

# Youth Crime Watch of America Success Story: 12/2009



Monroe Middle School  
4716 Montgomery Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33616  
813-272-3020

Advisors:      Officer Betty Willams  
                     Mr. William Thomas  
                     Ms. Bonnie Grimm  
                     Principal Juanita Underwood

YCW Core Group—6      YCW Expanded Core Group—29

## ***Monroe Middle School History:***

This site has been an official YCW site for a number of years. However, in the words of their advisor, “Until now we really have been floundering”. Now that YCW has an outcome measurement system in place, a dedicated local contact and their faculty and staff are being trained, this school feels like it is starting a brand new site. As with most of our sites in the past they mostly focused on Youth Patrols to handle student problems. This has been an invaluable crime watch component. It also tends to be the most time intensive of the components and is generally coordinated by the School Resource Officer (SRO). Officer Betty Williams, Monroe Middle School’s YCW advisor explains that, as an officer, they may have multiple responsibilities of which some may be off campus. This can create some continuity problems because they need another faculty member around to handle this component when the SRO is absent. This leaves no time for the SRO to implement other youth development and crime watch Activities. It also leaves the

## **School Demographics**

School Population	595
Caucasion	60%
Hispanic/Latino	19%
African American	20%
Asian	1%
55% Female	45% Male

impression with faculty and staff that all aspects of YCW require the same amount of time and perceived frustration. This has created the problem in the recruitment of adult volunteers to help maintain a “best practices” site.

Once Youth Crime Watch introduced the new Site Model, Outcome Measurement System and Goals & Objectives for each site, it became clear to the school that they should develop the YCW Site Model even further. This strengthening allowed teachers to see that they could participate in different YCW Components and initiatives without burning themselves out. Monroe MS is well on their way to becoming a YCW “best practices” site.

**Monroe Middle School Present Structure:**

At the beginning of the 2009 school year, Juanita Underwood, the Principle of Monroe MS was not sure they even wanted to continue a YCW program at their school. Once she saw our developmental goals and understood that YCW was more of a movement than a club, she was very excited. Even so, she would not give the okay to maintain the club without more faculty support. Most of the faculty was required to watch our Starting a YCW Site Webinar. They quickly realized that they could create a system that would allow time for more teachers to be involved.

Monroe MS created a “Core Group” for the faculty as well which consisted of the SRO and a teacher as co-advisors and one teacher as an advisor per each grade. They work with the Student Core Group to plan and implement strategies.

School Core Group

6th Grade Student President  
Student V. P.

7th Grade Student President  
Student V.P.

8th Grade Student President  
Student V.P.



Youth Crime Watch Bicycle Give Away  
Monroe Middle School, Tampa, FL



Youth Crime Watch Christmas Presents  
Monroe Middle School, Tampa, FL

This structure has allowed Monroe MS to accomplish significantly more objectives in the first half of the year than ever before.

The Youth Crime Watch Charger Patrol Program spearheaded a bicycle helmet safety program by meeting with all incoming 6th grade students and made them aware of bicycle safety. Each participating student received a helmet.

The YCW program has created a speakers bureau in which they invite speakers to come and talk to the students at the school. They arranged to have a staff person from the State Attorney General’s Office come and speak with Monroe Middle 7th and 8th graders regarding the dangers of Cyber Sexting. Students were given real-life scenarios to discuss.

Monroe also recognized the importance of their staff and students receiving proper training

Youth Crime Watch. To that end they have scheduled a monthly meeting with YCW to make sure they are moving in the right direction.

The Monroe Charger Patrol rewarded one student from each grade level for their outstanding academic achievement and conduct. Officer Williams was able to procure several refurbished bicycles as incentives for students throughout the school year. They are voting to give away a bicycle to their school YCW poster contest.

***Monroe Middle School Future Goals:***

The students have never been this excited about YCW according to William Thomas, ABC teacher and co-advisor. They have already completed their assessment and have identified violence, theft and fights as their three top issues.

Future Projects:

- They are coordinating a school-wide YCW Poster Contest and awarding winners from each grade level
- The YCW Core Group is talking with their television specialist about YCW coordinating their morning announcements, creating skits to show peers how to report or handle confrontations, creating a YCW fact of the day and turning the format into a YCW Nightly News format
- Three members of the Expanded Core Group are exploring the feasibility of an Anonymous Crime Reporting Box Building/Decorating contest. They want to expand the reporting aspect to include reports of “random acts of kindness” so that the Reporting Box also has positive issues and increases the anonymity of the reporter.



***Youth Crime Watch Summary:***

Youth Crime Watch is proud to recognize Monroe MS as a middle of the year success story. Once we have analyzed the Crime Statistics and evaluated the Outcome Measurement Information, we feel sure that the structure of Monroe MS coupled with the technical assistance of Youth Crime Watch will show that a “best practices” site will decrease crime in your school and develop skills in your students that will help them become good students, good citizens and good leaders.