



## Gang Alternatives Program (GAP)

309 W. Opp Street  
Wilmington, CA 90744

888-293-9323

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From: Gang Alternatives Program (GAP)  
Public and Governmental Affairs  
309 W. Opp Street  
Wilmington, CA 90744

Contact: SueAnn D. Ballat  
(310) 519-7233  
[sueannballat@gangfree.org](mailto:sueannballat@gangfree.org)

### **Gang Alternatives Program (GAP) nominated for Exemplary Gang Prevention Program**

Wilmington, CA - From July 22 to July 25, Gang Alternatives Program (GAP) Executive Director, Douglas L. Semark, Ph.D., will be attending the 15th International Gang Specialist Training Conference in Chicago, Illinois hosted by the National Gang Crime Research Center (NGCRC). On Monday, July 23rd, we are excited to announce that Dr. Semark will receive —not one—of the Frederic Milton Thrasher Awards as announced earlier. He will receive an award for Superior Service in Gang Prevention, and now GAP will receive one as an Exemplary Gang Prevention Program.

“This is a great honor to receive an International Award, the first ever for the Gang Alternatives Program.” stated Executive Director Semark. “This is a monumental feat for the Gang Alternatives Program as there are only two California agencies to receive the Frederic Milton Thrasher Award in Exemplary Gang Prevention and that is the Gang Alternatives Program (2012) and GRIP, Gang Resistance Is Paramount (2001).” Special gratitude goes to Tony Ostos from GRIP for nominating GAP for the award. GAP’s My Gangfree Life® program is based on the City of Paramount’s GRIP model. According to the USDOJ, Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention, the program model is touted as a “Best Practices” program, which is a nationwide comprehensive gang strategy to address community gang problems.

For a list of other nominees of the 2012 Thrasher Award and additional information of the upcoming 15th Annual International Gang Specialist Training Conference, please visit <http://www.ngcrc.com/2012.conference.html>.

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