New funds will support at-risk students and their families with after school programs aimed at crime and violence prevention

Babylon, NY– Rep. Steve Israel (D – Huntington) announced $300,000 in new federal funding for the Save Our Youth Violence Prevention After School Program, operated by Save Our Children and Youth and in partnership with the Economic Opportunity Council of Wyandanch.

"Wyandanch has been plagued by crime and violence – and all too often it's the youth who are both the offenders and the victims. We need to respond forcefully in the community in two key ways – first, a zero tolerance policy for crime and violence, and second a support program for our youth so they have a safe place to spend time. The Save Our Youth program will provide a safe haven for kids and I'm proud to be able to bring federal funds to this excellent community initiative," said Rep. Israel.

"We are thankful to Congressman Israel for the opportunity this will afford us to empower our children and youth by investing in them and in their future," said David Holliday who spearheaded the community initiative with Nancy Holliday, Randy Trotman and Theresa Copeland.

The Save Our Youth Violence Prevention After School Program addresses the needs of at-risk students and their families in Long Island with after school programs for crime and violence prevention. The program plans to hire up to 6 people with the new funding.

Rep. Israel requested the $300,000 in federal funding, which was passed by the House and the Senate as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Bill and signed by President Obama on Wednesday, December 16, 2009.

Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Committee.

Photo: Rep. Israel at the Wyandanch Pulblic Library annoucing the new federal funding.
Photo credit: Daryl Matthews, Sr. Photographer