



Innovative Strategies to Proactively
Address Youth Crime Meeting
June 10, 2025



Master Police Officer T.J. Rodriguez
Manassas City Police Department



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Community Vitality Officer Program Community Policing Initiative

Program Overview

The Community Vitality Officer (CVO) program was developed as part of a US Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant awarded to the Manassas City Police Department in October 2020.

The department's Community Vitality Officer (CVO) program aims to enhance community relationships, reduce juvenile-involved violent incidents, and build trust through engagement, education, and empowerment. By integrating principles of 21st-century policing, the program aims to address public safety proactively while strengthening community trust and building partnerships.



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Community Vitality Officer Program Targeted Strategy

Core Elements for the Community Vitality Officer (CVO) Program

- **Community:** Strengthening ties with residents to foster mutual trust and cooperation.
- **Parent:** Equipping parents with tools and resources to support positive youth development.
- **Youth:** Engaging youth through targeted programs to guide them toward constructive life choices.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborating with community organizations, schools, and other agencies.



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Community Vitality Officer Program Program Goal

To achieve this objective, the Community Vitality Officer (CVO) program focuses on establishing and exhibit positive and a “Guardian” mindset relationships within the community by three primary objectives:

- **Engage:** Proactively connect and create meaningful relationship with community members to build trust and open lines of communication.
- **Educate:** Provide training, workshops, and resources to enhance community awareness and skills.
- **Empower:** Foster resilience and self-sufficiency within the community through mentorship and support.



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Community Vitality Officer Program Implementation Framework

Community Vitality Officer (CVO) Program Pillars

1. Youth Outreach Programs
2. Parental Education Outreach Programs
3. Community Engagement & Enrichment Outreach Programs
4. Education & Career Fulfillment Outreach Programs
5. Multi-disciplinary & Interagency Partnerships
6. Data Collection & Reporting



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Parent E3 Series: Engage. Educate. Empower

Parental Education Outreach Pillar:

- **Parent E3 Series:** Workshops designed to Engage, Educate, and Empower parents to support youth effectively.

The Parent E3 Series aims to *Engage, Educate, and Empower* parents and caregivers in addressing at-risk behaviors among Manassas City youth. Created by the Manassas City Police Department in principal partnership with Manassas City Public Schools, the program fosters informed and engaged families to strengthen relationships and enhance community safety.

Through expert-led discussions, resource connections, and interactive sessions, the series covers critical topics such as ***Substance Abuse, Internet Safety, Cyberbullying, Truancy, and Mental Health***. Rooted in 21st Century Policing principles, the initiative reinforces community collaboration as a key crime prevention and youth intervention strategy.

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THE PARENT E3 SERIES
ENGAGE.
EDUCATE.
EMPOWER.

Community Awareness & Prevention Series

5:30PM-8:00PM | MANASSAS BAPTIST CHURCH

JANUARY 12: **HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT DEMO**
JANUARY 19: **INTERNET SAFETY & BULLYING**
JANUARY 26: **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**
FEBRUARY 2: **GANG AWARENESS**
FEBRUARY 9: **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
FEBRUARY 16: **MENTAL HEALTH**

HOSTED BY MANASSAS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS AND SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS, TO PROVIDE THE TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ADDRESS YOUTH AT-RISK BEHAVIORS.

The Parent E3 Series
ENGAGE.
EDUCATE.
EMPOWER.

Community Awareness & Prevention Series

5:30PM-8:00PM | OSBOURN HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 20: **EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY, THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE**
OCTOBER 25: **SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS**
NOVEMBER 15: **GANG AWARENESS**
JANUARY 17: **HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS**
FEBRUARY 21: **INTERNET SAFETY & BULLYING**
MARCH 20: **YOUTH VIOLENCE**
APRIL 17: **MENTAL HEALTH**

Hosted by Manassas city Police Department, in partnership with regional law enforcement partners and subject matter experts, to provide the tools and resources to address youth at-risk behaviors.

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Parent E3 Series: Engage. Educate. Empower



Impact and Outcomes

- Partnered with local school division - doubled attendance
- Provided simultaneous headset interpretation in Spanish
- Expanded topics that include:
 - School Chronic Absenteeism
 - Understanding Teen Dating & Healthy Relationships
 - Youth Violence and Mitigation Strategies
- Program delivery to Community/Neighborhood level
- State and National Award Recognition:
 - 2023 Virginia Municipal League (VML) Public Safety Innovation Award
 - 2024 U.S. Department of Justice Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Community Policing



Juvenile Arrest Impact & Outcomes

- 2021: Juvenile –12% decrease
- 2022: Juvenile –17% increase
- 2023: Juvenile –33% increase
- 2024 :Juvenile Arrest – 16% decrease

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Team Quest – Greater Manassas Youth Project: “Learning through Experiences”

Youth Outreach Program Pillar:

- *Team Quest – Greater Manassas Youth Project: “Learning through Experiences.”*

This program is a collaborative multi-disciplinary strategy comprised of community stake partners within the Greater Manassas area. As an early intervention strategy, the program aims to enrich the lives of vulnerable, at-risk youth, both low-level court-involved and non-court-involved, with positive adult community mentors to provide engaging and interactive opportunities to develop youth to grow, mature, and prepare them to become responsible and caring young adults in their community. The program targets youth from the community between the ages of 13 and 17.

Collaborative Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Members Included:

- Local Police Department
- Local School Divisions
- Parks and Recreation
- Non-Profits
- Juvenile Court Service Unit
- Department of Social Services
- Community Services Board – HIDTA Prevention
- Other identified Community Partners & Stakeholders

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Team Quest – Greater Manassas Youth Project: “Learning through Experiences”

Funding Support: Virginia Juvenile Crime Control Act (VJCCCA)

The Team Quest program is funded through the Virginia Juvenile Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) and its local plan through the Prince William County Juvenile Court Service Unit and the City of Manassas Department of Social Services.

What is the Virginia Juvenile Crime Control Act (VJCCCA)?

In 1995, the Virginia General Assembly enacted the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) to establish a community-based system of progressive intensive sanctions and services that correspond to the severity of offense and treatment needs. The purpose is to deter crime, with community and evidence-based based solutions that reduces recidivism and promotes accountability, and improve juvenile outcomes while balancing community safety.

Key Components

Community Driven Community-Based Services and Programs Community Partners

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Team Quest
Greater Manassas Youth Project

TEAM QUEST PRESENTS

TOPGOLF

SWINGING INTO ACTION WHERE
LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE
MEETS FUN!

The advertisement features a green and blue background. On the left, there is a 'Team Quest' logo with a starburst design and the text 'Greater Manassas Youth Project'. Below it is the 'TOPGOLF' logo. In the center, a photograph shows the exterior of a TOPGOLF building with its large blue sign. To the right, a photograph shows an indoor golf simulator with a green field, a yellow tee box, and a control panel with various colored buttons. The text 'TEAM QUEST PRESENTS' is in green, and 'TOPGOLF' is in blue.

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