

Adopt a Community 2009 Pilot Program

On July 17th between 10am-3pm, despite the rain, volunteers removed 42 incidents of illegal graffiti in the pilot area including store fronts, electrical boxes, phone booths, bus stop shelters, and more. Also, in partnership with Milwaukee River Keepers, we marked 25 storm drains along Cesar E. Chavez Drive and the surrounding pilot area. We also took over 100 bags of garbage to the dump collected by volunteers throughout the pilot area. Due to the rain we were not able to complete the yard beautification. We also started the production of the Cesar E. Chavez Mural which is 92ft wide by 18 ft high. We distributed flyers with information on how to contact TRUE Skool for illegal graffiti removal in English and Spanish at the community meeting held in June 2009 as well as during the Kick-Off event on July 17th.

The following partners from the community sponsored the Kick-Off event by providing financial support, food, refreshments and t-shirts: Cesar E. Chavez Business Improvement District (Tri-City National Bank-t-shirt sponsor, Dental Associates-allowed us use of space, El Rey-mural wall property owner, McDonalds-food sponsor and all other members supported this event), South Division High School's Summer CLC program, the Latino Community Center, Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, Community Partners, Milwaukee River Keepers(formerly Friends of Milwaukee Rivers), Clarke Square Weed & Seed, and Glaceau VitaminWater. Other partnering agencies included MIAD Service Learning Institute and UW-Milwaukee's Department of Educational Policy and Community Studies.



August-September 2009

After the initial Adopt a Community Kick-Off event on July 17th, TRUE Skool conducted an additional 5 community clean ups and conducted weekly illegal graffiti sweeps between August 5th and September 30th with community service participants, schools, community residents and other volunteers. We did not receive any calls to remove illegal graffiti from businesses or residents but did find only 3 new incidents of illegal graffiti in the pilot area on September 23rd during our weekly sweep. We also marked an additional 17 storm drains during these additional clean ups. We will continue to do weekly sweeps for illegal graffiti in this pilot area beyond the September 30th end date of our Adopt a Community Program 2009 until our supplies run out.

Cost

The overall cost to the Cesar E. Chavez Business Improvement District for the months of July-September 2009 for illegal graffiti removal was \$0 (zero) dollars.

The mural portion of the Adopt a Community Program 2009 was sponsored by a grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Youth In Service Fund. The Adopt a Community Program was also sponsored by a grant from Milwaukee County's Safe Alternatives for Youth Grant through the Milwaukee Urban League and administered by Dr. Joan Prince, Vice-Chancellor at UW-Milwaukee.

