

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Gang Alternatives Program (GAP)**

*LA County Supervisor Don Knabe Donates \$2,500.00 to My Gangfree Life® Academy*

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (January 8, 2014) – The Gang Alternatives Program (GAP) is excited to announce that Supervisor Don Knabe contributed \$2,500.00 as an Academy Leader for the upcoming Gangfree Life® Academy, which is a 3-day, all day training scheduled to be held on January 29th through January 31st. The Gangfree Life® Academy is the first of its kind to provide specialized certification and training in gang prevention for local and national community liaisons who serve as advocates, educators, mentors, outreach workers, and role models in their communities, and who understand the need of having successful violence prevention programs. Supervisor Don Knabe strongly believes in gang prevention as a basis to reduce violence in communities.

GAP was founded in 1986 as the outgrowth of the work of the Harbor Youth Violence Reduction Roundtable, jointly sponsored by the United Way and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. In the early 1980s, Los Angeles Police Department statistics showed the Los Angeles Harbor Area had a high level of gang activity and resulting crime—higher than virtually all other parts of the County. In 1986, the Round Table was convened to examine the gang problem, identify the causes of youth violence, and determine what local strategies could be developed to effectively address this problem. GAP was formed as a result of this meeting. In 2000, the program began to expand. It also began to look at the broader gang prevention corpus of programs and research. As a result, GAP continuously adopted the program elements and best practices from around the country as evidenced in its program evaluation and research.

The Gang Alternatives Program is tremendously grateful for its long time support from LA County Supervisor Don Knabe and is a highly regarded voice in keeping the vision of its founders to “prevent young people from joining gangs” alive. GAP has served 6,000 children and 25,000 families per year in Los Angeles County by providing them with “best practice” approaches to violence prevention and reducing crime by changing the individual, the family, the community, and the cultural influences to eliminate the base of gang membership by having a generation of young people say “no” to gangs and “yes” to a positive lifestyle. With a presence in nearly one-fourth of the elementary schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District, GAP provides a school-based gang prevention curriculum for 2nd, 4th, and 6th grades. STEP UP! Afterschool Program, a proven effective parent project® and teen education program, and a Summer Youth Employment program. In addition, GAP provides a graffiti abatement program in Los Angeles City and County, bulky item pick up services, and community clean up services.

**About Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe**

Supervisor Don Knabe was first elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in November of 1996 and was overwhelmingly re-elected in 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012. Supervisor Knabe represents the Fourth District, which is a uniquely diverse area that is home to over two million residents and includes two of the nation’s largest economic hubs; the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and Los Angeles International Airport. The Fourth District is also geographically diverse, stretching from Marina del Rey to the Palos Verdes Peninsula to Long Beach all the way east to Diamond Bar and dozens of cities in between. The Fourth District also includes Catalina Island and San Clemente Island.

**About The Gang Alternatives Program**

GAP, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation, provides services and programs to promote a gangfree lifestyle to young people and their families. Since 1986, GAP’s leadership in primary prevention in anti-gang strategy has been instrumental in violence reduction and community rebuilding. Headquartered in Wilmington, California, GAP, the only gang prevention program in Los Angeles focused on keeping elementary school children out of gangs. For more information about Gang Alternatives Program (GAP) events, activities, services, programs, and facilities, go to [www.gangfree.org](http://www.gangfree.org), or contact (310) 519-7233.

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