

Sunnyslope W.I.N.S.
Where Impacting Neighborhoods Succeeds
Mission: Make Sunnyslope a safer place for families and children

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Sunnyslope W.I.N.S.
Where Impacting Neighborhoods Succeeds
Operation Weed and Seed
Final Report December 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sunnyslope W.I.N.S.—*Where Impacting Neighborhoods Succeeds* has completed the contract with the U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Weed and Seed. The contract, awarded in 2001 for a period of five years, ends this year (2006). Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. had many accomplishments during this five-year period, some of which are highlighted below:

W.I.N.S. community meetings brought residents and more than 30 community organizations together monthly to discuss issues that impact our community. The establishment of a regular meeting between City of Phoenix Police and Sunnyslope residents to talk about law enforcement issues impacting neighborhoods has been particularly successful. Crime, drug activity, and community safety are regularly discussed and the police follow up as appropriate on identified issues. In addition, many community agencies participated in the effort and provided neighborhood restoration, prevention services to youth, and opportunities for residents to become more involved in their community

Key successes during the program period included:

- The continuation of Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. beyond the funding period as a community initiative
- Creation of an Drug Complaint Hotline exclusive to the Sunnyslope Community
- In 2005, Sunnyslope experienced its first decrease in drug crime since 2001
- A 25% increase in Police Patrols during the program period (250 pro-active deployments)
- More than 25 new block watches formed (There are now 94 active block watches in the Sunnyslope area)
- A 668% increase (428 to 2,859) of the number of housing units participating in the Phoenix Police Departments' Crime Free Multi-Housing Program
- 2006 calls for service to the police were down 3.5% from 2001
- A newly formed collaboration between the Phoenix Police Department and the Adult Probation Department that has resulted in closer communication
- Twenty-one properties complaint properties referred by residents were involved in criminal abatement resulting in eviction of residents, bringing properties into zoning compliance, and rehabilitation of properties.
- The addition of 15 new affordable homes and rehabilitation of 31 homes through the efforts of Desert Mission Neighborhood Renewal

In preparation for the conclusion of the Weed and Seed strategy, Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. spearheaded a series of community leadership forums to set priorities for the coming years. Those priorities include: continuing to improve safety for families and children in Sunnyslope, involving young people of all ages and culture in Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. community activities, preserving cultural resources in our community, revitalizing our existing homes and commercial buildings, establishing an uptown urban center in Sunnyslope and establishing a neighborhood circulator bus route. Overall, the Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. strategies funded by the Weed and Seed Program have been successful and beneficial to the community.

I. SUNNYSLOPE COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Sunnyslope is a unique community within the city limits of Phoenix, Arizona. It is bounded by Northern Avenue to the south, Cactus Road to the north, 19th Avenue to the west, and 16th Street to the east. Sunnyslope's first subdivision was developed in 1911. Population grew over the years because the community was considered a good location for people who were recovering from asthma and tuberculosis. In 1927, the Desert Mission was established to meet the social and religious needs of the residents of the community. After World War II, Sunnyslope grew with many businesses, schools, and churches establishing themselves in the community. The Sunnyslope community was annexed by the city of Phoenix in 1959. In subsequent years, the John C. Lincoln Health Network became the largest employer for the community and continues to support the services that Desert Mission provides.

Sunnyslope has maintained a unique flavor as a community and has many active community organizations with resident involvement. These organizations improve neighborhoods, maintain community cohesiveness, improve housing opportunities, and combat crime. Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. is an integral component in linking citizens with the community and implementing Operation Weed and Seed Strategies.

II. BRIEF HISTORY OF SUNNYSLOPE W.I.N.S.

In November 2000, the John C. Lincoln Health Network submitted an application on behalf of the Sunnyslope Community to become recognized as a Weed and Seed community. The U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Weed and Seed contracts with communities annually to implement strategies that prevent, control and reduce violent crime, drug abuse and gang activity in designated high-crime neighborhoods throughout the country. The strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement and prosecutors *weed out* violent and drug related crime and community residents and agencies *seed* the community through human services and revitalization activities. Sunnyslope was awarded Weed and Seed funding in August 2001. Funding continued through 2006, a period of five years.

As a part of the planning process for the application, a steering committee was established. This is a grass roots coalition that convenes community members, law enforcement, and city and social service agencies to identify and implement strategies aligned with Operation Weed and Seed.

For the first three years of the Weed and Seed initiative, the coalition was referred to as "Sunnyslope Weed and Seed." In March 2005 the name was changed to "Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. (Where Impacting Neighborhood Succeeds)," although the community retained its Weed and Seed site status.

The Mission

To revitalize and improve the physical, social, and economic health of the diverse Sunnyslope community and to support and empower neighborhoods to enhance the quality of life through community based problem solving and public/private cooperation, making Sunnyslope a safer place for families and children.

Steering Committee

Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. Steering Committee participants reflect the opinions and values of Sunnyslope business owners, parents and youth and include representatives from...

Civic & Volunteer Groups like:

- Sunnyslope Kiwanis
- New Northtown Neighborhood Association
- Norton Park Fight Back
- Sahuaro Block Watch

Local Government & Elected Officials like:

- Councilwoman Peggy Bilsten's Office
- City of Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon's Office
- City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department
- City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office, Community Prosecutor

Non-Profit Organizations:

- Desert Mission Neighborhood Renewal
- John C. Lincoln Health Network

Law Enforcement Agencies such as:

- U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- City of Phoenix Police Department, Desert Horizon Precinct
- Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department
- Maricopa County Adult Probation Department

Local Media Outlets:

- *Neighbor to Neighbor* (circulation 6,000)
- Sunnyslope Village Alliance *Village Voice*

Sunnyslope Faith & Justice League

School Districts including:

- Glendale Union High School District
- Washington Elementary School District

Youth-Servicing Organizations such as:

- Athletes In Training
- Sunnyslope Youth Center

As of the last reporting period, there were 24 voting members of which 9 were residents. There were six vacancies.

The following tools were used to recruit members and community participation:

- Presentations to parent and community groups to solicit involvement
- A lapel pin and logo was designed
- A website was developed (www.sunnyslopecommunity.org)
- Billboards were used to advertise Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. and the new website

Satisfaction Surveys

Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. coalition members and service providers were surveyed in April and May 2006 to solicit feedback about the effectiveness of the coalition thus far. Responses were received from nine coalition members and six service providers. The results are as follows:

Of Coalition Members:

- 100% agreed that Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. is providing leadership within the community.
- 100% agreed that members share an understanding and trust for each other.
- 77% indicated that they felt the group has an appropriate representation from the community.
- 67% felt that the benefits of the collaboration are in their self-interest.
- 78% agreed that group members share a stake in the way the group works and results.
- 78% agreed that group members participate in the decision making process.
- 77% felt group members clearly understand their roles.
- 89% agreed that the group has the ability to sustain itself through changing conditions.
- 89% felt communication was open and frequent.
- 100% indicated that goals and objectives of the group were clear to all members.
- 78% felt that the group has the same vision.
- 89% felt the group has a unique mission and purpose.
- 56% of respondents indicated that membership was meeting their expectations.
- 89% felt the group has value and is making a positive impact.
- 89% felt that their ideas were respected in the meeting.
- 89% felt that the current coalition can continue to operate without Weed and Seed funding.
- 66% felt that membership should be expanded.
- 100% agreed that the program coordinator provides appropriate administrative and program support.
- 78% agreed that the coalition has actively engaged youth.
- 65% agreed that coalition has engaged community members.
- 100% felt the scheduling of the meetings was appropriate.
- 100% felt the scheduling of subcommittees was appropriate.
- 78% indicated that the group's ability to achieve policy and political support was very good or excellent.
- 89% felt that the programs funded for youth were good to excellent.
- 100% felt that the programs funded to fight blight and crime were very good to excellent.
- 100% felt that the coalition provides opportunity for different points of view.
- 100% indicated that the coalition had credibility in the community.
- 100% felt that the coalition has been effective in obtaining and using in-kind services.

As indicated by these responses, the majority of coalition members that responded to the survey feel that Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. is effective and can continue even though funding is changing. The biggest opportunity for improvement lies in members and recruiting. This feedback has been taken into consideration when formatting the new structure for Sunnyslope W.I.N.S.

Of Providers:

- 100% indicated that the coalition is perceived in the community as providing leadership.
- 83% felt that coalition representation was appropriate.
- 100% felt that roles and responsibilities were clear.
- 50% felt that services could be sustained beyond Weed and Seed funding.
- 100% felt goals and objectives were obtainable.
- 100% felt that providers have the same vision related to Sunnyslope W.I.N.S.
- 83% indicated that providing services under the auspices of Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. met their expectations.
- 100% agreed that their services made a positive impact.
- 100% agreed that Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. staff provided adequate support.
- 100% felt that the coalition's ability to achieve policy and political support was good to excellent.
- 100% felt (of those applicable) their programs contributed to strategies to prevent substance abuse in the community.
- 100% (of those applicable) felt their programs contributed to informing members about steps they can take to help fight blight and crime.
- 100% rated the credibility of Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. as very good to excellent.
- 100% rated their ability to obtain in-kind resources as very good to excellent.

Providers also agreed that Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. is effective and that the services have a positive impact.

Both coalition members and providers indicated that the Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. coordinator is effective in program management and providing support to the initiative.

John C. Lincoln Health Network: Fiscal Agent

The John C. Lincoln Health Network is a significant partner in Sunnyslope. The Network is a major employer, convenes individuals around multiple community issues, provides a wide breadth of services for Sunnyslope's vulnerable population through the Desert Mission, and acts as fiscal agent for Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. Contributions include:

- The coordinator for Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. is an employee of the Network. Ms. Christina Plante was instrumental in providing overall program coordination and follow-thru on implementation strategies beginning in February 2004. She provided support to all Steering Committee and subcommittee meetings and initiatives. At least a portion of the site coordinator's salary has been paid through Weed and Seed funds. John C. Lincoln has agreed to absorb the cost to sustain this valuable neighborhood relations position.

- Desert Mission Neighborhood Renewal, an affiliate of John C. Lincoln Health Network, contributed to the Weed and Seed strategy through home building, home rehabilitation, blight elimination, demolition of drug houses, coordination with City of Phoenix Fight Back Programs and the Storefront Improvement Program.
- The Network provides staff and printing resources to generate a bi-monthly community newsletter, *Neighbor-to-Neighbor*, which has a distribution of 6,000 residents.

III. PROGRAM STRATEGIES

The Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. Weed and Seed strategy is designed to support and empower neighborhoods to enhance the quality of life through community based problem solving and public/private cooperation. It calls for voluntary participation and collaboration from all sectors of the community and is rooted in the belief that environmental changes, supported by education outreach and positive alternatives will change community norms, strengthen protective factors, and increase the overall quality of life in Sunnyslope.

Utilizing multiple approaches to develop and implement specific Weed and Seed strategies, the Steering Committee established a three-pronged approach supported by subcommittees including: Law Enforcement, Neighborhood Restoration, and Prevention that assisted in developing goals, objectives and program strategies.

1. Law Enforcement

The Phoenix Police Department established Neighborhood Enforcement Teams to work in a specific squad area and focus on reducing crime and calls for service. While this community policing strategy occurred before the Weed and Seed Initiative, squad resources were uniquely leveraged in the Sunnyslope Weed and Seed strategy by creating additional opportunity for resident and police interaction and utilizing this particular squad to respond to resident complaints.

As a result, the Law Enforcement subcommittee provided a point of focus and coordination for the multiple law enforcement strategies that were implemented to impact drugs, prostitution and gang activity including:

- Community meetings to increase accessibility of law enforcement officers
- Presentations on specific topics designed to build the capacity of concerned residents
- The creation of an exclusive Sunnyslope Drug Complaint Hotline
- Informed citizens making drug complaints to law enforcement
- Law enforcement activities including: issuing search warrants, arrests, prosecution and seizure of firearms, vehicles, cash
- Community events attended by law enforcement and community members including block watch meetings and community festivals
- Regular status reporting and activity updates from police, probation and prosecutors

The Law Enforcement subcommittee met monthly and was well attended by community residents. At these meetings, residents guided policing efforts, because they know their neighborhood best and can quickly recognize changes that may be indicative of criminal or otherwise blighting activity. At each meeting, residents and police addressed issues

that were of concern and as many as four addresses (two on the east side and two on the west side) were chosen by consensus for further investigation by police. The representatives from the Phoenix Police Department reported back on the four addresses at subsequent meetings. Many of the warrants that these officers executed in Sunnyslope were a direct result of the concerns raised at the Law Enforcement subcommittee.

Additional law enforcement strategies included:

- Crime Watch/Block Watch education
- Combining smaller block watch groups to increase effectiveness
- Community Action Officers that assisted with
 - Problem solving
 - Information and referral assistance
 - Educational presentations including Stranger Danger, Personal Safety
 - Crime Prevention by environmental design
 - Victim awareness
 - Quality of life issues
 - Concerns about wash and low light areas
 - Clearing of debris and overgrown vegetation
- Retaining Sunnyslope in the Desert Horizon Precinct boundaries after a redistricting
- Programs targeted at auto theft
- Collaboration on an abatement program that holds property owners accountable for criminal activity on their property
- Development of a police substation in Sunnyslope (groundbreaking expecting in 1Q'07)

In January 2005, The Desert Horizon Precinct Neighborhood Enforcement Team 61X were awarded Garcia's Gracias Award for their work in the Weed and Seed area. Garcia's, the Valley of the Sun United Way and Diamondbacks salute unsung heroes through the award.

The significant outcomes of the Phoenix Police are outlined in the outcomes summary section of this report (see SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES).

2. Neighborhood Restoration

The Neighborhood Restoration component of the Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. Weed and Seed strategy focused on improving the physical safety of the community, increasing the number of viable living environments, and addressing slum rental housing.

Neighborhood Restoration meetings encouraged blight elimination by promoting awareness. The intended result is increased capacity of property owners and aesthetic improvement within the neighborhood.

Meeting topics were advertised in the *Neighbor to Neighbor Newsletter* to some 6,000 residents and through the *North Central News*.

In addition to guest speaker presentations promoting blight elimination, subcommittee activities have included:

- Investigation of the creation of a design overlay to set structural and visual standards that would ultimately contribute to the elimination of blight and improve the quality of life in Sunnyslope
- Review of liquor applications for the Sunnyslope area and input to the City of Phoenix concerning their impact on the neighborhood. Specific criteria considered include:
 - if the applications are for stores that are for package liquor sales only
 - if the applicant currently sells drug paraphernalia
 - if the location is near a school
 - if the application was opposed by other reliable sources
- Development of strategies to address trash. The subcommittee met with the City of Phoenix's Public Works Department to discuss strategies
- A partnership with the City of Phoenix's Neighborhood Preservation Department allowing for monthly updates on blighted properties

Other projects that subcommittee has explored include: identify theft awareness, a code violation awareness campaign, engaging landlords, investigating the paving of alleys and facilitating bike patrols.

Throughout the initiative, several properties in Sunnyslope have had contact with the City of Phoenix Police Department criminal abatement detective and five properties were targeted for aggressive multi-faceted enforcement (i.e. neighborhood preservation inspectors, city of Phoenix zoning, county health department, etc.) by the Maricopa County Slumlord Task Force.

The City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department purchases blighted property for the benefit of the entire community, based on unaddressed code violations and police activity. The City allows developers to purchase the land. Desert Mission Neighborhood Renewal, an affiliate of John C. Lincoln Health Network and a nonprofit community development corporation, supports the Weed and Seed strategy through its acquisition of such properties and the construction of quality, affordable homes, that bring stable stakeholders into the community.

The hope is that these new residents will participate in the process of protecting the neighborhood through appropriate upkeep of their own property and engaging in community efforts such as block watches or Sunnyslope W.I.N.S.

In 2005, The Sunnyslope Business Coalition was established to derive feedback from and facilitate the participation of the business community. This coalition hosts quarterly general meetings and has identified three target areas: Hatcher Road improvements, Sunnyslope image and marketing strategy, and safety and security.

The significant outcomes related to Desert Mission Neighborhood Renewal and Criminal Abatement are outlined in the outcomes summary section of this report (see SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES).

3. Prevention

Much of the work related to prevention and treatment came under the auspices of the Sunnyslope Youth and Family Partnership which was formed in 1995. The Partnership includes community and social service agencies that come together to network and develop strategies to address social issues including prevention and treatment.

More than \$590,625 of Weed and Seed funds were leveraged by seven community agencies to:

- assist adults in obtaining high school diplomas, job readiness and computer skills
- promote multicultural harmony
- provide youth with homework assistance and access to computers
- offer youth positive alternative activities
- teach youth life and resistance skills
- remove blatantly visible tattoos (i.e. hands, face, neck)
- deliver childcare services freeing adults to participate in parenting programs or substance abuse recovery groups

Additional prevention strategies have included:

- Meeting with Partnership for Drug-Free America-Arizona Chapter and Sunnyslope High School to explore areas of collaboration
- Outreached to Black Canyon CLOUT, a west side neighborhood collaboration to explore issues of joint concern
- Meeting with the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission in order to consider the implementation of the Arizona Youth Survey in Sunnyslope School

Although Weed and Seed funding is ending, Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. will continue to function as a coalition and will seek funding from other resources so that successful program activities will be available and new initiatives can be implemented to maintain Sunnyslope as a thriving community.

The significant outcomes of subcontracted prevention partners are outlined in the outcomes summary section of this report (see SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES).

IV. SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

During its initial five years of operation, Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. has implemented strategies that are preventing, controlling, and reducing crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in the community.

The Steering Committee held 47 meetings during the implementation period (2002-2006) and consistently maintained membership. The Steering Committee monitored the progress of meeting goals and objectives and revised program plans as appropriate. (See Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. Outputs and Outcomes by Strategy)

Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. hosted and/or participated in several community events including:

- the Latino Institute Community Information Fair
- the Sunnyslope Fall Festival held annually
- Housing Neighborhood Educational Fair
- Keep Phoenix Beautiful Event
- a youth career fair
- a faith community summit on homelessness
- a shredding event in cooperation with the Attorney General's Office
- a neighborhood clean up event

Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. was charged with continuing to work on personal safety and sense of security needs, one of the top ten issues identified in the 2004 community needs assessment conducted. The top ten issues identified included:

1. Housing
2. Economic Development
- 3 Homelessness
- 4 Health Care
5. Cultural and Language Barriers
- 6 Personal Safety and Sense of Security
7. Mental and Behavioral Health
8. Dental Neglect
9. Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes
10. Child Care Alternatives

In addition, several community agencies implemented program strategies and services through subcontract.

1. Law Enforcement

A Focus on Drugs, Prostitution & Gangs

In the Weed and Seed area:

- 925 individuals were arrested for illicit drugs as a direct result of the Weed and Seed initiative

Drugs have been readily available in Sunnyslope, as evidenced by the disproportionate number of drug crimes occurring. For example, almost 11% of the total crimes in Sunnyslope in 2003 were drug crimes, according to the *Phoenix Police Department's Web Based Grid Statistical Database*; nearly 70% higher than that of an adjacent Phoenix community of the same geographic size for the same period.

In 2005, Sunnyslope experienced its first decrease in drug crime since 2001.

- 187 individuals were arrested for prostitution

These efforts were further supported through a partnership with Catholic Charities, which allowed residents and the coordinator to address "johns" regarding the impact of prostitution on a community. In exchange for pleading guilty, "johns" could pay \$750 to attend a one day class about the real impact of prostitution. Should the "john" re-offend, they would receive an increased jail sentence.

During the one-day class, presentations on health risks, psychological motivators, law enforcement accounts and testimonials from former prostitutes and community members reveal the tragedy of prostitution. W.I.N.S. representatives have provided the community perspective: how prostitution impacts a neighborhood's quality of life.

In addition, the W.I.N.S. coordinator participated in the City of Phoenix Prostitution Task Force.

- 136 known gang members were arrested

Targeting gang activity remains a high priority of the Neighborhood Enforcement Team, Phoenix Police Gang squads and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Gangs known to have been present in the Sunnyslope community and which have been impacted by Weed and Seed enforcement strategies include: North Side 15th Avenue, Wetback Power 8th Street, Mexican Brown Pride, LCM, K13, Aryan Brotherhood and the Hells Angels. In fact, the Aryan Brotherhood, who once had a strong foothold in the community, are now rarely seen in the area.

An additional grass roots method by which the community works together to fight gang activity attacks gang communication channels through the reporting of graffiti for removal. More than 1,515 Graffiti paint out locations were reported during the Weed and Seed initiative.

Crime Suppression Efforts Received a Boost from Weed and Seed Funded Overtime.

From January 2002 – December 2006, City of Phoenix Neighborhood Enforcement Team 61X, in conjunction with specialty units and other officers assigned to the area, worked 8,506 hours of Weed and Seed funded overtime, yielding a 25% increase in patrols (250 pro-active deployments).

During Weed and Seed funded overtime:

- 2,045 individuals were arrested
- 385 Field Interrogations were conducted
- 1,510 citations were issued
- 107 stolen vehicles were recovered
 - with an approximate value of \$471,000
- 16 stolen guns were recovered
- \$24,400 in stolen property was recovered

From January 2002 to December 2006, the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Enforcement Team 61X investigated **407 complaints from Sunnyslope residents**. Investigation of those complaints led directly to the seizure of:

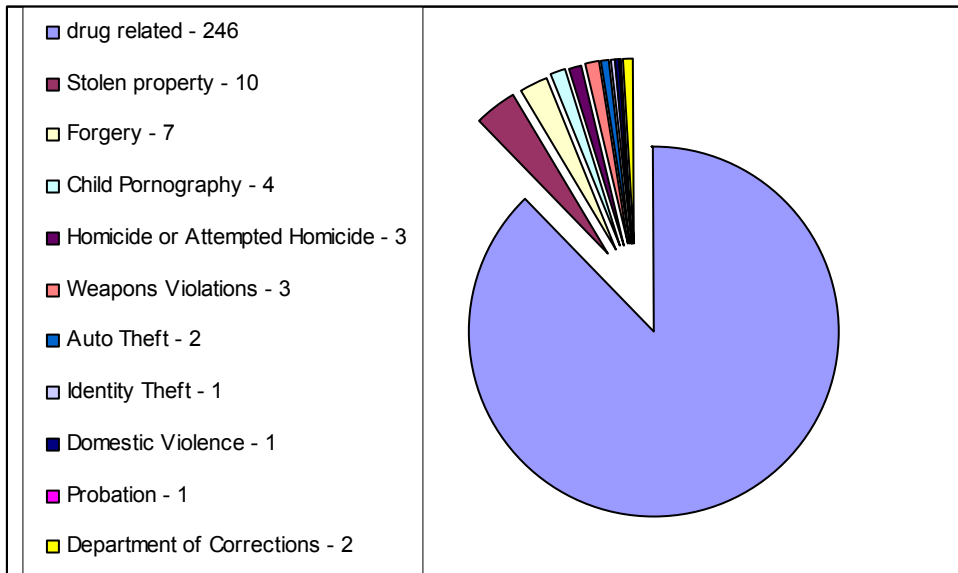
- \$105,333 in cash
- 149 firearms
- 49 vehicles (with an estimated value of \$372,500)

The following drugs were seized as a result of complaints from Sunnyslope residents:

Drug	Amount Recovered	Estimated Street Value	% By Street Value
Methamphetamine	11.05 pounds	\$200,000	4%
Cocaine	330.03 pounds	\$2,000,000	38%
Marijuana	1,399 pounds	\$3,000,000	57%
Heroin	1 pound 15 grams	\$28,000	<1%
Prescription Pills	1,025	\$5,100	<1%
Vials of Steroids	30	\$2,250	<1%
TOTAL STREET VALUE		\$5,235,350	

During the Weed and Seed initiative, **288 Search warrants were served** in the Sunnyslope community. These warrants alone netted the arrest of 470 individuals.

Breakdown of 288 Sunnyslope Search Warrants



Tough on Prosecution

- 36 arrestees qualified for prosecution under the federal Project Safe Neighborhoods program
- 80 arrestees qualified for prosecution under the State of Arizona’s Repeat Offender Program, netting 429.75 years of imprisonment

Community Policing

During the Weed and Seed initiative, more than 25 new block watches formed, bringing the total number of block watches in the Sunnyslope area to 94.

- Officers assigned to the community attended 870 separate community events
 - 762 of which were Block Watch or Fight Back related meetings

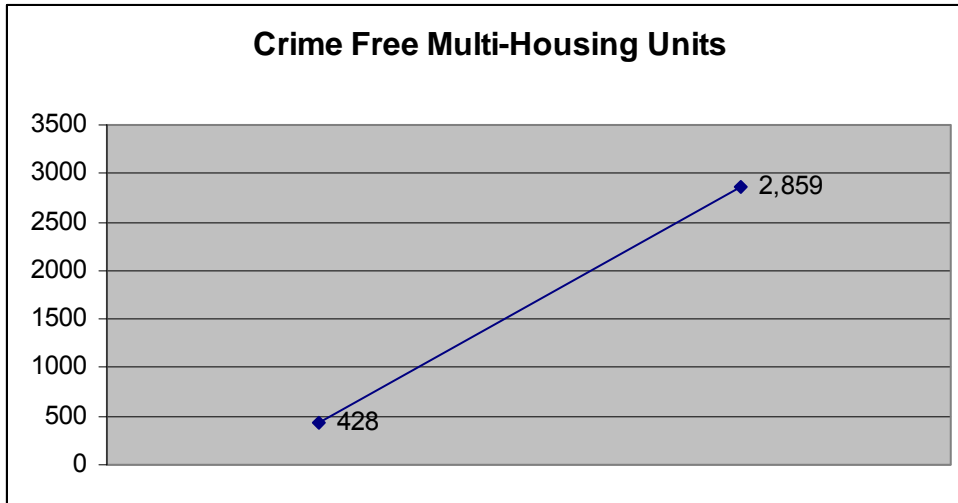
During these meetings and events, officers assisted neighborhoods in resolving quality of life issues including concerns regarding their personal safety and declining property values. Educational presentations were also conducted to address several areas of crime prevention by environmental design, stranger danger, personal safety and victim awareness.

Crime Free Multi-Housing

The Phoenix Police Department has dedicated an officer within each precinct to meet with property owners, inspect and qualify multi-housing properties within the Crime Free Multi-Housing program. The Crime Free Multi-Housing Officer assigned to Sunnyslope has aggressively contacted property owners and conducted numerous meetings with multi-housing properties within the Weed and Seed area.

The City of Phoenix Police Department’s Crime Free Multi-Housing program experienced a 668% increase in participation from Sunnyslope properties.

Started with: 9 properties 428 units
 Finished with: 65 properties 2,859 units



As an added convenience to Sunnyslope landlords, the training is offered at the Cowden Center, on the John C. Lincoln Hospital North Mountain campus located in the Sunnyslope community.

Calls for service have decreased for the Sunnyslope area during the Weed and Seed initiative.

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006*
34,789	33,759	33,685	33,990	33,357	33,576

*estimated

The Desert Horizon Precinct, which is assigned to the Sunnyslope area, is located 13 miles from the squad area. The Phoenix Police Department is in the final design stage for locating a substation in the Sunnyslope community. Groundbreaking is anticipated to occur in the first quarter of 2007. This will increase efficiency by eliminating the need for officers to travel to the precinct for briefings or to book criminals.

Partnership Provides an Enforcement Continuum

The Maricopa County Adult Probation Department began subcontracting under the Weed and Seed strategy in June 2005. With overtime funded by the grant, probation officers have been able to more actively supervise defendants living in the Sunnyslope community (300+). This helps in two ways. First, it allows some of the probationers to succeed on probation, and those that are doing well are allowed to possibly expire early from probation. Second, those defendants that are not doing well, are being seen on a more frequent basis, and ultimately have their probation grants revoked if their compliance does not improve.

The Weed and Seed connection has helped to establish a working relationship between the Adult Probation Department and the Phoenix Police Department who, as a result of this partnership, have remained in contact regarding problem properties and people within Sunnyslope. By all accounts, sharing information between agencies has been very beneficial to all involved, including the community. When possible, police and probation attempt to work together on any addresses that have probationers involved. For example, probation officers partnered with the Neighborhood Enforcement Team to search nearly 10 residences, resulting in arrests for felony warrants and the recovery of drug paraphernalia.

Furthermore, probation officers assisted police in a “Zero-Tolerance” deployment in October 2006. Approximately fifty people were arrested, at least nine of which were on probation.

Prior to the grant, these law enforcement agencies would not have been in contact with each other and probably would have never ended up working together on these properties.

The Adult Probation Department has also become more accessible to community members at large, and officers are able to hear resident concerns through their participation in the monthly Law Enforcement subcommittee meetings.

2. Neighborhood Restoration

Of the 407 drug complaints fielded by the Neighborhood Enforcement Team, 21 addresses were referred to a detective for criminal abatement, forcing property owners to be accountable for criminal activity on their property.

- Five of these properties participated in the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program and were certified.
- At seven locations, the landlord evicted residents as a part of the abatement process.
- Four locations came into zoning compliance.
- Six locations completed rehabilitation of the properties.
- At 19 of these 21 locations, arrests, interrogations, and department reports ultimately declined.

The work of Desert Mission Neighborhood Renewal, an affiliate of John C. Lincoln Health Network and nonprofit community development corporation work has been instrumental in bringing accessible, quality home ownership opportunities, and thereby stable stakeholders, into the community. Through them, a Housing Neighborhood Educational Fair occurred that included information about affordable housing opportunities, code violations, lawn maintenance, recycling, and other topics. More than 60 volunteers assisted with the fair that occurred in 2003.

During the Weed and Seed initiative, Desert Mission Neighborhood Renewal constructed 15 new affordable homes, making home ownership a reality for hardworking families living at or below 80% of the median income.

Of those properties, 33% (5) had come into contact with the police department's criminal abatement detective because of repeated criminal activity, prior to coming under the control of Desert Mission Neighborhood Renewal.

Desert Mission Neighborhood Renewal helped 31 homeowners to rehabilitate their owner-occupied properties, further reducing blight.

This type of neighborhood restoration and community revitalization has inspired private developers to invest in the Sunnyslope community, further revitalizing the area and stimulating the business community to participate in the restoration process.

Neighborhood Restoration subcommittee meetings encourage blight elimination by promoting awareness. Capacity of property owners has been increased, by providing education on topics such as:

- Funding, Grants & Loans: Rehab Resources For Homeowners
- Graffiti Busters
- Innovative and Successful Crime Prevention Programs For Neighborhoods
- Know Your Rights as a Renter
- Top Eight Code Violations
- Using The Web To Market Your Neighborhood Association
- What to Throw Away, When and Where

Additional education has addressed safety and security concerns of residents:

- Burglary Prevention Tips.
- Community Emergency Response Preparedness
- Graffiti & Gangs: Breaking The Code
- Prepared To Talk: What Every Parent Should Know About Current Drug Trends

3. Prevention

In addition to the work of the subcommittees, Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. contracted with community agencies to provide the following services:

Glendale Union High School District

Sunnyslope High School Adult Diploma Program

An Adult Diploma Program provided services until November 2005 and was the only free diploma program in Arizona that provided an actual high school diploma instead of a GED for students over the age of 21. A wide range of classes were provided year round and included programs that were Internet and classroom based. Transcripts were reviewed regularly to ensure classes met the standards to achieve a diploma.

- At any one time, between 32 and 71 individuals were enrolled.
- Participants ranged in age from 21 to 68.
- Fifteen individuals graduated
 - Six gained employment as a direct result of participating in the program
 - Two individuals became eligible for employment

One participant was able to graduate from Sunnyslope High School at the same time as her son. Overall during the course of this program, individuals were able to obtain a diploma that changed lives and increased opportunities.

Vikingtown

Vikingtown was provided through Sunnyslope High School and was modeled after the Anytown model, which promotes multicultural harmony and targets the area of gangs, campus and community violence, dropout prevention, and teen pregnancies. The main focus of the program is a retreat for youth that provides a forum to share ideas, learn to understand from others, and foster the acceptance of diversity. New youth, as well as youth that have participated before, are involved in the program which provides cohesiveness and the ability to build from year to year.

Alumni of the Vikingtown camp also planned monthly events at the high school to foster a better understanding of cultures and diversity, as well as, coordinating presentations about issues faced by youth. For example: Vikingtown alumni brought a program about the consequences of drinking and driving that included a demonstration of a mock crash to campus.

- Four Vikingtown events occurred and took place at the Anytown camp in Prescott
- Approximately 50-75 youth and ten adult volunteers participated annually

Youth are surveyed to gain feedback about the Vikingtown camp experience. Data from the 2006 event indicated the following:

- Of the 54 new delegates surveyed, 83% reported they have changed their minds positively with regards to people of diverse backgrounds
- 92% reported they learned something new from participating in program
- 100% of staff report that camp was successful

Sunnyslope High School Evening Media Center

Funds were provided for extended hours at the computer lab during 2003 and 2004 at Sunnyslope High School. The lab was available for 34 weeks during the school year and was open four nights per week. Two teachers assisted 15-22 youth on a nightly basis. Assistance was provided both in English and Spanish.

Central Arizona Shelter Services

Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. provided funds to Central Arizona Shelter Services-Vista Colina Family Shelter to offset the costs of child care so that parents could attend parenting programs about how to keep their children from experimenting with drugs or substance abuse recovery groups. Child care was a critical component that allowed parents to participate. Volunteers also supported the effort. Approximately 402 children (duplicated count) were provided childcare.

The Orchard

The Orchard provided a variety of training programs through volunteers. In 2004, an eight week life skills program was provided residents of the Chrysalis Domestic Violence Shelter. The program emphasized job search skills. Ten women attended classes. A computer lab and classes were also provided.

Las Salas

Las Salas provided positive alternative activities for youth during the summer and after school. Activities included swimming lessons, hip hop classes, movies, roller skating, theater, and crafts. Participation in summer activities was encouraged by providing transportation. The after school program was provided five days. Enrollment was approximately 50 youth, and 27-31 attended at any one time. This contract was discontinued for the FY 04/05 year.

City of Phoenix Parks Department

Sunnyslope Youth Center

The Sunnyslope Youth Center provided opportunities for youth to participate in positive alternative activities including: soccer, and Folklorico and Quebradita dance. Between 51 and 68 youth participated in these programs. In 2004 the dance troupe competed at a Teen Conference and won second place.

The X-Tattoo Program was also provided from the Sunnyslope Youth Center.

X-Tattoo Program

The X-Tattoo Program provides tattoo removal and prevention through presentations at schools and community events that engage youth in a discussion about gangs, drugs, and tattoos. Plastic surgeons, nurses and fire fighters volunteered their time to remove tattoos and provide the aftercare necessary to avoid wound infections. The program also provides case management services to help participants access other services that they may need.

In 2003 alone:

- former X-Tattoo service recipients and program staff made 96 community presentations cautioning about tattooing to 549 individuals, predominately youth
- 20 individuals successfully completed tattoo removal

Washington Elementary School District

Royal Palm Programs

Several strategies were implemented at Royal Palm Middle School:

- Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development coordinated after school recreation opportunities including:
 - boys' and girls' basketball
 - board games
 - soccer
 - flag football
 - sand volleyball
 - hip hop dance

Between 212-231 youth participated of which 89% were from Sunnyslope. During FY 05/06, 41% of youth participating in the after school activities demonstrated improved attendance or maintained their attendance, particularly impressive when the school's 59% overall absenteeism rate increase from semester 1 to semester 2 is taken into account.

- Small groups were provided on campus utilizing the Positive Action Curriculum facilitated by a licensed clinical social worker employed by Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development. An average of 50 youth would participate in the various groups that allowed youth to discuss:
 - gangs
 - anger management
 - grief and loss
- Youth were also paired with mentors.
 - 70% of youth that had mentors demonstrated a 70% increase in attendance
 - discipline referrals decreased over 50%
 - 89% of youth participants demonstrated academic success through promotion to the next grade

Some mentors continued relationship with youth as they entered high school. Community service activities, such as: making cards for persons in John C. Lincoln Hospital or filling food sacks at Desert Mission Food Bank were highlights.

Youth were surveyed about these activities and provided feedback that they would like to continue to participate. Youth indicated that the after school programs provided something to do, exercise, a preference to not going home, and a place where everyone played fair and it was fun. Youth who participated in small groups indicated that it was good to talk to people with the same kind of problems, learned how to express things, that they were comfortable in sharing, learned how to handle problems, relax and control anger, the danger of gangs, drugs, and alcohol. Several students participated in more than one activity.

Mountain View Elementary School Language Lab

A language lab utilizing Rosetta Stone Software purchased with Weed and Seed dollars was operational at Mountain View Elementary School during a 4-week summer program in June 2006. The half-day program served parents interested in learning English, while students received reading instruction. Children who had parents enrolled joined their parents for a "theme" class with topics that included: family math, science, "reader's theater", and nutrition/fitness. The program was well attended and is expected to continue.

Desert View Elementary School

Weed and Seed funds allowed for the purchase of a poster maker to be used for publicizing community building school events and promote anti-drug and anti-gang messaging.

V. SUSTAINABILITY

Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. has become part of the community fabric and will continue beyond the termination of funding from the Weed and Seed Initiative.

A Community Leadership Forum/Collaborative Brainstorming process was held that took place over the course of four meetings. The following community priorities were established for 2006-2008:

- Make a safer place for families & children, effort led by: Sunnyslope W.I.N.S.
- Involve young people-all ages & cultures, effort led by: Sunnyslope W.I.N.S.
- Preserve cultural resources, effort led by: Sunnyslope Historical Society
- Revitalize existing stock (provides resources, build awareness, support/coach), effort led by: Sunnyslope Village Revitalization and Sunnyslope Historical Society
- Create an uptown urban center-a destination, effort led by: Sunnyslope Village Revitalization
- Neighborhood circulator-(a free bus/shuttle service), effort led by: Sunnyslope Village Alliance

The following priorities were set aside for future attention:

- Establish a common vision/standard
- Generate income to sustain programs and services
- Viable employment opportunities

Sustainability is supported by:

- The Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. website at: www.sunnyslopecommunity.org. The website provides up to date information about community activities and provides a portal for making complaints about blighted conditions in neighborhoods.
- The monthly neighborhood meeting between citizens and police to facilitate ongoing discussions about crime and crime prevention in the community.
- A restructured W.I.N.S. Committee will continue to move the initiative forward. The restructuring including the recruitment of new members and the establishment of Neighborhood Ambassadors. The Ambassadors are Sunnyslope residents that have expertise and experience in the community. They will attend community meetings and be available to answer questions from other residents as well as help residents with referrals to community and city resources.

Challenges that are faced by Sunnyslope W.I.N.S: include:

- Ongoing Funding—Although volunteer involvement is the lifeblood of this initiative, support by paid staff and funds for community initiatives are essential. As an example, the funds from the Weed and Seed grant were essential to the Phoenix Police to provide the increased level of overtime that was available during the grant period. This level will not be sustained without additional funding availability.

Additional funds have been requested to continue to provide staff and funding for some of the initiatives. As of June 2006, \$10,000 was awarded to continue to provide funds for Phoenix Police overtime in the Sunnyslope community. Funding will continue to be pursued so that Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. can continue to fully engage in the important community work of reducing crime and substance use, eliminating blight and maintaining/improving Sunnyslope as a safe and attractive community.

- Lack of Evaluation Strategy. Measuring initiative outcomes and identifying successful activities is important in order to insure effective programming and to provide information to future funders about the impact of activities. As this initiative moves forward it will be important for outcome measures to be identified, data collection strategies and methods to review that data to be established, in order to assess the progress of initiatives. Without these steps, it becomes difficult to assess effectiveness which will impact sustainability.

VI. CONCLUSION

Armed with tools introduced through Weed and Seed partnerships and a sense of empowerment, residents continue to feel better about the quality of life and safety of the community. According to a survey of attendees at the 2006 Sunnyslope Fall Festival, Sunnyslope residents' average rating for quality of life was between "Good" and "Very Good" with an average safety rating closer to "Good."

In preparation for the conclusion of the Weed and Seed strategy, Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. spearheaded a series of community leadership forums to set priorities for the coming years. Those priorities include: continuing to improve safety for families and children in Sunnyslope, involving young people of all ages and culture in Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. community activities, preserving cultural resources in our community, revitalizing our existing homes and commercial buildings, establishing an uptown urban center in Sunnyslope and establishing a neighborhood circulator bus route.

Overall, the Sunnyslope W.I.N.S. strategies funded by the Weed and Seed Program have been successful and beneficial to our community. "Members of the NET Squad (61X), in partnership with many other city employees and members of the community in Sunnyslope, all did an outstanding long term job to improve the quality of life for everyone," said Desert Horizon Precinct Commander Geary Brase. "The people of Sunnyslope will benefit from everyone's vested interest in making a difference."

Sgt. Jeff Dickson agrees: "This program was a great partnership and success within the Sunnyslope community. Our goal is to continue with the Weed and Seed philosophies to reduce crime and improve the quality of life." W.I.N.S. leadership hopes to recruit more community members to participate in community based problem solving and public/private cooperation to revitalize and improve the physical, social, and economic health of the diverse Sunnyslope community.