



February 5, 2016

Chief Donie Lee
Key West Police Department
1604 Roosevelt Boulevard
Key West, FL 33040

Dear Chief Lee:

Thank you again for being a great partner with Keys to Be the Change, Inc. Your support has truly changed the lives of many at-risk youth at Key West High School.

At this time I would like to request funding for 15 of those at-risk youth to attend the annual PeaceJam Leadership Conference which is held at Florida State University on April 9th and 10th. Keys to Be the Change has used this venue to promote positive behavior, which includes leading a drug and alcohol free lifestyle, attaining good grades and reducing truancy during the school year. Youth engagement plays an important role in preventing substance abuse among youth. A broad range of activities are effective in engaging youth; including but not limited to school or community volunteering, sports, the arts, music and politics. The benefits of engaging youth are significant. Positive outcomes of engagement include a decrease in the rate of substance abuse, a decrease in the rate of crime, an increase in academic performance and a more meaningful connection with a youth's community⁽¹⁾

We reward our "youth leaders" with this opportunity to work side by side with a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate for a weekend. The conference attracts 450 other youth from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. The Laureates work personally with youth to pass on the spirit, skills, and wisdom they embody.

The goal of PeaceJam is to inspire a new generation of leaders who will transform themselves, their community, and the world. Students learn the power of one person making a difference. The only way this is achieved is through modeling positive behavior which includes leading a drug and alcohol free lifestyle as well as being a law abiding citizen.

The total cost of this trip, including conference fees, transportation, meals, hotel accommodations and entertainment is \$4000.00 which is \$267.00 per student. We will be leaving Key West on Friday, April 8th and returning on Monday, April 11th.

Thank you in advance for your consideration regarding funding this incredible once in a lifetime journey. This will be our third year doing it and it is truly amazing to see the results upon our return. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Heidi R. Golightly

Executive Director

Lower Keys Prevention Coordinator

Keys to Be the Change, Inc.

www.keystobethechange.com

541-974-4398

(1) Council on Drug Abuse <http://www.drugabuse.ca/how-does-youth-engagement-prevent-our-youth-abusing-drugs-0>