

## **Summative Report: Parramore Kidz Zone**

*Period: July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015*

### **BACKGROUND**

Parramore is home to 1,351 youth aged 18 and under and an additional 835 ages 18 to 24. Adjacent to Orlando's Downtown business district, Parramore was identified in 2005 as Orlando's highest poverty, highest crime neighborhood, and Jones High School (attended by Parramore students) was one of only two in Florida that received "F" grades for five years in a row. Parramore Kidz Zone (PKZ) was launched in 2006 to "move the needle" on juvenile crime, teen births, child abuse and neglect, and academic performance among children in the neighborhood by investing in evidence-based youth programs serving Parramore youth from cradle-to-college-and-career (ages birth to 24). PKZ is operated by a coalition of public, non-profit, school, and faith-based partners, with the City of Orlando serving as "backbone" organization.

In fiscal year 2014-15, PKZ received funding from the State of Florida, via the FL Department of Education, as part of Florida Children's Initiative. This summative report details services provided and their impact during this period.

### **PROGRAM EVALUATION**

Much of the data for this summative report was obtained by the Florida Health Care Coalition (FLHCC), whose staff serves as PKZ's evaluation team, under the leadership of Dr. Karen van Caulil, President/CEO. With 30 years of experience in this field, Dr. van Caulil holds a B.S. from Duke University, M.S. in Public Health from University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill, and Doctorate in Public Affairs from University of Central Florida. To evaluate PKZ, FLHCC looks at:

- Number/demographics of youth served by date/service type/frequency/provider.
- Outcome reporting at the individual participant level. So, for instance, PKZ tracks and compiles metrics for youth who receive wrap-around academic support via PKZ's Student Advocate Model including grade level proficiency in math/reading; grade point average; graduation status; and enrollment in post-secondary education.
- Impact/outcomes at the neighborhood level including number of births to girls under age 19 and juvenile arrests in Parramore; percent of Parramore children performing at grade level in reading/math; etc. To this end, FLHCC asks the following impact questions:
  - How are the Parramore youth performing in school?
  - Has juvenile crime decreased in Parramore?
  - Has family violence decreased in Parramore (child abuse and neglect, specifically)?
  - Has the teen birth rate decreased in Parramore?

Some results presented in this report pertain to PKZ's 2013-14 fiscal year (October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014) and whenever data is available, the State of Florida's 2014-15 fiscal year (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015).

### **DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES OFFERED**

PKZ offered a wide range of positive youth programs throughout the community during this period, free of charge to Parramore residents. They are listed and described below.

### After School/Academic Assistance

After School labs provided tutoring and homework help, access to computers, the Internet, snacks and free supplies for homework and school projects. In addition to the after school programs, most of the sites offered book clubs; math camps; tutoring; and summer camps to neighborhood children employing volunteers, teachers, or college students who provided educational enrichments that prevented summer learning loss.

### College Access

PKZ provided diverse programs including college tours, SAT/ACT prep classes, seminars with various community colleges, throughout the year. Also offered was assistance applying to and enrolling and persisting in college, including case management, and on-going support resources, including assistance completing college and financial aid applications.

### Youth Employment, Financial Literacy and College Savings Programs

PKZ operated a youth employment program (PKZ Workz) through which Parramore youth between the ages of 15 and 24 years obtained employability skills training and were placed in jobs. Once employed, participating youth were offered on-going support, including work-site mentoring, job coaching, retention services, job and wage progression assistance, and financial literacy training. In addition, PKZ began offering youth employees the opportunity to open Individual Development Accounts (IDA's) to save money for college. Every dollar that youth deposit in their respective IDA accounts was matched with two dollars contributed by private donors. These funds can only be used to support the youth's post secondary education.

### Youth Development Programs (i.e. programs for older youth)

Core youth development programs are offered in alignment with the evidence-based Positive Youth Development (PYD) model. The goal of PYD is to engage youth in multi-faceted programs that mitigate risk factors such as delinquent behavior and unprotected sexual activity that often develops among bored, unsupervised, disconnected youth and instead help them grow into mature and successful adults. Positive peer group meetings, and activities such as camping trips, movie nights, technology fairs, focus groups, Midnight Basketball, community service projects, and field trips were offered throughout the year.

### Cultural Arts Programs

Various cultural arts programs were held within the neighborhood, including art classes; art festivals; plays; programs that taught youth the art of storytelling, video-making, editing and music production using the latest computer technology; drama and theatre production; acting techniques; script reading; script writing; story-boarding; internet searches for images; voice-over; and audio productions.

### Early Learning Programs

Community Coordinated Care for Children, Inc. (4C) offered child care subsidies for Parramore children aged 0-5 years, to support working families as well as parents/caregivers who were seeking employment, job training, or education, or facing emergencies. Also, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County offered PKZ Baby Institute, a parenting program for parents whose children are under 5 years old. Modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone Baby College, the PKZ Baby Institute is a nine-week intensive parenting program focused on brain development, positive discipline and community pride, with the goal of helping parents to be their child's first teacher.

### Emergency Economic Assistance

To stabilize children's living conditions, PKZ offers emergency relief to prevent homelessness, utility shut-offs, and food crises, and makes basic needs items available to children at sites throughout the neighborhood, including food, clothing, school supplies, and toiletries.

### Health and Wellness Programs

PKZ offered a wide range of health and wellness opportunities to youth throughout the neighborhood, including healthy after school snacks free of charge, referrals and support in receiving health care services, basketball leagues, bike rides, bowling, fitness camps, football leagues, skating, baseball leagues, cheerleading, open gym, golf lessons, and swimming. Parramore youth helped develop and maintain two community gardens in the neighborhood. During the City's 2013-14 fiscal year, youth also had access to a teen pregnancy prevention program which used evidence based curricula and operated at five neighborhood sites.

### Neighborhood Events and Special Events

PKZ offered a wide range of neighborhood events, field trips and other activities to build community cohesion and engage youth and families in positive, community-building activities.

## **PARTICIPATION**

During the July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 period, one thousand and ninety-six (1,096) unduplicated youth participated in PKZ. Table I shows their estimated age breakdown.

<b>Table I: Age Breakdown of PKZ Participants</b>	
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Infants through Pre-K	20%
Elementary School	36%
Middle School	17%
High School	21%
Post High School	5%

Table II breaks down youth participation by the type of program they participated in during the July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 period. Most children participated in more than one type of program.

<b>Table II: Participation by Program Type</b>	
<b>Program</b>	<b>Unique # of Youth</b>
After School/Academic Assistance	481
Cultural Arts	60
Early Learning	249
Economic Assistance	101
Health and Wellness	420
High School Diploma & College Access	132
Special Events	131
Youth Employment	94
Youth Development	188

The City of Orlando is the PKZ partner with the most youth engaged in its programs. Table III illustrates the unique number of youth in programs offered by PKZ partners during the period of July 2014 though June 2015.

<b>Table III: Participation by Partner Organization</b>	
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Unique # of Youth</b>
Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida	46
City of Orlando	782
Community Coordinated Care for Children (4C)	129*
Early Learning Coalition of Orange County	135
New Image Youth Center	97
Page 15	45

\*This covers the period July 2014 through May 2015. June data is not yet available.

### **DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARRAMORE SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN**

Geo-coding of education data has permitted a closer look at Parramore children enrolled in Orange County Public School (OCPS) over the past few years. To evaluate the academic performance of Parramore youth, we obtained information for all children with Parramore addresses registered in OCPS. The most recent data obtained from OCPS, for the 2013-2014 school year, indicates that there were 1,803 Parramore youth in the OCPS database, receiving their education in 173 Orange County Public Schools including charter schools.

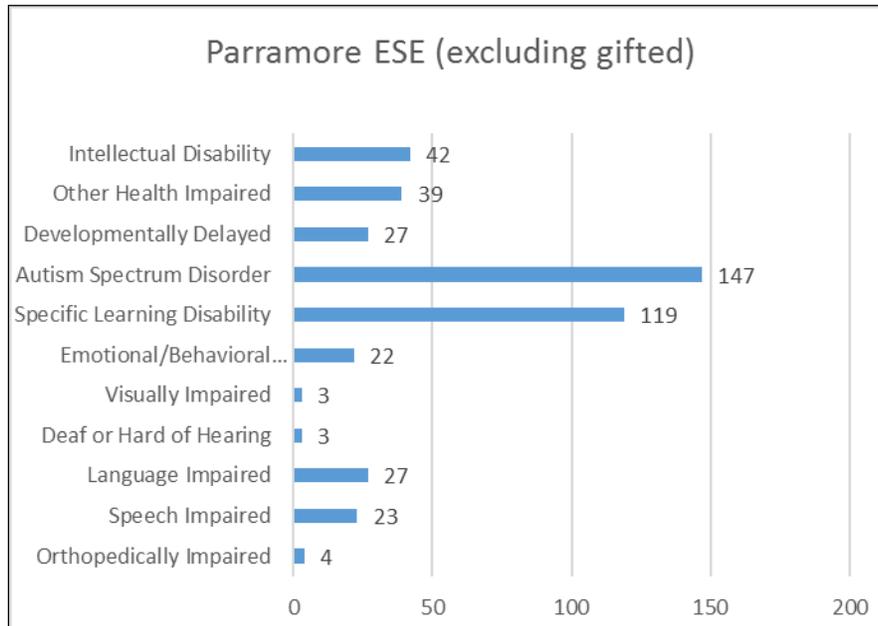
62% of the Parramore students attend schools other than to which they were assigned. Many attend charter schools. Table IV shows where Parramore students are assigned and whether they attend. An important “take away” from this data is the challenge PKZ faces in making an impact on the lives of children who attend over 170 different schools throughout the county.

<b>Table IV: Schools Attended by Parramore Students</b>			
<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Assigned</b>	<b>Attended</b>	<b>% Assigned Who Attended</b>
Blankner ES	28	27	96%
Blankner MS	11	11	100%
Dover Shores ES	55	44	80%
Fern Creek ES	184	134	73%
Grand Avenue ES	106	49	46%
Howard MS	381	120	31%
Jones HS	443	141	32%
Kaley ES	18	14	78%
Lake Como ES	57	48	84%
Lee MS	1	1	100%
Orange Center ES	30	21	70%
Princeton ES	489	73	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1803</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>38%</b>

Parramore school children have higher rates of disability and impairment than the District average rates. During the 2013-2014 school year, 25% of Parramore school children (456 of

1,618) were in the ESE program (not including Gifted and Talented). Graph I illustrates the breakdown of disabilities. This information compares to a rate of 12% of the children in the District overall in ESE, not including Gifted and Talented.

**Graph I: Breakdown of ESE by Category**



58% of the Parramore students are eligible for Free and Reduced Meals. Of note, 41% did not apply for Free and Reduced Meals in 2013-2014, most of whom are in high school. This represents an opportunity to encourage Parramore youth to access this important program.

Seven percent (7%) of the Parramore youth have limited English proficiency, compared to 2% in the District overall.

## **OUTCOMES AND IMPACT**

### **Improving Academic Performance**

PKZ tracks individual-level data on students who receive PKZ Student Advocate services. PKZ Student Advocates provide wrap-around academic support to a defined case load of students year round. This report presents data on the performance of these students during the 2014-15 school year. The total number of students receiving Student Advocate services, from kindergarten through college, was 160 during this period.

### **Individual-Level Data for Students Receiving Student Advocate Services**

During the July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 period, State of Florida funding was used to bolster PKZ's Student Advocate program. Student Advocates work with their assigned youth at school and neighborhood-based sites to keep them on track for grade level promotion and high school and post-secondary graduation. To this end, each Student Advocate provides wrap-around academic support to approximately 30 students year round, including one-on-one and small-group tutoring; real-time monitoring of grades; coordination with parents, school administrators

and teachers on disciplinary, absences, and academic issues; development of individual Academic Success Plans for each youth; mentoring; assistance in accessing post-secondary education; access to computers, internet, school supplies, and homework help; and other services as needed. In addition to the evidence from Harlem Children’s Zone, evidence for this model has been developed by the Everyone Graduates Center at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education. Their model, called Diplomas Now, is a national partnership that works with more than 30,000 students in 40 of the toughest middle and high schools in 14 cities. The most recent data available shows that the program achieved a 41 percent reduction in chronically absent students, a 70 percent reduction in suspended students, a 69 percent reduction in students failing reading and a 52 percent reduction in students failing math. The model institutes early warning systems so that teachers and other committed adults step in at the first sign a student is in trouble and additional adults (akin to our Student Advocates) are employed to support students who need daily nurturing to succeed.

During 2014-15, PKZ employed three full time and one part time Student Advocates and deployed them to schools as follows:

- 1.0 FTE to Howard Middle School, where 40 Parramore middle school students were assigned to a Student Advocate.
- 2.0 FTEs to Jones High School, where 65 Parramore high school students were assigned to a Student Advocate.
- 0.5 FTE Post-Secondary Education Advocate. Twenty-four (24) Parramore college students received assistance persisting in college.
- Approximately halfway through the grant year, PKZ hired an additional full time Student Advocate, and for the first time began providing these services to Parramore elementary school aged children attending Lake Como Elementary School and Grand Avenue Primary Learning Center. The Advocate worked with 26 elementary school students. In addition, PKZ contracted with a teacher from Grand Avenue Primary Learning Center to provide these services to an additional 5 students at the school.

Table V provides a breakdown, by grade level, of students provided Student Advocate services during the grant period:

<b>Table V: Students Receiving Student Advocate Services, by Grade Level</b>	
<b>Elementary School</b>	<b>Unique # of Youth</b>
Kindergarten	7
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	4
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	6
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	4
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	2
<b>Total, Elementary School</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Middle School</b>	
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	3
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	16
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	21
<b>Total, Middle School</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>High School</b>	

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	31
<b>Total, High School</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Post-Secondary</b>	
College	24
<b>Total, All Grades</b>	<b>160</b>

During the upcoming school year, an additional 0.5 FTE Student Advocate will be hired to serve the most at-risk population of high school students – those who have been referred out of Jones High School and attend alternative high schools that specialize in over-age, under-credit high school students.

Academic outcomes associated with PKZ Student Advocate services during the 2014-15 school year are presented in Table VI below.

<b>Table VI: Outcomes of PKZ Student Advocate Model, 2014-15 School Year</b>	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Result</b>
<b>Elementary School Students</b>	
Percentage of students in grades 1-3 receiving Satisfactory or above in Reading	89%
Percentage of students in grades 1-3 receiving Satisfactory or above in Math	89%
Percentage of students in grades 4-5 receiving passing scores in Reading	71%
Percentage of students in grades 4-5 receiving passing scores in Math	71%
Percentage of students in grades K-5 promoted to the next grade level	92%
<b>Middle School Students (FSA test results not yet available)</b>	
Percentage of students maintaining a GPA of 2.0 or above	52%
Percentage of students not chronically absent	95%
<b>High School Students (FSA test results not yet available)</b>	
Percentage of students maintaining a GPA of 2.0 or above	86%
Percentage of students promoted to the next grade level	100%
Percentage of students not chronically absent	95%
Percentage of students graduating on-time	100%
<b>Post-Secondary Students</b>	
Percentage of students with a written post-secondary plan	100%
Percentage of 12 <sup>th</sup> grade students who applied to, were accepted into, and enrolled in a post-secondary institution as of June 2015.	84%

In addition to the above, 262 Parramore elementary school aged children participated in PKZ's Summer Learning Loss Prevention Program during Summer 2014. Orange County Public Schools deployed teachers daily to summer camps in Parramore, Monday through Thursday, so that each child spent one hour daily receiving academic enrichment and intervention services. 63% of the 262 Parramore children who participated in the Summer Learning Loss Prevention Program increased their Lexile levels (reading scores) during Summer 2014. The average increase was 64 points.

### Neighborhood-Level Academic Data

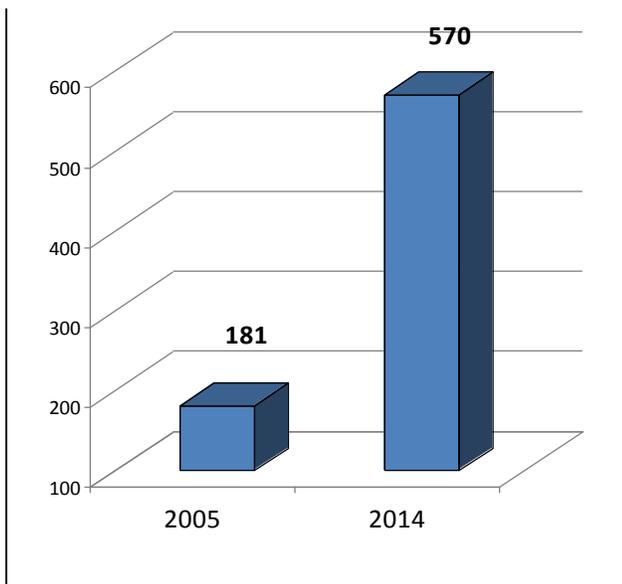
Orange County Public Schools provides geo-coded data covering all children with Parramore addresses registered with OCPS. Since OCPS provides this data about a year after the close of the school year, we do not currently have data for the 2014-15 school year covered by this grant.

### Early Learning/School Readiness

Last year, PKZ offered services to 249 children age 5 and under, including:

- Childcare subsidies. When PKZ was launched in 2006, data indicated that 61% of children under the age of 5 in Parramore were not attending any type of early learning program, despite decades of research demonstrating the long term positive impact of high quality

**Graph II: Number of Parramore Children Attending Child Care**



early learning programs on children from low income, low education families. To move more Parramore children into high quality childcare programs, PKZ established a special funding pool for childcare subsidies for Parramore children. Administered by Community Coordinated Care for Children (4C), last year PKZ provided childcare subsidies to 160 Parramore children aged 0-5 years, supporting working families as well as parents/caregivers who were seeking employment, job training, or education, or facing emergencies. Results of this strategy, combined with the State of Florida's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program, and the expansion of a Head Start program in Parramore, have led to a dramatic 215% increase in the number of Parramore children who attended pre-kindergarten programs in 2014, as illustrated in Graph II.

- Childcare Quality Improvement. In partnership with PKZ, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County (ELCOC) analyzed which childcare centers Parramore children attend, and the quality of care at those sites, and provided technical assistance to the 22 childcare sites that most Parramore children attend, to ensure quality and measure development of Parramore children who attend. During the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, 90% of Parramore children attending these 22 centers "met" or "exceeded" developmental expectations for their age (test administered: Teaching Strategies Gold).

- Parenting Education. In 2011, PKZ launched PKZ Baby Institute, a replication of Harlem Children's Zone Baby College, a parenting program for parents whose children are under 5 years old. Led by ELCOC, PKZ Baby Institute is a nine-week intensive parenting program focused on brain development and positive discipline, with the goal of helping parents be their child's first teacher. During the July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 period, 52 Parramore parents participated and 37 graduated.

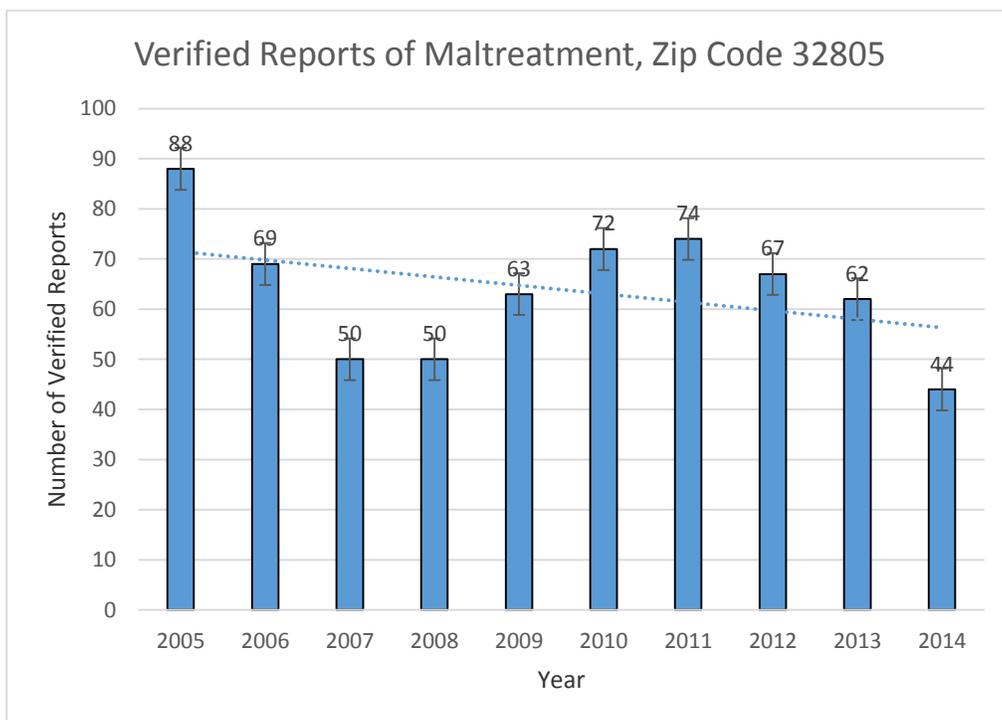
- Early Literacy Enrichment Activities. The University of Central Florida (UCF) College of Education deploys UCF Early Childhood Development majors to a City recreation center in Parramore every Saturday. Under the guidance of faculty members, the students engage Parramore toddlers and preschoolers in literacy enrichment activities, while parents attend workshops on strategies to build their child’s literacy. At the same time, the credit-bearing class teaches UCF students theory and practice of language and literacy development. Eighteen (18) Parramore children participated in the program’s inaugural year during the grant period.

**Reducing Child Abuse and Neglect**

Research shows that when parents and caregivers have support - from family, friends, neighbors, and their communities - they are more likely to provide safe and healthy homes for their children. When parents lack this support or feel isolated, they may be more likely to make poor decisions that can lead to neglect or abuse. PKZ family programming that has provided this kind of needed support has included the provision of child care subsidies for Parramore children ages 0-5 years, and the PKZ Baby Institute, a nine-week intensive parenting program focused on brain development and positive discipline.

In the zip code area where most Parramore residents live (32805), the number of reports of family violence has declined since PKZ’s inception. In 2005, there were 88 verified reports of family violence and in 2014, only 44 verified reports. The number of reported cases is half what it was before PKZ was implemented. The data, obtained from the Florida Department of Children and Families, is shown in Graph III.

**Graph III: Verified Reports of Maltreatment – Zip Code 32805**



For the same period in Orange County, a reduction in verified cases also occurred. In 2005, there were 1,234 reports and in 2014, there were 1,011 reports which is an 18% reduction. At this time, the data can only be provided at a zip code level. Dialogue will continue with the Department of Children and Families information management staff to seek neighborhood level data since the 32805 zip code is a large area of Orlando with additional struggling neighborhoods. Measuring the impact of interventions made in Parramore is more effectively accomplished with neighborhood level data.

### *Preventing Juvenile Crime and Teen Pregnancies*

Numerous research studies have shown that after-school programs reduce crime by offering constructive alternatives to gangs and drugs during the peak house for juvenile crime (from 2 pm – 6 pm). PKZ has provided free after school tutoring, sports, arts, youth employment and youth development programs for the past several years as an “antidote” to the problem of juvenile crime and the prevention of teen pregnancies. These programs are designed to attract and engage older youth in positive activities supervised by caring adults. The program is predicated on the evidence-based Positive Youth Development (PYD) model, shown to mitigate risk factors such as delinquent behavior and unprotected sexual activity that often develops among bored, unsupervised, disconnected youth and instead help them grow into mature and successful adults.

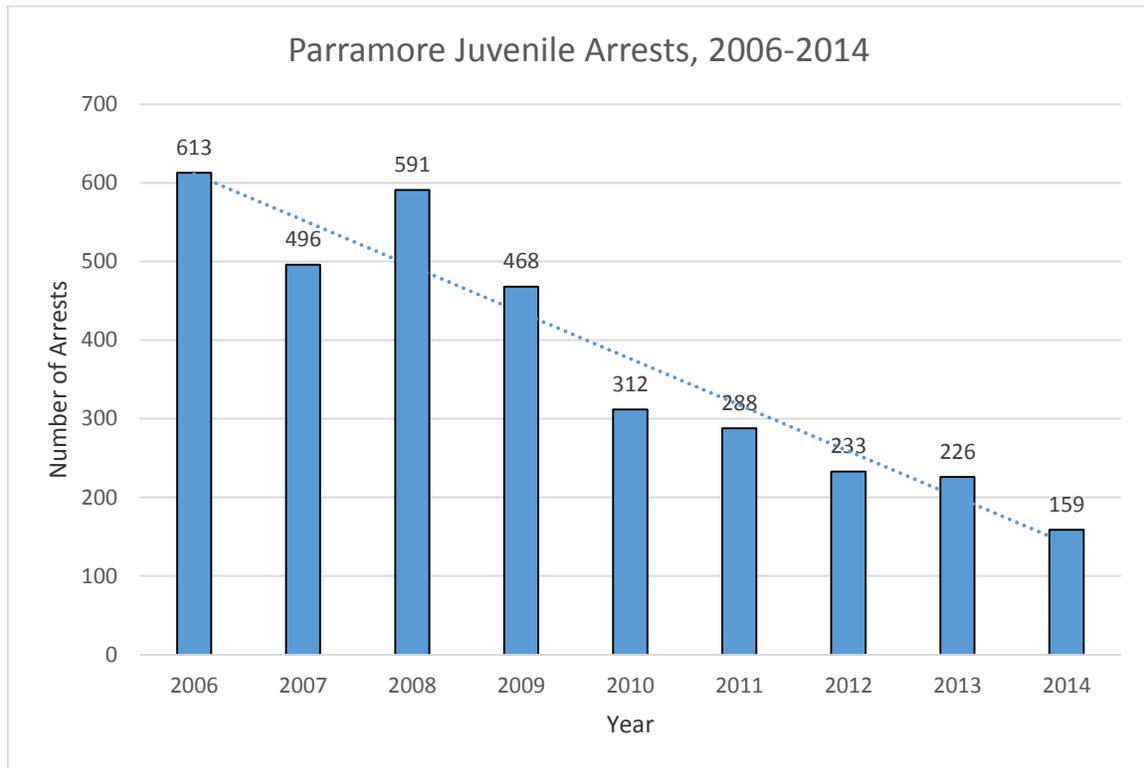
During the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, 188 teenagers and young adults participated in PKZ’s multi-component youth development programs at partner sites throughout the neighborhood, including the operation of teen facilities; youth-directed activities and events; community service projects; exposure to and involvement in cultural, historical, environmental, technological, and educational enrichments through projects and field trips that enrich youth’s academic foundation and skills; and participation in a Youth Advisory Council to build leadership and self-advocacy skills and fully engage youth in policy and program development. In addition, PKZ offered robust youth athletics programming, engaging several hundred youth on sports teams including football, basketball, baseball and cheerleading teams for youth of all ages.

PKZ also offers a youth employment program called PKZ Workz. As a result, 94 Parramore youth between the ages of 15 and 24 years obtained employability skills training and were placed in jobs during the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Once employed, participating youth were offered on-going support, including work-site mentoring, job coaching, retention services, job and wage progression assistance, and financial literacy training.

In addition, during the July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 period, PKZ began offering youth employees the opportunity to open Individual Development Accounts (IDA’s) to save money for college. Every dollar that youth deposit in their IDA accounts is matched with two dollars contributed by private donors. These funds can only be used to support the youth’s post secondary education. During the July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 period, 26 youth opened IDA accounts and began depositing money into them.

As a result of these on-going interventions, significant progress has been made in reducing juvenile crime in Parramore. In 2006, before PKZ, juvenile arrests in Parramore accounted for 22% of juvenile arrests city-wide. By 2014, juvenile arrests in Parramore were only 11% of Orlando’s juvenile arrests. In terms of numbers of arrests, in 2006, there were 613 Parramore youth arrests and in 2014, there were only 159 such arrests (Graph IV). Because of PKZ, there has been a 74% decline in juvenile arrests in Parramore, compared to a 47% decline citywide. These data were provided by the Orlando Police Department.

**Graph IV: Number of Juvenile Arrests: Parramore compared to City of Orlando**



**Reducing Teen Births**

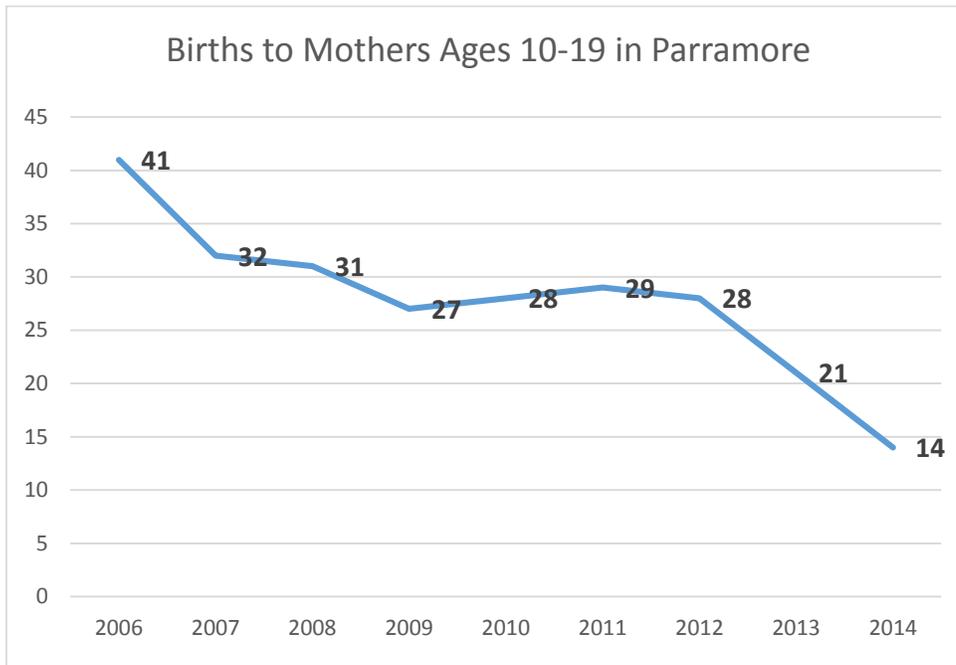
The consequences of adolescent pregnancy and childbearing are serious and numerous:

- Pregnant teenagers are more likely than women who delay childbearing to experience maternal illness, miscarriage, stillbirth, and neonatal death.
- Teen mothers are less likely to graduate from high school and more likely than their peers who delay childbearing to live in poverty and to rely on welfare.
- The children of teenage mothers are often born at low birth weight, experience health and developmental problems, and are more likely to be poor, abused, and/or neglected.
- Teenage pregnancy poses a substantial financial burden to society, estimated at \$10.9 billion annually in lost tax revenues, public assistance, child health care, foster care, and involvement with the criminal justice system.

(From the *National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy*, 2011).

Data on teen births for Orange County and the Parramore community was provided by the Florida Department of Health – Orange County. Graph V also illustrates the significant 66% decline in teen births in Parramore from 2006 through 2014.

**Graph V: Teen Births in Parramore – 2006 – 2014**



PKZ implemented a Youth Pregnancy Prevention Initiative, which terminated in 2013 because state grant funding ended. Parramore youth had access to the teen pregnancy prevention program which used evidence-based curricula and operated at five neighborhood sites. This likely contributed to the decline in teen births in Parramore that continued into 2014.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

This unbiased evaluation of PKZ has demonstrated that youth in the Parramore community are experiencing improved academic performance and reducing their at-risk behaviors. They are taking advantage of the programs and services that PKZ offers and striving to reach their full potential. To recap the findings of this report, the improving trends for PKZ are:

- There is a high level of involvement in PKZ activities for Parramore youth. This intensity of services is hypothesized to improve their ability to succeed in school and in life.
- The rate of juvenile arrests in Parramore has decreased significantly. Giving the youth structured and interesting things to do after school, as well as access to employment, has been proven to reduce youth crime.
- The rate of family violence has declined in Parramore. Helping the parents and families by providing child care support and parenting support alleviates stress that can result in child abuse and neglect.
- The rate of teen births has declined in Parramore.
- The majority of students receiving wrap-around academic support from Student Advocates are meeting and exceeding state assessment and attendance standards and overwhelmingly being promoted from one grade level to the next. The impact is most profound at the high school level, where 100% of Parramore students on Student Advocate caseloads were promoted to the next grade level this year, 100% of high school seniors graduated, 84% of whom enrolled in college by the end of June.