



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

————— *Lee Holloway* —————

Chairman of the Board

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO HOSTS CLOSING EVENT
FOR SAFE ALTERNATIVES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM**

Nearly 3,000 young people impacted through SAY program since 2003

Milwaukee, WI – The Milwaukee County Zoo served as the backdrop for the hallmark closing activity participants in the Safe Alternatives for Youth (SAY) program. Thirty-two children ages 10-12 enjoyed the all-day event Monday at the Milwaukee County Zoo, which included a behind-the-scenes tour of the zoo, animal hospital and education center.

Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway developed the SAY prevention program as part of the 2003 Milwaukee County Budget. \$150,000 was initially allocated to provide community-based services to young people living in low-income areas of Milwaukee County who may be exposed to barriers that could place them at risk in their community. Last month, grants were presented to two-dozen individuals and organizations making a difference in the community.

“I am proud we’ve been able to help our greatest treasure – this community’s children – during the past four years,” Chairman Holloway said. “Providing safe and fun activities for our youth is a top priority for our community and it doesn’t take a lot of money to do it.”

Since 2003, SAY distributed small grants for one-time educational, cultural, recreational and other activities designed by community members to enhance the life experiences of disadvantaged youth. Over 80 mini-grants have impacted the lives of almost 3,000 young people in Milwaukee County.

“In addition to these mini-grants, we’ve been able to leverage additional dollars from other funding organizations, providing a 6-to-1 return on our investment,” said Dr. Joan M. Prince of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Chair of the SAY Oversight Committee. “We were able to help so many children with the dollars we had, demonstrating that it doesn’t take a lot of money to make a tremendous difference in our community.”

“I’m glad we were able to provide some assistance to redirect kids into positive activities,” Chairman Holloway added. Grant funds have supported organized activities such as youth

participation in sporting events, exposure to cultural attractions, camping and environmental activities, health care prevention and other educational programs.

In addition to Chairman Holloway and Dr. Prince, the SAY Oversight Committee also included Milwaukee County Supervisor Elizabeth Cogg-Jones; George Gerharz, Allied Community Solutions; Socorro Gonzales, WE Energies; Cecilia Gore, Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation; Reverend Shawn Green-Smith, Faith Partnership Network; Ralph Hollman, Milwaukee Urban League; Tasha Jenkins, Fighting Back, Inc; Rob Henken, Milwaukee County Department of Administrative Services; Dr. Diane Pollard, community representative, and Dr. Linda Stewart.

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