



/ /2011

Dear _____,

I write to you today as a taxpayer with a vested interest in Easton's Weed and Seed program. I want to **STRESS** to you the importance of Weed and Seed in Easton's West Ward neighborhood. Progress made since 2000 has made a positive impact in the Easton's West Ward neighborhood. In a relatively short period of time, we have much to show for the State's investment. Above all 2010 UCR crime statistics show that ***CRIME IS AT THE LOWEST IN 4 DECADES IN EASTON!!! WHAT A FANTASTIC ACCOMPLISHMENT!*** This year Paxinosa Elementary (West Ward's community school) was awarded the Dept. of Education's high honor of PA's top Title I school. Weed and Seed played a large part in these successes supporting numerous law enforcement patrols and programs involving students and their West Ward families. Resident's are mobilizing to communicate with community police officers on patrol creating a vital collaboration.

SUMMER NIGHTS is a hugely successful summer community program that began as a result of PCCD funding in 2006. In 2008 it was moved OFF the grant and continues to be sustained through community collaboration. Held June - August at Centennial Park (the heart of Easton's West Ward) this program runs for 9 weeks while students are out of school(summer) and void of the positive influence that school affords, including a nutritious meal. It is free to all families with school aged children and is completely voluntary. Summer Nights created 6 part-time jobs during 2010 and allowed 530 children and their family's positive recreation and education programming, a nutritious meal and socialization in a safe environment. Some impressive 2010 statistics include: 2,847 total participant sign-ins, 43 collaborators, 3,000 lbs. of snacks served, 2,545 supplemental family meals served, 240 backpacks filled with school supplies distributed, 2,000 pounds of clothing distributed and 229 volunteer sign-ins totaling 2,880 hours or \$58,380!!!

2010 Month # attending	Event	Venue
February -300	Good Eats and Treats	Paxinosa Elementary School
March	WS Face Book Page Created	Internet
April-25	Neighborhood Clean Up	Centennial Park

April-50	Intergenerational Resource Fair	Spring Garden Daycare Center
May -1000+ students	Rover Relay Day	Easton Area Middle School (grades 5,6,7,8) outdoor field
June-400+	Opening Night/Summer Nights	Centennial Park
July-300+	National Night Out	Centennial Park
August-400+	Closing Night/Summer Nights	Centennial Park
August	Dumpsite Clean Up/Create Sunflower Garden	10th and Pine Streets
September- 200	Grand Opening of the NEW Weed and Seed Office	Centennial Park and surrounding community
September	Safe Routes to Schools No Phone Zone	Paxinosa Elementary School
October-500	Light the Night Safe Zone (Halloween)	Centennial Park
October-December	Inside Out Reentry Program	Weed and Seed Office
November-10	Babysitter Training	Weed and Seed Office
November-200	Annual Community Mtg. Spaghetti Dinner	Easton Area Community Center
December	Pizza With Santa 12/9/10	Paxinosa Elementary School
January-December	325 FREE Recycle Cans given out	(\$1,625 savings)

We implore you to advocate for the continued support of the PA State Weed and Seed Program. Continued support from the Commonwealth is imperative to community revitalization efforts. The residents of the West Ward are worth the investment and would greatly appreciate your support demonstrating you have faith in our value as a community of people that wants a better quality of life and are willing to work together with city officials, local organizations and businesses to continue the success that Weed and Seed has begun.

Sincerely,

Name,
Address:
Phone:
Email:

This is a sample letter you can send to help support and secure the Weed & Seed program in the West Ward community. Please see the last page of the newsletter for legislative contact information. THANK YOU!!!