

D.A.R.E. Program Frequently Asked Questions and FACTS:

Q: Who is responsible for the administration, implementation and fundraising for the Bexar County D.A.R.E. Program?

A: The **Bexar County D.A.R.E.** Program is administered, implemented and financially supported through fundraisers by the **Bexar County D.A.R.E.** Board of Directors supporting various participating law enforcement agencies throughout **San Antonio and Bexar County**. This is An official registered Internal Revenue Service 501 (c) (3) non-profit group of prominent citizens from across **Bexar County** who volunteer their time to oversee the **D.A.R.E.** Program throughout San Antonio and **Bexar County**.

Q: What is the relationship between D.A.R.E. America and “World Wear Project”?

A: “World Wear Project” (WWP) is a subsidiary of RTCM, INC and is one of the “New **D.A.R.E. America** approved Fundraising Partners. The **D.A.R.E.** program has become a proud partner of World Wear Project, LLC (WWP), a for-profit shoes and clothing collection company. When a WWP shoes and clothing collection bin is placed on your property **D.A.R.E.** wins, your school district, business and/or community wins, and the environment wins.

Q: What are the funds generated from/by these WWP Clothing bins used for?

A: The funds raised for **D.A.R.E.** are specifically used to train new **D.A.R.E.** law enforcement deputies/police officers, provide ongoing training to existing **D.A.R.E.** officers, and assist in the purchase of books and other supplies needed for the classrooms; thereby reducing cost of implementing the program saving school districts, law enforcement and tax-payers money.

Q: What are the benefits to the local school districts, businesses and/or communities?

A: WWP a perfect partner to help provide recycling services to your parents, customers and neighbors. WWP will work successfully with school districts, business owners and property managers because of the service and maintenance they (WWP) provide. WWP contributes to the environment by helping to keep millions of pounds of solid waste out of our San Antonio/Bexar County landfills by making it safe, easy and

convenient for communities to recycle used shoes, clothing and toys. WWP is committed to helping local citizens achieve another important step in recycling by collecting shoes, toys and clothing for recycle.

- Environmentally and ecological friendly – by keeping shoes, clothing and toys out of our landfills.
- New funding for deputy/officer training without drawing from already meager school district and/or law enforcement operational budgets.
- Funding to cover deputies/officers expenses to attend training conferences.
- Workbooks and student incentives for **D.A.R.E.** students.
- High-light community businesses committed to community safety, security, tobacco, alcohol, illegal/prescription drug use/abuse; gang, violence and bullying awareness education, intervention and prevention.
- Does not have a negative impact on other charities.
- Save tax-payers money.
- Less juvenile related crimes.
- Much...much more.

Q: Are there other tangible benefits in supporting this D.A.R.E. Fundraiser for our local communities?

A: WWP makes a difference in the community in other significant ways. They offer employment opportunities with safe working environments to over one hundred people in the Dallas area and soon to the San Antonio/Bexar County area as the site for a new warehouse and processing center. This creates a tangible benefit for our city and county in new jobs for our own local citizens. **D.A.R.E.** and WWP believe all resources should be used wisely. And most importantly, **D.A.R.E.** works and **D.A.R.E.** saves lives! **D.A.R.E.** is taught by over 15,000 police officers in over 10,000 communities who serve as the first line of defense in America's schools.

Q: Why does D.A.R.E. America receive funding from these local Community fundraising events?

A: **D.A.R.E. America** provides support to local Community **D.A.R.E.** Programs throughout the United States. The **D.A.R.E.** Program like any other drug prevention or any program for that matter is not "**FREE**" they all cost money and require funding to sustain and continue their efforts. For example **D.A.R.E. America** provides a 33 page full color inter-active middle/junior high workbook and **D.A.R.E.** Elementary color planner/workbook to local Community programs for only \$.89 cents per copy, they provide for the scientific and researched based curriculum development and up-dates, evaluations and studies for new

curriculum, they help fund start-up cost for new Community **D.A.R.E.** programs providing free workbooks for the first year and other materials, they provide workbooks, planners and other lesson materials in both English and Spanish, they provide annual **D.A.R.E.** Officer-instructor and educator training. **D.A.R.E. America** provides free or cost reduced regional (state) **D.A.R.E.** Officer (certification) Trainings (DOT) all across the country and a myriad of other tangible Community support functions. This “WAR on DRUGS” is a national fight affecting every Community within **America** and every war requires funding. **D.A.R.E. America** is our “Mother Ship” in this fight to reduce tobacco, alcohol, over-the-counter, prescription and illegal drug use/abuse. Remember drug dealers have no problem funding getting their drugs onto the streets and in the hands of our young people. When an agency or Community refuses to support the national program they are becoming part of the problem not the solution. To win a war we must be “UNITED” on all fronts – funding as well! It is all about “TEAM WORK” and all of us - law enforcement, schools, Communities and citizens working together to save our children from becoming victims of drugs and violence. There is no “I” in TEAM it is simply “**T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore” and in this case our Children because **D.A.R.E.** Works and is making a difference.

In addition the **Texas D.A.R.E. Officers Association** (T.D.O.A.) receives additional funding above and beyond what the local communities receive from WWP. These funds are used to host and provide annual training and re-certification conferences, **D.A.R.E.** Officer (certification) Training (DOT) and Mentor Officer (**D.A.R.E.** Officer Certification – Mentor Course Instructor) Trainings (MOT) throughout Texas.

Q: Does the D.A.R.E. Program really work?

A: There have been **19 studies since 1997** showing **D.A.R.E.** is effective including a study by the National Medical Association showing **D.A.R.E.** graduates are five times less likely to begin smoking than non- **D.A.R.E.** graduates. We cannot fight illegal drugs or violence without the assistance of parents, teachers, and good corporate citizens. The cost of incarcerating a prisoner for one year is over \$40,000 while the cost of a **D.A.R.E.** workbook is .89 cents. The math is straightforward; we can invest pennies now or pay thousands of dollars in the very near future. The real question is where are those programs that were going to be better than **D.A.R.E.**? They are no longer with us and were found to be ineffective and a waste of funding. **D.A.R.E.** has been around since 1983 – some 28, soon to be in January 2012 29 consecutive years.

It was a documented fact in San Antonio and Bexar County that when the **D.A.R.E.** Program was being fully implemented citizens saw recidivism in

juvenile-related crimes. This is a matter of public record in crime statistics. The other fact is at that time there were no other drug awareness, intervention and/or prevention programs being taught.

Q: What is the percentage of crime that is drug related?

A: National average is 70% to 90% of all crime is drug related.

Q: What are drug offenders costing our citizens?

A: Look at the average cost to arrest, book (process into the system), temporarily detain, adjudicate (trial), further incarceration (jail or prison) combined with the medical treatment and rehabilitation offender receives while incarcerated, and finally cost related to placing that drug offender for probation. The estimate is as low as \$16,000.00 to as high as \$25,000.00 per year, per (each) offender which is higher than the average mean lower income for an American family. It is far less expensive and more cost advantageous to educate and prevent drug use and abuse to our taxpayers.

Q: What are the benefits to our local businesses and corporations to support the D.A.R.E. Program?

A: First look at the cost to local businesses (employers) and corporations in loss revenue due to employee sick leave, missed work due to hospitalization or medical-doctor appointments, decreased productivity, safety accidents, higher medical related insurance costs, etc., to employees health affected by tobacco, alcohol, legal and illegal drug use/abuse and violence. Just look at drunk driving related incidents and safety accidents related to work due to alcohol related injuries. Then look at the fact that juvenile related drug use is down which will have a significant impact on future employees. **D.A.R.E. works and has made a difference especially here in **Bexar County** and local stat's prove it. **D.A.R.E.** is not the "Silver Bullet", but it is one of the oldest and most comprehensive drug prevention and education program within San Antonio and **Bexar County** to date.**

Q: What happened to the other San Antonio/Bexar County drug prevention and education programs that were allegedly better than the D.A.R.E. Program?

A: Again when you find them please notify the **Bexar County D.A.R.E. Board of Directors because we cannot find them either. The reason being they are gone. They were ineffective and did not produce any tangible results.**

Q: Why should I as a citizen or business owner support the D.A.R.E. Program and its fundraisers?

A: It can best be summed up by an old colloquialism “It takes a village (Community) to raise a child”. You can become part of the solution or remain part of the problem by doing nothing. We serve (help) others when we give of ourselves. **D.A.R.E.** in past years received some criticisms and has taken positive corrective action to ensure its curriculums and message are current, scientific and researched based. Since 2000 and the release of the “New” **D.A.R.E.** curriculums all independent research, surveys, evaluations and studies have shown a dynamic improvement over the past. The current “New” **D.A.R.E.** curriculums (2012 Elementary and 2011 Middle School) are being heralded as the most comprehensive and state-of-the-art drug and violence prevention educational awareness, intervention and prevention program in the country to date. In lieu of trying and then dumping programs as we have done in the past as a society - the key is to take a program and through continual evaluation and research make it better; and to design it to answer the needs of every Community – which is exactly what **D.A.R.E. America** has done. A donation, contribution or support of a **D.A.R.E.** fundraiser is an investment in a child’s future to ensure they are prepared and ready for society. **D.A.R.E.** is helping teach our children the importance of making their own decisions based on facts and information and not their peers advice. Its purpose and design is to help kids make better, safer and healthier choices, while providing them with essential life skills and information concerning the harmful effects of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. **D.A.R.E.** Works!

Q: Why don’t I hear more about what D.A.R.E. has achieved or done for the citizens and children in Bexar County from our local news media?

A: That is a good question that I too would like to have answered. I can tell you there is a plethora of positive news stories concerning what **Bexar County D.A.R.E.** has done that for whatever reason the media refuses to acknowledge. We have numerous personal success stories from past **D.A.R.E.** graduates, and numerous Community events your **Bexar County D.A.R.E.** program has supported. One local media news anchor commented “we have been to a **D.A.R.E.** class and **D.A.R.E.** graduations – what else is there” and my answer is a lot more than what you have reported to the public. **D.A.R.E.** is a lot more than classroom instruction by a law enforcement officer. It is a commitment to excellence in serving the citizens (parents), schools, neighborhoods and Communities throughout San Antonio and **Bexar County**. Another reason is they are all “positive” stories of our **D.A.R.E.** graduates succeeding and making something of them-selves. Again, just look at the people that work for and with our new fundraising partners. Mostly young men and women (many of whom are former **D.A.R.E.** graduates them-selves) who are earning an honest living, while staying drug and violence free, and serving (helping) others by assisting in fundraising designed to benefit the local Community and its children. **D.A.R.E.**

has numerous success stories of how many young people faced adversity and temptation and yet over-came and made it because of what they learned from and through **D.A.R.E.** Why does the media not report this....you need to call and ask them. **D.A.R.E.** does work and we have numerous success stories to prove it. The media is not bad by any means – they are simply convinced that all our citizens want to hear is “NEGATIVE” news that is the plain and simple truth.

Q: Does the D.A.R.E. Program really work?

A: Yes it does! All of the current studies and evaluations of the “New Curriculums” clearly shows **D.A.R.E.** is working and is making a difference. You can visit www.dare.com for more up-dated information and findings.

Q: What is the benefit to our youth in having D.A.R.E. certified and experienced officers?

A: A “**TRUST**” and “**RESPECT**” relationship develops over-time between the students and their **D.A.R.E.** Officer. Students learn their **D.A.R.E.** deputy/officer is there for them not against them. It offers a positive conduit for a student to receive help, support, and encouragement to make “Better Choices and Decisions”. It is a highly effective intervention and prevention strategy that offers more than mere words; it shows by deeds and action it is genuine and that it does work.

Q: What is the benefit to a law enforcement agency (and city or county) in having D.A.R.E. certified and experiences officers?

A: A better quality patrol deputy/officer. Evaluations from/by law enforcement executives from across the country show that dedicated current/former **D.A.R.E.** certified instructors tend to be; more responsible and accountable, on-time, dependable, possess enhanced people skills, are good listeners and far less likely to create liability issues for their department/agency. Over-all produces a better quality of professional law enforcement officer – public servant.

Q: Why do the media report that studies show D.A.R.E. does not work?

A: As Paul Harvey would say now for the rest of the story. There were a total of 85 studies/evaluations completed on the old curriculums. Out of these 85 studies the media focused on three (3) studies that reflected **D.A.R.E.** did not have a long-term effect on children and some speculation that **D.A.R.E.** was ineffective in keeping kids from experimenting with drugs. In all three of these supposedly negative studies it was noted that **D.A.R.E.** did have the best delivery system in **America** – that being law enforcement officers used to teach the curriculums. The other 82 studies were all positive that is the real truth. That said for the last six

years consecutively our local media has taken the three (3) negative studies based on a 12-year old evaluation that is totally outdated and regenerated the same old information. All of the negative criticisms have been answered in the development of the new scientific and researched based **D.A.R.E.** curriculums! None of our local media have accepted the invitation to come out and evaluate first hand the “New” **D.A.R.E.** curriculums.

Q: Is it true that D.A.R.E. Officers encourage children to inform on their parents?

A: Nothing is farther from the truth. **D.A.R.E.** Officer/Instructors are not out to gather criminal intelligence on parents. **D.A.R.E.** Officer/Instructors encourage children to build a solid bond with their parents and an open dialogue of communication with their parents. When asked to share stories in the classroom under the old curriculum students were told to follow the **D.A.R.E.** rule that says, “Never use a person’s real name or relationship (I.e. mother, father, Etc.) But to say only “Someone I know”. This protects the confidentiality relationship between the student and the officer as well as between the student and their family members. It leaves the door open to get help where help is need without criminal prosecution. **D.A.R.E.** Officer/Instructors are here to help the students and their families not to hurt them.

Q: Does every student graduate from the D.A.R.E. Program?

A: No, if a student does not complete his/her workbook/planner, does not complete a **D.A.R.E.** Report and/or does not demonstrate an understanding of the objectives the student does not graduate. This is a decision made ultimately by the assigned **D.A.R.E.** Officer/Instructor and their decision is final. **D.A.R.E.** again in and of itself is not a silver bullet (answer to all) it is a program (curriculums) designed to help children make more informed decisions, to inform them of the harmful effects to themselves as well as others (consequences) from taking or abusing drugs, and to help them make safer healthier and positive choices.

Q: Do the D.A.R.E. Officer/Instructors just teach D.A.R.E. classes?

A: No, though teaching **D.A.R.E.** lessons/classes are the primary focus **D.A.R.E.** Officer/Instructors are cross-trained as School Resource Officers (SRO’s) and Safety Officers (SO’s) whereby they work with school administrators and teachers to help keep students secure and safe within the schools. This is part of the **State Of Texas “Home Land Security initiative.** **D.A.R.E.** deputies - Officers/Instructors work within the Communities where they teach to help provide for safer neighborhoods (Community Policing – Crime Prevention at its Best) as well as school zones. **D.A.R.E.** Officer/Instructors conduct annual activities and events for the kids especially during the summer months to provide

positive, drug and violence free environments whereby the kids can have fun and be safe. **D.A.R.E.** deputy - Officer/Instructors are also, based on their presence on our school campuses - the Immediate First Responders for potential crisis and/or potential active threat situations.

- **D.A.R.E.** deputy/officer instructors are highly visible – active deterrent.
- **D.A.R.E.** deputy/officer instructors know the lay-outs of the schools.
- **D.A.R.E.** deputy/officer instructors have the trust and respect of both staff (faculty) and students.
- **D.A.R.E.** deputy/officer instructors have potential to receive, process and act on information faster than a responding patrol officer.
- **D.A.R.E.** deputy/officer instructors have enhanced capability to detect, deny, delay or deter would be criminal offenders; through real time INTEL capabilities. This has another tangible side benefit and potential to reduce teen-suicides both on and off-campus.

Q: What agencies are (were) teaching D.A.R.E. in San Antonio/Bexar County?

A: The **Bexar County D.A.R.E. Board of Directors** is the lead proponent for implementing the **D.A.R.E.** Program. The board initiated “**Project Partnership**” in May 2003 and we now have police officers from several municipalities as well as four school districts – police officers working with the **Bexar County D.A.R.E.** Program. We have one officer from Alamo Heights Police Department, Castle Hills Police Department, Constable's Office Precinct #1, Constable's Office Precinct #4, East Central ISD - Police Department, Harlandale ISD - Police Department, South San Antonio ISD - Police Department, Southside ISD - Police Department and Fort Sam Houston Military Police/Law Enforcement Command (Department of Defense Police). **D.A.R.E.** is a “Community PROGRAM” that is Community supported. This number continues to grow and will continue to expand as more school districts and municipalities get involved with the **Bexar County D.A.R.E.** program.

Q: Why is the new D.A.R.E. program being undertaken?

A: **D.A.R.E. America** is focused on harnessing the most effective, evidence-based approach in developing a new drug, alcohol, tobacco, violence and bullying intervention and prevention curriculum for **D.A.R.E.** officers to deliver--one that will have long-term effectiveness.

The new curriculum will be subjected to a rigorous evaluation in communities across the country. The data must prove that the new curriculum is effective at

preventing drug use before **D.A.R.E. America** and Pennsylvania State University will recommend.

Q: Who is designing and evaluating the D.A.R.E. program?

A: Pennsylvania State University is designing and evaluating the current **D.A.R.E.** approach. Previous evaluations of **D.A.R.E.** are not relevant to this new research. They have designed an effective middle school curriculum in an unbiased fashion so we can know for sure that it is effective.

Pennsylvania State University has developed a totally new elementary **D.A.R.E.** curriculum which will be released January 2012.

Q: Do you plan to test your curriculum as delivered by teachers or other available professionals?

A: Pennsylvania State University gave that issue careful consideration and decided against testing the curriculum as delivered by teachers alone or by other prevention professionals alone. Many factors influenced their decision. Previous research has shown that teachers are not as effective at delivering prevention curricula, possibly because they have so many demands on their time. Other prevention professionals are not widely available to deliver drug education curricula.

Conversely, **D.A.R.E.** officers have many attributes that make them ideal drug education professionals. They are selected specifically based on their 'winning' personalities and high credibility. They receive intensive instruction in how to deliver the current **D.A.R.E.** curriculum. And they are given release time from their other duties to deliver the curriculum.

It was decided that testing the new curriculum with **D.A.R.E.** officers alone or in combination with teachers was the best approach.

More FACTS on the new **D.A.R.E. Program**

This information will provide additional details to assist in responding to questions from **D.A.R.E.** Stakeholders, the media, and the general public.

Media Messages:

The newly developed **D.A.R.E.** elementary school curriculum gives **D.A.R.E.** a unique opportunity to improve the effectiveness of drug prevention efforts in Communities across **America**.

D.A.R.E. has listened to critics, researchers, and developed this new, improved version of a highly successful and needed drug-abuse and violence prevention program.

It is difficult to design and implement a new ***D.A.R.E.*** message for the 26 million school children in all 50 states and 54 countries that benefit from the ***D.A.R.E.*** program. It took two years to get it done. But get it done - we did!

D.A.R.E. wanted to be assured that it took the best, most relevant criticisms and research to create a revised curriculum that had sufficient impact and met the life-skills needed for today's youth.

D.A.R.E. is critically important because it is the largest drug prevention – intervention delivery system in the country, reaching approximately 80% of our nation's 5th and 6th grade students, and approximately 25% of all middle school students.

This is arguably the most positive and significant development for the ***D.A.R.E.*** program since its inception in 1983.

Did not find an Answer you wanted?

If No, Then send us your question using the following contact below:

For more information contact the ***Bexar County D.A.R.E. Board of Directors*** by e-mailing qlittle1@satx.rr.com or calling 210-379-4919 or go to www.dare.com.