



May 2010

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I write to you today as a resident/organization leader with a vested interest in Easton's Weed and Seed program. I want to **STRESS** to you the importance of Weed and Seed in the West Ward neighborhood. If the state budget eliminates funding for Weed and Seed 10 years of progress made thus will be halted and the community will be in jeopardy for an increase in crime and a decrease in the quality of life. I ask you to advocate in support of continued funding of Weed and Seed programs please.

Easton Weed and Seed has and will continue to make a positive impact in the West Ward neighborhood in the Easton community. In a relatively short period of time, we have much to show for the State's investment. Above all, recent UCR crime statistics show that **CRIME IS AT THE LOWEST IN 4 DECADES IN EASTON!!! WHAT A FANTASTIC ACCOMPLISHMENT!!!** Weed and Seed played a large part in this success funding numerous patrols such as saturation and probation checks in cooperation with Northampton County Sheriff's. Resident's are mobilizing to communicate with community police officers on patrol creating a vital collaboration.

SUMMER NIGHTS is a successful summer community program that begins in a month as a result of PCCD funding. Two years ago it was moved off the grant and is now being sustained through a community collaboration . Held June – August at Centennial Park in the heart of Easton's West Ward. This program runs for 9 weeks/or36 days while students are out of school for the summer and void of any 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 will created 6 part-time jobs during 2010 and allowed 300 children and their family's positive recreation and education programming, a nutritious meal and socialization in a safe environment. Some impressive 2009 statistics include: 3,630 total participant sign-ins, 500+community outreach touches, 48 collaborators, 1,199 meals served, 3,000 lbs. of snacks served, 1,800 supplemental family meals served, 130 backpacks filled with school supplies distributed, 375 energy efficient light bulbs distributed, 1,500 pounds of clothing distributed and 337 volunteer sign-ins totaling 2,880 hours or **\$56,189!!!**

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT 2009 WEED AND SEED EVENTS**

<b>2009 Month # attending</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
February -300	Good Eats and Treats	Paxinosa Elementary School
March -200	Rachel's Challenge	Easton Area High School
April -100	Math Night	Paxinosa Elementary School
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-15	Leadership Training	YMCA
June-300+	Opening Night/Summer Nights	Centennial Park
July-200+	Safe Night	Centennial Park
August-300+	Closing Night/Summer Nights	Centennial Park
September- 75-100	National Neighborhood Day	Centennial Park and surrounding community
October-200	Light the Night/Halloween	Centennial Park
November-110	Spaghetti Dinner	Easton Area Community Ctr.
December-200	Pizza With Santa	Easton Area Community Ctr.
Jan.-June 171 registered users	Project Cybercafe-youth	EC Church
Jan.-June -25 registered users	Adult Computer Classes	EC Church

**We implore you to advocate for the continued support of the Weed and Seed Program. Continued support from the Commonwealth is imperative to our 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,

West Ward Resident:  
 Organization Leader:  
 Business Owner:  
 Address:  
 Phone:  
 Email: