



South Shore Drill Team & Performing Arts Ensemble



Vigil for police officer

(Chris Sweda, Chicago Tribune / July 21, 2010)

A girl peers out from between members of the South Shore Drill Team while attending a vigil for slain Chicago police officer Michael Bailey at 74th Street and Evans Avenue, on Chicago's South Side.

At-Risk Youth Program – Approximately 85% of South Shore Drill Team members come from inner-city neighborhoods where they are likely to encounter gang and drug activity on a daily basis. Our program is geared towards reducing negative influences and encouraging youth who have gotten into trouble at school or in the neighborhood to take responsibility for their actions. The team accepts First Offender referrals from law enforcement officials and Cook County Juvenile Court, putting them through a six-month probationary period based on the principles of Restorative Justice so that a single mistake does not lead to a lifetime of crime and incarceration. Mentors help First Offenders process their anger and frustration while linking them to resources to assist them in turning their lives around.

In addition, South Shore Drill Team regularly takes part in anti-violence rallies, gun buy-back programs, and other community events aimed at stopping violence. The group performs at health fairs, literacy events, and back-to-school parades, drawing an audience to the cause. Throughout the year, the team promotes leadership development and civic activity to help members grow into responsible citizens.

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South Shore Drill Team & Performing Arts Ensemble is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit; contributions are tax-deductible to extent allowed by law.