



WEED & SEED **IN** *sites*  
M O R N I N G N E W S

2001 National  
Conference  
Special Edition

Monday,  
August 27, 2001

## EOWS Welcomes You to Philadelphia!

The Weed and Seed 2001 National Conference, **A Decade of Weed and Seed: Leave No Neighborhood Behind**, promises to be a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

EOWS is pleased to cohost this event with the City of Philadelphia. It has been 2 years since our 1999 conference in Houston, which drew approximately 1,500 people representing 205 sites. Registration for our 2001 conference tops 1,600 people representing nearly 270 sites.

Key features of this national training conference include Sunday's all-day Learning Labs, more than 50 breakout sessions to choose from, the Neighborhood Exhibit Hall, site cluster meetings, a luncheon address by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, and rotating site tours to six Philadelphia Weed and Seed sites. We will also be celebrating the accomplishments of the seven individuals who will receive the EOWS Director's Award for their commitment to Weed and Seed. Plus, don't forget to explore the rich Philadelphia culture and history that surround you as you visit.



Signs for the Weed and Seed 2001 National Conference hang on streetposts along Market Street, here overlooked by City Hall.

### ***Today at the Conference, Don't Miss. . .***

- ▶ The Neighborhood Exhibit Hall (open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.)
- ▶ The Luncheon Keynote Address by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft
- ▶ Philadelphia Site Tours (3:30 to 5 p.m.)

## **A Taste of Philly**



The Taste of Philadelphia Reception, a welcoming block party hosted by the City of Philadelphia, wrapped up the first day of the Weed and Seed 2001 National Conference. A city block along Market Street outside the hotel was closed off on Sunday night from 6 to 9 p.m. for the event.



Left: Frankie Hughes, from the city Managing Director's Office and one of the party hosts, enjoys the festivities. Right: The colorful Mummers, a Philadelphia tradition, strut their stuff down Market Street to kick off the block party.



Conference attendees enjoyed the pleasant weather and good company as they munched on delicious Philly cheesesteaks, soft pretzels, Italian ice, and ice cream. Entertainment included live music from a band at one end of the block and broadcasts from a local country radio station (92.5 FM) at the other.

## Weed and Seed Prevention Through the Arts

Providing young people with alternatives to violence and teaching them how to divert anger and confusion into creative expression has proven to be one of the best crime prevention tools available. When role models are available to introduce youth to positive community-based activities (e.g., mentoring, afterschool programming, volunteer opportunities) youth gain leadership skills, self-esteem, and confidence that will last them a lifetime.

Through the Weed and Seed Prevention Through the Arts Special Emphasis program, adults provide children and teens with support and reinforcement they may fail to find elsewhere. Weed and Seed sites across the country encourage and provide instruction in many art forms, including puppet plays, stilt walking, mural painting, play writing, stage production, music recording, and ballet dancing. Groups of youth from various Weed and Seed communities that are dedicated to these programs are here this week to share their talents and accomplishments. Each day, *In-Sites Morning News* will highlight the day's showcased performers to inspire all Prevention Through the Arts programs.

These youth have demonstrated a strong commitment to practice and take pride in their performances. Please welcome and encourage them when you see them throughout the conference.

### North Bellport Weed and Seed

### Youth Steel Drum Band

Today's luncheon offers much excitement as our Weed and Seed audience awaits the keynote address of U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft. Behind the scenes, however, 14 Weed and Seed youth ages 7-14 are preparing for a luncheon performance for conference attendees. The North Bellport Youth Steel Drum Band, which was founded in January 1999, is part of North Bellport Weed and Seed's Crime Prevention effort. The band has been featured on local Cablevision and in the Long Island, New York, *Newsday* newspaper. They are not strangers to the stage, as they also have played at many local community and church gatherings.

### Estate Grove Place Junior Calypsonians and Banjo Players

Shortly after the North Bellport Youth Steel Drum Band performs, the Junior Calypsonians and Banjo Players from the Estate Grove Place Weed and Seed site in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, will entertain the luncheon audience with their artistic

*continued on page 3*