



GIRL TALK FOUNDATION, INC.

"...teaching today's girls to be tomorrow's leaders." SM



Mecklenburg County
Park and Recreation

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Girl Talk Foundation, Inc. Hosts 2nd Teen Summit On Youth Violence & Gangs

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – January 24, 2008– With more incidents of gang violence, students taking weapons to school and getting into fights, the search for answers to solve teen violence has become a focal point in a number of communities in and around Charlotte. Why do some teens turn to violence? What can young people tell us on ways to prevent it? These are some of the questions that will be tackled at Girl Talk Foundation, Inc.'s second **Teen Summit: Youth Violence and Gangs, Thursday, February 7, 2008, 5:30-7:30pm** at the West Charlotte Recreation Center, 2400 Kendall Drive. Panelists will include Detective Gary McFadden of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, former gang members and Girl Talk participants. WPEG-FM, Power 98 radio personalities Janine Davis, No Limit Larry and Tone X will host the event for teen boys and girls.

In October, 2007 the first teen summit on teen violence and gangs was held at the Southview Recreation Center. Teens surveyed at this event revealed: 51% have friends who are in gangs; 21% admitted to being approached by a gang member either in school or their neighborhood. As possible deterrents to violence, teens suggested more community activities like skate parties, midnight basketball or even more teen summits. The Girl Talk Foundation has responded by dedicating all four teen summits scheduled for 2008 to the topic of teen violence, gang prevention and solutions and alternatives to gang participation. In addition to the teen summit on February 7, summits will also be held on May 22, August 21 and October 16 at various neighborhoods through the city.

Executive Director and founder of Girl Talk Foundation, Inc. Janine Davis says, "These teen summits are important because as parents, community advocates and leaders we ask why our teens act so poorly. We very seldom reach out to teens to get answers from **them**. The summits create this opportunity for real dialogue and some direction from our youth."

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The **Teen Summit: Youth Violence and Gangs** open forum will also include several agencies will be on hand to provide useful resources and other information for teens including Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation Youth At Risk, Stratford-Richardson YMCA, Chemical Dependency Center, The Males Place and Gang of One. The event is free and is open to girls and boys between the ages of 11 and 17. This event is sponsored jointly by Girl Talk Foundation, Inc., Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation and WPEG-FM, Power 98.

About Girl Talk Foundation, Inc.

Girl Talk Foundation, Inc. is a character-building program and youth network for girls ages 11-16 whose mission is to empower today's girls to become leaders of tomorrow'. The goal is to encourage positive and critical thinking, promote self-respect, teach life skills and develop leaders.

Photo Op:

Thursday, February 7

6-7:30pm @

West Charlotte Recreation Center

2400 Kendall Drive

Teen girls and boys talking openly about gangs

Interview Op:

- Janine Davis, radio WPEG radio personality and Executive Director of Girl Talk Foundation, Inc.
- Detective Gary McFadden, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
- Isaac Applewhite, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department
- Various Girl Talk participants (girls ages 11-16)

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