayette Stars Mill Chapter Human Trafficking Talk: An AUSA from the USAO-NDGA spoke to community members about the prevalence of human trafficking in Atlanta, during a seminar held at the Peachtree City Public Library. **(50 adults)**
- Human Trafficking Trainings and Forums: Several AUSAs facilitated training sessions and/or served as panelists and presenters during human trafficking community forums, often in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). A select number of these trainings and forums are listed below. **(405 adults)**

No. of Attendees	Organization/ Agency
45	Truckers Against Trafficking
25	Southwest Airlines Transport Workers Union
35	Georgia Department of Human Services
55	Administration for Children & Families
45	UNICEF NextGen Speaker's Series
75	Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics (SCCE)
125	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

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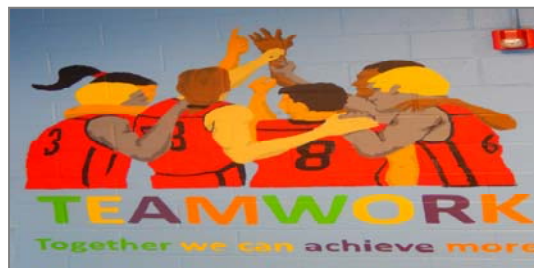
USAO-NDGA's English Avenue Drug Market Intervention



The USAO-NDGA implemented a Drug Market Intervention (DMI) in the historic English Avenue neighborhood, commonly referred to as “The Bluff,” on the Westside of Atlanta, Georgia. In the mid-20th century, the English Avenue community was a stable middle-class African-American neighborhood. Over the past few decades, it became a magnet for people seeking and selling heroin, and marked by poverty and blight, boarded-up homes, violent crime, and lacking economic development. Once the neighborhood became the primary open air drug market in the Southeast, drug-related violence steadily increased. Many residents moved from the area, leaving blocks of dilapidated and abandoned houses, while residents who remained became weary and distrustful of police. This mistrust was heightened when Kathryn Johnston, a 92-year old woman, was shot and killed in 2006 by officers during a “botched” drug raid.

The English Avenue DMI had the following goals:

1. Partner with residents to dismantle the open air drug market in English Avenue;
2. Reduce violence and attendant disorder and quality-of-life crimes; and,
3. Assist in restoring the neighborhood by prosecuting the most substantial and violent drug dealers (Tier 1 offenders), while providing those dealers with a lesser criminal history or who sold drugs to feed their own addiction with a “second chance” through social services such as job training, GED completion, and drug rehabilitation (Tier 2 offenders).

As set forth in more detail below, in early 2015, AUSA/DMI Coordinator Laurel R. Boatright and USAO-NDGA Community Outreach, Law Enforcement Coordination, and Asset Forfeiture staff, began to meet regularly with local, state and federal law enforcement partners from the Atlanta Police Department (APD), Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI), the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). In addition, USAO-NDGA staff began regularly attending English Avenue Neighborhood Association (EANA) meetings and other community events to engage with residents, clergy, and other stakeholders in an effort to explore whether a DMI could be implemented successfully in the English Avenue neighborhood.



- Drug Market Intervention (DMI) Law Enforcement Training: The USAO-NDGA partnered with DOJ's COPS program to host a DMI training at Atlanta Police Department in February 2015, during which law enforcement partners and key USAO-NDGA staff learned necessary information on how to prepare, implement, and maintain the DMI initiative. High Point, North Carolina, Police Chief Marty Sumner facilitated the day-long training session for the USAO-NDGA, APD, GBI, ATF, HIDTA, and other law enforcement partners. Chief Sumner had led the first DMI pilot implementation in 2004. *(20 adults)*
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- Phoenix Project Partners Training: The USAO-NDGA hosted the *Phoenix Project Partners Training* at Westside Works, to introduce community stakeholders and potential partners to the English Avenue DMI model. With funding by DOJ-COPS, various social service providers, governmental agencies, clergy, residents, and community leaders were invited to learn more about the step-by-step implementation process, from High Point, NC, Chief Marty Sumner, Heather Perez, Michigan State University research partner; and Bob Hood, Community Prosecutor with the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. *(65 adults)*
- Drug Market Intervention (DMI) Clergy/Resident Meetings: The USAO-NDGA Community Outreach Team and AUSA/DMI Coordinator Boatright hosted a DMI Clergy Meeting at Simpson Street Baptist Church where local pastors were engaged in discussion about the implementation of DMI and their respective roles in the initiative. Reverend Kenneth Copeland traveled to Atlanta from Rockford, Illinois, to meet with the USAO-NDGA and clergy about the 2007 DMI implementation in Delancey Heights, a high-crime neighborhood in Rockford. Rev. Copeland discussed community responses, clergy involvement, recommendations, and program impact. He also emphasized the important role of local ministers partnering with law enforcement and service providers to combat the English Avenue open-air drug markets and related criminal activity. Rev. Copeland later met with residents and members of the EANA to discuss how the DMI was implemented in Rockford and address concerns. The USAO-NDGA also met with Executive Committee members of the English Avenue Vine City Ministerial Alliance to discuss the goals and objectives of DMI implementation, as well as receive input and willingness to participate. *(32 adults)*
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- Drug Market Intervention (DMI) Stakeholder Meetings: USA Horn and AUSA/Community Outreach Coordinator Fleming met with Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed to discuss the English Avenue DMI and other pressing community concerns. Mayor Reed pledged his support of the DMI by offering city resources and services to ensure its success. The USAO-NDGA also held meetings with Atlanta City Councilman Ivory Young, Jr.; Fulton County Commissioner Joan Garner; and Chris Norman, Executive Director of the Atlanta Land Bank Authority. **(5 adults)**
- Drug Market Intervention (DMI) Call-In: In partnership with the EANA and other DMI partners, the USAO-NDGA hosted the DMI Call-In in June 2015 for Tier 2 candidates being offered a second chance to receive social service support in lieu of federal prosecution. The Call-In was held in English Avenue at Lindsay Street Baptist Church. Fourteen (14) of the eighteen (18) identified Tier 2 candidates attended the Call-In, many of whom were accompanied by a friend or relative. The Tier 2 offenders sat face-to-face with photos of the violent offenders (Tier 1) that were arrested and facing prosecution, to demonstrate what would happen if they continued selling drugs in the English Avenue neighborhood. Eighteen (18) service providers also were present for on-site registration and support for willing Tier 2 candidates. Several community stakeholders were present to witness such a landmark event and offer support and signal solidarity with the common goal of achieving a healthier community. During the Call-In, USA Horn and other law enforcement partners addressed the Tier 2 men and women regarding their drug crimes and consequences of continued drug trafficking (including actual videos of their drug sales to undercover police officers). Community residents and pastors also voiced the impact that drug addiction, distribution, and other criminal behaviors (such as violence and prostitution) have had on the community. In perhaps the most powerful moment of the Call-In, these community stakeholders implored the Tier 2 offenders to take advantage of this opportunity as a means of changing their lives and the future of the neighborhood.



As a result of the Call-In, twelve (12) candidates signed up for DMI “second chance” programs through social service providers, such as Atlanta Mission, Families First, Literacy Action, St. Jude’s Recovery Center, The GRAN Recovery Center, and Georgia Justice Project. Additional Phoenix Partnership service providers in attendance included Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Atlanta, Empowerment Resource Center, the English Avenue Neighborhood Association, Fulton County Department of Health Services, Fulton County Office of Children & Youth Services, Georgia Department of Human Services, Georgia Department of Labor, Historic Westside Cultural Arts Council, Integrity Transformations Community Development Corporation (Integrity CDC), Narcotics Anonymous, Quilt Transitional Services, and the Ravens Nest Foundation. Many of the Tier 2 individuals enrolled directly in the Urban League of Greater Atlanta’s already existing *New Beginnings* program (discussed in greater detail later in this Report) to attend classes and receive other assistance. **(64 adults)**

- Drug Market Intervention (DMI) Law Enforcement Partner Meetings: In the late summer of 2015, USA Horn hosted a law enforcement leadership meeting at the U.S. Attorney’s Office to discuss transitioning into the maintenance phase of the DMI. The meeting was attended by Atlanta Police Chief Turner, ATF SAC Walker, FBI SAC Johnson, and HIDTA Director Killorin. Since February 2015, the USAO-NDGA also hosted weekly law enforcement coordination meetings at APD, spearheaded by AUSA/DMI Coordinator Laurel Boatright. At these meetings, law enforcement partners and AUSAs discussed ongoing investigations of ongoing “hot spots” in the English Avenue neighborhood, as well as whether and under what circumstances to charge federally certain individuals who were continuing to sell drugs in the neighborhood. **(30 adults)**





- Drug Market Intervention (DMI) Community Meetings: The USAO-NDGA hosted a total of six DMI Community Update meetings at Lindsay Street Baptist Church and Pilgrim Baptist Church, open to all residents and stakeholders interested in receiving status updates about the progress of the DMI initiative. The meetings were facilitated by USA Horn and AUSA Boatright who responded to questions and informed residents about the continued support needed for the 14 individuals participating in “DMI second chance” programming. The sixth and final meeting was a combined meeting of the English Avenue DMI Phoenix Partnership and Community Update Meeting, in the form of a holiday celebration, held at the Lindsay Street Baptist Church. DMI Tier 2 participants, families, community residents, clergy, service providers and



stakeholders were invited to participate in the celebration by reporting the overall impact that DMI has had on them and their community. Two DMI Tier 2 participants attended, along with several DMI law enforcement partners, Urban League of Greater Atlanta, Atlanta Mission, and many USAO-NDGA staff. Atlanta City Council President Caesar Mitchell and Georgia State Representative “Able” Mable Thomas were also present to express their continued support of the initiative. **(55 adults)**

- English Avenue DMI Phoenix Partnership Meetings: The USAO-NDGA hosted a total of six Phoenix Partnership Meetings, initially at the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and later moving to various partner agency sites. The partnership meetings provided an opportunity to hear feedback about the DMI Call-In process and outcomes, ongoing service provision, and additional support needed to coordinate second chance efforts for willing Tier 2 participants. Upcoming initiatives to empower the English Avenue community at-large were also a focal point of partnership meetings. Agency representatives included: Atlanta Mission, Urban League of Greater Atlanta, Families First, Literacy Action, St. Jude’s Recovery Center, View Point Health GRAN Recovery Center, Georgia Justice Project, Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Atlanta, the English Avenue Vine City Ministerial Alliance, Empowerment Resource Center, the English Avenue Neighborhood Association, Fulton County Department of Health Services, Fulton County Office of Workforce Development, Atlanta Workforce Development Agency, the Georgia Department of Human Services, Georgia Department of Labor, Historic Westside Cultural Arts Council, Integrity Transformations Community Development Corporation (Integrity CDC), Atlanta Police Foundation, Jesus Set the Captives Free, and the Ravens Nest Foundation. **(32 adults)**



- Georgia National Guard Property Demolitions: Unique to any other DMI program in the country, the Georgia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (GaNG CDTF) provided significant support to the ongoing DMI efforts implemented by the USAO-NDGA-NDGA. In light of the extreme number of blighted properties and vacant houses that had become sites for heroin dealers to sell, and for heroin users to “shoot up” and frequently overdose, the USAO-NDGA worked with the Atlanta City Solicitor’s Office, APD Code Enforcement, and the GaNG CDTF to identify and demolish seventeen (17) blighted houses and multi-unit apartment complexes that were connected with drug trafficking and impacting the health of the neighborhood. Not only was the result aesthetically pleasing, the demolition efforts also demonstrated that the USAO-NDGA would use every asset available to send a message to drug dealers that their activity was no longer welcome in English Avenue. Demolition day was covered by several news media outlets, further conveying this message throughout the community, and the District. **(100 adults)**
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- OCDETF National Heroin Conference: The Executive Office for OCDETF held its first National Heroin Conference in Atlanta. U.S. Attorneys, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and federal agents from several law enforcement agencies across the country attended the conference. U.S. Attorney Horn made a presentation on the Drug Market Intervention (DMI) and discussed the ongoing successes and challenges that the program has seen thus far. **(350 adults)**
- Drug Market Intervention (DMI) Media Coverage: Due to the current national scope and impact of heroin in the United States, the DMI received a tremendous breath of media coverage. U.S. Attorney Horn was interviewed by a number of media outlets, including WABE, WSBTV, WSB, WGCL, WAGA, WXIA, WVEE, CNN and the Atlanta Journal Constitution. Millions of people throughout the district have had access to the online articles, morning and evening news reports, and radio broadcasts. **(2,000,000 adults)**
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Police & Community Relations


- Real Talk – What to Do When You Are Stopped by the Cops:** The USAO-NDGA partnered with Beulah Missionary Baptist Church to host a legal symposium and panel discussion on police encounters. The Symposium was moderated by a local judge and included panelists such as law enforcement officials and attorneys. The symposium was designed to educate the community about law enforcement techniques and policies, and how to successfully interact with law enforcement officials during traffic and investigatory stops. The panel also discussed civil rights claims, the grand jury process, and constitutional rights concerning the 1st and 4th Amendments. Community members were able to ask questions, share experiences, and receive literature about the mission of the USAO-NDGA and DOJ, and other outreach initiatives. Also more than 200 “Know Your Rights” cards were distributed. *(220 adults)*



- Real Talk – The Black & White of the Legal System, What Every Citizen Should Know:** The USAO-NDGA was invited to participate in a community forum at House of Hope Atlanta (formerly, Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church). Forum panelists included judges, lawyers, and police officers, who discussed traffic stops, search and seizures, court appearances, sentencing, and alternative sentencing programs. The USAO-NDGA set up an exhibit table and distributed information about the DOJ Smart on Crime and Anti-Violence Strategy, Community Outreach Programs, and various DOJ findings from police misconduct investigations. *(60 adults)*



- Summit on 21st Century Policing: The USAO-NDGA hosted three members of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing and Ron Davis, Director of the COPS Office, at a Summit about implementation of the Task Force recommendations for law enforcement. Command staff from a variety of law enforcement agencies throughout the district attended the Summit to learn more about the basic tenets of Procedural Justice and best practices around the country. **(150 adults)**
 - Cops & Communities – Bridging the Divide Town Hall Meeting: USA Horn served as a featured panelist for the *Cops & Communities Town Hall Meeting* hosted at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. The panel also included other influential law enforcement and community leaders, such as Congressman Hank Johnson; 100 Black Men of America Chairman Curley Dossman; International Brotherhood of Police Officers National President David Holloway; Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police President Keith Glass; and Fulton County Sheriff Ted Jackson. Participants discussed recent high profile cases and strategies for improving police and citizen encounters. **(200 adults)**
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- 2015 National Black Police Association (NBPA) Conference: AUSA/Community Outreach Coordinator Fleming was invited to be the keynote speaker at the National Black Police Association Chairman's Black Tie Ball. The theme of the 2015 National Conference was "Bridging the Gap: Police & Community for Peace." Loranzo highlighted the DOJ's Smart on Crime Initiative and Attorney General Lynch's commitment to building community trust. He also shared information from the recently released final report from The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing which focused on building trust and legitimacy. **(250 adults)**
 - Secure Neighborhoods Initiative: The USAO-NDGA was invited to participate in the Secure Neighborhoods Initiative Steering Committee Meeting, hosted by the Atlanta Police Foundation. The meeting focused on neighborhood safety and an innovative housing initiative designed to encourage more APD officers to live in in-town communities with less than desirable crime rates, poverty, and blight. **(15 adults)**

- Community Empowerment Response Team (CERT) Meetings: U.S. Attorney Horn and staff were invited to participate in CERT meetings, held at D.H. Stanton Elementary School by the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. CERT is in its 3rd phase of implementation in the Peoplestown community of West Atlanta. The meetings provide a forum for community residents, business owners, clergy, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders to discuss public safety and quality of life issues with law enforcement partners and city officials, including area high school students who expressed significant concern about the level of violence in the Peoplestown neighborhood. *(15 youth/60 adults)*
 - Armed with Knowledge Civil Rights Symposium: AUSA and Community Outreach Coordinator Loranzo Fleming served as a panelist for a civil rights symposium entitled, "Armed with Knowledge," presented by the Criminal Justice and Paralegal Studies programs at Atlanta Technical College. The Symposium included topics on how to interact with law enforcement, building better relationships with police officers, the grand jury process, understanding your constitutional rights, and others. *(100 adults)*
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- The Law and You Community Forum: An AUSA participated in a community forum titled "The Law and You: A Discussion to Enhance Positive Interactions Between Community and Law Enforcement." The forum also included a panel of attorneys from private law firms, an Atlanta Municipal Court judge, Atlanta Police Chief George Turner, and the president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). The panel was moderated by Atlanta City Council Chairman Caesar Mitchell and attended by Atlanta University Center students and many community stakeholders. *(115 adults)*


REENTRY

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

Reentry Collaboratives

- New Beginnings Reentry Program: The *New Beginnings Reentry Program* is a collaborative of federal, state, and local government agencies and community-based organizations committed to assisting formerly incarcerated persons successfully reenter society. Its mission is to help formerly incarcerated individuals become productive members of society when they leave incarceration by giving them access to job training, soft skills development, and educational opportunities to further their chances of successful reintegration. Since 2012, the *New Beginnings Reentry Program* has received funding from and been guided by a Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) steering committee led by the USAO-NDGA that includes the Urban League of Greater Atlanta (“Urban League”), Morehouse College School of Medicine, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Georgia Department of Community Supervision, Atlanta Police Department, and others. USAO-NDGA staff also continued to donate business attire for New Beginnings program participants. To date, the USAO-NDGA has made five large donations of both men’s and women’s clothing and accessories. **(28 adults)**
- Georgia Institute of Technology Reentry Panel: The USAO-NDGA facilitated an ex-offender reentry panel discussion at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia. After Georgia Tech Sociology Professor Kristin Gordon invited the USAO-NDGA to participate in a reentry panel discussion for her class, the USAO-NDGA assembled a panel of formerly incarcerated individuals to share their personal experiences, and USAO-NDGA staff shared information about the DOJ’s Smart on Crime Initiative and Anti-Violence Strategy. At the close of class, students were able to speak directly with the two ex-offenders and expressed gratitude for the courage shown by the ex-offenders in sharing their stories. **(130 adults)**



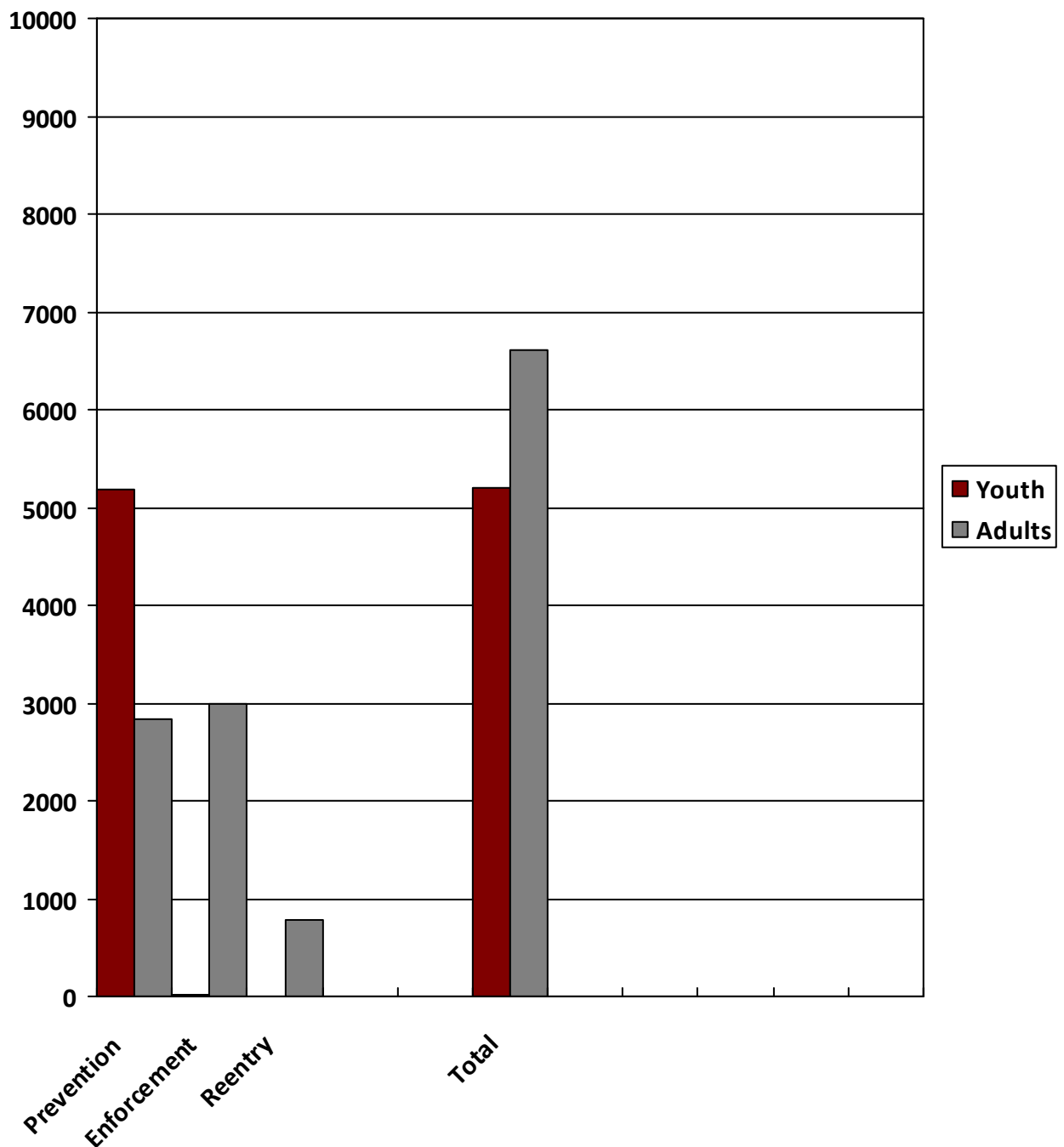
- Reentry Coalition of Carroll County: The Community Outreach Team continued participation in quarterly reentry classes in partnership with Re-Entry Coalition, Inc. The series of classes are held at the Carroll County Correctional Institution aim to prepare male inmates within one year of release for successful reintegration into their home communities. USAO-NDGA staff typically share tips on reducing recidivism and overcoming barriers in housing and employment, and emphasize the importance of a support system that includes family reunification and reconnecting with their children. **(130 adults)**
 - Bureau of Prisons Southeast Region Reentry Affairs Coordinators Teleconference: The USAO-NDGA was invited to participate in a regional teleconference for all BOP Reentry Affairs Coordinators. The Community Outreach Team provided an overview of various reentry partnerships and programs throughout the District, specifically highlighting initiatives that include collaboration with USP Atlanta's Reentry Affairs Coordinator Sharon Ragan and Dismas Charities. Reentry Coordinators from the BOP, U.S. Probation, and USAOs shared information concerning various reentry initiatives, programs, and best practices. **(25 adults)**
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- Bureau of Prisons Community Relations Board (CRB) Meetings: Community Outreach participated in two CRB meetings held at USP Atlanta. The CRB is a consortium of law enforcement entities and service providers who provide reentry and prevention services throughout the District. Efforts to assist USP Atlanta with reentry services for returning citizens were discussed. Participants also suggested events that would assist inmates with making community connections prior to release. **(27 adults)**
 - Dismas Charities Community Relations Board Meetings: The USAO-NDGA Community Outreach Team continued participation in quarterly meetings at Dismas Charities, a federal halfway house. Dismas Charities hosts partnership meetings to engage reentry stakeholders in an effort to leverage programs, services, and resources for inmates at the halfway house, soon reentering the community at-large. Some of the partnering agencies in attendance include Mercy Care, St. Ann's Catholic Church, Every Woman Works, Inc., and the Fulton County Police Department. **(30 adults)**

- Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry (GOTSR) Meetings: The USAO-NDGA participated in a stakeholders training and a Healing Communities partnership meeting, both hosted by GOTSR. Both meetings outlined the Georgia Prisoner Reentry Initiative (GAPRI) Transition Accountability Plan, which will be implemented for every Georgia State prisoner returning to the community following incarceration. The Healing Communities meeting focused on how corrections and faith institutions can work together toward common outcomes for returning citizens. A variety of service providers, community and faith leaders, and government officials attended the meetings in support of the GOTSR initiatives. **(135 adults)**
- DeKalb County Reentry and Recidivism Task Force Stakeholder's Meetings: The USAO-NDGA Community Outreach Team participated in several Task Force Meetings, hosted by the Georgia Department of Human Development. At each meeting, various stakeholders made presentations for the purpose of helping the Task Force gain an understanding of community resources, as well as gaps in services, throughout DeKalb County. The Task Force includes local, state, federal, and community agencies and organizations vested in successful ex-offender reentry, such as the U.S. Veteran's Administration, Georgia Department of Children and Family Services, Bonner Brothers Transitional Housing Services, and Stronghold Christian Church. **(148 adults)**
- Southern Regional Meeting to End Mass Incarceration: USA Horn was invited to participate in a panel discussion for the regional meeting. USA Horn shared information about DOJ initiatives designed to reduce the federal prison population and assist with reentry. Local, state, and federal stakeholders were in attendance, including representatives from the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (OJP). **(75 adults)**
- Georgia Justice Project Policy Forum: USA Horn and staff attended the policy forum entitled, "Ban the Box and Beyond: Opportunities for the Private Sector," held at Georgia Pacific. Panelists included legal and policy advocates, members of the Governor's Office of Transition, Support and Reentry, and employers, most notably, the United Parcel Service. The forum focused on best practices and industry standards for evaluating potential employees with criminal records. **(55 adults)**



OVERALL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

From January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, the USAO-NDGA reached approximately **11,814** community members through outreach initiatives. As shown below, prevention initiatives reached **5,187** youth and **2,831** adults; enforcement initiatives reached **15** youth and **2,998** adults; and reentry initiatives reached **783** adults. A total number of **5,202** youth were engaged and **6,612** adults were engaged across all initiatives. Additionally, through media coverage of the Drug Market Intervention and other initiatives; our message has expanded to reach more than **2,000,000** people throughout the District.





2015 Community Outreach Annual Report

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