Youth Safe Haven-Ministations[2]

Since 1988, the Foundation has developed a model that merges the American concept of an after school youth safe haven with the Japanese concept of a neighborhood-based police ministation that is easily accessible to citizens. An after school safe haven operated by civilians in public housing, other low income settings or a public school is combined with a police ministation. The safe haven and ministation share the same space. The safe haven-ministations are most active from 3:00 p.m to 10:00 pm weekdays, when youth are most likely to get into trouble. The safe haven-ministations also are designed as magnets to attract other opportunities for citizens at or near the same locations, like job training and remedial education for parents.

Paid staff and carefully trained volunteers at each safe haven-ministation give priority to mentoring, near-peering and coaching high risk youth.

Police spend about half their time counseling and mentoring youth and the other half undertaking problem-oriented community policing on foot or on bicycle, using the safe haven- ministation as home base.

In neighborhoods where they operate, safe haven-ministations have reduced crime by at least as much as "zero tolerance" policing. But the Foundation's strategy has improved relations with the minority community, while zero tolerance often has done the opposite.

Currently, ten replications are being funded by the Foundation in Georgia, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Virginia and Washington, DC. Replications also are underway in the United Kingdom and Puerto Rico. Past replications have been in Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL: Little Rock, AR; Los Angeles, CA: Memphis, TN; Philadelphia, PA; and San Juan, PR. In addition to facilitating full replications of the youth safe haven-police ministation model, the Foundation provides technical assistance and training to organizations interested in replicating the model. Variations on the model have been evaluated as successful in San Francisco and other locations.