It has been a year since the last communication from the Foundation, and a busy year it has been. Rights to collect royalties on the G.R.E.A.T. trademark were officially transferred to the Foundation through a Memorandum of Agreement signed between the National Policy Board, the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR), and the Foundation; contracts with vendors were completed; and we have been collecting royalties since December 2009.

Additionally, our board has expanded, and we completed the development of a five-year plan in October. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked diligently to help make all this happen. I also want to use this article to expand on each of these items.

First, we will discuss royalties. The board’s intention is to keep royalties low so as to have little or no impact on you—the G.R.E.A.T. instructors and agencies that purchase items from our vendors. After discussions with vendors, royalties were set at a rate that should not affect the prices vendors charge for G.R.E.A.T.-branded items, yet still generate a small income for the Foundation. This income is being used to fund some of the initial goals we set and help in additional fund raising, while paying for day-to-day Foundation expenses.

I want to remind everyone that the G.R.E.A.T. logo is trademarked, and merchandise should be purchased only from authorized vendors. These vendors have paid a license fee for the privilege of using the G.R.E.A.T. logo, and it is only fair to support them with your business.

Next, I want to announce the addition of three new board members. The first is Captain Rob Abraham from the La Crosse, Wisconsin, Police Department. He is the head of the Detective Bureau, a certified G.R.E.A.T. instructor, and the Midwest-Atlantic Region representative to the G.R.E.A.T. National Policy Board (NPB) and has been appointed as the NPB representative to the Foundation’s Board of Directors as a non-voting member. He is the Foundation’s direct line of communication with the NPB.

Our second new member is Gerald Richard II, Esquire, from the Arizona Attorney General’s Office. Mr. Richard is recently retired from the Phoenix Police Department and has been involved with G.R.E.A.T. for many years, most recently as the Southwest Region’s representative to the NPB. His keen legal mind has already proven to be a huge asset to the board.

The most recent addition to the board is Mr. Domingo Herraiz, past Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance and currently employed by Motorola. His vast knowledge of the political workings in Washington, DC, numerous business contacts, and previous experience as executive director for a large national, nonprofit organization should prove very beneficial to our organization.

Finally, with the assistance of Dr. Jannett Bradford from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the
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VICTORIA COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE G.R.E.A.T. SUMMER PROGRAM

Originally published August 2, 2010 in the Victoria Advocate News – article by Kayla Bell

The scene was rare. One hundred kids - all silent, all still, all smiles. In matching white karate uniforms, they posed for a few photos at the Gang Resistance Education And Training, or G.R.E.A.T., program’s self-defense graduation on Thursday.

‟It’s about self-discipline and teaching by example,” Lt. Chris Garcia, with the Victoria County Sheriff‟s Office, said of how the group of kids was so well-behaved. Garcia was the head instructor of the free summer-long self-defense program, which was the first of its kind hosted by the sheriff’s office.

The class is an activity of the sheriff’s office local G.R.E.A.T. program. The nationwide G.R.E.A.T. program serves to prevent youth violence and gang activity by expanding law enforcement’s positive contact with youth. “What we taught them was not so much fighting, but it was about character, respect, self-confidence, focus and friendship,” Garcia said to the families and friends gathered to watch the class participants’ graduation performance.

Deputy Kenneth Wells, who works with G.R.E.A.T., gave an example of one class participant who was shy and reserved at the beginning of the program, but had a “big cheese smile” on her face by graduation time. “That was worth it right there,” Wells said. “You have to have confidence in yourself in order to avoid negative situations.”

The self-defense classes were designed for incoming sixth-graders, who Garcia said are most susceptible to being involved in gang activities. Involving the use of sticks, Garcia and his assistants performed some of the advanced techniques at the graduation to “oooh”s and “aah”s of the previously silent kids. “It’s a carrot dangling in front of them,” Garcia said of the advanced classes. “They will be back.”

After Jeremy Torres, 11, came to his first class, he encouraged his sisters, 13-year-old Emily and 18-year-old Amy, to attend. “It was fun and something new,” Jeremy’s oldest sister said. “I learned a lot, and it’s something I might even do in college.” “The cure to the problem (of gangs) is with the family as a whole,” Wells said. In two weeks, Wells will receive training so that the Sheriff’s Office will be certified to fulfill the G.R.E.A.T. Families component of which seeks to promote positive family functioning.

The department received a state grant in March to help fund the G.R.E.A.T. Program. Garcia said the department plans to add more advanced classes next year, including Judo and Pekiti-Tirsia Kali, a Filipino martial art involving the use of sticks. Garcia and his assistants performed some of the advanced techniques at the graduation to “oooh”s and “aah”s of the previously silent kids. “It’s a carrot dangling in front of them,” Garcia said of the advanced classes. “They will be back.”

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Lt. Chris Garcia, 51, of the Victoria County Sheriff’s Office, leads the karate class at the 2010 Martial Arts Program completion ceremony on Thursday. The children who participated in the program showed off their moves to their family members. Photo by Erik Reyna
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FY2010 G.R.E.A.T. Grant Awards

Information provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance

As was reported in the last G.R.E.A.T. newsletter, the congressional appropriation for the G.R.E.A.T. Program has been reduced greatly over the last three years. FY2010 funding was especially challenging. After setting aside funds for the national support contract and four regional training centers, there was less than $1 million for local programs. Rather than incur the costs associated with posting a solicitation and the peer review process used to score applications, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) decided to fund applications received for the FY2009 solicitation that, while high-scoring and proposing to create new programs, were not funded last year due to insufficient funds in the appropriation.

BJA was able to preserve funding to continue to provide (1) FREE G.R.E.A.T. student handbooks to all active, certified G.R.E.A.T. instructors and (2) Officer Certification training to all qualified officers from agencies with a commitment to bringing G.R.E.A.T. to their communities.

We welcome the following NEW G.R.E.A.T. programs! All agencies/jurisdictions receiving FY2010 G.R.E.A.T. funds have not previously received a G.R.E.A.T. grant.

California
City of Kerman
City of Indio
Sioux City Police Department
City of Reedley
City of Kingsburg
City of Selma
City of Grass Valley

Massachusetts
Town of Danvers
City of Everett

Kansas
Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation

New York
Lockport City School District

Virginia
Page County Sheriff’s Office

Kentucky
City of Richmond

In addition, supplemental awards were made to five of the jurisdictions that are participating in the G.R.E.A.T. Program National Evaluation (five-year longitudinal study of the effectiveness and impact of the G.R.E.A.T. Program) to help them support their G.R.E.A.T. programs and continued participation in the evaluation.

Albuquerque, NM
Chicago, IL
Nashville, TN
Philadelphia, PA
Portland, OR

G.R.E.A.T. Choices

(Sgt. Kevin Bryce)

This section of the newsletter is available to feature your G.R.E.A.T. success stories. We know from our collective experience teaching G.R.E.A.T. that we influence the decision-making process of our students, teaching them skills to help them avoid youth violence and gang activity. Please submit your G.R.E.A.T. success stories to your SWRTC, so that we can share them with other G.R.E.A.T. officers, our program’s policy-makers, and those who make the program funding decisions. Hearing how one youth utilized the skills of goal-setting, decision making, and active communication, or practiced refusal skills and anger and conflict management to resolve a problem provides us all with motivation and direction.

Our goal is to engage, motivate, inspire, and empower our students, teaching them skills to help them avoid youth violence and gang activity. Please submit your G.R.E.A.T. success stories to your SWRTC, so that we can share them with other G.R.E.A.T. officers, our program’s policy-makers, and those who make the program funding decisions. Hearing how one youth utilized the skills of goal-setting, decision making, and active communication, or practiced refusal skills and anger and conflict management to resolve a problem provides us all with motivation and direction.

Those of you who have had the experience of teaching the G.R.E.A.T. Families component know just how effective it is at helping families develop lasting communication and family skills. Although my job duties do not afford me the opportunities to teach and participate in all the G.R.E.A.T. components delivered in the Phoenix area, I have been lucky enough to participate in a few.

On one evening, we had just facilitated Families Session #2 that teaches and models G.R.E.A.T. communication skills. A family consisting of a mother, father, and three children, ages 15, 13, and 10, were sitting at the table practicing the effective communication skills we had just taught them. The family had an occasional moment of awkward silence, but they really did try to listen and communicate with each other for a solid fifteen minutes. At first, it appeared that they were just going through the motions and trying to be a model family, but something clicked approximately eight minutes into the exercise. I observed that the family group truly began communicating on a level that they hadn’t been able to achieve previously. By the end of the exercise they were all smiling and laughing with each other and enjoying the time they were sharing, just being together and communicating as a family.

I overheard the eldest teenager remark to the rest of the family, “We needed this so much!”

To me, this one event demonstrated to me how teaching something as basic, as healthy family communication skills, can directly impact the positive growth and development of a family. On the same night, I was walking behind another family as we were leaving and their 6-year-old daughter stopped and loudly proclaimed to her mother that, “This was the best night ever.”

Although we bear a tremendous responsibility as G.R.E.A.T. officers, we have many opportunities to bless the lives of others with the teachings of the G.R.E.A.T. components. You may not realize it, but you will have an impact on the lives of those you interact with. Please take the time to notice the small changes, and have fun with the learning process.

Update from G.R.E.A.T.

— continued from page 1

board has been working on its five-year plan. The final product should be complete by late October, but we have actually begun implementing some of the goals now, in the form of scholarships. The Foundation is funding eight scholarships for agencies to send their officers to G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training (GOT), G.R.E.A.T. Families Training (GFT), and G.R.E.A.T. Officer In-Service Training (GOI). Each scholarship is for up to $1,000 per officer and can be used for travel-related costs to attend a GOT, GFT, or GOI. The scholarship will be a reimbursement to the agency, after the officer’s successful completion of the training.

The second scholarship is to fund eight agencies, up to a maximum of $2,000 each, to help them sustain or revitalize an existing G.R.E.A.T. program. Agencies must not be eligible for the “new agency startup” money available through their region. Money will be paid directly to authorized vendors for incentive items used by the agencies.

The third type of scholarship provides up to $2,000 to four selected students/classrooms/schools to implement their G.R.E.A.T. curriculum school service project. Applications and instructions for all scholarships can be found online at www.greatfoundationinc.org. A link to the Foundation’s Web site can be found on the “Helpful Links” page of G.R.E.A.T.’s Web site at http://www.great-online.org/links/default.aspx or on each region’s Web site.

As you can see, this has been a busy and exciting year of growth for the G.R.E.A.T. Foundation. If you have any questions or need for the board, please contact me at rfbarnes1@charter.net or info@greatfoundationinc.org or call the Foundation’s toll-free number at (888) 647-3271 (6GREAT1).
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COMPLETED TRAININGS

GOT2-1017 – Phoenix, Arizona
From November 28 through December 10, 2010, the SWRTC hosted G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training 2-1017, with 23 officers completing the course and certification requirements.

We want to thank the National Training Team and Seminar Supervisor who contributed to this successful training and welcome the 23 newest G.R.E.A.T. Officers:

Susan Johnson from Atlantic City Police Department, NJ; Shawn Higgins from Beaver County Sheriff’s Office, UT; Thomas Rossberg from Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office, CA; Steve Baldassare from Danvers Police Department, MA; Dina Juarez from Doña Ana County Sheriff’s Office, NM; Rick DiTrapano, Larry Jedrey and Sabatino Rozza from Everett Police Department, MA; Alfred Hernandez from Fort Mojave Tribal Police Department, CA; Michelle Cassady from Frederick Police Department, MD; Benjamin Arrants from Grand Island Police Department, NE; Gilbert Lopez from Indio Police Department, CA; Laura Haseley and Steven Ritchie from Lockport Police Department, NY; Seth Paris and Pedro Zardeneta from Muskogee Police Department, OK; Lonne Foeller and David Snider from Ontario Provincial Police, ON; Charles Miller from Phoenix Police Department, AZ; Kimberly Wood from Red Lake Police Department, MN; Scott Trembley from Saline County Sheriff’s Office, KS; Manuel Munoz and Roberto Sanchez from Yuma Police Department, AZ.

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G.R.E.A.T. Officer In-Service (GOI)
GOI-1105 will be held on August 15-18, 2011 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

G.R.E.A.T. Families Training (GFT)
GFT-1105 is tentatively scheduled for August 1-2, 2011 in Phoenix, Arizona in conjunction with the School Safety Advocacy Council’s annual conference.

A second GFT (GFT-1101) is tentatively scheduled for August 11-12, 2011 in Austin, Texas.

Details and application forms for all G.R.E.A.T. training opportunities are available on the G.R.E.A.T. web page at www.great-online.org/Program/TrainingSchedules.Aspx

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Our SW Regional office has secured some G.R.E.A.T. branded pencils, name tents, pens, and other small items that we can ship to your agency, to help you deliver the G.R.E.A.T. Program through these exceptionally lean fiscal times. Please contact us at www.swgreat.org for details.

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The self-defense classes were designed for incoming sixth-graders, who Garcia said are most susceptible to join a gang during the transition to junior high. But at the graduation performance, participants ranged from the very young to parents.

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After Jeremy Torres, 11, came to his first class, he encouraged his sisters, 13-year-old Emily and 18-year-old Amy, to attend. “It was fun and something new,” Jeremy’s oldest sister said. “I learned a lot, and it’s something I might even do in college.” “The cure to the problem (of gangs) is with the family as a whole,” Wells said. In two weeks, Wells will receive training so that the Sheriff’s Office will be certified to fulfill the G.R.E.A.T. Families component of which seeks to promote positive family functioning.

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It has been a year since the last communication from the Foundation, and a busy year it has been. Rights to collect royalties on the G.R.E.A.T. trademark were officially transferred to the Foundation through a Memorandum of Agreement signed between the National Policy Board, the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR), and the Foundation; contracts with vendors were completed; and we have been collecting royalties since December 2009. Additionally, our board has expanded, and we completed the development of a five-year plan in October. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked diligently to help make all this happen. I also want to use this article to expand on each of these items.

First, we will discuss royalties. The board’s intention is to keep royalties low so as to have little or no impact on you—the G.R.E.A.T. instructors and agencies that purchase items from our vendors. After discussions with vendors, royalties were set at a rate that should not affect the prices vendors charge for G.R.E.A.T.-branded items, yet still generate a small income for the Foundation. This income is being used to fund some of the initial goals we set and help in additional fund raising, while paying for day-to-day Foundation expenses.

I want to remind everyone that the G.R.E.A.T. logo is trademarked, and merchandise should be purchased only from authorized vendors. These vendors have paid a license fee for the privilege of using the G.R.E.A.T. logo, and it is only fair to support them with your business.

Next, I want to announce the addition of three new board members. The first is Captain Rob Abraham from the La Crosse, Wisconsin, Police Department. He is the head of the Detective Bureau, a certified G.R.E.A.T. instructor, and the Midwest-Atlantic Region representative to the G.R.E.A.T. National Policy Board (NPB) and has been appointed as the NPB representative to the Foundation’s Board of Directors as a non-voting member. He is the Foundation’s direct line of communication with the NPB.

Our second new member is Gerald Richard II, Esquire, from the Arizona Attorney General’s Office. Mr. Richard is recently retired from the Phoenix Police Department and has been involved with G.R.E.A.T. for many years, most recently as the Southwest Region’s representative to the NPB. His keen legal mind has already proven to be a huge asset to the board.

The most recent addition to the board is Mr. Domingo Herraiz, past Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance and currently employed by Motorola. His vast knowledge of the political workings in Washington, DC, numerous business contacts, and previous experience as executive director for a large national, nonprofit organization should prove very beneficial to our organization.

Finally, with the assistance of Dr. Jannett Bradford from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the