



THE INSTITUTE
FOR THE STUDY
& PRACTICE OF
NONVIOLENCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, MAY 31, 2009
7406

CONTACT: TENY GROSS, 401-639-

**DAVID CARTAGENA, SENIOR STREETWORKER,
PASSES AWAY AT 38**

DAVID CARTAGENA OF NORTH PROVIDENCE, A SENIOR STREETWORKER AT THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY AND PRACTICE OF NONVIOLENCE, PASSED AWAY THIS WEEKEND AFTER A CAR ACCIDENT IN PROVIDENCE. HE WAS 38 YEARS OLD. HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS PARENTS AND A YOUNG DAUGHTER.

TODAY AT 1:00 PM, A BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT WILL BE PLAYED IN DAVID'S HONOR AT DAVEY LOPES RECREATION CENTER, 227 DUDLEY STREET, PROVIDENCE. THIS TOURNAMENT WAS ORGANIZED BY THE INSTITUTE'S COMMUNITY LEADERS, A GROUP OF YOUTH TRAINING IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING. THE TOURNAMENT IS ONE OF THE PROGRAM'S CULMINATING EVENTS.

DAVID CARTAGENA HAD WORKED AT THE INSTITUTE AS A NONVIOLENCE TRAINER AND A STREETWORKER SINCE 2005, AND WAS ENROLLED IN A CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE'S SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK. HE SAT ON SEVERAL STEERING COMMITTEES WORKING ON ISSUES AFFECTING CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES. RECENTLY, DAVID WAS THE SUBJECT OF A DOCUMENTARY PHOTO ESSAY BY RISHWANTH JAYAPPAUL, CALLED "SERVING A PURPOSE," WHICH IS VISIBLE AT [HTTP://VIIPHOTO.NING.COM/VIDEO/SERVING-A-PURPOSE](http://viipphoto.ning.com/video/serving-a-purpose).

DAVID WAS A FORMER GANG MEMBER WHO TURNED HIS LIFE AROUND AND DEDICATED HIMSELF TO THE CAUSE OF NONVIOLENCE. IN RECENT YEARS, HE WAS RECOGNIZED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AS A SKILLED MEDIATOR AND VALUABLE PARTNER. A GIFTED PUBLIC SPEAKER AND STORYTELLER, HE WAS SOUGHT AFTER AS A SPEAKER IN NONVIOLENCE TRAININGS. HE TESTIFIED BEFORE CONGRESS ON GANG INTERVENTION STRATEGIES AND HAS WORKED WITH PROFESSIONALS IN CONNECTICUT, MASSACHUSETTS, DETROIT, MICHIGAN AND PORTLAND, OREGON ON WAYS TO CURB YOUTH VIOLENCE.

THE INSTITUTE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TENY GROSS, SAYS "DAVID WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL YOUTH WORKER AND AN EXCELLENT HUMAN BEING. HE HAD ONLY BEGUN TO MAKE HIS IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY HE LOVED TO SERVE. AS HIS INSTITUTE FAMILY, WE HOPE HIS IMPACT WILL CONTINUE TO BE FELT FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. WE WILL NOT SOON RECOVER FROM THE HEARTBREAK OF THIS TRAGEDY."

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

THE STREETWORKERS ARE OUTREACH WORKERS WHO MENTOR YOUTH WHO ARE AT RISK OF JOINING GANGS OR COMMITTING VIOLENCE. THEY ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO COMMIT TO NONVIOLENCE AND OFFER THEM RESOURCES TO BUILD MORE HOPEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE FUTURES.

THE INSTITUTE FOR STUDY AND PRACTICE OF NONVIOLENCE TEACHES BY WORD AND EXAMPLE THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF NONVIOLENCE, AND FOSTERS A COMMUNITY THAT ADDRESSES POTENTIALLY VIOLENT SITUATIONS WITH NONVIOLENT SOLUTIONS. THE INSTITUTE HAS HELPED TO SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER VIOLENT CRIMES IN THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, PARTICULARLY YOUTH VIOLENCE; AND IN 2006, THE INSTITUTE WAS NAMED A "BEST PRACTICE" BY THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS. THE INSTITUTE IS ABLE TO CARRY OUT ITS WORK WITH FIVE CORE PROGRAMS: NONVIOLENCE TRAININGS, NONVIOLENCE STREETWORKERS, YOUTH PROGRAMS, JUVENILE RE-

ENTRY AND VICTIMS SUPPORT SERVICES. ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS ENCOMPASS THE NONVIOLENCE PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THE INSTITUTE WAS FOUNDED, AND HELP BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY.

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