



Ft. Pierce Police Department News Release



08.07.07

R. Sean Baldwin

Chief of Police

920 S. U.S. #1

Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

Police Chief endorses group's effort to empower kids to succeed

FORT PIERCE - "All children are capable of success, no exceptions!" That's the mantra Fort Pierce Police Chief R. Sean Baldwin, his department, and several major groups in our community are backing. It's called *Kids at Hope*, a nationally researched program designed to shift society's perception of youth through community involvement and awareness.

Local parents and residents are invited to a community forum to be held 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 8, 2007, in the Lincoln Park Academy Auditorium located at 1806 Avenue I in Fort Pierce. Please join us and find out more about *Kids at Hope*, "Hope Square" and how you can get involved in this exciting venture.

This effort is an outcome of the 2006 St. Lucie County Gang Assessment conducted by the Executive Roundtable of St. Lucie County.

Respondents in the community-based assessment expressed certainty that any intervention aimed at preventing and reducing gang activity must come from both the people and the leaders within the community. Agreement is widespread that the only way to impact young people, who are involved in gangs, is to significantly commit to a community change model that will lift people up and provide a sense of promise for the future. *Kids at Hope* is one effort in a series of recommended initiatives to prevent youth from entering gang life. It is a community change model that motivates the adults and youth in the community around hope for the future. The *Kids at Hope* belief system states that "all children can succeed, no exceptions!"

Recently, St. Lucie County received a grant to initiate *Kids at Hope* in a one-square mile area of the county. This initiative cannot succeed without the help and input of our community. We need you!

For more information contact Chief Baldwin, Wendy Wolff, Pastor Philip Upton, Peggy Harris or Rick Miller at the telephone numbers listed below:

Local contacts:

Chief R. Sean Baldwin - (772) 461-3820

Wendy Wolff - (772) 812-5501

Pastor Philip Upton - (772) 924-7344

Peggy Harris - (772) 519-2579

Contact for Kids at Hope: Rick Miller - 1-866-275-HOPE

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