



# COMMUNITY UPDATE

East River Family Strengthening Collaborative

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## ERFSC Manages Weed and Seed Program

ERFSC's Community Services Division has assumed management of the Marshall Heights Weed and Seed Program, which is now in its fifth and final year. The program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, is dedicated to preventing and reducing violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in targeted high-crime neighborhoods. Under Weed and Seed, law enforcement agencies cooperate in "weeding out" violent criminals and drug abusers, while public agencies and community-based organizations collaborate to "seed in" human services that include prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs.

Key elements of the Weed and Seed program are "Safe Havens," which provide a variety of programs and services for the community, as follows:

- **Northeast Performing Arts** provides prevention through the performing arts and positive recreational activities in a safe environment.
- **Conflict Resolution Circle Youth and Families in Crisis** provides community dispute- and conflict-resolution to targeted residents of the Marshall Heights service area, teaching youth and families to resolve problems constructively and without violence.
- **Winners Lacrosse Program** introduces the game of Lacrosse in an effort to provide children with an alternative recreational activity.
- **JcNalle/National Center for Children and Families** offers extended instructional, mental health, and social support to elementary school students and their families in Ward 7. Other services include resume writing, apprenticeship programs, family-centered program, and summer camp.
- **Bridges** is an intergenerational program that fosters meaningful communication between elders and youth, particularly with respect to the importance of elders in their transfer of knowledge and community traditions to future generations.



*Participant in the Weed and Seed intergenerational program*

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## Welcome!



The East River Family Strengthening Collaborative is pleased to bring you **Community Update**, which will be published several times during the year. This first issue includes an overview of our organization's programs and services with a list of our partner organizations and

fundors on pages 4 and 5. Our Board of Directors and staff are listed in the masthead on page 2. ERFSC is here to help the community. We welcome your feedback, as well as any information that you want to share in this newsletter. Please send information to [ewsassociates@gmail.com](mailto:ewsassociates@gmail.com), or fax information to 202-397-7882.

*Mae H. Best  
Executive Director*