



## 2009 Neighborhood Leadership Award Recipients

### Reverend Jake Manley Sr.

Rev. Manley's philosophy is that the Church should serve the community from "The Cradle to the Grave." Under the anointed leadership of Rev. Manley, Bethany Baptist Church has developed many ministries and programs, such as Showers of Blessings, to aid the community and to draw individuals away from lives of crime into productive citizens.

Rev. Manley has been actively involved in getting guns off the street, reducing gang activities, and providing ways out of using and selling illegal drugs. He cares so strongly for his community and fellow man that he frequently places himself in harms way to stop gang violence and retaliation. He is truly a man that walks by faith, but who believes what is said in James 2:26: "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."

Rev. Manley has convinced gang members to turn over guns and attend church on Sunday mornings. In December 2008, a reporter for *The Virginian-Pilot* wrote "He meets gang members alone in dark parking lots when they ask for him, and he goes to homes of strangers when they call. {Rev.} Manley has accompanied some participants of his Showers of Blessings program to court. At times, he has spoken to judges on their behalf. 'Those boys and girls are human beings. I feel it is my obligation to go,' {Rev.} Manley said."

When the lives of several young adults were taken by gun violence in 2008, Rev. Manley welcomed the Chesapeake community to Bethany Baptist Church. His passionate call to stop the violence drew concerned citizens to public-private crime prevention activities like a gun buy-back program and a fun, high-tech teen center at Clarence Cuffee Center. During a critical time in 2008, Rev. Manley rallied the Chesapeake community to action.

Based in South Norfolk, Rev. Manley's work and influence goes far beyond Hampton Roads. For his tireless and exemplary leadership in preventing crime through faith-based initiatives and in uplifting the socio-economic condition of countless persons, Rev. Jake Manley is presented the 2009 Chesapeake Neighborhood Leadership Award.

## **Kenneth Martin**

Kenneth Martin is the Coordinator/President of the South Norfolk Neighborhood Watch. Starting in 2008 in Mr. Martin's living room, four concerned citizens decided it was time to take back their neighborhood from criminal elements. Today with over 150 members, South Norfolk Neighborhood Watch has grown to be one of the largest watch groups in the City of Chesapeake.

Kenneth acts as a liaison to the Police Department and assists with planning the South Norfolk Series of Youth Events that are designed to engage youth and deter criminal activity. Importantly, in the aftermath of several high profile incidents of youth violence, Kenneth guided his fellow neighbors toward participation in crime prevention through active involvement in positive community events like the Great American Community Clean-up, National Night Out, and a Neighborhood yard & bake sale.

Under Kenneth Martin's passionate leadership, the South Norfolk Neighborhood Watch has quickly developed into a determined and hands-on partner with the Police Department to decrease crime in the South Norfolk historic district community and raise the quality of living.

## **Serve the City - Chesapeake**

The mission of Serve the City - Chesapeake was to bring together interested churches to work with the Police Department and, within their community, to serve and give hope by meeting needs in struggling neighborhoods. This group of faith leaders had the vision for a collective effort of the 5th Precinct of the Chesapeake Police Department, the faith-based community, the civic leagues and the schools to build trusting community relationships for the purpose of producing healthy communities and hope.

During June 2008, approximately 120 volunteers donated over 2900 volunteer hours to neighborhood improvement projects. They served in the Campostella area – removing trash and debris from 19 locations and starting a summer camp program for community kids. They donated over 600 volunteer hours. They helped 23 homes in Harbour North and Crest Harbour and 34 homes in Crestwood Manor and Old Crestwood.

Serve the City volunteers, in partnership with the Chesapeake Police Department, reached out to neighborhoods in need and helped to reduce conditions that contribute to criminal activities. They did yard work, made home repairs, created children's programs, made elder care visitations, and organized positive community events.

For their faithful service and exemplary contributions to community improvement, Serve the City - Chesapeake is recognized with the 2009 City of Chesapeake Neighborhood Leadership Award. The lead organizers for Serve the City - Chesapeake are Rev. John Dooley, Rev. Jon Hildebrand, Rev. Durant Kreider, and Mel Howell.