



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

————— *Lee Holloway* —————

Chairman of the Board

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For Immediate Release

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FINAL CHECK DISTRIBUTIONS IN “SAFE ALTERNATIVES FOR YOUTH” PROGRAM

Mini-grants positively impact the lives of over 3,000 young people in Milwaukee County

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway presented grants this morning to two dozen individuals and organizations making a difference in the community, through the Safe Alternatives for Youth (SAY) program. The intervention/prevention program was developed by Chairman Holloway as part of the 2003 Milwaukee County Budget. \$150,000 was initially allocated for a pilot program that provides 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.

“Throughout this program, we’ve been able to help our greatest treasure – this community’s children,” Chairman Holloway said. “Providing safe and fun activities for our youth is a top priority for our community.”

“This model allowed us to fund those that work with our young people at the impact level by supporting them in endeavors that are both positive and enriching,” said Dr. Joan M. Prince of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Chair of the SAY Oversight Committee. “In addition to these mini-grants, we’ve been able to leverage additional dollars from other funding organizations.”

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

“Unfortunately, we were unable to get corporate grants to directly match the \$150,000 provided by Milwaukee County,” Chairman Holloway added. “But, I’m still glad we were able to provide some assistance to redirect kids into positive activities.”

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. A concluding activity of an educational day at the Milwaukee County Zoo will provide a climax to the SAY program for over 100 young people this summer.

In addition to Chairman Holloway and Dr. Prince, the SAY Oversight Committee also includes Milwaukee County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-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, North Milwaukee State Bank.

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