



Can Mentors Stop Cycle of Violence?

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photo by Jeff Hamson
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Some MCC students got to hear from Rochester's new police chief Wednesday night about how to fight youth violence.

MCC's peer mentor group organized the event, "Kids Killing Kids: Why Here? Why Now?" It invited Rochester Police Chief David Moore, Monroe County District Assistant Attorney William Gargan and Nina Beacoats, whose son Kenneth, was killed in 2004.

Fellow students and community members heard from the speakers about why so many young people are so violent today. And many wanted to hear about solutions.

Chief Moore said he is still assessing what works and what doesn't in the department right now, but already has some ideas about how to combat that violence.

"I believe the one thing we need to do to stop violence is to be proactive," said Chief Moore. "That really does start by being mentors for young kids, getting those kids before they get negative attitudes."

Chief Moore says he'd like to see more police officers in schools, more than the school resource officers who are there now. He says the community can expect to see those kinds of programs implemented while he's in office.

10NBC WHEC-TV

broadcast at 7:44 a.m. and 7:57 a.m.



Rochester Police Chief David Moore taking on youth violence

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the problem at a program called "Kids Killing Kids" Wednesday night at Monroe Community College. In 2005 six people under the age of 17 were victims of murder in Rochester and Moore says this is a community problem not just a police problem. "When you see how profound a problem this is, this thing called violent crime, with our young people the more information we can get out to our community I believe the more people will be getting involved."

Chief Moore also says a big step in fighting youth violence is making it more difficult for young people to get guns and showing young people how important it is to have a high school education. Rochester ranks number one in state for high school dropouts.

In his State of the City address Rochester Mayor and former Police Chief Bob Duffy said he is seriously considering implementing a curfew for children 16 and under to help reduce youth crime and violence.

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