

STAND TOGETHER MILWAUKEE

Vision: Restore a sense of healthy community through collaborative action

Mission: Groups, organizations and individuals standing together to confront gun violence in Milwaukee as a Public Health issue

The Peace Walk Kick Off

The Scooter Foundation Peace Walk launches the STM Network



Photos at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/newmoononline>

Stand Together Milwaukee is a network of diverse groups, organizations and individuals standing together to confront gun violence in Milwaukee as a public health issue. New Moon Productions (NMP) initiated this network as a focus group for their Guns, Grief & Grace in America documentary film series. When

levels of engagement intensified, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation offered to continue hosting the participants. Eventually, the group decided to extend their energetic meeting to an official Network promoting collaborative action among groups, many whose populations are disproportionately affected by

gun violence.

Stand Together Milwaukee desires to coordinate, highlight and promote existing efforts towards a healthier community. For two years, community members volunteered to create the Stand Together Milwaukee network and an ideal event to

introduce this ground breaking organization.

Susan Schmidt of the Scooter Foundation, and Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett.



For three years Susan Schmidt has been organizing a peace walk in memory of her brother, Scooter Schmidt, who was killed due to gun violence. Every year Susan brings students from Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary School, friends and family together to discuss alternatives to violence.

International Ribbon Project
In preparation for the Peace Walk and launch of *Stand Together Milwaukee* - STM, Scooter Foundation, & community members gathered on June 2 at the Washington Park UEC to create banners to join www.theribboninternational.org. STM and community artist volunteers decorated banners with inspirational images of **"what they most want to protect."** All of the banners were then tied together with colorful ribbons, creating a 40-yard long community banner representing Milwaukee standing together in peace and unity, to be carried in the Peace Walk. The day of the walk, participants created chalk drawings of the banner.

This year The Scooter Foundation joined with Stand Together Milwaukee to host a dynamic peace walk and kick off event. The peace walk was held at the Washington Park band shell. More than 200 youth, family, and community members attended.

The event started with introductions from The Scooter Foundation followed by Mayor Barrett. Trinia, a student from Oliver Wendell Holmes, read her poem on violence while her peers prepared to lead the march. Students gathered behind the 40 yard peace banners created by each organization.

They lead participants around the lagoon as they chanted for peace in our communities. Once back at the band shell speakers like Muhibb Dyer, spoken word poet, injected the multi-cultural

crowd with hope and excitement at the thought of overcoming gun violence. Project Non-Violence Dancers performed followed by Browning School African Drummers. With food, balloons, and raffles the day was a great community engagement event.



STM 2009

Stand Together Milwaukee invites organizations and individuals to serve as **CORE MEMBERS** of the STM network by making a one-year commitment to attend monthly meetings and actively participate throughout 2009. The Steering Committee aims to reduce gun violence in our communities by combining their energy and multiple talents to carry out the mission of Stand Together Milwaukee.

We encourage original steering committee members to re-commit if present schedules allow. All other interested community members are heartily welcome. **WE NEED YOU! SIGN ON -**
E-mail outreach@newmoononline.com.

STAND TOGETHER MILWAUKEE CURRENT COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Benedict Center, Block Watch Council, Brandwise Consulting, Campaign Against Violence, Children's Outing Association City of Milwaukee Mayor's Office, City of Milwaukee Health Department, Citizen Action, Conceptz Communications/Urban Journal, Esperanza Unida, Greater Milwaukee Foundations, Health Policy Advocates, Layton Boulevard West Neighborhood Association, Marquette University Law School Restorative Justice/Milwaukee Safe Streets-MPD District 5, Milwaukee County District Attorney, Milwaukee Public Theatre, Mothers Against Gun Violence, New Moon Productions, 9 to 5 National Association of Working Women, Northcott Neighborhood Center, Project Ujima, Public Allies, Radio Milwaukee, Scooter Foundation, Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, Social Development Commission, Summer of Peace, Task Force on Family Violence, United States Attorney-Eastern District of Wisconsin, Urban Underground, WAVE, Wisconsin Community Services, YWCA of Greater Milwaukee



THANK YOU

Heartfelt appreciation and thanks to the 2008 STM steering committee, The Greater Milwaukee Foundation and The Scooter Foundation for modeling the collaborative spirit STM represents.

Join US!
Stand Together Milwaukee
meets the second Wednesday of every month
at The Urban Ecology Center of Washington Park at 8:45am- 10:15am.