Alexandria City Public Schools

Building Bonds Beyond the School: Webinars for Families



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Gang Prevention



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EMPOWERING

City of Alexandria
Gang Prevention Community Task Force



EMPOWERING

Who Are We

(2) City Council Members
(2) Citizens At-Large
(2) At-Large Members from and representing the Youth
City Manager Representative
Representative from ARHA or resident of ARHA Properties
Representative from the African American community
Representative from an Alexandria City business
Representative from the Faith Based community
Representative from the Latino community
Representative from Alexandria City Public Schools
Representative from Alexandria City High School
Representative from an ACPS Middle School
Representative from an ACPS Elementary School
Representative from the ACPS Parent group



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Mission Statement

To create a gang free community through collaboration, community outreach, and advocacy

Vision Statement

Safety, support, and opportunity for all

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Our Lens

Focus on At-Risk and At-Promise kids, versus crew and gang members

Widen our age target, as early as 5th grade,
while not losing site of the parents

Advocate to support our partner efforts

Build opportunities and support outside of school and home

Look more critically at areas that face the biggest challenges



INNOVATIVE

When you think about a functioning family what characteristics come to mind?

Poll

Examples: hugging, talk to each other, celebrating holidays

TO ACCESS YOUR INTERPRETATION CHANNEL:

Interpretation

ES PARA ESPAÑOL, SELECCIONE “Español”

AM ለአማርኛ “Amharic” የሚለውን ምረጡ

AR لإختيار الترجمة باللغة "Arabic" العربية، أختر

DA برای دری، دری را انتخاب کنید

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Family



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What is a Gang?

§ 18.2-46.1

- Three or more members with criminal objectives
- Common identifiable name, sign, or symbol
- Members engage in 2+ predicate criminal acts, one of which is an act of violence



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Why Do Youth Join Gangs?

Lack of Connection and Need for Belonging

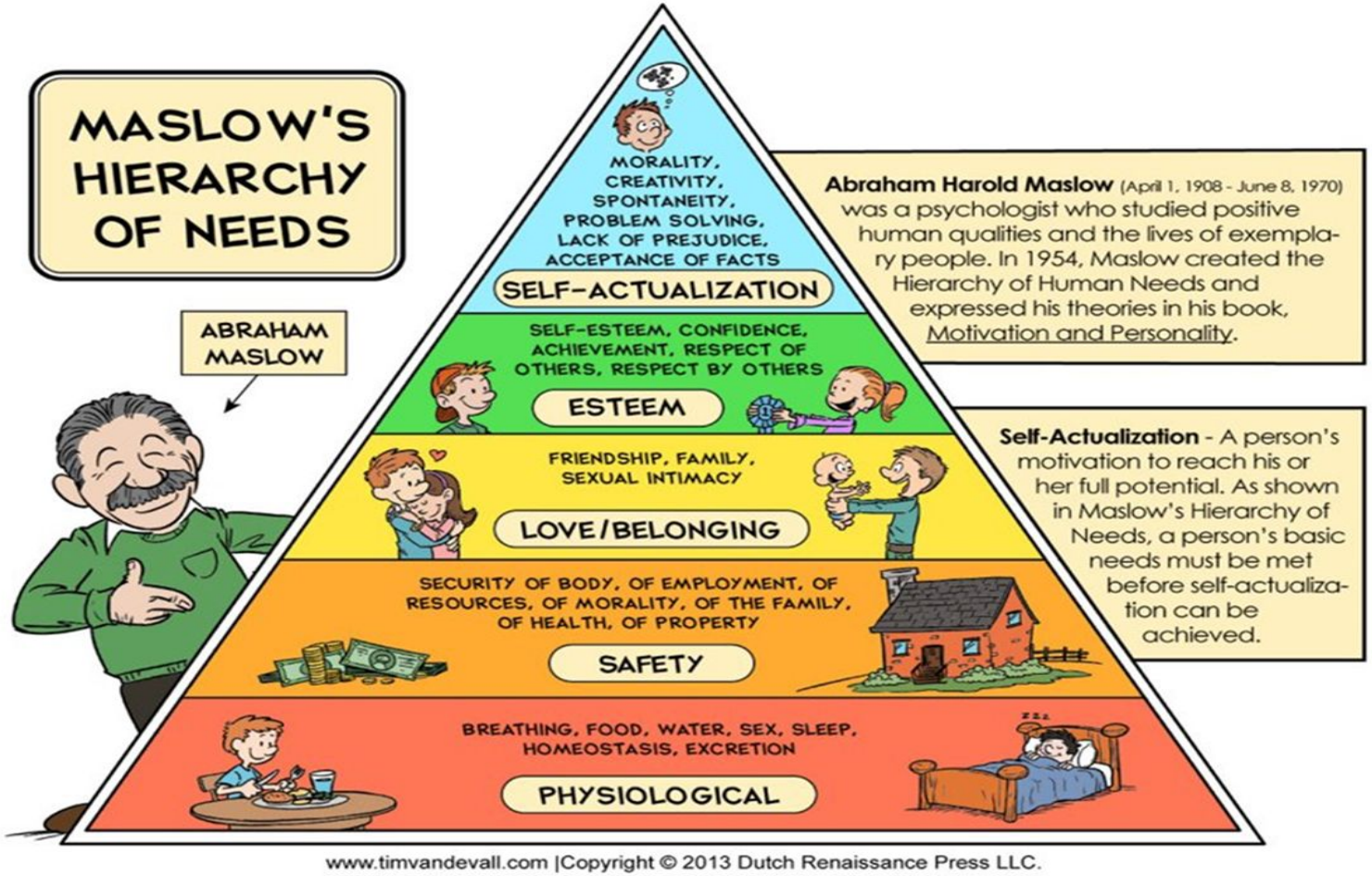
Peer Pressure and Influence

Economic Struggles

Exposure to Trauma and Violence



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MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS
ABRAHAM MASLOW
MORALITY, CREATIVITY, SPONTANEITY, PROBLEM SOLVING, LACK OF PREJUDICE, ACCEPTANCE OF FACTS
SELF-ACTUALIZATION
SELF-ESTEEM, CONFIDENCE, ACHIEVEMENT, RESPECT OF OTHERS, RESPECT BY OTHERS
ESTEEM
FRIENDSHIP, FAMILY, SEXUAL INTIMACY
LOVE/BELONGING
SECURITY OF BODY, OF EMPLOYMENT, OF RESOURCES, OF MORALITY, OF THE FAMILY, OF HEALTH, OF PROPERTY
SAFETY
BREATHING, FOOD, WATER, SEX, SLEEP, HOMEOSTASIS, EXCRETION
PHYSIOLOGICAL
Abraham Harold Maslow (April 1, 1908 - June 8, 1970) was a psychologist who studied positive human qualities and the lives of exemplary people. In 1954, Maslow created the Hierarchy of Human Needs and expressed his theories in his book, Motivation and Personality.
Self-Actualization - A person's motivation to reach his or her full potential. As shown in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, a person's basic needs must be met before self-actualization can be achieved.
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Risk Factors

- Gangs target those who are disconnected from their community, or those who are vulnerable.
- Kids may join for a sense of security, money, respect, popularity, or out of fear.
- But the number one reason is **to gain a sense of belonging and acceptance**





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What are some possible ways you can tell if your child is in a gang?

Poll

Examples: clothing, attitude, friends

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Identifying Gang Affiliation

Visual Indicators

- Certain types of clothing and colors
- Bruises, cuts, other marks
- Lingo
- Graffiti / Drawings
- Social Media Accounts

Behavioral Indicators

- Family Influence
- School Issues
- Neighborhood Problems
- Peer and Influence Risk Factors
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health





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Possible Indicators

Significant change in their social circle, including dropping old friends and referring to new acquaintances as their "family" or "brothers/sisters."

A **decline** in school performance.

Possession of weapons, drugs, unexplained money and expensive clothing or other items.

Staying out late or not coming home.

Unexplained bruises or **injuries.**

Wanting more privacy.

Using new slang words, hand signs, or drawing gang-related graffiti.

Getting tattoos.

Wearing clothing of all one color scheme or style.







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GANGS around Alexandria

Gangs:

MS-13

Bloods

Crips







CREWS:

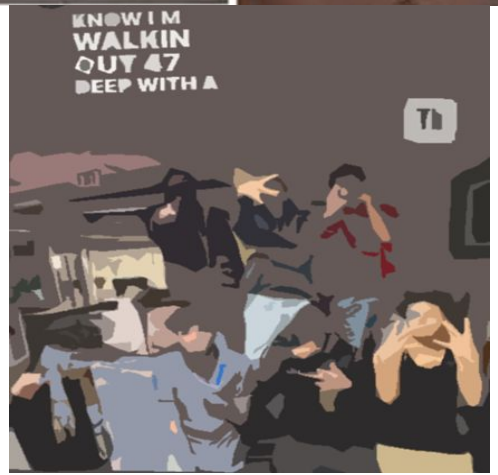
47s (Westside 47s)

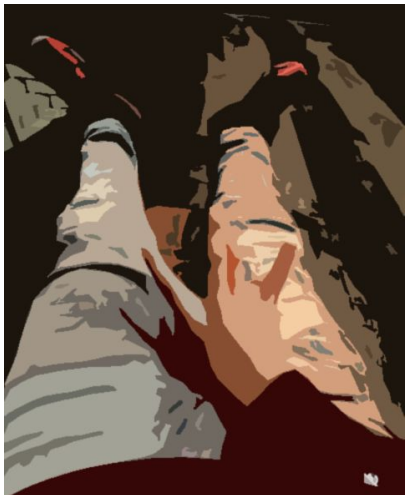
M4L (Mob for Life)

SSC (Southside Chirilagua)

YRTS (Youth Run the Streets)

Other Neighborhood crews (3800 block)







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What are some ways you can keep your child from being in a gang?

Poll

Examples: after school activities, sports, monitoring friends



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What You Can Do

We Encourage You To:

- Be aware of signs of gang involvement.
- Plan and maintain family activities and spend quality time with your child.
- Explore positive leisure and **structured community activities.**
- Link your child with a **mentor**.
- **Get to know your** child's friends.
- Set and enforce limits, such as a curfew.
- Actively **listen** to your child.
- Be aware and monitor social media use.
- Seek professional guidance if you **observe warning signs** to ensure your child's safety and well-being.
- Find **positive** activities to fill your children's time.
- **Set boundaries** with peers who may be negative influences
- Encourage your children to spend time with positive adult role models

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What Do I Do If My Child Is Already Involved?

Speak with Respect



Seek Support





Surround Them with Opportunities



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Relationship

Foundation is trust

Non-Judgmental Support

Seek information and resources

Gently offer alternatives



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Resources for Gang Prevention and Intervention

NVFS
Northern Virginia Family Service

MENTOR ONE CHILD.
CHANGE TWO LIVES.
ALEXANDRIA MENTORING PARTNERSHIP

alx beyond

SAFE PLACE

INNOVATIVE



YOU'RE NOT ALONE

HELP IS AVAILABLE

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Alexandria City Public Schools

Questions?



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Thank You!

acps.cc/SSE

