

## Acknowledgments

### **It takes a Village to Raise a Child! It takes *everyone* to heal the community and end the violence.**

Since its 'conception' on February 8, 2007, the **COALITION AGAINST VIOLENCE** has been striving to develop, write, and finally implement perhaps one of the most comprehensive and detailed documents ever produced in the Pittsburgh metropolitan region by 'ordinary' citizens. Filled with broad-based strategies for reducing violence in the Pittsburgh metropolitan region, the **COALITION AGAINST VIOLENCE** Document 2008 includes something for every segment of society to undertake in drastically reducing the violence that permeates so many of our neighborhoods and communities.

The process by which this document was written is, perhaps, one of the most extraordinary and unique processes ever to be utilized by any collaboration or coalition in the history of Pittsburgh. This was democracy *and* diversity in action. Anyone who came to the table had a 'voice' which was honored by everyone present. Each action item was thoroughly discussed by those present at the working sessions. This document was written by collective action, through collaboration and consensus. Without the dedication, time, commitment and faith of so many people, this document would not have been able to "move from complaint to possibility...from planning to implementation."

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