**ATTACHMENT B ~ PROJECT OVERVIEW**

**PROJECT NAME**
Healthy Youth: Strong and Connected

**HWPP PROJECT NUMBER**
20081-17

*Without exceeding this one page, briefly describe the project.*

**PURPOSE** - Highlight the need for the project.

Milwaukee youth are at risk for violent, intentional injuries as well as psychosomatic problems such as headaches, abdominal pain, post-traumatic stress and school avoidance caused by fighting and threats. By improving interpersonal communication, promoting conflict resolution and the understanding the roots of violence, Healthy Youth: Strong and Connected will decrease intentional injuries and promote mental health.

**PLAN** - Describe the project's implementation plan, methods to be utilized, and involvement of affected communities.

The plan will be four fold: 1. A cohort of firefighters will be trained by experienced firefighters, the MPS Curriculum Specialist, and Project Ujima Liaison to teach the “Staying Alive” curriculum. 2. 150 MPS teachers will be trained to teach the “Staying Alive” curriculum with Project Ujima Liaison. 3. By June, 2011, provide the “Staying Alive” 5 session curriculum to 4,500 targeted 6th grade MPS students. 4. By June, 2011, provide violence prevention information to parents. Students, parents, teachers, firefighters, principals and community stakeholders are all active participants in this project.

**PARTNERSHIP** - Describe how the project will capitalize on the strengths and skills of all partners.

All partners will work together through regularly scheduled meetings, advisory boards of stakeholders, and through the departmental administration of MPS to promote a healthy school environment. Commitment from the leadership of all partners will advance the project systemically. MPS, MFD, and Project Ujima will expand and manage the “Staying Alive” program. Marlene Melzer-Lange, a violence prevention specialist, and Dawn Zahrt, a psychologist, will provide organizational and outcomes expertise. A sociology consultant will provide expertise in community collaborations, interventions with high risk youth and violence, and community based participatory research. Each partner has contributed their expertise in designing this project, demonstrating their understanding of the environment for partnerships, commitment to partnership principles and the development of the partnership. Each partner is committed to the success of this project. These partners have worked together for the past four years on violence prevention in the schools.

**EVALUATION** - Describe the evaluation method that will be used to measure quantifiable and significant outcomes.

Evaluation methods include process and outcomes measures. Process outcomes will include the attainment of specific goals on the project timeline and partnership objectives. Classrooms will be randomized to control or intervention during the first semester of each year and baseline measures taken. The "control" classrooms will receive the intervention during the second semester of the year. Specific measurable outcomes sought will include lower rates of health room visits for fighting-related injuries, lower rates of suspension and expulsion, school safety incidents, improved rates of school attendance, and improved ratings of both the “Safety at School” and the “School Climate Survey” completed by staff, students and parents at intervention schools.

**SUSTAINABILITY** - Explain how the partnership will be financially and programatically sustained.

We plan to fiscally sustain the program through public and private corporation grants. Programatically, the program will be institutionalized in MPS’s Health and Wellness and Violence Prevention programs.

**DISSEMINATION** - Describe how the project results will be shared.

We will disseminate the “Staying Alive” Curriculum to teachers and firefighters through their national professional organizations. We will share our outcomes through scholarly publications and national meetings in education, public safety, injury prevention and health promotion.