

**Broadcast Focuses on Violence**  
**By WANDA PEACOCK and CLAUDE LOMDEN, Correspondents**  
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*Philadelphia's 'Voices in the Family' radio program does a show on teen violence broadcast live from the SGI-USA community center. 'There is a poverty of role models and spirituality — and most devastating, a poverty of hope,' says Dr. Dan Gottlieb, the show's host, of society today.*

Amid growing national alarm over violence caused by youth, the SGI-USA of Philadelphia's Youth for Peace Committee hosted a two-hour seminar today, which included a live radio broadcast.

SGI-USA youth expressed their determination to take responsibility for creating change for the better. One young man gave voice to his determination in a song, "A New Born Friend for the World."

Nikki Nixon told of losing her only son to violence and her struggle to strengthen her faith. Clips from a video produced by *America's Most Wanted* on teen violence added a somber note. Once again, however, the hope and determination of young people were expressed in an original rap presentation called "Seeds of Peace" by 18-year-old Elekeu Roho. Elekeu began a discussion group at his school to talk about violence.

At noon, a local radio program, *Voices in the Family*, featured on WHYY, a National Public Radio station, broadcast a one-hour program live from the SGI-USA Philadelphia Community Center.

*Voices in the Family* is hosted by Dr. Dan Gottlieb, psychologist, family therapist, radio personality and Philadelphia Inquirer columnist. Dr. Gottlieb brought a panel of men involved with local organizations dealing with teen violence: Dr. Michael Ferguson, staff psychologist at the YES (Youth Emergency Services) Center; Michael Harris, youth outreach professional with the Philadelphia Anti-Violence Network; and a young man who had a violent past and spoke about his experiences.

Dr. Gottlieb commented on "an emotional and relationship poverty of children who have no support, no guidance and no love. There is a poverty of role models and spirituality and, most devastating, a poverty of hope."

An hour was barely enough time to mention all the aspects of this problem: the need for young people to have at least one caring adult with whom to talk; the effects of substance abuse during pregnancy and youth; poverty; taking responsibility; and talking with one another.

Questions and comments were taken from the audience. A young woman who is an SGI-USA member and a social worker said that the federal government should — but doesn't — make children a top priority through funding and programs.

Talking about the insight he gained from the day's program, Dr. Gottlieb said that "this discussion clarified for me the issue of love. We professionals get distracted by research, the social view, and sometimes lose the basics, like the fact that young people need love."

Eva Blackwell, SGI-USA member and producer of *Voices in the Family*, said that this landmark event — a live radio broadcast as part of an SGI-USA youth division-sponsored activity — came about because of determination and hard work.

Ms. Blackwell also noted the diversity of people in the audience (comprising both SGI-USA members and non-members). Perhaps pointing to a future trend, this event for Philadelphia SGI-USA members was a synthesis of public relations, community outreach, public service and education as to what the SGI-USA is all about — how we reach into society to encourage dialogue about current problems.

**WT**

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