

The Alive & Free Initiative

Many of us had—what is now a luxury—the experience of growing up in a neighborhood where everyone knew us, looked out for us and contributed to our growth and well-being. With the **Alive & Free Initiative**, BCDI envisions neighborhoods where children & youth are no longer anonymous, where neighbors are watching out for the children and helping them to make good choices in a spirit of Umoja (Unity and Community). BCDI invites neighborhood-based organizations, businesses and community members to join together as “community pillars” to implement the Alive & Free philosophy. To learn more about this MOVEMENT to support and protect our children, contact BCDI.

Alive & Free is an Initiative of the BCDI-Seattle Affiliate’s **Social Justice & Equity for Youth (SJEY) Committee**. To schedule an overview presentation of the Alive & Free philosophy and action strategy for your organization, and/or to receive an invitation to a neighborhood planning meeting:

Email: bcdiseattleSJEY@aol.com

BCDI

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ALIVE AND FREE

A YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE

RECONNECTING WITH OUR CHILDREN

NEIGHBORHOOD BY NEIGHBORHOOD



**BCDI-Seattle
Affiliate**

BCDI

Seattle Affiliate

The Black Child Development Institute of Seattle (BCDI-Seattle) was founded in 1973 by Seattle child and family advocate Ms. Bunny Wilburn. BCDI-Seattle is a 501 c3 nonprofit organization comprised of dedicated volunteers. We are apart of a network of 25 affiliates of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) spanning 25 jurisdictions from New York, to Miami and from Chicago to Los Angeles and Seattle. NBCDI is headquartered in Washington DC.

OUR MISSION

To look into the eyes and lives of African American children and families and advocate for public policy and innovative and progressive efforts to eliminate institutional racism and support positive social change.

KEY COLLABORATIONS

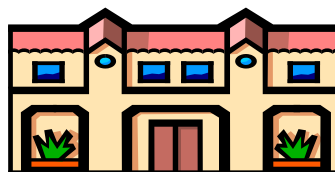
BCDI-Seattle is an active member of The African American Leadership Forum, the Children's Alliance, the Coalition for Equal Education Rights, and the King County Coalition on Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare.

Affiliate Initiatives

BCDI-Seattle focuses its programs on issues related to education, child welfare and social justice and equity for youth. With over 60 members, the Affiliate's key initiatives are "Advocacy to Close the Educational Achievement Gap," "Advocacy to Eliminate the Disproportionate Representation of African American Children in the Child Welfare System" and "Alive and Free--Neighborhood by Neighborhood, Preventing Youth Violence, an Action Agenda."

ALIVE & FREE

Following a number of youth-on-youth murders in Seattle in 2009, BCDI became aware of the Alive & Free global movement. Our 2010-2015 Strategic



**Alive & Free
Neighborhood by Neighborhood**

Plan articulates BCDI's commitment to preventing youth violence. The Alive & Free initiative empowers neighborhoods with information and supports the mobilization of the community to care for and protect our children. BCDI kicked off the Alive & Free initiative in 2010, The effort utilizes the Omega Boys Club Alive & Free philosophy developed by internationally recognized advocate and educator, Dr. Joseph Marshall and his colleagues in San Francisco, California.

The Purpose of the Alive & Free Initiative:

(a) To rebuild the sense of community at the neighborhood level, (b) To learn, live and share the Alive & Free philosophy as a protective factor and (c) To embody the adage: "It takes a caring and conscious Village to raise a child."

Key Features of Alive & Free

Utilizes a public health framework, which includes:

- The concept of violence as a "disease,"
- Provides a description of disease carrying "germs,"
- Identifies characteristics of the belief system that is fundamental to youth violence,
- Describes the risk factors, and
- Provides a "prescription" and ways to "inoculate" children against this disease—the disease of violence.

PREVENTION is BCDI's Goal

The Alive & Free initiative is aimed at preventing youth violence; and as such the strategy is aimed at pre-school age children through high school. The neighborhoods of foci are in zip codes 98122 (Central Area), 98144 (Mt Baker) and 98118 (Rainier Valley). If you live or work in these neighborhoods, please join this collaborative effort in support of Our Children.